

# The Daily Star

**MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE**  
 WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF  
 ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,  
 BOTTICINO, INDIAN KEESWARI GREEN,  
 MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE  
 OF DIFFERENT TYPES.  
**NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.**  
 199, TEJGAON I/A, DHAKA.  
 TEL : 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM : 861985

**PROPERTY CROWN**  
 Only 11 Apartments  
 Handover May '99  
 Sizes : 1655 - 2610sqft  
 Price 40lac - 60lac  
 Call 9563117, 9563126, 9567482  
 Fax: 880-2-9559415  
**THE NAME MOST TRUSTED**  
**PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT LTD**  
 Road No. 121

VOL. VIII NO. 185 REGD. NO. DA 781 INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> SRAVAN 15, 1405 BS DHAKA THURSDAY JULY 30, 1998 RABIOUS SAANI 5, 1419 HIJRI 16 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS : PRICE TAKA 9.00

## Hasina, Vajpayee discuss follow-up of tri-nation business summit

COLOMBO, July 29: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Atal Behari Vajpayee today discussed a possible follow-up to the tri-nation business summit held in Dhaka last January, reports UNB.

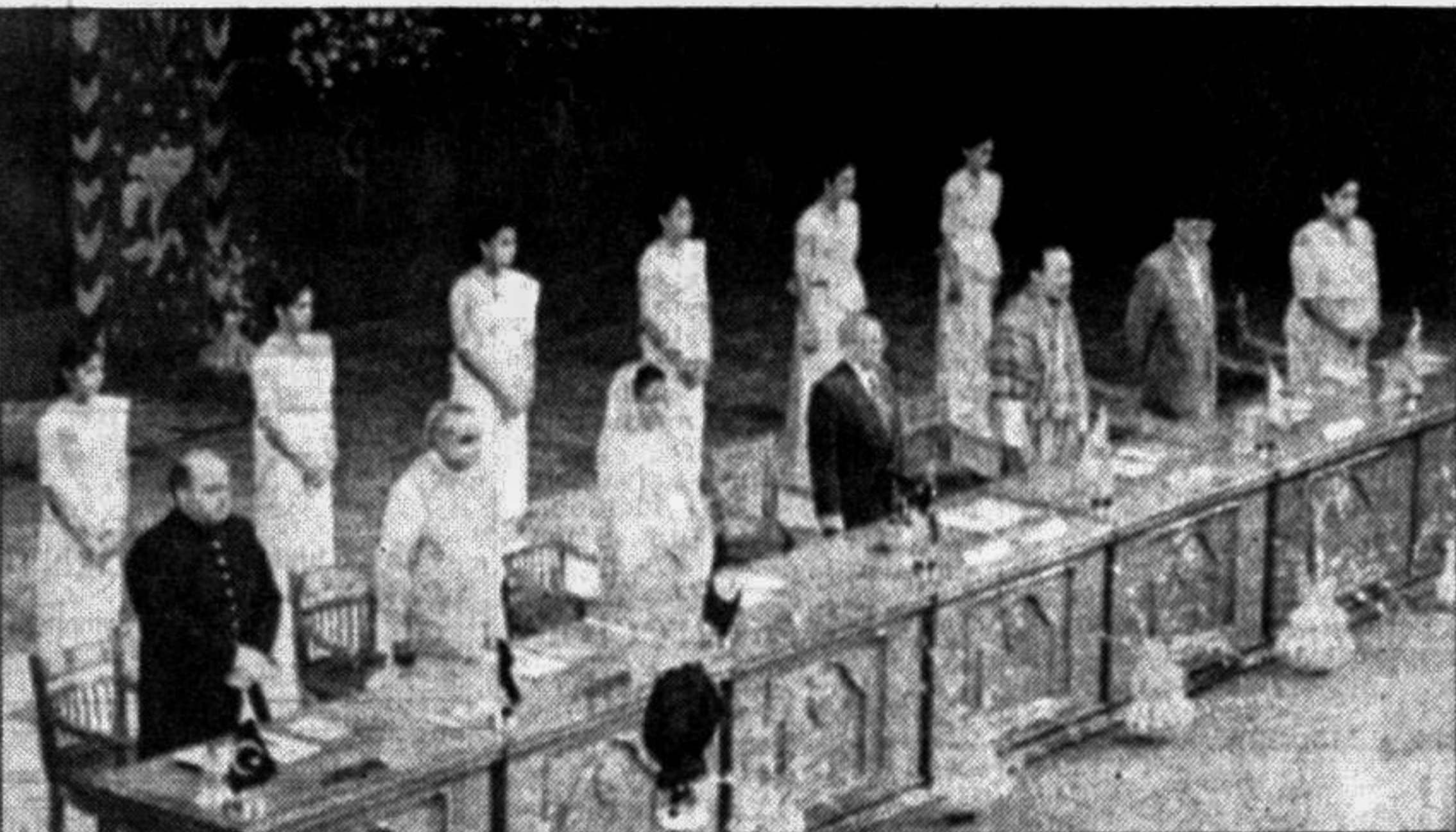
In a brief courtesy meeting with the Indian Premier at Hotel Taj Samudra on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit, Hasina said there should be a follow-up of the business summit of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

