

## South Asian community in NY badly shaken again

The South Asian community in New York has again been badly shaken, this time at the death of a Pakistani immigrant at the hands of two high school dropouts, UNB reports from New York.

Abdul Khokar, a father of four, lived and worked in Queens, one of the five boroughs of New York. He was an attendant at a gas station, often spending extended hours to make some extra money.

Last month, on September 22, three 18-year-old youths attacked him around midnight and beat him to death using a baseball bat.

The suspects had believed Khokar to be the owner of the gas station from where he was returning. Instead cash, what the youths got from the deceased was \$12 in cash and a bankcard.

The three youths were formally charged yesterday at a New York court.

According to the police, greed and stupidity worked behind the homicide. All three are currently being held without bail.

In a similar incident two weeks ago, an East Indian school boy of Indian origin was severely beaten up by a gang in Queens' posh Forest Hills district.

According to the police, the boys were trying to pick on an Indian. They even shouted, "Indians out of our neighbourhood."

On Thursday, a small group of South Asians organised a rally at a New York court in Queens where the suspects were arraigned.

The picketers demanded an end to all racially motivated attacks.

While law and order situation in New York has markedly improved in the past five years, bias attacks against South Asians have often gone unnoticed.

Members of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Indian communities have met separately with the Queens District Attorney, urging him to take more preventive measures against such attacks.

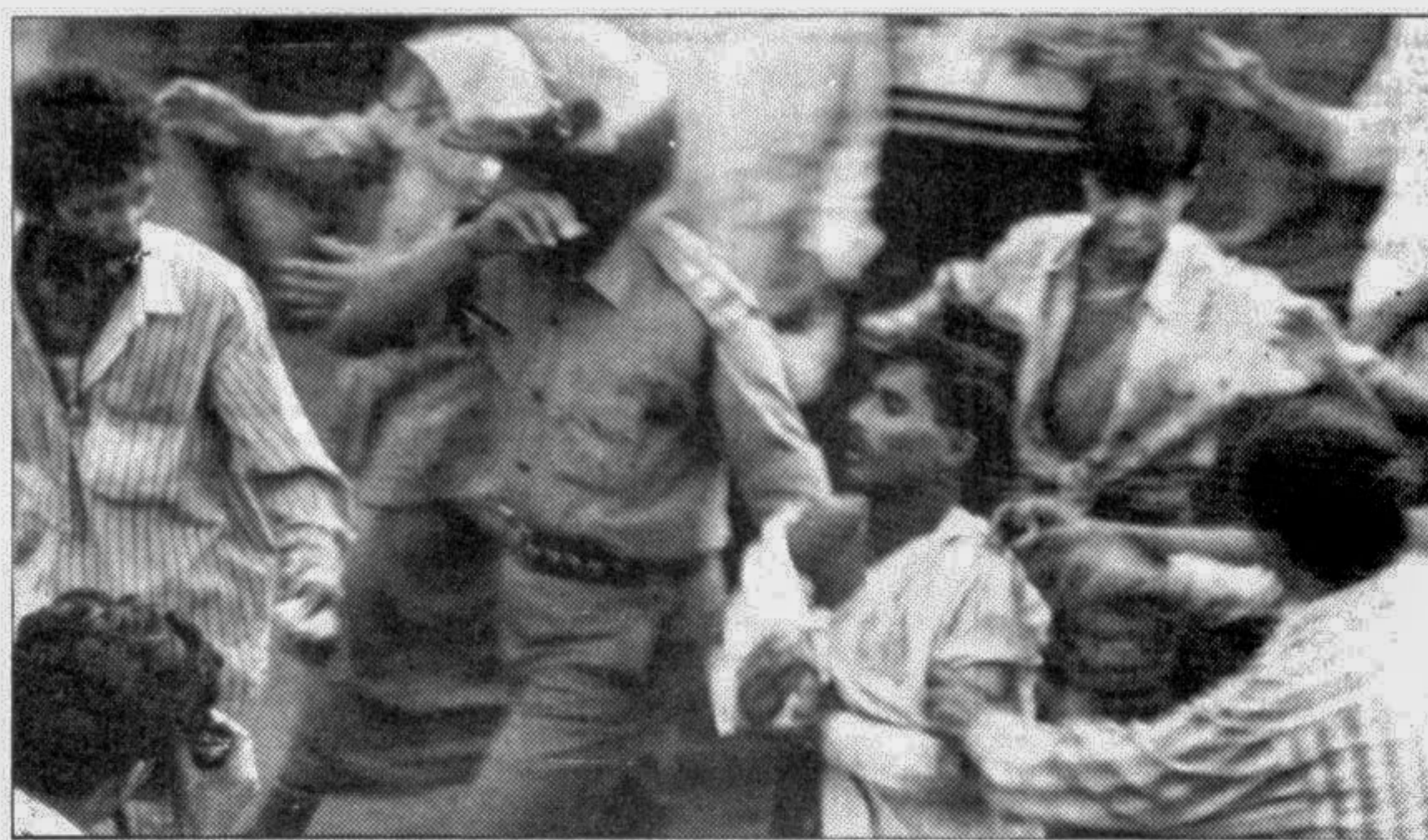
Kawshik Ahmed, a Queens resident and editor of weekly "Bangalee" told UNB, "South Asians need to show their solidarity against such attacks."

