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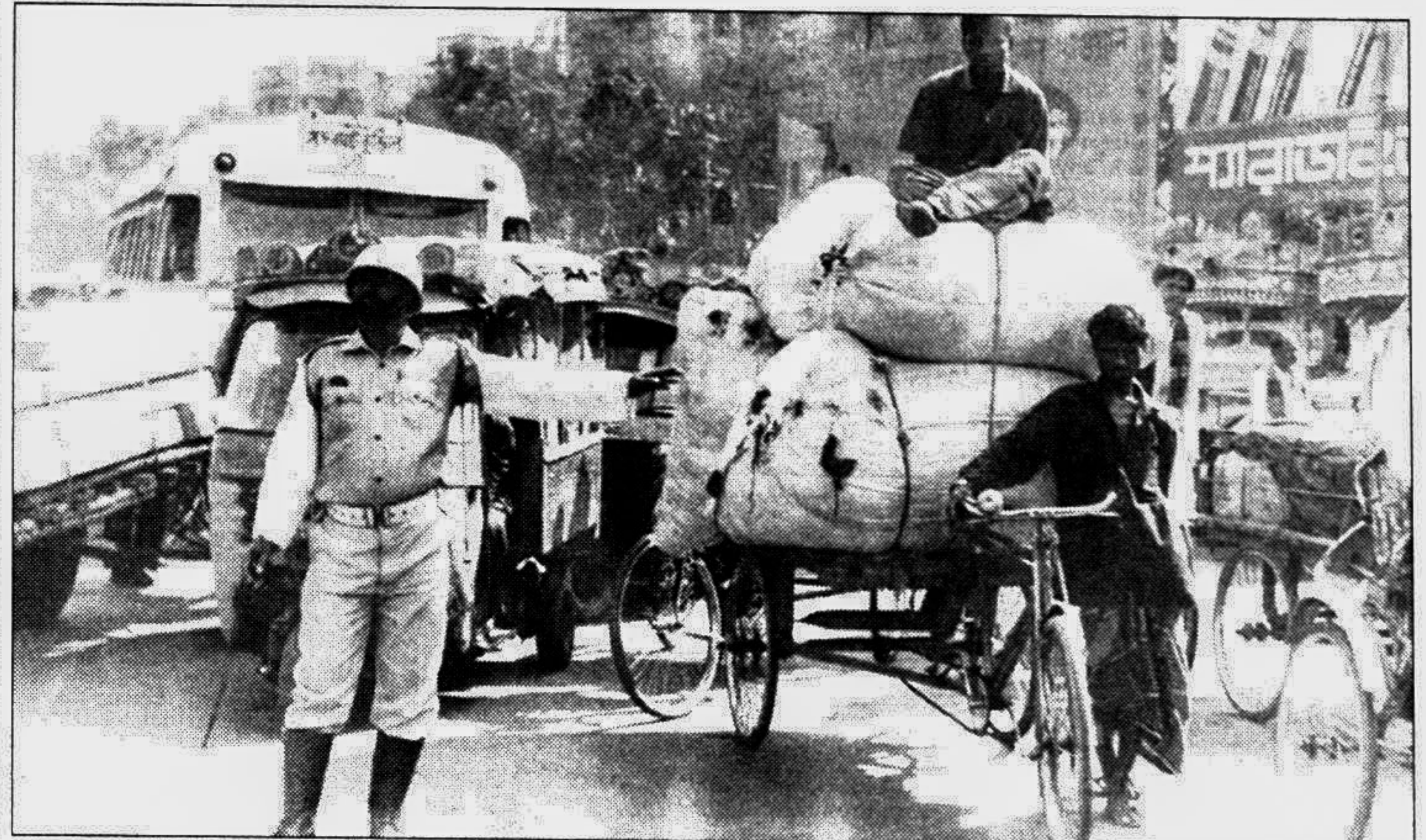
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Dawn-to-dusk hartal today, tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent
The BNP-led opposition alliance will observe a country-wide dawn-to-dusk hartal today and tomorrow to press for immediate resignation of the government and holding of fresh parliamentary polls.
The programme was announced by the BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) from separate public rallies in the city on December 2.
Hartal (general strike) will be observed from 6am to 6pm today and tomorrow. There will be no hartal during night hours.
The government has, meantime, taken massive measures to maintain law and order during the hartal hours. Sources said the authorities will deploy some 6,000 paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), armed and riot police at different strategic points and important establishments. They will also patrol the city streets.
The four partners of the alliance and some smaller parties like Zaker Party (ZP), Jappa, DL, PNP, NDA and People's League held separate rallies and