She termed it a good beginning and said "we can make a follow-up meeting after the successful summit in Dhaka."

Briefing newsmen Hasina's Press Secretary said the Prime Minister told her Indian counterpart that this kind of summit creates opportunity to discuss various problems among the neighbouring countries.

Indian Prime Minister Vaj-  
 See Page 12 Col 2

## Vajpayee, Sharif agree to ease tension, resume formal talks



(From left) Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, President of Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of Bhutan Jigmi Thinley, Nepalese Prime Minister G P Koirala, and Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga at the inaugural ceremony of the 10th SAARC summit that began in Colombo yesterday. — AP/UNB photo

COLOMBO, July 29: The prime ministers of India and Pakistan agreed today to resume formal talks on their territorial and other disputes, ending a yearlong stalemate at their first face-to-face talks since they stepped up the regional arms race by ordering nuclear tests, reports AP.

Nawaz Sharif and I have agreed that the dialogue process should be resumed," said Atal Behari Vajpayee of India after meeting his Pakistani counterpart. We have directed our foreign secretaries to meet today and tomorrow to work out how to proceed, he said.

The agreement to resume talks between the senior foreign ministry bureaucrats was intended to go some way toward easing tensions raised when India and Pakistan each set off a series of underground nuclear explosions in May.

The 75-minute meeting at a seafood hotel in Sri Lanka's capital city was held during a break in a seven-nation regional summit.

"I had a very good meeting,"  
 See Page 12 Col 7

## Threat of floods may continue till mid-Sept

Threat of floods may continue till the middle of September but will not exceed the limit of the great flooding of 1987 and 1988.

Eminent meteorologist Mohammad Shajedur Rahman predicted that the cause of the current flood was the excessive downpour in the country which resulted in the overflow of the major rivers, reports BSS.

He said more than 38 per cent rainfall was recorded this year only in the month of July causing excessive floodings in the Brahmaputra and Ganges basins.

Rahman was speaking at an emergency meeting organised by The Disaster Forum.

Representatives of the IVS, CIDA, Disaster Management Bureau, UNDP, Royal Netherlands Embassy, Japanese Embassay, USAID, SAARC Meteorological Research Centre, EC delegation, Oxfam, SIDA and CARE were present.

Meanwhile, the flood situation worsened further in  
 See Page 12 Col 6

## Dawn-to-dusk hartal in city today

By Staff Correspondent

A day-long hartal in the city, called by the BNP-led Seven Party Alliance, begins this morning to protest the death of university student Shamim Reza Rubel in police custody.

Jatiya Party, a partner of the Awami League government has also called an eight-hour hartal in the city from 6:00 am today to protest the death.

Rubel, a BBA student of Independent University, died in the custody of DB police on Thursday last.

