

# The Daily Star

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## Attack on BNP leaders: Judicial probe ordered

The Metropolitan Magistrate Court in the city yesterday ordered judicial inquiry into a petition case filed by former minister and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) joint convener Abdullah-Al-Noman against three policemen of Demra thana, reports BSS.

Magistrate Narayan Chandra Das gave the order after examining the case.

Abdullah-Al-Noman in his petition alleged that the policemen attacked their peaceful mourning procession at Saidabad on November 8, injuring Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, Jainal Abedin Faruque, MP, and himself with bullets.

He alleged that police had attacked them with an intention to kill them.

He brought allegations against Officer-in-Charge Khondaker Abdul Halim, Sub-Inspector Bazlu, and constable Rakib.

## Body to probe Jatrabari incident during hartal

The government yesterday constituted a three-member committee to investigate the incident in which some opposition political leaders were injured in the city's Jatrabari area during hartal on November 8, reports BSS.

Headed by DIG (Railway) of Police Shahidur Rahman Bhuiyan, the inquiry committee has been asked to submit report by November 17.

Earlier, Home Minister Mohammad Nasim directed the officials concerned to form the probe body.

Three top BNP leaders, including city unit Convener Sadek Hossain Khoka MP were injured during clashes between police and opposition activists in the city's Jatrabari area on the second day of opposition's countrywide hartal.

The BNP-led four-party opposition alliance alleged that several leaders were injured in police firing.

## Kidnapping: Two outsiders held from DU campus

By DU Correspondent  
Police yesterday arrested two outsiders from the Dhaka University campus for their involvement in the kidnapping incident of two schoolboys of an English Medium School.

The arrested were identified as Mohammad Ali and Kalu. They were taken to the Dhanmondi thana.

Police said they were keeping close eyes on the persons involved in the kidnapping and arrested the two at about 8 pm near the Fazul Haq Hall of DU. "We are also looking for the other culprits," they said.

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### Prayer Timings

	Asar	Jamaat
Fajr	5:10	5:40
Zohr	12:45	1:30
Asr	3:55	4:10
Maghrib	5:25	5:30
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

# DU expels 5 students for crimes on campus

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday expelled five students for various terms and decided to continue temporary expulsion of seven others for involvement in various criminal activities on the campus.

Two of those expelled were also declared persona non grata on the campus.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the Disciplinary Board of DU with Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair, Deans of faculties, Syndicate members, provosts of halls, Proctor and Controller of Examinations attended the meeting, according to a DU

## Incidents of kidnapping at DU I'm really frustrated: VC

By Staff Correspondent

Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. A K Azad Chowdhury has expressed frustration over the recent incidents of kidnapping on the campus.

"I am really frustrated about the recent incidents. The reports of kidnapping have severely affected the image of my university," Prof. Chowdhury said while talking to The Daily Star on Sunday. "This is unfortunate, especially because the incidents took place when law and order on the campus was improving."

Prof. Chowdhury talked on many issues including campus violence, performance of police deployed on the campus, academic atmosphere, unauthorised consultancy by some teachers and election of student bodies.

Talking about the performance of some 200 policemen deployed on the campus for last several years, he said, "I know I cannot avoid responsibilities for incidents like kidnapping in the vicinity of the university. But at the same time, I am not satisfied over the performance of police in this regard."

"The VC is convinced that police have certain inherent limitations. I will discuss the is-



A K Azad Chy



Opposition leader Khaleda Zia yesterday visited the family members of Rina Begum, who was killed during hartal on Sunday. — Star photo

## Formal offer for dialogue after PM's return

By Staff Correspondent

The government is going to make a formal offer of dialogue to the opposition. Amir Hossain Anu, a Presidium member of the ruling party said last night.

