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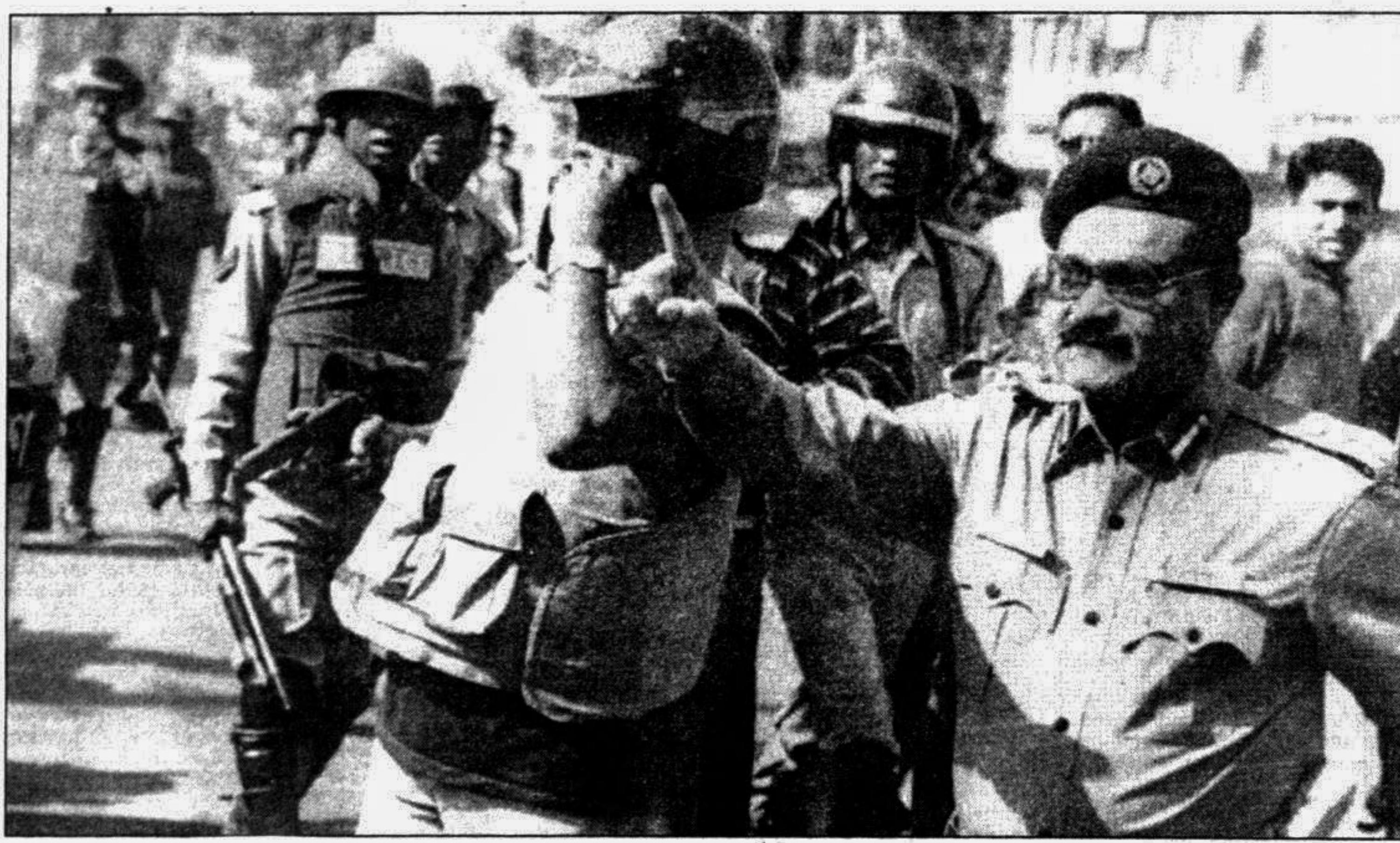
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## That's enough

The Deputy Commissioner at DMP's Detective Branch warns BNP demonstrators near the party central office not to blast anymore bombs after a series of explosions yesterday.

## PM launches Bhairab Bridge work today

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the construction work of Bhairab Bridge over the river Meghna on Dhaka-Sylhet highway today.

Communications ministry sources said a ground breaking ceremony of the bridge will be held at the Bhairab Bazar, the western end of the bridge connecting Ashuganj.