"A thug does not differentiate between a Bangladeshi and an Indian. To them, we are all from the area and thus potential targets of attack."

Ahmed recalled that three years ago, New York's powerful Korean and Chinese community had joined hands to protest selective attacks against people of Chinese origin.

"They in fact shut down entire business districts and forced the City administration to take quick action," he said.

"South Asians need to do something of that proportion to make their anger known," Ahmed told UNB.



A pro-hartal supporter being dragged by police on English Road in the city yesterday during hartal hours. — Star photo

## Garments sector urged to help build country's image abroad

Garment sector was yesterday advised to interact with NGOs and use international connections to build image abroad and backward linkages at home to withstand impending adversities, reports APB.

The suggestions came from a seminar on "Implications of a Code of Conduct For the Bangladesh Garment Sector" at Sonargaon Hotel. Interaction is necessary to provide the foreign buyers the right message about the goings-on in the industry, the speakers said.

Despite limitations, the speakers noted Bangladesh's readymade garment sector had already implemented most part of the Code of Conduct set by the International Labour Organisation.

The seminar was part of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association's anniversary event — BATEXPO '98 — at the Pan Pacific Hotel this morning.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury attended the function as chief guest.

Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment Farooq Sobhan, US Ambassador John C Holzman and Bangladesh Ob-

server Editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury were special guests. Nurul Haque Sikder, the BGMEA vice-president, presided.

Farooq Sobhan offered BGMEA some suggestions for enhancing image of the private sector outside the country as well as setting up backward-linkages industries which are a must to survive in the quota-free open market after 2005.

"BGMEA should hire a top PR man for publicity about what's happening in the RMG sector," said the BOI executive.

His suggestions also include interaction with NGOs who can play a strong role in the international arena.

Mentioning the RMG's position in the world market, Farooq Sobhan urged the BGMEA leaderships to act quickly so that Bangladesh could be the number one caterer to global clothing needs.

"Setting up backward linkage should be the paramount interest of the garment manufacturers," Farooq said and urged them to use their international links in this regard.

Talking about the Code of Conduct, the BOI executive opined that there should be a code of conduct for the foreign

buyers also. "BGMEA should mobilise support in this regard."

Addressing the audience, mostly manufacturers, Abul Hasan Chowdhury corroborated the idea of image-building interactions with NGOs. He also suggested involving media crew with the industry.

Talking about the impending challenges for the RMG sector, Abul Hasan said: There should be backward linkages... without it we cannot face the challenges.