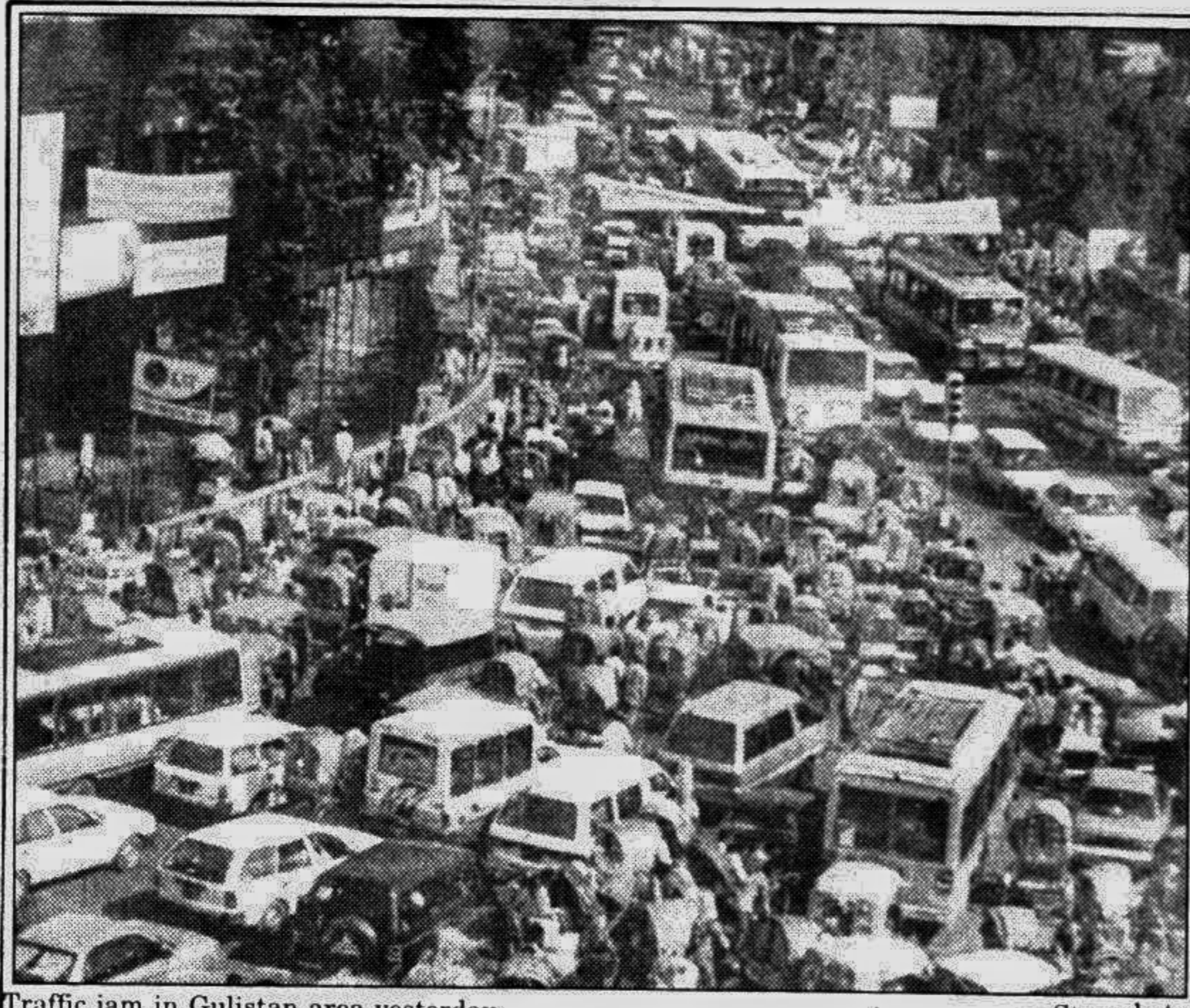
"We are going to invite the opposition formally to a dialogue after the return of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from the Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit in Durban, South Africa" Amir Hossain Anu told the Star.

His comments came after an emergency meeting of the AL Presidium at the Gano Bhaban with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in chair last evening.

The PM is leaving the city for Durban today, and Amir Hossain Anu was given the responsibility of leading the party as its acting President, during the former's Nov 11-18 visit abroad, which will also take her to Saudi Arabia.

The meeting took a number of important decisions. It welcomed the Prime Minister's call upon the leader of the opposition for a dialogue and ex-

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Traffic jam in Gulistan area yesterday. — Star photo

## Terrible traffic jam

By Staff Correspondent

The city, smarting from three successive days of hartal, yesterday witnessed through one of the most terrible traffic congestion in recent times.

A number of major city roads were clogged with hundreds of vehicles — bus, truck, car, auto-rickshaw, auto-tempo, motorcycle and rickshaw — for hours together.

The worst affected areas were Banani-DOHS crossing to Mohakhali inter-city bus terminal, Maghbazar crossing to Mouchak to Malibagh, Paltan crossing to Kakrail, Farmgate to Hotel Sonargaon roundabout and Jatiya Press Club to Elephant Road.

The traffic flow was however a bit easier in Motijheel and Dhanusha commercial areas compared to other areas.

Busy commercial areas in Old Dhaka also bore the brunt of post-hartal traffic.

Places like Islampur, Bangshal, Nazimuddin Road, Chawkbazar, Babubazar and Nayabazar had heavy concen-

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## Dhaka's last-minute lobbying for C'wealth SG post

From Toufique Imrose Khalidi

DURBAN, South Africa, Nov 10: As senior officials of Commonwealth countries meet in Durban tomorrow to thrash out the details of the summit agenda, Bangladesh's Farooq Sobhan is in Johannesburg busy with last-minute lobbying while attending the Business Forum in the South African commercial capital.