Global trade talks fail

SEATTLE, Dec 4: The push for new global trade talks collapsed in a major defeat for the Clinton administration, leaving labour and environmental activists cheering today as weary, disappointed negotiators wondered how to go forward, reports AP.
The failure of the World Organisation Trade session late Friday — following violent protests that turned Seattle upside-down — was a stark illustration that any further liberalisation to global commerce won't come easily.
"We won," said Tracy Katelman, an activist from the Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment who had worked to shut down the WTO talks. "We really disrupted it. We certainly created an atmosphere to make it difficult for them to work."
Opponents of the WTO claim the Geneva-based body that sets global trade rules is a menace that puts the interests of multinational corporations over concerns about ordinary people and the environment.
"Obviously, we haven't won the whole battle," Katelman said. "But we've made a pretty big impact. I think the corporations will be shaking in their boots."
A sombre US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky insisted today that the protests had not derailed the talks.
"The suspension of the talks had to do with the substance of what was being discussed," Barshefsky told reporters. Trading partners had deadlocked on a number of issues and essentially needed to call a time-out because "governments weren't ready to take the leap" in making difficult political decisions on necessary compromises, she said.
Barshefsky and WTO Director General Mike Moore put the best face possible on their defeat, insisting the four days of talks had made progress that would be preserved in future discussions to begin sometime next year in Geneva.
But as Barshefsky and Moore closed the WTO meeting, activists in the back of the huge conference room broke into war whoops and started chanting anti-WTO slogans.
"This was a remarkable week," Moore told trade ministers, from the 135 WTO members. "Much was done. That work will not be lost."
The week was remarkable for many reasons never intended by the WTO.
The talks opened a huge rift between rich Western nations and poorer developing countries over President Bill Clinton's insistence that strong worker rights be included in any new trade pact.
That was a deal killer, in the minds of developing Asian and



Anachronism
The slow and the speedy go together. The usual sight on the North-South Road in the capital. —Star photo

Solution lies in early polls, Khaleda tells diplomats

By Staff Correspondent
BNP chief Khaleda Zia told a group of Dhaka-based foreign diplomats yesterday that the Awami League government must quit to clear the way for early parliamentary elections under a caretaker administration.
"This is the best possible way to safeguard national interests, ensure economic development and improve the conditions of common people," she said, in an "informal" briefing on the recent summit meeting of chiefs of four opposition parties.
Khaleda and two other senior leaders spoke to the heads of foreign missions and other diplomats at a private dinner hosted by BNP vice chairman M Shamsul Islam MP at his son's

WRIP: Consultant's bid to examine Unocal's documents

By Sharier Khan
The US consultant supervising the Western Region Integrated Project (WRIP) wants to examine Unocal's documents before the project proceeds, a move which could delay the \$700 million project by several months.
Parsons, appointed under a US government assistance programme, asked Unocal to supply seven proposed agreements, the government's letter of intent as well as documents concerning the project's tender.
Parsons also asked Unocal to provide an analysis of the Shahbazpur gas reserve, the pipeline's operating cost estimate breakdown, the cost of previous pipeline and power plant projects in Bangladesh, the environment status of the

Tests fail again: Kapna dry

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Dec 4: Unocal and Occidental packed up their equipment in Kapna over the weekend after a third set of well tests confirmed the controversial field was dry.
The companies performed tests in August and September, but the results were inconclusive.
Petrobranga experts claimed the wells were dry, since they only produced water and sand. However, Occidental said they might have struck oil at the site near the remote village of Kapnakandi, 20-kilometres from Sylhet.
Despite the disagreement, Unocal and Occidental officials decided to conduct a third and final set of tests to determine Kapna's viability once and for all.

Permanent AAPP sectt to be set up in Dhaka

The Executive Council of the Association of Asian Parliamentarians for Peace (AAPP) yesterday agreed in principle to set up its permanent secretariat in Dhaka, reports UNB.
Officials said the 11-member Executive Council at its first meeting attended by delegates from eight countries adopted a set of recommendations, including the proposal for a permanent secretariat in Dhaka.
The recommendations will be placed for final approval before the next general assembly of the AAPP scheduled to be held in Cambodia on November 6 next year.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the current Chairperson of the AAPP yesterday expressed Dhaka's willingness to host a permanent secretariat of AAPP.
Delegates attending the first meeting of the executive council held discussions on general fund for the newborn association and model of financial contribution to be paid by each member country. They matter will be discussed in each country's respective parliament.
The meeting adopted the agenda on "The Asian Charter for Human Rights" which was recommended by an APCPC Working Group on "International Humanitarian and Human Rights, Laws and Institutions" during the general meeting held in Dhaka last September.
The delegate members approved a "Logo" proposed by the Cambodian delegation and flag of the AAPP.
Nepalese Speaker Tarantath Rahabhat signed the charter of the AAPP on behalf of his country yesterday.