The Bhairab Bridge will be the second largest bridge in the country after Bangabandhu Bridge over the river Jamuna.

The 1.231 kilometre long bridge will be constructed at a cost of Tk 533.47 crore with financial assistance from the UK government.

The UK will provide Tk 139.51 crore as grant from the Department for International Development (DFID) and a sim-

ilar amount of money from Standard Chartered Bank as loan. Rest of the money will be spent from the government exchequer.

The bridge will be constructed approximately 110 meter upstream of the existing railway bridge. The scheme consists of a 1.23 km concrete bridge with approach viaducts and central spans crossing the Meghna river. The bridge sites will be developed above the 1998 flood level with 1.4 km long bridge approach embankment.

The approach roads include minor bridges, drainage culverts and retaining structures. A major river training scheme is being provided to both east and west banks of the river.

## Bombs hurled at Banglabazar Patrika office

By Staff Correspondent

Unidentified miscreants hurled two bombs at the building of the daily Banglabazar Patrika in Tejgaon Industrial Area in the early hours of yesterday, police said.

The reason behind the attack could not be known immediately, police said. None was arrested in this connection till filing of this report last night.

The miscreants on board a tempo hurled two bombs and drove off at about 4 am, police said. None was injured in the bomb attack.

Banglabazar Patrika authorities said that printing of the newspaper was going on during the attack.

A case was filed with Tejgaon thana in this connection.

## CPA to start dredging Karnaphuli next week

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Dec 5: Chittagong Port Authority will start dredging the river Karnaphuli beside 13 jetties next week to facilitate smooth berthing of cargo vessels, port sources said.

Siltation of the river caused a fall in depth of water at the jetties.

The depth of water at Jetty No 1 to 13 has decreased to 7.5 metres from 8.5 metres earlier causing berthing problem for big foreign vessels.

Hindrance to free flow of tidal water and fall of waste into the river from Jetty yards at the time of loading and unloading of ships could be the reasons behind rapid siltation," one source said.

Earlier the port channel was dredged about a year ago.

This time dredging will continue for over two months. Dredgers and other equipments will be hired from Water Development Board (WDB) as per a renewed contract between the two sides.

Dredging will be done at least for 10 hours a day and the port authority will have to pay a charge of about Tk 19,000/- per hour for it.

Chittagong port has to hire dredger from WDB, as it does not have small dredgers for use at the jetties. It has a big dredger which is used for dredging at the main channel of the port, the source said.

