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Bullet-hit boy dies: 12 sued under PSA Traders observe hartal at Natore protesting attack by extortionists

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, May 7: A 14-year-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 Mohon, an engineering shop worker, was struck with bullet in his back while resisting the extortionists.

More than 100 people were injured in the clash that 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 activists — Aziz and Shaheen — for demanding toll from a shop owner at the bazar.

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

They also foiled a counter-attack 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.

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 speaking at the rally threatened to paralyse the district headquarters if the terrorists and extortionists were not arrested within 24 hours.

The rally over, about five thousand people laid a siege to Natore sadar thana demanding arrest of the attackers. The siege was withdrawn after police recorded three cases filed by shop owners accusing 12 Jubo League activists under PSA for extortion and murder.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 terrorist action at the Railway Station Bazar Saturday night and expressed solidarity with the bazar's Action Committee.

He held a press conference this evening that the Chamber and the Action Committee would hold a joint meeting tomorrow (Monday) demanding stern action against the armed terrorists.

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 environmental contamination, reports UNB.

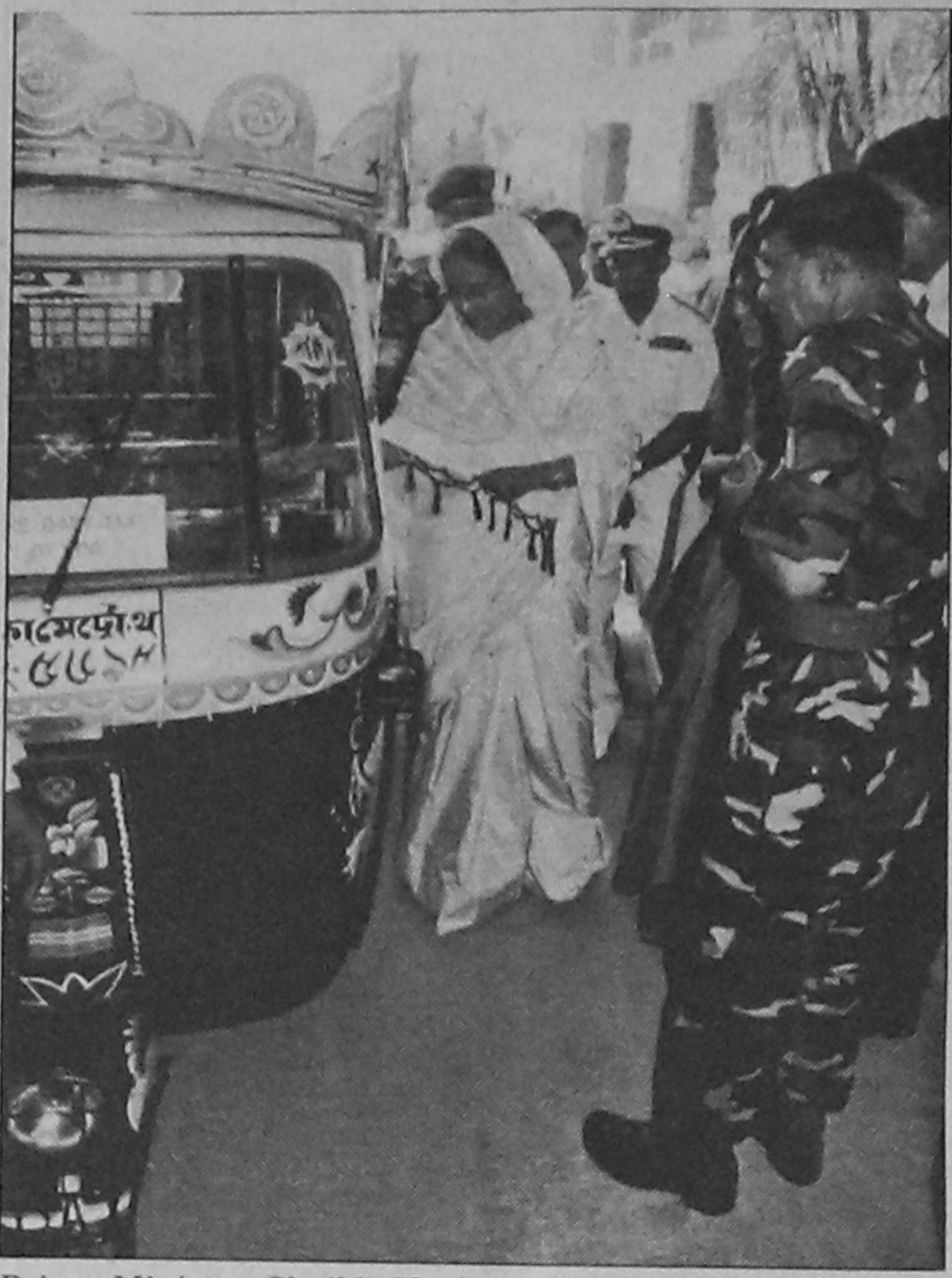
The transformed autorickshaw, which is cost-effective, is safer and free from air pollution to a large extent. The Inspection of Technical Development (ITD) department of the army has developed this new technology.

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

Chief of Army Staff Lt General M Mustafiz 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, Aided who is Director of ITD said the transformed



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.