All the political parties brought out separate torch processions in the city yesterday evening to drum up support for the hartal. Clashes between police and processionists were also reported from some parts of the city.

BNP processionists clashed with police at Bijoy Nagar, Kakrail, Paltan and Mouchak-Malibagh areas in the evening. At least 10 motor vehicles including two buses requisitioned by police were damaged in the clashes.

At Kakrail, the processionists and police staged a chase and counter-chase near the CID office. Police charged the pro-  
 See Page 12 Col 1

## Settle N-issue: Hasina 'Nothing should detract SAARC from its focus'

COLOMBO, July 29: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today strongly pleaded for settling the nuclear issue between India and Pakistan through peaceful means and making joint efforts to develop the fragile economy and improve quality of life in South Asia, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister gave her call as the leaders of the seven South Asian countries assembled at the historic Bandaranaike Memorial Hall this morning for the 10th SAARC summit.

Underground nuclear tests by India and Pakistan last May have sparked off tension in this region and posed a threat to the 13-year old association.

"The recent nuclear tests in the region was a development that could have been avoided," Prime Minister Hasina said in her speech at the opening session attended by the heads of state and government of  
 See Page 12 Col 7



Sheikh Hasina addressing the 10th SAARC summit yesterday. — PID photo

## Threat to blow up Thai embassy in Dhaka

By Staff Correspondent

The Thai embassy in Dhaka received a letter on Sunday threatening to blow it up for signing an extradition treaty with Bangladesh, Pithaya Pookaman, Ambassador of Thailand said yesterday.

The one-page letter written in Bangla contained a signature of Maj (ret'd) Bazul Huda, he told The Daily Star. Huda, now in a Thai jail for shoplifting, is an absconding accused in the Bangabandhu murder case.

Bangladesh and Thailand signed an extradition treaty on July 9. With the signing of the treaty, handover of Bazul Huda to Bangladesh has now become a legal possibility.

The Thai ambassador said that he had already informed  
 See Page 12 Col 4

## Young man stabbed to death in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A young man was stabbed to death allegedly by one of his neighbours at Manda in the city yesterday evening.

The dead was identified as Kamrul Islam, 30, son of Ismail Hossain, a resident of Engineer House in Manda area.

Shahinur, wife of the victim alleged that Kamrul had an altercation with his neighbour Faruk and at one stage Faruk stabbed him in his chest at about 6 pm.  
 See Page 12 Col 4

## DU students call off agitation programmes

By DU Correspondent

Students agitating against increase of tuition fees and other charges at Dhaka University have called off their agitation programmes following assurance from the authorities yesterday to reduce the increased fees and charges by 70 per cent.

A resistance committee representing general students and different student organisations of the university accepted the authorities' proposal.

The proposal was given by Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury at a meeting with the resistance committee yesterday.

The VC also assured that the treasurer's speech on privatisation of the university would be expunged at the next meeting of the DU Syndicate.  
 See Page 12 Col 3

## AC Akram sent to jail

Star Report

Assistant Commissioner of DB police Akram Hossain, accused of murdering Shamim Reza Rubel, was produced before a magistrate's court yesterday which sent him to the Dhaka Central Jail as police did not seek his remand for further interrogation.

Akram Hossain was arrested by CID police late Tuesday night on charge of killing the young BBA student of Independent University in custody on Thursday.

Tension was prevailing in the court area as thousands of people rushed there hearing the news that the police officer was being brought to the court. The people chanted various slogans demanding his trial and exemplary punishment.

A big contingent of riot police was deployed at the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court as the crowd swelled.

Akram, who was not handcuffed and was carrying a mobile phone, was escorted to the court by a big squad of police and plainclothesmen at 3:10 pm. He was sent to jail at 4:20 pm.

Police used batons when photojournalists tried to take his photo, pushing and shoving  
 See Page 12 Col 1



TAKE SNAPS: AC Akram showing his handcuff to the photographers while being taken to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday. — Star photo

## Rubel murder 'Arrested policemen' yet to confess

By Staff Correspondent

The five detective policemen charged with murdering Shamim Reza Rubel were yet to confess that they tortured the young university student to death a week ago.

