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### MOTIJHEEL

IBRAHIM CHAMBER 95, Motijheel C.A., Dhaka Tel # 9565114, Fax: 9565112

ing at the rally threatened to

paralyse the district headquar-

ters if the terrorists and extor-

tionists were not arrested

thousand people laid a siege to

Natore sadar thana demanding

arrest of the attackers. The

siege was withdrawn after po-

lice recorded three cases filed by

The rally over, about five

### BANGSHAL

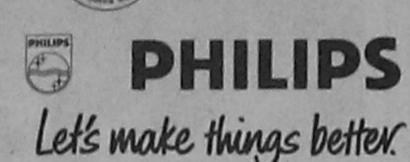
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### NARAYANGANJ

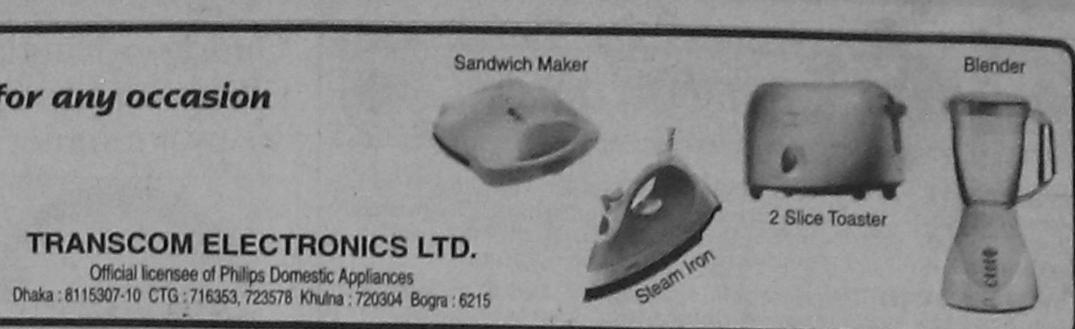
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## Traders observe hartal at Natore protesting attack by extortionists

From Our Correspondent

old boy, who was shot during the clash between businessmen and extortionists at Natore Railway Station Bazar last night, died on way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital the same night.

The victim, Moyenuddin extortionists.

injured in the clash that

tivists — Aziz and Shaheen —

Hearing the news, the supporters of the two BCL activists equipped with arms came and snatched the two held by the

They also foiled a counterattack by firing shots and exploding crackers, leaving one

dead and over 100 injured. The businessmen enforced a hartal in the district headquarters today to protest the attack.

people died when an overloaded

ferry carrying more than 100

passengers sank Sunday in wa-

ters off Ambon island, a senior

police official and news reports

the sea at the spot where the

ferry went down, local police

commander Brig. Gen. Dewa

Astika said. They have so far

gers and crew members was un-

known. Navy vessels have been

dispatched to aid in the search,

Astika said, adding that rescue

efforts would continue after

TU leaders of pvt

jute, textile

mills to go on

fast-unto-death

vate jute, yarn and textile mills

will go on fast-unto-death from

May 22 as part of their action

programmes announced vester-

day to press for six-point de-

mand, including reopening of

the closed industries, reports

trade unions announced the

programmes at a press confer-

ence at the National Press Club.

submission of memorandum to

the Prime Minister on May 15.

rallies May 17-19 and fast-

unto-death in front of Press

ence the TU leaders expressed

resentment over the govern-

ment's failure to take any mea-

sures to reopen the closed pri-

tive, the private-owned jute

mills cannot survive," the lead-

ers of the council said in a writ-

ten statement urging the gov-

pay their arrears of salary.

ernment and the mill owners to

mediate reopening of the closed

jute, yarn and textile mills with

the facilities given to the BJMC-

run mills, payment of the PF

and gratuity to the retrenched workers, amendment to Labour

Law and implementation of the

Wage Commission award in the

tion Shahidul Islam, read out

the statement at the news con-

ference where Hedayetul Islam,

Mahbubul Alam, Kafiluddin,

Convenor of the organisa-

Their demands include im-

"Without government initia-

Addressing the press confer-

Club from May 22.

vate mills.

private sector.

The Coordination Council of

The programmes include

Trade union leaders of pri-

The fate of the other passen-

rescued 56 survivors, he said.

Rescuers found 37 bodies in

said, according to AP.