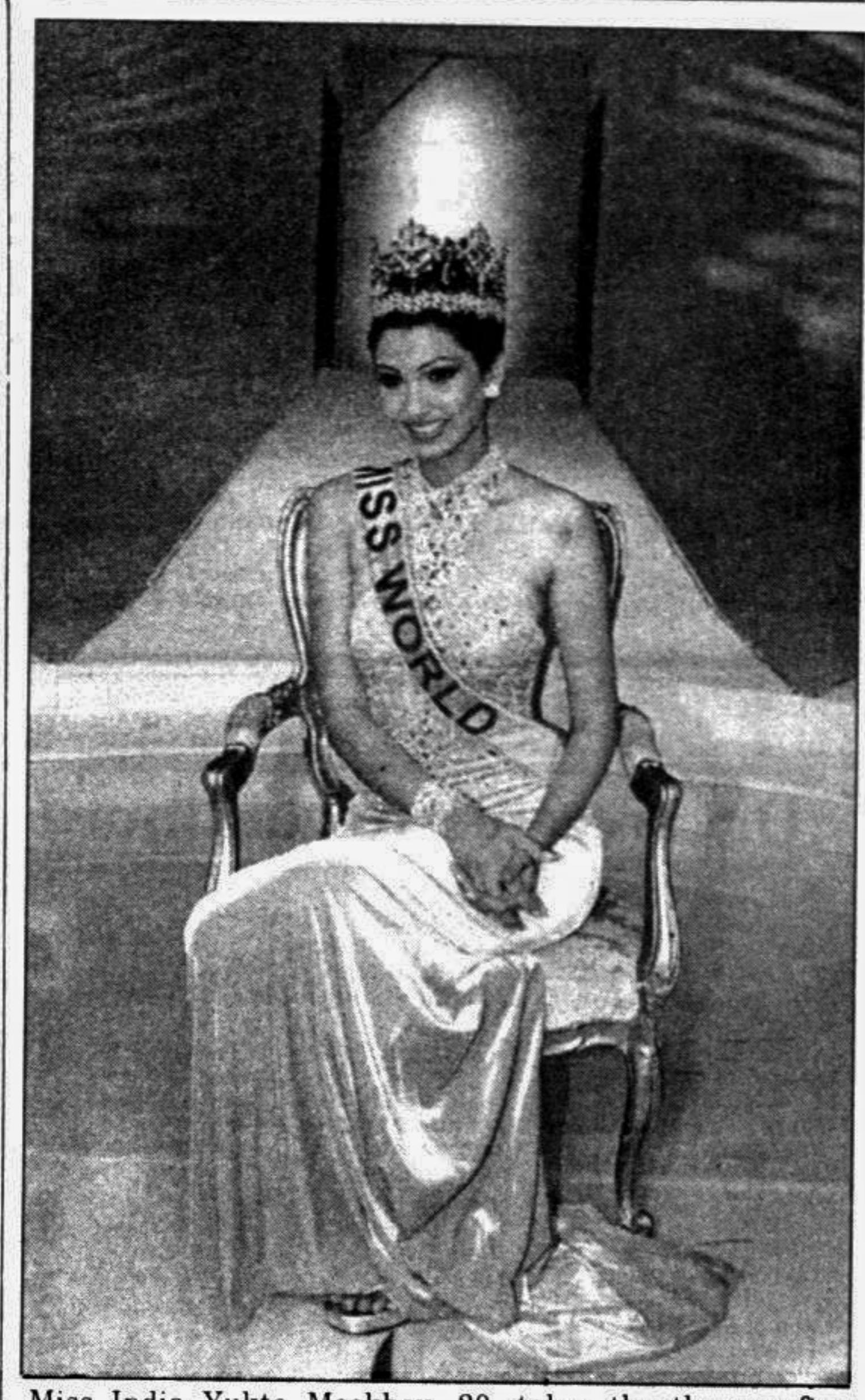
Meanwhile, the Students' Action Committee, a combine of JCD, Chhatra Shibir and others has called an indefinite strike at the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

The programmes include mass contact with professional groups from tomorrow and sit in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office on December 19.

The programme was announced at a rally held at the Courtipoint with the district BNP vice-president Advocate Nurul Haque in the chair.

The rally was addressed, among others, by the district JP Secretary Syed Abdul Quasem Mantu, City Jamaat Ameer Dr. Shafiqur Rahman and Secretary Hafiz Abdul Hai Haroon, city BNP president Aheza Reza Chowdhury and secretary Nasim Hossain.

During the judging, Miss Mookhey, the winner, said she would like to have been born Hollywood film star Audrey Hepburn whom she admired for her "inner beauty, compassion and great aura."



Miss India Yukta Mookhey, 20, takes the throne after winning the Miss World title in London Saturday. Miss Venezuela Martina Thorogood was runner up and Miss South Africa Sonia Raciti was second runner up. Miss India beat 93 other contestants from around the world.

— AFP photo

## Miss India wins the crown

LONDON, Dec 5: Miss India, 20-year-old Yukta Mookhey, was chosen Miss World 1999 on Saturday over 93 other contestants from around the world, reports AP.

She told the judges that Thai food was her favourite and that she would love to go to Paris.

She was crowned by her predecessor, Linor Abargil, 20, from Israel.

Miss Mookhey has just graduated from college with a degree in zoology and has worked in computer software programming. Her family is from northern India but she was educated at a British School in the Persian Gulf area because her father's work took the family there. She has studied classical music in India for three years.

Five years ago, another Miss India, Ashwarya Rai, won the Miss World 1994 title. The same year, the Miss Universe title went to Sushmita Sen of India.

Judges got a first chance to meet the contestants on Friday, in a secret session during which they drew up a shortlist of 20 women from among whom the winner was chosen.

The seven judges included boxer Lennox Lewis, Formula 1 motor racing driver Eddie Irvine, Television's Supermodel, Dean Cain, and fashion photographer Terry O'Neill.

The pageant was created in 1951 by a public relations executive for a small leisure and entertainment company. It was envisioned as a single event that year, but was kept going after the United States started the rival Miss Universe contest in 1952. It has been held in many countries and was last held in London in 1988.