The two-day Commonwealth Business Forum, ending today, has brought together top trade and investment officials and corporate chiefs along with several heads of government including the host President Thabo Mbeki.

Sobhan, making a presentation along with the heads of government, spoke of developing strong programmes to combat poverty as he presented his "ideas and suggestions" in presence of several of the voters who cast their ballots Friday (Nov 12) afternoon in a closed-door session.

Sobhan mentioned the success story of Grameen Bank in its poverty-reducing efforts in Bangladesh.

In what is known as straw poll, the heads of government will personally cast votes to

choose the successor to the Commonwealth Secretary-general Chief Emeke Anyaoku between Sobhan, one of Bangladesh's most celebrated diplomats, and Don Mckinnon, New Zealand's foreign minister.

But tradition has it that the 54-nation organisation's chief executive is chosen by consensus, which means the loser in the straw poll will step aside paving the way for a "unanimous" decision.

On the last leg of his long campaign trail, Sobhan toured

12 African countries carrying letters from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as her special envoy, before arriving in South Africa.

"Throughout Africa, the responses have been very encouraging," Sobhan said, speaking to The Daily Star from Johannesburg.

"There's a strong support in Africa that the new Secretary-general should be from Asia and from a developing country," he said.

Sobhan, pitted against the mighty opponent in Mckinnon, has skillfully played the Asian card telling the member countries that all three chief executives have so far been non-Asians.

He has also argued that the position should be filled in by someone from a developing country with the broadened Commonwealth agenda in the wake of the new millennium.

There are strong arguments in support of small states and their issues such as poverty alleviation," Sobhan explained, referring to Mbeki's speech to the opening session of the Business Forum.

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## Dhaka re-elected to UNESCO Executive Board

Bangladesh was re-elected to the UNESCO Executive Board from the Asia-Pacific Group at the elections held at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris yesterday, reports BSS.

Bangladesh secured 118 votes. Out of the 58 board members, 32 members were elected yesterday while the rest 26 will continue for another two years term.

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## Khaleda visits residences of Rina, Zakir & Nabiullah

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Khaleda Zia yesterday visited the children and family members of late Rina Begum at their South Jatrabari residence in the city.

Rina, a housewife, was killed in police firing while she was standing on the first floor corridor of her residence during Sunday's countrywide hartal.

Later, Khaleda Zia also visited the residence of Jubo Dal activist Zakir Hossain, killed during Tuesday's hartal and also that of local BNP leader and Ward Commissioner Nabiullah Nabi, injured in police firing on Monday. Their residences are also in Jatrabari area.

The entire Shekherpara and South Jatrabari areas in the city wore a mourning look with black flags atop buildings and on roadsides. Opposition ac-

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## EC to substitute food aid by cash

By Staff Correspondent

The European Commission has decided to substitute food aid by cash assistance as per its plan to put more thrust on 'food security' than on 'food aid' for developing countries including Bangladesh.

Disclosing this at a roundtable discussion in the city yesterday, World Food Programme (WFP) representative Werner Kiene said food donors are changing their stance on food-supported programmes to target 30 million ultra poor in Bangladesh.

Kiene said Europeans will go for cash assistance instead of food aid soon. But there will be no budget-cut in aid, no matter whether the assistance comes in terms of cash or food.

The beneficiaries sell up to 25 per cent of the food in local markets to get cash for meeting other needs. The European donors decided in Brussels that

cash aid would well substitute the food aid', Kiene said.

He emphasised "a good combination of cash benefit and food benefit for the ultra poor, who constitute one fourth of Bangladesh's population."

Bangladesh's Unnayan Parishad (BUP), an NGO, organized the discussion on 'Food Aid in Bangladesh for Development of Ultra Poor: New Approaches' at its office.

Some experts and government officials also took part in the discussion, presided over by the BUP chairman Dr Qazi Kholiquzaman.

However, Food Ministry officials told The Daily Star later that the government was always in favour of food aid. "There are other donors who also have given us signals that they would continue food aid", said a high official.

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## PM leaves for S Africa today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka for South Africa today to attend Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) at Durban, reports UNB.

The three-day summit will begin on November 12. Heads of State or government from 54 member states are expected to attend the summit.

The special theme of this year's CHOGM is "People-Centred Development: The Challenge of Globalisation".

The economic agenda is expected to focus on how to integrate different countries of the world, specially developing and least developed ones, in the international commercial system within the framework of WTO.

The Durban CHOGM is important for Bangladesh as far-

## Ahad murder 3 including main accused held

By Staff Correspondent

Three persons, including the main accused in Sergeant Ahad Parvez murder case were arrested by the Motijheel police last night.