Army evolve pollution-free autorickshaw

As city life is beset with serious health hazards owing to air pollution, the army innovate a technology converting petrol-driven two-stroke autorickshaws into LPG-fuelled vehicles reducing the quantum of environment contamination, reports UNB.

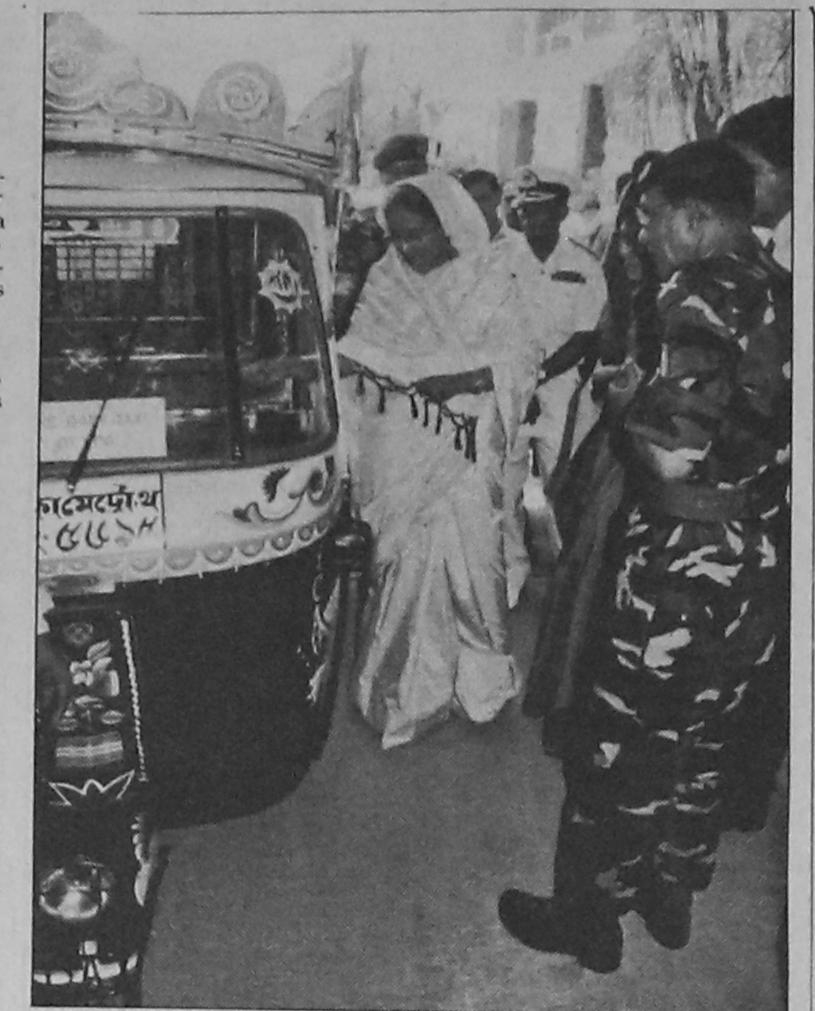
The transformed autorickshaw, which is cost-effective, is safer and free from air pollution to a large extent. The Inspection of Technical Development (ITD) department of the army has developed this new

technology Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited the Armed Forces Division in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday morning and witnessed the demonstration of the LPG-run autorick-

Chief of Army Staff Lt General M Mustafizur Rahman apprised the Prime Minister of different aspects of the transformed autorickshaw. She asked the Army Chief to explore ways for its extensive use for the public.

Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Secretary of Environment Ministry Margub Morshed, Navy Chief Rear Admiral Abu Taher and senior army officers were present.

Briefing newsmen Brig Aftab Uddin Ahmed who is Director of ITD said the transformed See page 11 col 7



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina takes a closer look at an autorickshaw that the Army converted into a two-stroke LPG-fuelled vehicle from a petrol-driven one at the Armed Forces Division in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday. - PID photo

## Alim, Fazil exams: 378

By Staff Correspondent At least 378 examinees were expelled for adopting unfair means in Alim and Fazil examinations under the Madrassah Education Board its officials said here yesterday.