Chowdhury, who was sceptical of the opposition for enforcing hartal, asked BGMEA to arrange another seminar for the foreign buyers who could not attend the function due to the strike.

In his keynote, Rijk Van Harlem of ILO said in the past three years, the Bangladesh garment sector had shown the world how to deal with the child-labour issue.

After the signing of MOU by BGMEA, ILO and UNICEF in 1995, the extent of child labour in the sector went down from 43 per cent to the present level of 3 per cent in September.

## Railway timings rescheduled

Bangladesh Railway has rescheduled the time table of some trains that leave and reach Kamalapur station between 8:30 am and 9:30 am and between 5 pm and 6 pm in a bid to avert traffic jam in the city, reports BSS.

During these hours, railway level crossing gates between Dhaka and Tongi remain under heavy traffic jam due to rush of office goers and returnees, a railway press release said yesterday.

According to the changed schedule, Chittagong-bound Mahanagar Provat will leave Kamalapur station at 8:10 am instead of 8:20 am, Dinajpur-bound Tista at 7:50 am instead of 8 am, Ekota at 6 pm instead of 5:50 pm, Tarakandi-bound Padma at 9:30 am instead of 8:40 am, Mymensingh-bound Balaka at 10:05 am instead of 9 am and Isha Khan Express at 11:30 am instead of 10:10 am.

The trains arriving at Kamalapur station as per changed schedule are Egarosindur Express at 7:10 pm instead of 6:30 pm, Jamuna at 8:30 am instead of 9 am, 33 Titash Commuter at 8:10 am instead of 8:20 am, Balaka at 8:15 pm instead of 6:05 pm and 204 local at 10:10 am instead of 9:40 am. Passengers are requested to contact the local station masters for details.

## Withdrawal of expulsion order of BAU BCL leaders demanded

MYMENSINGH, Oct 18: Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) workers staged demonstration on the campus of Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) on Saturday demanding withdrawal of expulsion order against 13 of its leaders, reports UNB.

The Syndicate at a meeting on Friday decided to expel 24 students along with 11 Chhatra Dal activists for various term for their alleged involvement in creating violence and for violating regulations of the university.

During the demonstration at least ten to twelve gunshots were heard. Chhatra League workers brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus.

The rally was addressed by Chhatra League BAU unit president A S M Kamal Sachhu, Arif Jahangir and Arif Alam Tareq.

## BCL Gazipur unit body formed

GAZIPUR, Oct 18: A 41-member new committee of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Gazipur district unit was announced on Saturday, reports BSS.

Abul Kashem and Bazlur Rahman were elected president and general secretary respectively of the committee.

The committee of the ruling party's student wing in the district was announced after a day-long conference of the unit.

## Mayor thanks people

Dhaka City Awami League President and Mayor Mohammad Hanif and General Secretary and State Minister for LGED and Cooperatives Mozammel Hossain Chowdhury Maya yesterday congratulated the "patriotic city dwellers for rejecting the hartal called by BNP and the anti-liberation Jamaat-Shibir clique", reports BSS.

In a joint statement, they described the hartal call as "anti-people, issueless and hypocritical" and said it was designed to disrupt the post-flood rehabilitation programmes and the pace of national development.

The AL leaders, strongly condemned the "illogical and unnecessary" hartal and called for shunning of the path of hatred and revenge and discarding the anti-people role to implement the rehabilitation programmes unitedly under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

## 2 photographers win int'l awards

Two Bangladeshi photographers have won international awards in a photo contest under the auspices of the United Nations, reports BSS.

The Best Photo of Natural Disaster was awarded to Azizur Rahman Peu for a picture of the 1998 floods.

The secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR 1990-2000) announced the winners of its 1998 international photo contest in Geneva on Wednesday.

The Best Photo of Prevention Measures in a community, country or region, went to Monowar Hossain Akhand who took a picture of a cyclone evacuation demonstration in a cyclone shelter in the country, a UN press release said. An honourable mention was given to another photographer Abu Taher Khokar.

