Businesses in **Old Dhaka** stop, protest killings

Unnamed callers threaten family of murdered trader, son

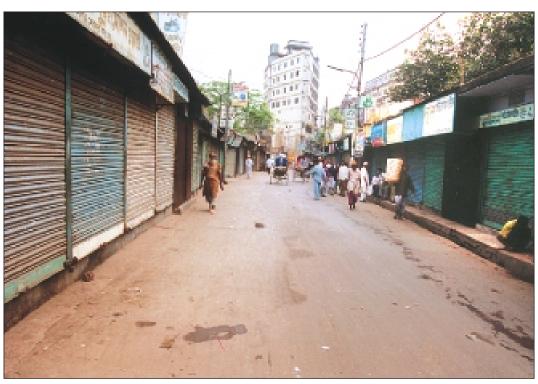
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 10,000 shops closed yesterday, as Old Dhaka businesspeople went on strike in anger at the brutal beheading of Shamsul Haq and his son Russell Sheikh that sent shockwaves through the city.

"We will continue our agitation until we see any move by the government to arrest the killers," said Abdur Rouf Molla, vice-president of Sadarghat Sammilita Baboshayee Samity, an association of businesspeople representing 42 markets in Sadarghat.

Hundreds of demonstrators took out a procession at about 11:00am, shouting slogans --

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



Shops in Old Dhaka remain closed as thousands of businesspeople went on strike yesterday in outrage at the grisly killings of Shamsul Haq and his son Russell Sheikh and targeting of the corporate community by criminals

Separate land

Criminals Joseph, Mamun to die

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday sentenced two men to death and four to life term for killing Abu Morshed, a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader, in the city in 1995.

Police-listed criminals Tofael Ahmed alias Joseph and Tareq Saif alias Mamun are to walk the gal-lows, while Haris Ahmed alias Haris, Mohammad Islam alias Munna. SM Ahsanuzzaman alias Paris and Shahin Mahmud alias Shahin are to serve out their life

The court acquitted four others -- Tapan, Sayeed, Badal and Bidi -- as charges brought against them could not be proved conclusively.

Joseph, Mamun and Shahin were present on the dock yesterday but Haris, Munna and Paris were

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Men flee Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

RAFIO HASAN

The government is moving to bring back 36 Bangladeshis now in Iran

after their recruiting agent

of licence will be taken against the

recruiting agency that sent them abroad, sources in the Ministry of

Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment said yesterday.

According to information

received from Bangladesh Embassy in Tehran, a local recruit-

ing agency -- Grand Overseas Business Limited -- had sent them

to Jordan to work in garments

factories. But immediately after

Actions including cancellation

stranded them in Jordan and Iraq.

are Hindu and one is Muslim.

their arrival in Amman, they were

The Bangladeshis then took shelter at the Mazar of Hazrat Abdul Kader Zilani (RA) in

Baghdad to save their lives as fighting continued between Iraqi

guerrillas and American troops

Later, they crossed over to Iran and approached Bangladesh embassy

The embassy gave them shelter and contacted the expatriate wel-

arranging air tickets and money

from wage earners' welfare fund of

The ministry then started

govern

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

1 lakh to Tk 1.5 lakh

JAYANTI MURDER

Mimi, Shampa dropped from charge sheet

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch (DB) yesterday indicted Azam Reza for killing his wife Jayanti Munsi alias Jayanti Reza, while dropped television performers Shampa Reza and Afsana Mimi from the charge sheet stating the allegations against them could not be proved.

Investigation officer (IO) DB inspector Ruhul Quddus submitted the charge sheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka after 82 days since the inci-

dent. Azam Reza's lawyers, mean-while, placed a bail petition for him before Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday, but the court turned down the prayer as charges were pressed against him.

IO Ruhul Quddus said, in the charge sheet, primary investiga-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

outlaws' tyranny

Move to bring back

16 stranded in Iran

sent to Iraq.

there on Saturday

Men of 14 families of six villages under Assassuni upazila are on the run after suspected operatives of the outlawed Chhinnamul Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) threatened to kill villagers who failed to pay them money.

Sources said 13 of the families

Some of the men have taken shelter at Satkhira district headquarters.

Police quoting eyewitnesses said a group of men riding some 10 motorbikes went round the villages Sunday night dropping off letters to individual houses demanding Tk

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Prayer Timings March 31 Azan **Jamaat** 4-45 12-45 1-15 4-45 5-00 Maghrib 6-16 7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

BAGHDAD UN OFFICE BLAST Annan spares deputy, sacks security chief

AFP, United Nations

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan spared his deputy but sacked his security chief as a new report Monday said negligence added to the death toll in the August bombing of the UN's office in Baghdad.

Deputy Secretary General Louise Frechette of Canada, the number two in the worldwide organisation, tendered her resignation after the scathing report was presented internally but Annan declined it, spokesman Fred Eckhard announced.

