



PHOTO: STAR

Banglar Baul Samaj, a forum of Baul singers, took out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the August 17 countrywide bomb attacks.

## Govt urged to allow Bauls to hold programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Banglar Baul Samaj, a forum of Baul singers, yesterday urged the government to allow them to hold Baul song programme as it is the only means for them to keep body and soul together.

The government has stopped giving permission to hold such programme anywhere in the country since August 17 countrywide bomb blasts, said the Baul leaders at a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

Most of the Bauls are now suffering economic hardship as they earn a livelihood by singing songs, said Abdus

Sobhan Sarkar, convener of the forum.

"We urge the government to allow us to hold Baul song programme across the country and provide adequate security, if necessary," he said.

Noted Baul singer Abdur Rahman Boyati, who has long been suffering from illness, joined the rally to express solidarity with the Bauls' demand.

Later, the Baul singers took out a procession protesting the August 17 bomb attacks.

There are a total of two lakh Bauls in 64 districts of the country who belong to the Baul Samaj.

## Bangladesh envoy to Netherlands presents credentials

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Ambassador to the Netherlands Ismat Jahan has presented her credentials to Queen Beatrix on Wednesday at a ceremony arranged by the Dutch Royal Protocol.

The ambassador briefed the Dutch Queen on the socio-economic development in Bangladesh.

Queen Beatrix expressed her government's desire to maintain and strengthen the relations with Bangladesh.

## Acid attack victim cries for justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elderly woman of Madaripur district who fell victim to acid attacks has demanded that the persons responsible for the attack be brought to book.

A gang of extortionists threw acid on Jahura Begum, 50, at village Nandi under Rajoir thana on August 21 as her son filed a case against them four years ago.

The woman, now undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College

Hospital (DMCH), yesterday said a group of around 10 people equipped with sharp weapons entered her house to look for her son. As she raised an alarm, the gang threw acid on her and fled the scene.

Jahura, who suffered acid burns in her face and hands, was rushed to the local hospital and then shifted to the DMCH.

Four years ago, her son Lutfur Mia filed a case against the gang who

demanded Tk 50,000 from him as he was earning a good amount of money from his scrap metal and paper business in Dhaka, the victim's family members said.

Since then, the culprits have been pressuring them to withdraw the case, they said.

Meanwhile, police arrested one Ashraf Khondker from the village on charge of his involvement in the acid attack.