## ASP of CID made new IO of Advocate Fatik Murder Case in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 5: ASP Moksedul Islam of CID, Dhaka has been made the new IO of the sensational Advocate Fatik Murder Case.

Advocate Fatik, a young lawyer of Khulna was murdered by Ershad Shikdar and his associates on April 6, 1998 inside the ice factory at the Skid Ghate.

ASP Khandaqar Iqbal of CID, Khulna was the IO of this case. But he has been transferred to Sarda Police Academy after Ershad named him as one of his beneficiaries.

The new IO will recheck the charge sheet submitted by the former Investigation Officer. Fresh investigation is expected to be completed by December 20, said a source in the KMP.

## Bijoy Mela opens at Ctg

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 5: The 11th victory fair "Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela" began here today.

Minister for Labour and Employment M A Mannan inaugurated the 12-day victory fair at the premises of Chittagong M A Aziz Stadium and Outer Stadium at 4:07 pm.

The fair was scheduled to be inaugurated by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury. But the Speaker could not attend the function due to country-wide dawn-to-dusk hartal enforced by the opposition alliance. The inauguration was also delayed by one and half hours.

## French building collapse claims 10 lives

DIJON, France, Dec 5: At least 10 people were killed when a four-storey apartment building collapsed after an explosion in the eastern French city of Dijon, according to the latest toll today, reports AFP.

A local government official said the bodies of five women, three men and two girls aged between eight and 10 years had been pulled from the rubble of the building which collapsed just before midnight on Saturday. Three people were injured.

Two or three more people were believed to have been in the building when it collapsed, the head of the rescue operation, Colonel Remi Lecarme, said shortly before the 10th body was found.

## A K Khandaqar clarifies

Air Vice Marshal (retired) A K Khandaqar gave a clarification yesterday about his speech delivered at a city programme covered by The Daily Star on its December 5 issue, which is as follows:

"On the night of 25th March 1971, Pakistani Army treacherously launched brutal attack on Bengali officers and men of East Bengal Regiments, the then East Pakistan Rifles and police forces. Suddenly attacked Bengalis initially fought for self-defence and our War of Independence started.

On another aspect of our Liberation War, I said that in the context of the then Cold War situation, the signing of Indo-Soviet treaty on August 9, 1971 was a turning point. I never said that the Independence War started from August 9, 1971."

## 20 hurt as AL, BNP clash in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 5: At least 20 people were injured, six of them seriously, in a clash between the supporters of Awami League and BNP at Kaliganj Bazar in Durgapur thana yesterday evening.

Of the injured, four were identified as Shamim, Sadaruddin, Ismail Hossain and Habibur Rahman, were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries.

Poice said the clash was a sequel to previous enmity be-

## Bhuiyan slams 'Awami terrorists'

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday asked the government to quit immediately handing over power to a caretaker government to pave the way for parliamentary polls.

"Don't push the country towards confrontation and conflicts in the greater interest of the people," he said while addressing a post-hartal press briefing at 29 Minto Road in the evening.

He said people of the country spontaneously observed the dawn-to-dusk hartal yesterday despite attacks by police and Awami 'terrorists'.

Bhuiyan alleged that the rulers created a reign of terror in the capital and other parts of the country by making armed attacks on peaceful processions and pickets during the hartal.

He condemned and protested attacks by AL 'terrorists' at Feni, Sirajganj and Narayanganj on Saturday. He displayed photographs of BNP MP Abdul Mannan Talukder, who was wounded at Sirajganj.

Speaking at the briefing, Jatiya Party presidium member Kazi Firoz Rashid said the government has become unnerved after the summit meeting of chiefs of the four parties in the opposition alliance and has intensified its repression to foil the current one-point movement.

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mohammad Kairuzzaman said the AL government must have to be toppled through movement as it is taking wrong decisions one after another to destroy the country.

IOJ leader ARM Abdul Matin said expressed the determination to continue the present agitation till the fall of AL government.

City BNP joint convenor Abidus Salam said police around the party central office was 'very aggressive and attacked party office twice without any provocation'.

He claimed that at least 200 BNP activists were injured and 400 arrested in the city during the hartal.

Hospital sources quoting Bikas Roy said, a group of people intercepted the minibus near English Road at about 7:30 pm and they hurled a number of petrol bombs on the bus packed with passengers.

The bomb attackers also damaged the bus, hospital sources added.

Senior police officials of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, however, could not confirm the incident till filing of this report.

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