Anniversary of Suhrawardy's death today

By Staff Correspondent
The 36th death anniversary of Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy will be observed today.
To mark the day, Awami League will hold a discussion meeting at its central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city at 4 pm today, said a press release.
The AL will also place wreaths and offer *fateha* at the mazar of the late leader at 9 am.
President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion.
President Shahabuddin in his message said, the political parties have an important role to play to nurture the democratic system.
He said Shaheed Suhrawardy's life-long dedication and struggle was to ensure welfare of the commonman through establishment of democratic system.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her message said the contribution of Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy in establishing democratic rights of the people and maintaining communal harmony in the sub-continent is ever memorable.
She paid high tributes to his memory and said Suhrawardy was one of the main signatories to the historic Bengal Pact, last prime minister of undivided Bengal, pioneer leader of the Jukta Front Movement and brain child of democracy.

13 receive bomb injuries, vehicles damaged in city

By Staff Correspondent
At least 13 people were injured in bomb explosions in different parts of the city yesterday evening.
A number of vehicles were also damaged in the city's Purana Paltan, Bijoynagar, Kakrail and Shahbagh areas by unidentified groups of people.
Twelve people were injured in bomb explosions near North Gate of Baitul Mukarram, Zero Point, Golap Shah Mazar, Railway Employees' Hospital and Gulshan areas.
In another incident, Jahangir, 25, a rickshawpuller, received bomb injuries in his face, throat and shoulder when he was crossing Ray Saheb Bazar area with his rickshaw at about 6:45 pm, hospital sources said.
Of the injured, 11 were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the rest to Islami Bank Hospital in the city, sources added.



BNP brought out a torch procession in the city yesterday in support of hartal. —Star photo

BNP MP hurt as rivals attack car in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Dec 4: Political rivals attacked a car at Belkuchi thana sadar this evening injuring at least 20 people including a parliament member of the opposition.
Seriously injured T M A Mannan, a BNP MP and seven others were admitted to the Sirajganj sadar hospital. The condition of seriously injured Humayan Islam Khan, a central leader of the Jatiyatabadi Tanti Dal and Mokaddes Ali, a former BNP district convener were reported to be critical.
Hospital sources said they might be referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on emergency basis for treatment.
Police sources said that the BNP leaders were returning after a meeting of the party at Belkuchi thana sadar. When they reached Belkuchi Bazar, a group of people with lethal weapons attacked their car. They dragged out the BNP leaders and beat them up mercilessly.
Hearing the scream of the injured hundreds of BNP supporters rushed to the spot and chased the attackers allegedly belonging to the ruling Awami League. A series of chase and counter chases took place when a number of vehicles and shops were damaged.
District Awami League vice-president Abdur Rahman denied their involvement with the attack.
District Police Super said that additional forces had been deployed at the thana as a tense situation was prevailing there.

Shikdar to face tax evasion charge

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Nov 4: A five-member probe committee of Income Tax Department has submitted a report on how Ershad Shikdar evaded taxes by forged means.
The report is now lying with the Commissioner of Taxes, Khulna Division.
Shikdar will be summoned to verify the tax evasion charges, said a source in the department concerned.
A source in the KMP said the tax department should now file case with the police against Shikdar. He said the officials concerned are buying time as some of them have been named as beneficiaries of Shikdar.
The Commissioner of Taxes denied the charge saying the matter is being processed to file case.