Kangali Zakir, the main accused and two others, identified as Faruk and Sanaulah, were arrested from a garage at Agha Parn Road under Gulshan Police Station at about 8:30 pm, police said.

Zakir and his accomplices confessed their involvement in Ahad murder on the night of October 28, police said. They had taken refuge at the garage since the killing, police added. According to police, Zakir also confessed his involvement

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## Jubo Dal calls Shyampur today

By Staff Correspondent  
Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Shyampur area today to protest the killing of its leader Zakir Hossain on Tuesday.

Salauddin Ahmed, former MP, announced the hartal programme after a Janaza held for the slain leader at Jurain yesterday.

Zakir Hossain, 35, a Jubo Dal leader, was shot dead by unidentified assailants at Balur Math (ground) in the city's Shyampur area Tuesday night. The incident took place on the third day of the opposition sponsored dawn-to-dusk hartal.

Shyampur connects the capital with industrial city Narayanganj. Huge contingent of police will be deployed along the Dhaka-Narayanganj road to keep the motor vehicles operational between the two cities, police said.

Meanwhile, police arrested one Jahangir in connection with the murder.

## Mammi murder case: Chargesheet likely next week

From Our Correspondent  
NARAYANGANJ, Nov 10: Rokshana Yesmin Runa, one of the six accused in the sensational Mammi murder case, was taken on police remand today.

Police prayed for seven days' remand for Runa, sister-in-law of the Mahnuddin Sultana Mammi, but the magistrate court here granted a two-day remand. Mammi was murdered on October 30.

Chargesheet in the case likely to be submitted next week, a police official told The Daily Star.

## Power Grid Company starts operation

By Sharier Khan

The Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB), formed by the government to look after power transmission in the country, has begun operation with a number of benefits and facilities.

Official sources said the company will charge transmission tariff higher than PDB's but it will be exempted from paying income tax, among other benefits.

The Power Development Board (PDB) last month handed over its Haripur-Cornilla Grid Sub-station and the 45 km Haripur-Ghorashal transmission line to PGCB in the first phase of transfer of transmission system. PDB owns a total of 3000 km transmission lines. PDB and DESA will use

## Case against 38 Casual workers continue strike at Mongla Port

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 10: Casual workers at Mongla Port continued their strike for the second day today, disrupting loading and unloading activities at the port.

The workers under the banner of Mongla Bandar Shipping Karmachari Sangha, began an indefinite strike on Tuesday to press their 15-point demand.

The demands include formation of a common pool for booking on rotation basis, payment of 26 days' wages per month and 100 per cent increase in their wages.

A total of 19 ships remained stranded since Tuesday morning due to strike. Efforts to reach a settlement

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## Ram Prakash Gupta replaces Kalyan Singh as CM

NEW DELHI, Nov 10: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday night appointed veteran leader Ram Prakash Gupta as the new chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, reports BSS.

Gupta will take oath tomorrow.

After a long period of uncertainties in the wake of factional feud in the BJP in Uttar Pradesh which caused electoral debacle in the state, senior BJP leaders at the residence of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee chose Gupta, who was deputy chief minister in the 1967 Samyukta Vidhaya Dal government of Charan Singh.

While choosing Gupta, the BJP officials said that he (Gupta) did not belong to either pro or anti-Kalyan Singh and would be able to steer the party, at least until the state assembly

elections due in October 2001. The BJP lost more than 20 seats in the recently held Lok Sabha election in Uttar Pradesh and it put the blame on Kalyan Singh.

The factional feud in the Uttar Pradesh BJP surfaced before the Lok Sabha election with dissidents demanding resignation of chief minister Kalyan Singh.

However, Kalyan Singh blamed the BJP leadership for the electoral defeat in the Uttar Pradesh. "By abandoning the Ram Janambhoomi movement, the leadership and damaged the party's prospects," he said.

Kalyan Singh demanded review of the BJP's policies and sought inclusion of issues such as a Ram Temple in Ayodhya, abrogation of Article 370 (which provides special status to Kashmir) and a uniform civil

code "to retain the party's identity."

He said he had to go because "Vajpayee had made up his mind to remove me from the office."

Kalyan Singh said, the central leadership should give a serious thought as to why the party's tally remained static at 182 in 1998 and 1999 in spite of the fact that the party sought votes in the name of Prime Minister Atal Behari Bajpayee.

Addressing a group of Sadhus at Ayodhya yesterday he said whatever may be the consequences he would remain committed to the cause of "Ram Temple."

He announced that the Temple would be built at the "Garbh Griha" of the disputed Ram Janambhoomi complex.