Mymensingh, 14 in Sherpur,

one in Kishoreganj, 11 in Ne-

trakona, 11 in Faridpur, seven

in Gopalganj, Il in Madaripur

and one in Shariatpur, Board

Feni Jubo Dal

leader kidnapped

miscreants kidnapped a local

Jubo Dal leader in the town this

gang of 4-5 youths shot and in-

Madina restaurant on Jame

Masjid road before abducting

Jubo Dal leader was accused in

4-5 cases. If rescued, he would be

Syed Mizanur Rahman blamed

the ruling party-backed terror-

Police said the abducted

District Jubo Dal president

jured Abdul Mannan at Al-

evening, reports UNB.

arrested, they said.

ists for the abduction.

FENI, May 7: Unidentified

Police and witnesses said a

officials said.

expelled

One invigilator, Emdadul Haque, was arrested in Sherpur for alleged involvement in the The official Antara news unfair means.

Of the examinees, nine were expelled in Sherpur, 10 in Feni, 33 in Gazipur, four in Narayanganj. 36 in Rangpur, 21 in Faridpur, three in Shariatpur, 21 in Chapainawabganj, nine in Gopalganj, one in Patuakhali, seven in Brahmanchronic problem in Indonesian baria, 33 in Gaibandha, six in shipping, and maritime disas-Magura, 26 in Sunamganj, 23 in ters are frequent. Insurers say Joypurhat, one in Thakurgaon. weight regulations are rouseven in Netrakona, 29 in Jamalpur, 17 in Patuakhali, 14 in Nilphamari, 37 in Chittagong

and 16 in Satkhira. Meanwhile, about 140 HSC examinees were expelled at dif-1999 with 332 people aboard. ferent centres under Dhaka Ed-There were only 20 survivors. ucation Board. Of them, three are in Dhaka city, one in Narayanganj, seven in Manikganj, 22 in Tangail, 51 in

### 3 held in Ctg for obstructing contractors from dropping tenders

From Our Correspondent

under Double Mooring thana here this afternoon.

A group of armed terrorists led by one Md Nizam tried to obstruct two contractors from dropping tenders at gunpoint at

three of them with a loaded German-made revolver after

as Md Nizam, 23, Mohiuddin alias Apu, 22, and Md Saiful Is-

A case was filed against them under PSA.

The terrorist identified as Shafiqul Islam alias Mister, 25, Golam Mostafa, Mahbubul was arrested in connection with

Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd.

# BDRCS to set up a medical college

Bangladesh Red Crescent cent Society, Bob McKerow, Red will set up a medical college based on the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital and other in- press conference. come-generating projects, reports UNB. The announcement came at

a press conference in the city yesterday on the eve of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Day Society chairman Sheikh

Kabir Hossain said the medical college project was at the final stage and believed the college will start functioning this ses-

Admitting serious fund crisis, which he attributed to huge bank loan amounting Tk 33 crore and superfluous manpower, Kabir Hossain said the Society will go for building multi-storied commercial buildings in its 37 bighas of vacant land in Mirpur, Maghbazar and Eskaton areas.

He also said donors also squeezed their help and donation, but the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will survive on internal resources to carry out its service to the distressed

The chairman said there are 1900 employees and of them about 900 are employed in the Holy Family Hospital. The number of employees in the hospital was about 550 few years ago.

He however, said none of the excess employees will be sacked.

Sheikh Kabir Hossain appealed to the physicians to prescribe components of blood needed, which he said will help cope with the deficit of blood. The Red Crescent procures only 20,000 bags of blood against a demand of 200,000 a year.

He said the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will take up the matter with the Ministry of Health soon to formulate a National Blood Policy, for blood donation, preservation, pro- 1938.

cessing and supply. Bangladesh in the Interna-

Society has announced that it Crescent secretary general A H Qureshi and treasurer Monir Hossain Khan also spoke at the The Society will bring out a

rally, hold blood-donation programme and organise few other functions to celebrate the Day today.

To raise a "millennium fund," the Society is taking subscription of Tk 2000 from 2000 people. It will take greeting messages from 2000 personalities and recruit new 2000 life members.

## CPI leader Benoy Chowdhury dead

CALCUTTA, May 7: Veteran freedom fighter and prominent CPI(M) leader Benoy Krishna Chowdhury died at a hospital here last night after a prolonged illness. He was 89, reports PTI.