The winners will receive a prize of 500 US dollars each. The photos will be published in "Stop Disaster" and "IDNDR Informs" magazines. These will also be displayed in IDNDR exhibitions around the world.

## Mischievous maid

A maid servant at a house at Kagajtola in city's Sutrapur area decamped with booties worth about Tk one lakh, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said the newly appointed domestic help poured some poisonous substance into the dinner of the family members on Saturday night. The whole family fell unconscious after taking the food.

Ajmiri, 23, Kamal, 32, Siraj, 35, and Nazma were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

A case was filed with Sutrapur police.

## Russel's 34th birth anniversary observed

The 34th birth day of Shaheed Sheikh Russel, the youngest son of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was observed yesterday as elsewhere in the country, in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Sheikh Russel, 11, was shot dead dastardly by the killers alongside Father of the Nation, on August 15, 1975.

The day's programme included *milad mahfil*, discussion meeting and children's rally. In observance of the day, Russel Jatiya Shishu Kishore Parishad organised a 6-day long programme which ended yesterday.

Bangabandhu Memorial Trust (BMT) organised a *milad mahfil* at Bangabandhu Bhaban after Magreb prayer.

Quran khawani was held and improved diet was served among the inmates of the Sobhanbagh Mosque orphanage.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the eldest sister of Russel, attended the *milad mahfil*.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Awami League president member Amir Hossain Amu, Joint Secretary Muzaffar Hossain Paltu, Treasurer of the Trust Advocate Gazlul Hui, Member Secretary Sheikh Hafizur Rahman, relatives, admirers, political leaders, student leaders, among others, attended the *milad mahfil*.

## Assistance for flood victims from abroad

About Taka 30 lakh and old clothes have been received from abroad as assistance for the flood victims continues to pour in, flood relief coordination cell of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday, reports BSS.

German NGO Netz has sent 61,000 US dollars (Taka 30 lakh) which it raised through different musical programmes with support from Bangladesh embassy in Germany for the flood victims. A Swiss charitable organisation Tear fund Schweiz has sent one container of used clothes.

Both cash and clothes were sent through government channel, the cell added.

## Rabi crops cultivation programme taken up

JESSORE, Oct 18: A massive programme has been taken up to cultivate rabi crops on 4,66,839 hectares of land in 10 districts of the south-western region of the country, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, the crops to be cultivated are boro, wheat, potato, maize, sweet potato, mustard, lentil, gram, onion, garlic, chilli, ginger, turmeric, different kinds of peas and vegetables. The production target has been fixed at 18,75,520 metric tons.

The districts are Jessore, Jhenidah, Narail, Magura, Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Satkhira, Bagerhat and Khulna.

A total of 2,75,858 hectares of land will be brought under boro cultivation with a production target of 6,78,366 metric tons while 1,23,373 hectares of land under wheat cultivation with a production target of 2,75,731 metric tons.

The AED also targeted to produce 1,58,400 metric tons of potato on 13,200 hectares of land and 9,023 tons of maize on 2,005 hectares of land.

A total of 2,200 hectares of land will be brought under sweet potato cultivation with a production target of 22,000 tons while 50,200 hectares of land under vegetable cultivation as against 7,53,000 mts production target.

The farmers will be provided with seeds and other necessary inputs to make the programme a success, the sources added.

## Schoolgirl shot in Pabna

PABNA, Oct 18: A schoolgirl was shot when a group of miscreants tried to kidnap her at gunpoint from her residence at Radhanagar area of the town Saturday night, reports APB.

The victim, Suvara Taj Nuha, 13, a student of class six of Pabna Government Girls' High School, was admitted to Pabna General Hospital with bullet wounds in her abdomen.

Police said a group of armed youths numbering about 12 stormed into the house at around 9 pm and tried to abduct her. At one stage, the hoodlums fired shots, leaving her injured critically.