As CID investigators kept on questioning them, DB Inspector Aminul Islam was arrested last night in connection with the murder case, raising the number of arrested plainclothesmen to seven.

They also brought to their custody five other detectives — SI Nurul Alam, SI Tariq, constables Kamrul, Kalam and Mong — for interrogation.

Aminul allegedly accompanied the DB team which mercilessly assaulted Rubel in front of a crowd near his house at Siddheswari. His parents and family members saw plainclothes police torture the 24-year-old student at about 7:30 pm on the day of the incident.  
 See Page 12 Col 3

## Govt using police to serve its political ends: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia has accused the government of killing Rubel, a talented student, under a blue print of its alien masters, reports UNB.

"The Awami League government, as in early 70s, is engaged in killing the talented students to subdue patriotism among young men as well as destroy the nation's future with objective of serving the purpose of India," Begum Zia told a public meeting in the city yesterday.

The BNP chief was addressing the meeting at Paltan  
 See Page 12 Col 6

## Who is the boss?

By Staff Correspondent

The Home Minister or the Inspector General of Police? The question arose when the IGP yesterday openly tried to defy an order of the Home Minister who asked police to provide the newspapers with photographs of policemen accused of murdering Shamim Reza Rubel, a university student.

Police usually send photographs of the arrested accused to newspapers. But in a departure from practice, they did not send photos of police personnel accused in the Rubel murder case.  
 See Page 12 Col 1

## Star MAG TOMORROW

Domestic violence: Untold Home truths

Domestic violence is a less talked about form of repression that women bear without ever protesting, because it doesn't happen in a public place. Women endure extreme mental and physical torture by their husbands for years without uttering a word to others. Read this Friday's Star Weekend Magazine on the reasons behind domestic abuse.