Chowdhury is survived by his only son. His wife died a few months back. The Land and Land Reforms

Minister in four consecutive Left Front governments under Jyoti Basu from 1977 to 1996, Chowdhury pioneered large scale land reforms, particularly the 'Operation Barga' which ensured the rights of landless He became a member of the

State Legislative Assembly in 1952, and was elected to the House on nine occasions before deciding to keep away from the electoral fray in 1996 on health

politics in his early teens when he joined the Congress in 1925 and was imprisoned in 1928, 1930 and 1933 for participating in the freedom movement. Chowdhury later came in

contact with Communist leaders like Abdul Halim and Muzaffar Ahmed, and switched

Head of the Delegation of in 1948. Chowdhury went underground, but was arrested tional Red Cross and Red Cres- two years later.

### OIC Secy-Gen Kuwait assures support for Bangladesh's candidature

Kuwait has assured support for Bangladesh candidature for the post of OIC Secretary General in the ICFM to be held in Malaysia in June this year, reports UNB.

The assurance came during official talks between Kuwaiti State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sulaiman Majed Al-Shaheen and Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury yester-

During the talks Kuwait requested Bangladesh to take step in the UN Security Council to help release 600 Kuwaitis and realise compensation for war damage from Iraq.

The Kuwaiti minister after a two-day visit left Dhaka in the afternoon.

Briefing the newsmen Abul Hasan Chowdhury said that Bangladesh assured Kuwait that it would coordinate Kuwait's demand at the Security Council within the UN framework

About recruitment of more Bangladeshi workers in Kuwait Abul Hasan Chowdhury said Kuwait would consider to take more workers in near future.

The Kuwaiti minister said the Ameer, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Kuwait would visit Bangladesh

### AIDS patient flees CMCH From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 7: The AIDS patient detected at Chittagong Medical College Hospital has fled, hospital sources said Kajal Kanti Das. 38, of

Raozan thana was admitted to CMCH on Wednesday evening. Kajal returned home from Dubai three months ago, the sources said. He was under treatment in

the department of skin and venereal disease of CMCH. Earlier Kajal had his treatment privately. He fled the hospital last

night as it became public that he was carrying HIV, said a doctor on condition of anonymity. Kajal was initially detected HIV-positive in Dubai where he lived for earning, sources said.

He was forced out of Dubai three months ago. Earlier several cases of HIV virus were reportedly detected

### in Chittagong, sources said. HSC examinees clash with police in Rajshahi: 17 hurt

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, May 7: At least 17 people, including two policemen were injured when HSC examinees and outsiders clashed with police at Shah Makhdum College centre in the city today.

The clash began when a vigilance team of Rajshahi Education Board expelled examinee Wajed Ali, college sources said. Protesting the expulsion, other examinees submitted

their answer scripts and went on the rampage and ransacked the examination centre. Police rushed to the spot and resorted to lathicharge to disperse the agitated students. At

one stage outsiders joined the agitated examinees and clashed with police. The injured policemen were

admitted to Rajshahi Police Line Hospital while seven injured examinees were admitted to different private clinics. Others were released after first aid.

# Severe furnace oil crisis grips S-W region

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, May 7: The country's south-western zone is in a severe crisis of furnace oil. The supply has been stopped to all mills and industries except Khulna Power Station (KPS) and Khulna Newsprint Mill (KNM), fuel oil depot sources

Most mills and factories are on the verge of closure due to the crisis of furnace oil. They may have to stop production any time, the sources said.

Earlier, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation authorities notified all mills and factories about their decision to discontinue supply of furnace oil. Only power stations and paper mills are now getting furnace oil from the BPC

The three thermal power stations at Ashugani, Ghorashal and Siddhirganj require nearly three crore litres of furnace oil everyday, which BPC has to supply to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

The three oil depots -Padma, Meghna and Jamuna in Khulna sell nearly two crore and 50 lakh litres of furnace oil

### BNP protests 'secret plan' to export gas to India

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has strongly protested the government's 'secret plan' to export gas to India.

In a statement yesterday, Bhuiyan blamed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for 'lying and cheating and accused her government of 'conspiring' to export gas to India despite her commitment not to go for gas export without ensuring a re-See page 11 col 6

every month. The 110 MW and 60 MW power stations in Goalpara are among the buyers. The two power units require at least six lakh litres of furnace oil for their boilers everyday.

