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Controversial writer Taslima Nasreen (in glasses) makes her way through a jam-packed Supreme Court corridor after a High Court bench granted her anticipatory bail yesterday. Her counsel Amirul Islam, Bar-at-law (right, foreground) and other lawyers are also seen. It was the first time Taslima made a public appearance since a warrant for her arrest was issued last June 4.

Sacked imam goes berserk

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Aug 3: An imam, enraged by the termination of his service, killed the chairman of the mosque committee in Narayanganj Bandar thana last night.

Police said Waliullah Sardar, imam of Kushiara Pashchimpara Jame Mosque, stabbed mosque committee chairman Abdur Rab, 65, with a knife at around 10 last night. Rab died on the spot.

The imam was later beaten up by the local people and handed over to the police. According to sources, the mosque committee at a meeting yesterday evening removed Waliullah from the post of imam as he was not liked by the local people for his alleged misbehaviour.

When victim Rab, along with the secretary of the committee, Shahabuddin, 40, was returning home after the meeting, Waliullah met them on the way. Rab informed See Page 12 Col 6

Taslima gets bail

By Staff Correspondent

In a dramatic turn of events, controversial writer Taslima Nasreen was granted anticipatory bail by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court yesterday.

The High Court division bench, comprising Justice A K M Sadeque and Justice K M Hasan, granted the bail against a bond of Tk 10,000 and a surety by two persons to the satisfaction of the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka.

Wearing a red-bordered white sari, her head covered in a black printed shawl and sporting dark sunglasses, a visibly shaken and demure Nasreen appeared before the court flanked by a battery of lawyers led by Barrister Amirul Islam at around 12:15pm.

After about a 40-minute hearing in a packed courtroom, the Bench also directed Nasreen's counsel to submit her address to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and asked the government to provide adequate protection to her. It also exempted her from having to appear in person before the trial court for securing regular bail, ordering her to surrender through her lawyer within seven days.

The physician-turned-writer was charged under Section 295 (a) of the Criminal Procedure Code for hurting the religious sentiments of the country's majority Muslim population and the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) issued an arrest warrant against her on June 4, after a complaint was lodged by the Officer-in-Charge of Motijheel Thana.

The 32-year-old writer stirred controversy and provoked Muslim anger by allegedly telling an Indian daily, the Statesman in an interview, last May that the Holy Quran should be 'thoroughly revised'. But subsequently she denied having made the statement and claimed she was misquoted in the interview.

The CMM had earlier set August 4 as the last date for her to surrender to the court failing which she would have been declared a fugitive and her property confiscated.

The appearance of Nasreen at the Supreme Court premises came as a surprise amid rumours that she may have already left the country.

But as soon as the news of her arrival spread, the courtroom was packed with a standing-room-only crowd while a larger crowd gathered at the corridor outside. A large contingent of law enforcement officials, including riot police, was also present in and around the court premises.

"I feared for my life and that is why I was hiding," Nasreen told the court when the learned judge enquired why she had not sought bail earlier. "I seek your protection," she pleaded.

Her bail petition was moved by Dr Kamal Hossain although Barrister Islam represented See Page 12 Col 1

Indian business team says

Transit facility can reduce trade gap

By Staff Correspondent

The visiting Indian business delegation to the Bangladesh-India Joint Business Council meeting here yesterday observed that transit facilities for movement of Indian goods to and from the north-eastern states of India would help Dhaka reduce its trade imbalance with Delhi.

Opening of the Chittagong port for transit movement of Indian goods would help reduce the trade imbalance of Bangladesh," said PD Patodia, Chairman of the India-Bangladesh Joint Business

council and leader of the 18-member Indian delegation. He was speaking at a press briefing after the second meeting of the council here. The first meeting was held in New Delhi in July 1993.

Giving his response to Patodia's observations, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) Mahbubur Rahman said, "The transit issue is for the two governments to discuss. The Bangladesh private sector's See Page 12 Col 1

Salam urges Opposition to join next JS session

By Staff Correspondent

BNP secretary general Abdus Salam Talukder yesterday urged the opposition MPs to attend the next session of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) and assured that the treasury bench was ready to discuss the Opposition demands if placed in the House under the Rules of Procedure.