## Inside Today

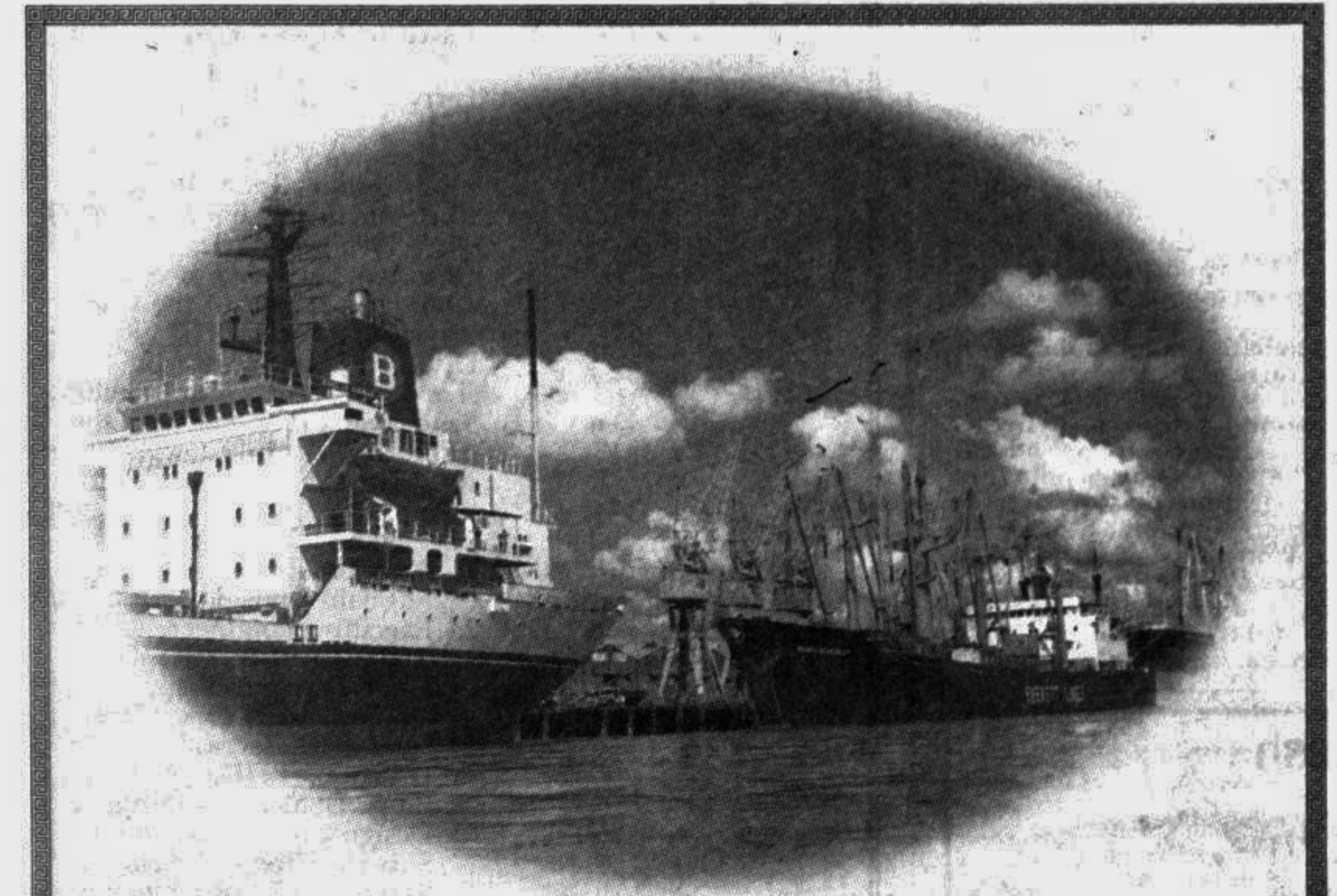
Article

Political Parties Expect Elections Early Next Year

Column: Between the Lines  
 By Kuldip Nayyar  
 Page 4

Alternatives

Making the toilets 'public', and The neglected millions; Women and public toilets.  
 Page 6 & 7



## 18th branch of Prime Bank at Jubilee Road, Chittagong

Prime Bank opens its 18th branch today (30-7-98) at the largest port city and commercial nerve centre of Jubilee Road, Chittagong.

Prime Bank Ltd.  
 Amalgha Centre  
 214, Jubilee Road, Chittagong  
 Phone : 613939

Another forward step in banking services.

**Prime Bank Limited**

-Bank with a difference

Head Office : Adamjee Court Annex Building-2

119-120, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

Phone : 9562983 PABX : 9567265

## News Analysis

### Block bidding: An anatomy of results

By Sharier Khan

The government Sunday announced the results of the Second Round Block Bidding for oil and gas exploration in the country after taking seven months "extra time". Originally the announcement was to be made on December 15. But due to an "unsettled" negotiation over partnership between an Irish company and four other companies, it was deferred several times.

The decision on the blocks might have been taken without any political bias, but there is scope to think otherwise.

As per the decision, 9 companies will be invited for final negotiations for blocks 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Of these, at least four companies to be invited for four blocks have local agents who are politically connected with Awami League. This might just be coincidental, but this fact also applies to the remaining two blocks (9 and 11) which will be given to five or six companies soon after another round of negotiation.

These 'politically connected' companies will be invited for final negotiations for blocks 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

See page 11

## Our Hearty Congratulations To

Mr. M. Golam Mostafa, President, BFFEA, for his untiring efforts and significant contributions to the Development of Fisheries Technology in Bangladesh that brought the Gold Medal for BANGLADESH FORZEN FOODS EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION. We express our gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her Personal initiative and directives for development of Frozen Foods Sector.



On behalf of BFFEA, President is receiving the Gold Medal from Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the inauguration of Fisheries Week 1998.

All the Members of  
**BANGLADESH FROZEN FOODS EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION**  
 50/1, Inner Circular Road, Shantinagar (1st floor) (VIP Road), Dhaka