Besides, Khulna Newsprint Mill, North Bengal Paper Mill and Sayedpur Power Stationuse at least 25 lakh litres of furnace oil everyweek, said

BPC has no alternative but to curtail the supply to keep the power stations and paper mills running undisturbed for the sake of the country's economy. said a source in the BPC.

The BPC is also facing tanker problem for which it fails to maintain smooth supply, sources said.

Several hundred brick fields will have to be closed if regular supply of furnace oil is not resumed immediately. Among the consumers, Khulna Power Company Limited (KPCL) imports it for unhampered produc-

### Kidnapped girl rescued in Ctg: Six arrested

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, May 7: Six people were arrested for abducting a girl from Zolapara in the city this morning. The miscreants on board a

micro-bus kidnapped the girl aged about 15 from the area under Pahartoli thana at around Later Pahartoli police res-

cued the girl from Banshbaria under Sitakunda thana after a long chase and arrested the kidnappers.

A case was filed in this con-The arrested were identified

as Abdullah, Obayedul Haq, Manik, Jahangir Alam, Shaheed and Hashem.

## NIB in four years tor general of IRRI, MS Swami-

From Page 1

But professionals and biotechnology experts expressed their grievances over they way the authorities were handling the issue. Talking on condition of

anonymity, one expert told The Daily Star that there were serious debates in the ministry recently over the modus operandi of NIB. While professionals having

adequate background of biotech expertise argued in favour of 'project prioritisation', the authorities concerned showed more interest in equipment purchase. NIB Project Director Prof

Naivyum Choudhury, however, assured that there would be a national biotechnology committee which will work on programme prioritisation. "NIB will coordinate

biotechnology work done by all research and development organisations in the country. We will not sit idle when the physical infrastructures are built. We will work for development of service and commodity oriented products. We will also work for developing vaccines, augmenting fish and feed production, and also work in the field of animal biotechnology," Choudhury said.

nathan, in his keynote paper presented at a workshop in the city in August last year, gave a preliminary work plan for NIB. The workshop on biotechnology was organised by the NIB. which was at an embryonic stage at that time. Talking to The Daily Star,

Swaminathan had said that the biotechnology institute should set priority areas for research activities to be taken up. Besides, he emphasized opening up avenues for young scientists to develop their skill in genetic

Prof Zeba I Seraj, who teaches biochemistry at Dhaka University, told this correspondent yesterday that once the physical infrastructures are built, research projects should be selected on priority basis targeting the country's immediate needs. Reputed Bangladeshi biotechnology scientists working abroad should be brought home, she felt. A high official of Science

and Technology Ministry said, as setting up of NIB was late, all attention should now be given on biotechnology research because it holds tremendous potential for a developing country like Bangladesh. This will be possible only if right people are Mentionably, former direc- recruited at the NIB, he added.

# Protesters besiege ADB meet

Seattle and Washington, DC against multilateral economic institutions caught police by surprise and a stormed over barricades to lay siege to the

verged at a narrow bridge leading to the hotel and were initially stopped by hundreds of police. Then they powered forward and mowed down crowdcontrol barriers, pushing the police back to mid-span. Women screamed and shoved for breathing space in the

clubs and eventually allowed the crowd across. They gathered across the street from the hotel, with 2,000 police preventing them from going further. Police also took up positions inside. "It hasn't interrupted any of

the meetings going on inside, but we're very aware of them," said N Cinammon Dornsife, executive director for the US at the ADB. "We're definitely keeping an eye on it.

Kazuo Sumi, a Japanese activist, said one Thai demonstrator had threatened to commit suicide tomorrow, when the conference ends, if the ADB did not meet their demands. "We did not plan for this vio-

lence, but we knew we had to reach our goal, in front of the Westin Hotel," said Dawan Bhanhasbee, 35.

Dawn lives in the Klong Dan area outside Bangkok, the capital, where the Manila-based development bank is funding a mammoth wastewater treatment plant. Nearby villagers say the project will ruin their

cleanup

Along with 38 non-governmental groups, they demand that the bank stop funding the project and cease making loans that increase indebtedness of poor nations and hurt farmers and the poor pends on the details.

vice president, replied in a letter that the ADB would study their demands and wanted to meet their leaders in June for "fruitful talks." Protest leaders called it a stall tactic and wanted a better answer tomor-

Earlier finance ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Japan, China and South Korea yesterday agreed to set up arrangements that would protect each other's currencies to fend off future economic crises.

tary Fund in rescuing stricken economies. The more modest proposal, seen as part of a long process to give the region more cohesion

national affairs. gional cooperation, in this region and others," Truman told a news conference. "We think this is a fine idea. But the nature of financial arrangements de-

Truman and Kiichi North Korea "an international terrorist state.'