Meanwhile, Rangamati local government has distributed seeds worth Tk 52,000 among the flood-hit farmers from its own fund.

The sources said the target could not be achieved as BADC failed to supply the required quantity of seeds due to want of stock.

The distribution work has been taken up to make up the losses faced by the farmers due to the incessant rain and onrush of hill waters that caused damage to crops on a huge tract of land.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral and international issues as well as the political situation, said a party press release.

## Navy steward held with arms

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 18: Police arrested a Steward of Bangladesh Navy with two firearms from Kadamtali in Siddhirganj thana of the district Friday, reports UNB.

Shah Alam, Steward of BNS Khadem, Red Chittagong with two pistols and empty magazines of two navy officers on Wednesday.

On information, police raided the area last night and arrested him with the arms.

He was sent to the Bangladesh Navy headquarters for interrogation.

## 151 DU teachers welcome PM's announcement

One hundred and fifty one teachers of Dhaka University have welcomed the announcement of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for holding trials of all political killings including Zia, Taher and Manjur, reports BSS.

In a joint statement Saturday the Dhaka University teachers said it is essential to hold fair inquiry and trial of all the political killings in the interest of establishing democracy and rule of law in the country.

They hoped that the government as per its announcement would soon take effective steps for holding the trial and investigation into the killings.

Signatories to the statement included Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Prof M Shahadat Ali, Prof ATM Zohurul Haque, Prof A M Saaduddin, Prof Rim Aminur Rashid, Prof Syed Giassuddin Ahmed, Prof Sultana Shahid, Prof Durgadas Bhat-Sachariya, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Prof Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, Prof Khondoker Ashraf Hussain, Prof Muniruddin Ahmed and Prof Muhammad Anwar Hussain.

## Supply of seeds inadequate in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Oct 18: Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has failed to distribute adequate seeds and saplings among the flood affected farmers in 10 thanas of the district, reports UNB.

Official sources said the target was set for distribution of five metric tons of seeds among the affected farmers. But AED has distributed 22,300 saplings and three metric tons of seeds this year due to shortage of seeds.

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The launch owners associations of Pabna and Rajbari district have welcomed the step.

DC and SP of Rajbari and SP of Pabna, TNO and local leaders of different political parties were present at Moukura on the occasion.

Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Eugeny Pavlovich Ivanov called on Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad at his party office yesterday, reports UNB.

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Police picked up a woman on charge of picketing in Joykai Mandir Road area during hartal hours yesterday. — Star photo

## Rally in protest against hartal

A large procession led by Awami League Secchha Shebak League chief Alhaj Maqbul Hossain, MP, was brought out in the city yesterday in protest against the strike called by some political parties, reports BSS.

The procession which paraded different parts of Dhanmondi and Mohammadpur also demanded trial of the killers of Bangabandhu and four national leaders.

Later, a protest meeting was held with Alhaj Maqbul Hossain, MP, in the chair. It was attended by the central leader of Awami League Alhaj Rahmat Ali, MP, organising secretary of the Dhaka city Awami League Sheikh Bazlur Rahman, Ward commissioner Nurul Islam Ratan, leaders of the Awami League, Jubo League, Secchha Shebak League, Students League, Mohila Awami League and local people.

Later Maqbul Hossain, MP, who is also the president of the Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity, led a microbus-mini bus procession.

CHITTAGONG, Oct 18: State Minister for Water Resources Dr Alauddin Ahmed yesterday visited the expanded Halda Irrigation Project being implemented at a cost of Taka 35 crore, reports BSS.

The project when completed will provide irrigation and drainage facilities to about 1,820 hectares targeting an additional paddy production of 1,364.95 metric tons.

Speaking on the occasion the state minister said the present government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has undertaken appropriate programme for optimal use of water resources. The historic water treaty has ensured the share of Bangladesh on the Ganges-Padma river, he said, adding, as a result the scope for constructing Ganga barrage has brightened.