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 yesterday.

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 soon.

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 said.

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 Ashuganj, 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 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 Paper Station, use at least 25 lakh litres of furnace oil everyweek, said sources.

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 production.

Ferry disaster leaves 37 dead in Indonesia

JAKARTA, May 7: At least 37 people died when an overloaded ferry carrying more than 100 passengers sank Sunday in waters off Ambon island, a senior police official and news reports said, according to AP.

Rescuers found 37 bodies in the sea at the spot where the ferry went down, local police commander Brig. Gen. Dewa Astika said. They have so far rescued 56 survivors, he said.

The fate of the other passengers and crew members was unknown. 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

The ferry KM Masnait was en route from Ambon to the port of Waipurit on Seram Island, about 2,300 kilometers (1,450 miles) east of Jakarta. It sank about five hours after leaving port.

The official Antara news agency reported that the ferry, which was overloaded with four vehicles and 60 tons of cement and fertilizer in addition to more than 100 passengers, was swamped by two large waves and then capsized.

The issue of overloading is a chronic problem in Indonesian shipping, and maritime disasters are frequent. Insurers say weight regulations are routinely ignored and enforcement is sporadic at best.

In one of the worst recorded disasters, an overcrowded passenger ship sank in February 1999 with 332 people aboard. There were only 20 survivors.

Alim, Fazil exams: 378 expelled

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.

One invigilator, Emdadul Haque, was arrested in Sherpur for alleged involvement in the 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 Brahmanbaria, 33 in Gabaandha, six in Magura, 26 in Sunamganj, 23 in Joypurhat, one in Thakurgaon, seven in Netrakona, 29 in Jamalpur, 17 in Patuakhali, 14 in Nilphamari, 13 in Chittagong and 16 in Satkhira.

Meanwhile, about 140 HSC examinees were expelled at different centres under Dhaka Education Board. Of them, three are in Dhaka city, one in Narayanganj, seven in Manikganj, 22 in Tangail, 51 in Mymensingh, 14 in Sherpur, one in Kishoreganj, 11 in Netrakona, 11 in Faridpur, seven in Gopalganj, 11 in Madaripur and one in Shariatpur, Board officials said.

BDRCS to set up a medical college

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society has announced that it will set up a medical college based on the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital and other income-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 session.

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, Magh-bazar 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, processing and supply.

Head of the Delegation of Bangladesh in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Society, Bob McKerow, Red Crescent secretary general A H Qureshi and treasurer Monir Hossain Khan also spoke at the press conference.

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

CHOWDHURY, 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 labourers.

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 grounds.

Chowdhury plunged into 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 over to the Communist Party in 1938.

Following a ban on the CPI in 1948, Chowdhury went underground, but was arrested two years later.

AIDS patient flees CMCH

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 7: The AIDS patient detected at Chittagong Medical College Hospital has fled, hospital sources said today.

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.

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 11 am.

Later Pahartoli police rescued the girl from Bansbaria under Sitakunda thana after a long chase and arrested the kidnappers.

A case was filed in this connection.

The arrested were identified as Abdullah, Obayedul Haq, Manik, Jahangir Alam, Shaheed and Hashem.

3 held in Ctg for obstructing contractors from dropping tenders

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 7: Three people were arrested with arms for obstructing contractors from dropping tenders at Railway D En Office at Pahartoli 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 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 three of them with a loaded German-made revolver after exchange of fire with the terrorists.

The arrested were identified as Md Nizam, 23, Mohiuddin alias Abu, 22, and Md Saiful Islam, 22.

A case was filed against them under PSA.

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

The terrorist identified as Shaiful Islam alias Mister, 25, was arrested in connection with five criminal cases including extortion and terrorism.

Feni Jubo Dal leader kidnapped

FENI, May 7: Unidentified miscreants kidnapped a local Jubo Dal leader in the town this evening, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said a gang of 4-5 youths shot and injured Abdul Mannan at Al-Madina restaurant on Jame Masjid road before abducting him.

Police said the abducted Jubo Dal leader was accused in 4-5 cases. If rescued, he would be arrested, they said.

District Jubo Dal president Syed Mizanur Rahman blamed the ruling party-backed terrorists for the abduction.

Protesters besiege ADB meet

From Page 1

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

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

The police did not use their 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 Cinamon Dornisfe, 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 violence, but we knew we had to reach our goal, in front of the Westin Hotel," said Dawn Bhanhasbee, 35.

Like many of the protesters, Dawn lives in the Klond 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 lives.

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 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.

Myoung-ho Shin, an ADB 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 tomorrow.

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

May 8 at 7-30 am : Placing floral wreath at graveyard and Ziarat, Banani, Dhaka.

9-00 am : Rally from BCSIR (Science Laboratory) premises Dhaka to Department of Chemistry, Dhaka University (Carzon Hall campus).

Participated by : 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 : Discussion on life and works of Dr. M. Qudrat-i-Khuda in BCSIR auditorium, Dhaka.

May 10 at 9-00 a m : Scientific seminar (day-long) in BCSIR auditorium, Dhaka.

May 14-15 : Open exhibition. All laboratories of BCSIR will remain open from 9 am to 5 pm

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

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