## Programmes for celebration of birth centenary of eminent scientist and educationist Dr. Muhammad Qudrat-i-Khuda

May 8 at 7-30 am

9-00 am

Placing floral wreath at graveyard and Ziarat,

Banani, Dhaka.

: Rally from BCSIR (Science Laboratory) premises

Dhaka to Department of Chemistry, Dhaka University (Carzon Hall campus). Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial

Research (BCSIR), Dhaka University, Bangladesh Association of Scientists and Scientific professionals, Bangladesh Scientists Association and Bangladesh Scouts.

3-00 pm

May 14-15

May 10 at 9-00 a m

Participated by

Discussion on life and works of Dr. M. Qudrat-i-Khuda in BCSIR auditorium, Dhaka. Scientific seminar (day-long) in BCSIR auditorium,

Dhaka.

: Open exhibition. All laboratories of BCSIR will remain open from 9 am to 5 pm

Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Dhaka

Bullet-hit boy dies: 12 sued under PSA

NATORE, May 7: A 14-year-During the hartal the action committee brought out a procession with the body of Mohon and held a brief rally at MS Government College. President of the Action Committee Abdus Salam speak-

Mohon, an engineering shop worker, was struck with bullet in his back while resisting the More than 100 people were

erupted at around 6 pm over toll collection at the bazar. Police and local people said Businessmen's Committee for Resistance to Terrorism and Extortion held two BCL ac-

for demanding toll from a shop owner at the bazar.

businessmen.

shop owners accusing 12 Jubo League activists under PSA for extortion and murder. President of Natore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Aminul Haq strongly protested

within 24 hours.

terrorist action at the Railway Station Bazar Saturday night and expressed solidarity with the bazar's Action Committee. He told a press conference this evening that the Chamber and the Action Committee would hold a joint meeting to-

Ferry disaster leaves

leaving port

37 dead in Indonesia JAKARTA, May 7: At least 37 nightfall The ferry KM Masnait was en route from Ambon to the port of Waipirit on Seram island, about 2,300 kilometers (1,450 miles) east of Jakarta. It sank about five hours after

morrow (Monday) demanding

stern action against the armed

agency reported that the ferry, which was overloaded with four vehicles and 60 tons of cement and tertilizer in addition to more than 100 passengers, was swamped by two large waves and then capsized. The issue of overloading is a

tinely ignored and enforcement is sporadic at best. In one of the worst recorded disasters, an overcrowded passenger ship sank in February

CHITTAGONG, May 7: Three people were arrested with arms for obstructing contractors from dropping tenders at Railway D En Office at Pahartoli

3 pm at the D En Office. They demanded Tk 20 thousand from the contractors as toll. Double Mooring police rushed to the spot and arrested

exchange of fire with the terror-The arrested were identified

Meanwhile, Pahartoli police arrested another terrorist from Master Lane area at around 4

Karim and Ali Hossain were , five criminal cases including present at the press conference. extortion and terrorism. Vaccinate your child,

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**Editor: Mahfuz Anam** 

From Page 1

Westin Hotel. The demonstrators con-

The police did not use their

Like many of the protesters,

The ADB claims that millions will be served by the plant, which will treat waste from heavy industries, and villagers will benefit from cleaner waters they fish and use for farming. The villagers say they didn't cause the mess but are suffering the most from the

Myoung-ho Shin, an ADB

Chowdhury plunged into

over to the Communist Party in Following a ban on the CPI

Details remain to be filled in, but the plan stops well short of the proposal by Japan in 1997 to create an Asian Monetary fund, which was shot down by Washington, fearing it would rival the International Mone-

and international clout, was backed today by Edwin M. Truman, the Treasury Department's assistant secretary for inter-"We have long supported re-

Miyazawa, Japan's finance minister, gave a cold shoulder to South Korea's appeal for the ADB to extend assistance to North Korea. Truman called