"She was acknowledging the criticism," Eckhard said. "The secretary general said 'It wasn't your individual responsibility, it

was the collective responsibility. UN staff failed to follow security procedures, properly review the risks or understand the extent to which the United Nations would be a target in post-war Iraq, according

to the report. The August 19 suicide bombing commission sought for ethnic people STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Instead of sacking Frechette or

the chain of command Eckhard said.

An official from the UN staff

left 22 people dead including the top UN envoy in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, and wounded more than 200, many of them seriously.

other members of the Steering Group for Iraq, who approved the UN's return to Iraq last May, Annan sent a letter expressing his "disappointment and regret" over the

But Annan asked for and received the resignation of UN global security chief Tun Myat of yanmar, the only senior official to be released despite the report's emphasis on errors up and down

Vieira de Mello's deputy Ramiro Lopes da Silva of Portugal, responsible for security on site at the Baghdad hotel where the UN staff were based, will be reassigned elsewhere with no security duties,

A separate land commission

should be set up to ensure land rights of the plain land indigenous Speakers expressed this view at a workshop on "the necessity of separate land commission for plain

land indigenous people" in the capital yesterday. The existing laws cannot protect their land rights, the speakers

Samata, a development organisation, organised the workshop to exchange views with journalists on various problems of the indige-Participants at the workshop ncluded Prof Mesbah Kamal of Dhaka University, Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh

Abdul Kader, executive director of Mesbah Kamal said the plain

Indigenous People's Forum and M

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7 land indigenous people are becom-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Dhaka's human dev status goes up

Symposium feels reducing rich-poor gap vital to sustain progress

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The yawning income gap between the rich and the poor has to be minimised to sustain the marginal success Bangladesh has achieved in some areas like poverty reduction, population control and edu-

Leading economists expressed

this view at the opening session of a two-day symposium in the capital The United Nations Population

Fund (UNFPA) and Population Science department of Dhaka University jointly organised it. Binayek Sen, senior research fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, said Bangladesh has made a silent stride from low to medium human

" Lowering of population

development in the global ranking

growth rate would not be sustained if the extreme poor people were not brought under this process, " he

The economist noted that lowering of population growth rate contributes to improvement of the quality of child, which leads to poverty reduction in the long run.

nomics department at Dhaka University said there has been a marginal decrease in overall poverty in the last two decades. "If we fail to improve education and health sectors we will not be able to sustain the achievement in

Akash said the average marriage age in Bangladesh has increased, contributing to lowering population growth and the

of women **SEE PAGE 11 COL 6**

Extortionists gun down **sweetmeat** shop employee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gunmen shot dead an employee of a sweetmeat shop at Mirpur yesterday morning for the shopowner's refusal to pay them money.

The victim was identified as Afsar Uddin, 18, an employee of Banaful and Company at Mirpur's Muktabangla Shopping Complex.

Witnesses said four youths went to the shop at around 7:30am and asked for one kilogram of sweets. As an employee began to weigh out the sweets, two of the gunmen stuck their pistols on the heads of Afsar and Jamal, another

"They told us not to turn around or shout. Suddenly, one of the gunmen fired a blank shot and just as Afsar turned his head, he shot him in the back," said Sohel, one of three employees of the shop who

Afterwards, the youths walked

witnessed the murder.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

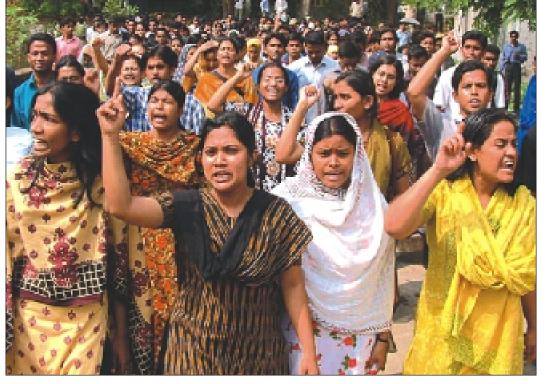


PHOTO: STAR

Students in procession at Chittagong University yesterday demand ouster of a JCD leader and resignation of the proctor and a hall provost in the wake of an attack by ruling BNP's student front.

CU students under attack from JCD men, 20 wounded

CU CORRESPONDENT

called

Indefinite strike

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres of Chittagong University (CU) in a series of attacks on general students injured at least 20 vesterday.

Violence continued on the campus sporadically until 2:00pm and five of the injured including CU correspondent of daily Bhorer Kagoj Pradyut Barua Russell were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The campus turned into a virtual battlefield when JCD activists with rods and sticks swooped on students under the banner of General Students Action Council (GSAC) before Registrar's building at around 11:30am

At least 10 students were **SEE PAGE 11 COL 4**