The minister directed the officials concerned to complete the project by March next.

Chief engineer of Water Development Board Mohammad Sarwar Hossain, superintendent engineer Abdul Bari Chakrader, Awami League leader Dardul Alam Babul, Manjur Morshed and Helal Chowdhury were present.

## Home Minister operated upon in Jeddah

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam, operated upon at a hospital in the Saudi city of Jeddah on Saturday, has urged the countrymen to pray for his early recovery, reports APB.

The minister underwent a successful second surgical operation at the King Fahd Military Hospital of Jeddah on Saturday, said a PID handout here today (Sunday).

Rafiq, who went to Saudi Arabia for treatment on October 8, was earlier operated upon at the same hospital Sunday last (October 11).

The minister is expected to return home soon after recovery.

Local MP Kazi Karamat Ali inaugurated the service at Moukura ferry terminal while DC of Pabna Mahbubur Rahman opened it at the other end at Nazirganj.

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## PM felicitates Amartya Sen

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has felicitated Prof Amartya Sen for winning the Nobel Prize for Economics this year, reports APB.

Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury personally conveyed the Prime Minister's message of felicitations to Prof Sen in New York on October 15, according to a message received here yesterday.

The Nobel Laureate said he was most delighted to receive Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's message and requested Ambassador Chowdhury to convey his thanks to the Prime Minister and the people of Bangladesh.

Prof Sen informed Ambassador Chowdhury that he was scheduled to visit Bangladesh on December 10, but it would take place later on as he will be receiving the Nobel Prize at a ceremony in Sweden the same day.

The discussion and *do a mahfil* was held to commemorate the 32nd death anniversary of Justice Mohammad Ibrahim and the recent demise of former ambassador Abdul Hamid Chowdhury.

## Doa mahfil held

Staff Correspondent

Sadarpur Thana Kalyan Samity, Dhaka, arranged a discussion and *do a mahfil* at the Officers' Club in the city on October 16.

The discussion and *do a mahfil* was held to commemorate the 32nd death anniversary of Justice Mohammad Ibrahim and the recent demise of former ambassador Abdul Hamid Chowdhury.

## BCIC Enlistment Notice

Managing Director, Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd, invites applications in the prescribed form from the bonafide contractor/stockist/manufacturer/suppliers for enlistment as supplier for the period of 2 (two) years for supply of various stores for the years of 1999 & 2000. Application form will be available on payment of Tk 25/- (twenty-five) only (non-refundable) from (i) the General Manager (A&F), JFCL, Tarakandi, Sarishabari, Jamalpur, (ii) The Controller of Acctts, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka & (iii) the Sr General Manager, BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. Application shall be submitted within 8-11-98 in normal office hours. Application will not be accepted after expiry date of submission mentioned above.

BCIC 902-12/10/98  
DFP-21715-13/10

G-2338

## Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority

141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000

## Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in prescribed form are invited from bonafide Manufacturers/Suppliers for supply of different types of working Uniforms.

1. Tender No : Croy-23/98 dated 7.10.98.  
2. Earnest money : 2.5% of the quoted total amount (Refundable) through Pay Order/Call Deposit/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favour of BIWTA to be submitted along with the tender as earnest money.

3. Price of tender : Tk 50/- (Fifty) (Non-Refundable) schedule  
4. Place where tender schedule will be sold : BIWTA, Accounts Deptt, 9th Floor, "BIWTA Bhaban", 141-143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

5. Place, date and time of receiving tender : Purchase & Stores Deptt, Regional Office, 1st Floor, "BIWTA Bhaban", 141-143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka and Room No 817 (8th Floor), Bhaban No 6, Ministry of Shipping, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka up to 15:00 hours on 29.10.98.

6. Opening date and time of tender : At 15-15 hours on 29.10.98 in presence of the tenderer, if any.

No tender schedule will be sold on the opening day and no tender will be received after schedule