Shahjalal varsity tense Agitators lay siege again: No exams held

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Dec 4: The All Party Action Committee (opposition) laid a one-hour siege to Shahjalal University of Science and Technology today, following a three-hour siege yesterday.
The scheduled examinations could not be held as all activities on the campus were disrupted.
The main gate of the academic buildings and the library, put under lock and key by the demonstrators yesterday.
3 policemen killed, 37 hurt in bus accident
From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Dec 4: Three policemen were killed and 37 injured when a truck carrying some 50 policemen overturned near Islamic University at Ballapara, 15 miles away from Kushtia town at about 3 pm today.
The injured were rushed to Kushtia General Hospital. Later 21 were taken to CIMH Jessore in critical condition.
The dead were identified as constables Anisuddin, Rabiul Islam.
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Foreign ship averts accident at Ctg port

From Nurul Alam
CHITTAGONG, Dec 4: A Singapore flag carrying cargo vessel while leaving Chittagong port averted a major accident by going for emergency anchoring at the mid channel when it was about to hit some fishing trawlers and engine boats tonight, port sources said.
The steering of the feeder vessel, MV Kota Naga, went out of order because of emergency anchoring at about 8 pm.
The trawlers and engine boats were moving haphazardly, the sources said.
After repair of the steering the vessel sailed out at 10 pm.
Harbour Master of the port Qamrul Islam said 'Night navigation at Chittagong port channel has now become risky due to uncontrolled movement of a large number of engine boats and fishing trawlers, some of which move without light.'

Nation still struggling for economic freedom

By Staff Correspondent
Addressing the first session as chief guest, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury said the Liberation War did not end with the surrender of Pakistani army on December 16, 1971. It is continuing, he said.
"The spirit of the Liberation War will always guide us in materialising its goals," Chowdhury said.
Speaking as special guest, Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) A K Khandakar MP said the war was imposed on Bangladesh by the then Pakistani regime and "we fought for self-defense."
"Many freedom fighters I talked with no longer speak of the spirit of the war. They want peace and economic emancipation of the people. But we are far

Dadabhai laid to rest

By Staff Correspondent
Renowned child litterateur and founder of the Kochi Kanchar Mela Rokonzaman Khan popularly known as 'Dadabhai' was laid to eternal rest at Kochi Kanchar Mela premises at Segun Bagicha in the city yesterday afternoon.
Dadabhai died of heart attack at the Suhrawardy Hospital in the city on Friday afternoon at the age of 75. He was first rushed to the General Hospital following severe pain in his chest on Friday. He was then shifted to Suhrawardy Hospital where doctors declared him dead at about 2:30 pm.
The body was first taken to the Daily Ittefaq office, his long-time place of work, from BIRDEM mortuary at about 10 am. City dwellers, journalists and employees of daily Ittefaq paid rich tributes to Dadabhai, before his body was taken to the National Press Club for the first *namaj-e-janaja*. Political leaders, cultural activists and jour-

LPG imported by Bashundhara Customs reluctant to give clearance

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Dec 4: Bashundhara group is now in a fix what to do with 209 tonnes of LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) brought from Thailand last week for bottling on commercial basis.
The Mongla customs department is reluctant to give clearance for unloading the consignment as it is a banned item as per the government's import policy.
Bashundhara Group, a private commercial enterprise, will be going into commercial operation for bottling LPGs by this month. The plant has been built at a cost of Tk 80 crore on 10 acres of land at Mongla to meet the growing need for fuel in the southern zone of the country. The plant, aided by China, has the capacity for filling at least 16, 720 cylinders of 12.5 kg each.
The first consignment of 209 tonnes LP gas from Thailand reached Mongla Port last week. Bashundhara group of industries imported it for its plant allegedly by managing permission from Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, MV season carrying the LPG from Thailand anchored at Mongla port on November 29. But Mongla customs department has not yet passed Bills of Entry fully.
Another 1200 tonnes of LPG are also expected to reach Mongla Port on December 8.
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Evidence loses the right to publish

By Staff Correspondent
The District Magistrate of Dhaka has said in a notification that the declaration of the Weekly Evidence, published by wife of a BNP leader Manzoor Quader, is no longer valid for violation of The Printing Presses and Publications (Declaration and registration) Act 1973.
An order dated November 28, signed by Mohammad Shafiqul Alam, Additional District Magistrate, Dhaka, directed the publisher, Arjumand Ara Chowdhury, not to publish the weekly further since she has failed to publish the actual address of the place of publication on the printer's line.
Manzoor Quader, the editor of the journal, said the publisher received the order yesterday afternoon from a special messenger which directed her to refrain from publishing it since the declaration was annulled in 1993 under section 10 of the 1973 act for failure to inform

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Supplement
Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a 2-page supplement on UK Trade and Education Fair '99 on Pages 15 & 16 and a 3-page supplement on the National Day of Thailand on Pages 17 to 19

Prayer Timings
December 5

	Azhan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-42	4-00
Maghrib	5-18	5-23
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation