

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Of Chair

by Nilratan Halder

Bewildered, discomfited and perhaps a bit nervous, the man was looking from one side of the table to the other. It was not a vantage point to look at the diminutive, bald-headed and a simple-cotton-punjab-clad old gentleman, a long-time acquaintance of his, because of the nearness. Rather, he stared at the bulky, well-built, also bald-headed with a shining glance, imposing personality on the other side of the table. But it was not quite for the differences and contrasts between the two seated men that put him in a fix. It was the chair that made all the differences.

I AM NOT THE BOSS OF THIS OFFICE! HE IS! I'M ONLY A VISITOR!



Why? To explain his faux pas, it would not be presumptuous to relate a brief history of the chair concerned. The chair was supplied by the administrative branch of the office, thinking the old, short man really deserved such an honour. It was a reclining, revolving, and if you please a fox-trotting chair with a long raised back. But did the old man ask for a replacement for his earlier chair which had to be raised quite a bit by putting an extra cushion on it? Surely he did. After all, his is a job to write and therefore asked for a wooden chair, not the latest model — one that facilitates, according to him, one's way of bullying if one is prone to do so.

But he is a most withdrawn type of man and hates to make enemy of anyone. Naturally, he finds it to his intense distaste to ask for another chair. The only alternative open to him was to put the chair on the opposite side of the table and invite his visitors, who are many in numbers, to that modern chair. No further explanation will perhaps be necessary to pinpoint the visitor's dilemma.

Yes, it really matters which side of the table you belong to. And a table is a mere table with

out that all-important chair — a marvellous invention of our civilization. A gift from the Western culture, a chair seems to have occupied more than the usual place it deserves in our life. Because with chair comes power. Don't we call the various important positions as chairmen and accept the role of a supreme guiding us through the entire session, no matter boring or entertaining, of deliberations at different levels starting from voluntary gathering to the meetings of elected or bureaucratic men of importance.

Today it has gone to the extent of overlooking comfort and convenience in favour of a kind of hubris where pride feeds on vanity. In this case the visitor's indecision of whom to address — whether his acquaintance or the new man — owes also to the fact that people, like him, are fine-tuned to be most apologetic to the big chair not to the big man in one's heart. Certainly, the game of musical position of our society. Stretch it to politics and the same game on a different plane is witnessed. In the military regimes in particular, so often did the ministers enter the scene and made good their exit that people gave it the apt title of a musical chair game.

Not surprisingly, people vie for chair of their desire and the eternal enter-the-man and exit-the-man goes on. It is perhaps because of such an intense competition for chair that has brought in the caution: it is not safe to leave your chair vacant for long, a contender could be in your shoes, to say euphemistically, or chair?

We know why chairs are decorated, made of gold to elevate to the most envious aura of a throne.

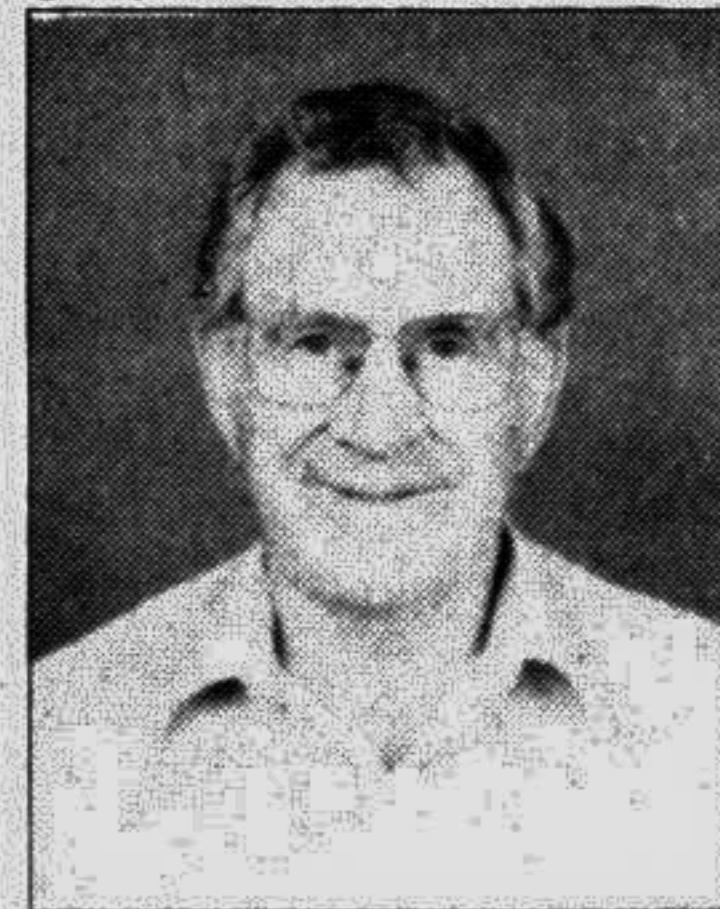
## 3 get 10-yr RI each in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, June 29: Anti Terrorism Tribunal Judge Abu Bakar Siddiqui here yesterday sentenced three persons to ten years rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fined Tk five thousands each in default to suffer two more years RI on charges of anarchy and terrorism, reports BSS.

The prosecution story is in brief that a group of youths with sophisticated arms travelling in an auto rickshaw created a reign of terror and panic among the people in the broad day light at Almassing crossing area on February 24 last. Patrol police challenged and chased them and at one stage police caught one Saleh Ahmed red handed with one LG and nine rounds of bullet. The rest, however, fled away.

police later filed cases against the other two persons and chargesheeted on the basis of confessional statement of Saleh Ahmed.

The judge examined six witnesses and found Saleh Ahmed, Mohammad Fazul Karim and Mohammad Helaluddin guilty in the case.



## IESC executive Dr Heckman in city

Dr Philip Heckman, President of Lincoln Foundation, a philanthropic organisation based in Nebraska, USA is in the city and working with independent university, Bangladesh as a volunteer executive from the International Executive Service Corps (IESC), reports UNB.

Dr Heckman, who was the President of Doan College, Nebraska, USA for 20 years is working with the IUB in developing philanthropy programmes as the university approaches the Autumn semester.

His wife Barbara Heckman, an educator specialising in teaching disabled learners, is accompanying Dr Heckman. She visited some local disabled children's learning centres and was associated with some groups with special teaching projects.

## Naseem meets Biswas ICSTED to help expand industry

Coordinator of the International Institute for Pure and Applied Chemistry, Trieste, Italy, Professor Naseem Rahman called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Prof Naseem Rahman is a close associate of nobel laureate Prof Abdus Salam. He stayed with the President for some time and explained the objectives of the International Centre of Science, Technology and Environment for Densely populated regions (ICSTED) being set up in Bangladesh.

Prof Naseem who took the initiative under the guidance of Prof Abdus Salam for establishing the centre in Dhaka, said the primary focus of the centre will be to identify source and apply existing technologies as well as the results of successful and expensive research of the world to the development needs of Bangladesh.

The centre will act as source and adapt industrial technology to the concrete conditions of Bangladesh and to facilitate industrial expansion of the country, he added.

Biswas said that government was fully conscious of the fact that no nation could prosper without development in science and technology.

## SSMCSU polls today

Election to the Sir Salmullah Medical College Student Union (SSMCSU) will be held today, reports UNB.

Chhatra League (M-1) and Chhatra Union have put up a joint panel while Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir are contesting the election with individual full panels. Samajtantrik Chhatra Front is running for two posts.

Abdul Wadud, Head of the Community Medicine Department, has been made Election Commissioner to conduct the election for the 1993 term.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia handing over a cheque of Taka 1 lakh to the CUCSU VP Mohammad Nazimuddin at her office yesterday. — PID photo

## CUCSU team calls on PM

A delegation of Chittagong University Central Students Union (CUCSU) called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday, reports UNB.

The delegation led by vice president of CUCSU Mohammad Nazimuddin apprised the Prime Minister of the academic activities of the university.

During the meeting, Begum Zia handed over cheques for Taka one lakh from the PM's welfare fund to the student leaders for a study tour to the SAARC countries.

Vice president of Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) Amanullah Aman, MP, general secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon and Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) president Fazlul Huq Milon were present on the occasion.

## 50,000 farmers trained on dairy, poultry farming in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, June 29: The Livestock Department has vaccinated about 36 lakh 50 thousand cattle and about six lakh hens and ducks in Rajshahi division from July '92 to May '93, reports BSS.

During the period about nine lakh cattleheads and two and half lakh hens and duck were treated. About 50 thousand farmers were provided training on dairy and poultry farming.

## Permanent Hajj office in Dhaka urged

A parliamentary body yesterday stressed the need for setting up a permanent Hajj office in Dhaka for ensuring better service to the pilgrims, reports UNB.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Religious Affairs Ministry in its 9th meeting at Sangsad Bhaban discussed Hajj management and performance of Islamic Missions under the Islamic Foundation, Bangladesh.

Presiding over the meeting, State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan emphasised expansion of activities of the Islamic Missions to help create awareness among the people about Islamic way of life.

## Tk 14.60 cr archaeology building Construction work starts this fiscal

The construction work of a five-storey archaeology building at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar here with 2,800 square meter (30,000 sq ft) floor area at a cost of Taka 14.60 crore will be started during 1993-94 financial year, reports BSS.

This was told at the 15th parliamentary standing committee meeting on Cultural Ministry held yesterday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Professor Jahan-ara Begum in the chair.

The meeting was informed that the government would reform the present Archaeological Act aiming at updating it. Members of the committee pointed out that many potential archaeological relics have been lying uncared for at various places.

In this context, the state minister assured that the government would take necessary steps to preserve these relics after fixing their archaeological values after examination and survey. She added that the government was actively considering to involve the university students of the departments concerned in the archaeological excavation and survey work.

The meeting was also informed that the second phase work of Khulna divisional museum at a cost of Taka 4.22 crore would be started during the coming financial year with the financial assistance of the

UNDP. A preservation project of archaeological relics at Paharpur and Bagerhat is expected to be completed by 1995.

Members of the committee Shamsur Nahar Ahmed, Fatema Chowdhury Paru, Rebeka Mahmud, Sahin Ara Huq, Amanullah Chowdhury of BNP, Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury of Awami League, Paritosh Chakraborty of Jatiya Party and Rashida Khatun of Jamaat-e-Islami were present in the meeting. Cultural Secretary Islamuddin Malik and other high officials concerned were also present.

## JS body on Shipping Ministry meet held

The 19th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Shipping was held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

The meeting reviewed the overall activities and performance of the Ministry and ongoing development projects of its attached agencies. The future projects of the Ministry was also discussed.

Chairman of the committee State Minister for Shipping Harun-ur-Rashid presided over the meeting.

## Discussion on Madhusudan held

By Staff Correspondent. A discussion on Michael Madhusudan Dutta was held at the Bangla Academy seminar room yesterday afternoon in observance of the poet's 120th death anniversary.

Prof Azfar Hussain presented the keynote paper entitled 'Madhusudan: A post-structuralist reading' while Dr Khaliqzaman Elias and Dr Siddiqur participated in the discussion. Prof Mohammad Moniruzzaman was in the chair and the Academy Director General Prof Harun-ur-Rashid delivered the welcome address.

In his paper, Prof Hussain took a look at the poet's epic work in the light of post-modernist critical analysis, exhibition of the scale and scope, range and breadth of the poet's work.

## Sylhet Bibhag Andolon submits memo to Panni

A four-member delegation of the 'Sylhet Bibhag Andolon' led by Advocate Abed Raza, coordinator of the andolon yesterday met the Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni at his chamber at Sangsad Bhaban, a Sangsad Secretariat press release said, reports BSS.

During the meeting, the delegation handed over to the Deputy Speaker a copy of a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister demanding declaration of Sylhet as a division.

## Weather

### Rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

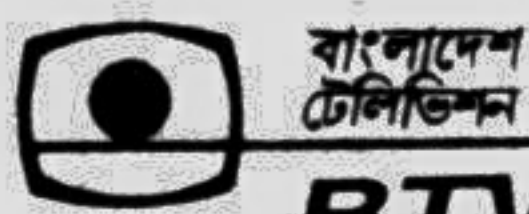
Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Wednesday) says, rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over the divisions of Chittagong, Dhaka and Rajshahi and at one or two places over Barisal and Khulna divisions.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The maximum temperature recorded in the country yesterday was 35.5 degree Celsius in Jessore and the minimum 24.7 degree Celsius was recorded in Rangamat.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6.50 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5.15 am. The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday are:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	33.5	28.6	81	76
Chittagong	32.9	26.0	79	82
Rajshahi	34.2	26.6	91	95
Khulna	35.1	27.5	86	84
Barisal	34.4	27.6	86	78
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.5	78	88
Sylhet	32.6	26.2	90	85
Dinajpur	34.0	27.4	92	92



### Wednesday

- 5:00 Opening announcement
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:15 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5:25 Khelur Jagot
- 5:50 Hiral Tomal: Folk songs
- 6:45 Open University
- 7:20 Tagore songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Nitter Tale Tale: Dance programme
- 9:00 Film: The Fall Guy
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Shanto Shankalpa: Magazine programme
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:45 Closing

### Noman off to Japan

Minister for Environment, Forest, Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah AL Noman left here yesterday for Japan to attend the Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific (ECO Asia '93) to be held at Chiba on June 30 and July 1, reports BSS.

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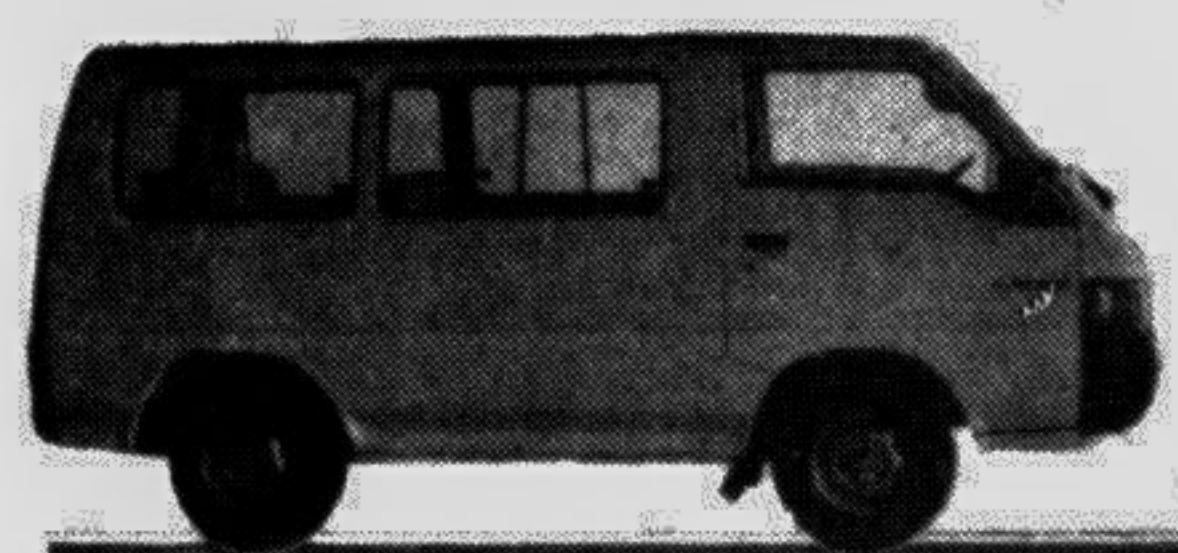
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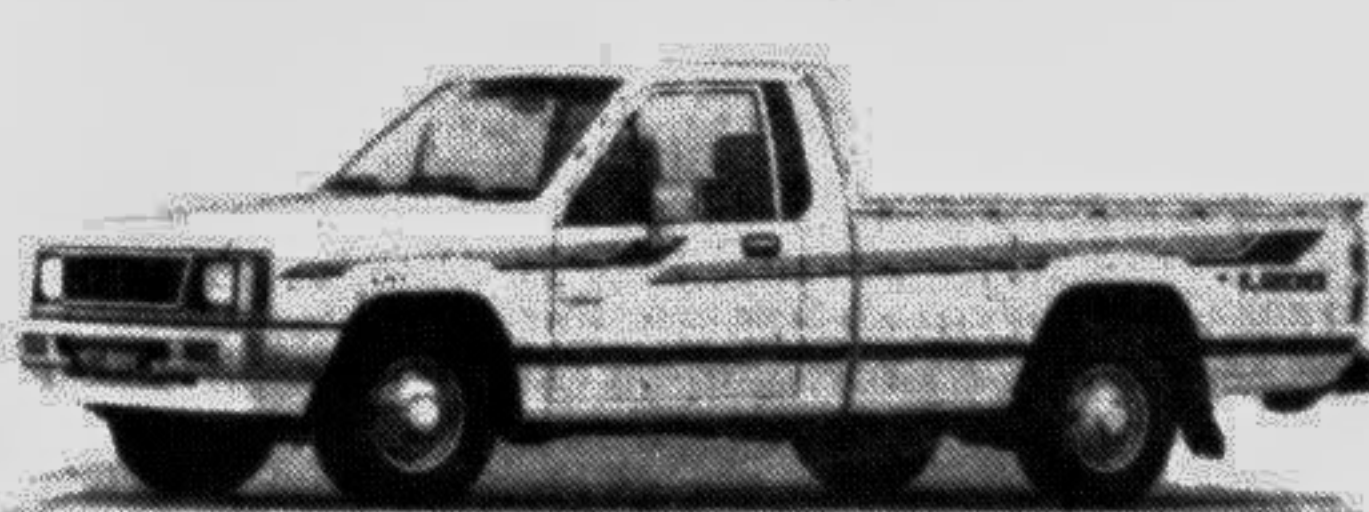
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L200



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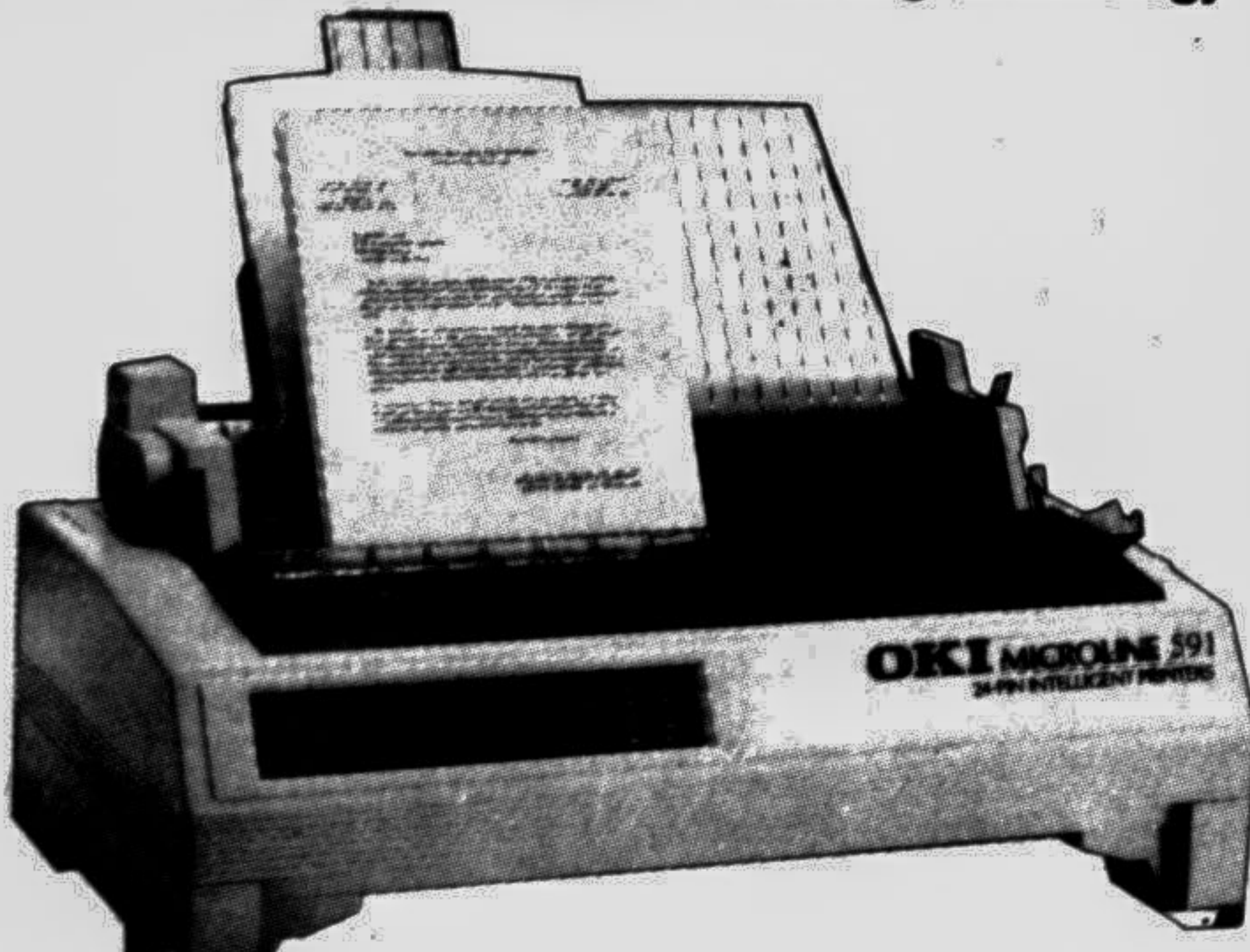
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