The BNP leader and LGRD minister made this call from a students' rally held under the auspices of the city unit of the BNP's student wing, the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), yesterday evening.

The BNP leader told the rally that the people of the country waged a Liberation War against the autocratic regime of erstwhile Pakistan in 1971 to set up a 'sovereign parliament' in Bangladesh.

"Now, if the present sovereign parliament becomes ineffective, the responsibility would lie with those making it non-functional by boycotting the JS sessions," Talukder warned.

Chaired by Dhaka city unit president of the JCD Nasiru- See Page 12 Col 7

3 doctors get back jobs after HC acquittal

Three doctors, convicted by an assistant Sessions Judge, Mymensingh, have been reinstated in government service after four years following their acquittal by the High Court, according to a gazette notification, reports BSS.

The reinstatement order will come into force with immediate effect, the recently published notifications said.

Posted in Mymensingh in 1988, the doctors who won the legal battle are: Humayun Kabir, 'associate professor of the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, Shah Yakubul Azad, orthopaedic surgeon and Nurul Islam, medical officer of See Page 12 Col 8

Knesset endorses deal with Jordan

JERUSALEM, Aug 3: Israel's Knesset (parliament) today overwhelmingly endorsed the Jewish state's landmark peace deal with Jordan formally ending their 46-year state of war, reports Reuters.

The non-binding parliament vote was 91-3 in favour of the peace declaration signed in Washington last week with two abstentions.

Rabin said the deal did not compromise Israel's stance that the city's Arab eastern sector captured in 1967 would remain under Israeli sovereignty. The declaration recognises a Jordanian role as guardian of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Board of Revenue Dhaka

NOTICE

All tax-payers are hereby informed that from 1st July, 1994, Tax-payer's Identification Number (TIN) has been introduced in place of the existing GIR Number by the Taxes Department. TIN is a nation-wide unique number to be centrally allotted by the National Board of Revenue. According to this system, a new assessee shall submit to the respective income tax office a particular form (to be supplied by the circle offices) duly filled in along with the necessary papers in accordance with the previous procedure. On the basis of the information furnished, National Board of Revenue will allot a TIN which shall be used instead of GIR Number for all purposes. While submitting IT returns, the existing assessee shall mention TIN in place of GIR Number. All the assessee are hereby earnestly requested to collect TIN from the respective income tax offices.

DFF-1163-2/8
G-1245

Syed Md Aminul Karim
First Secretary (Taxes-4)
Telephone: 401880

ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF HANDING OVER CEREMONY OF PULP MAKING MACHINERY

WE EXTEND HEARTIEST CONGRATULATION TO BANGLADESH INDUSTRIAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE (BITAC) DHAKA

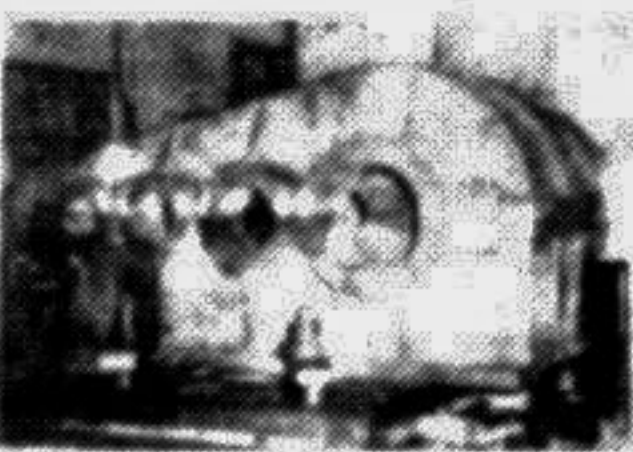
FOR THE SUCCESSFUL MANUFACTURE OF GEAR BOX, GREEN JUTE CHIPPER, CONVEYING SYSTEM, CHIP WASHING PLANT AND OTHER MACHINERY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN BANGLADESH FOR PROCESSING GREEN JUTE TO PRODUCE PULP & PAPER.

Chipper Manufactured by BITAC

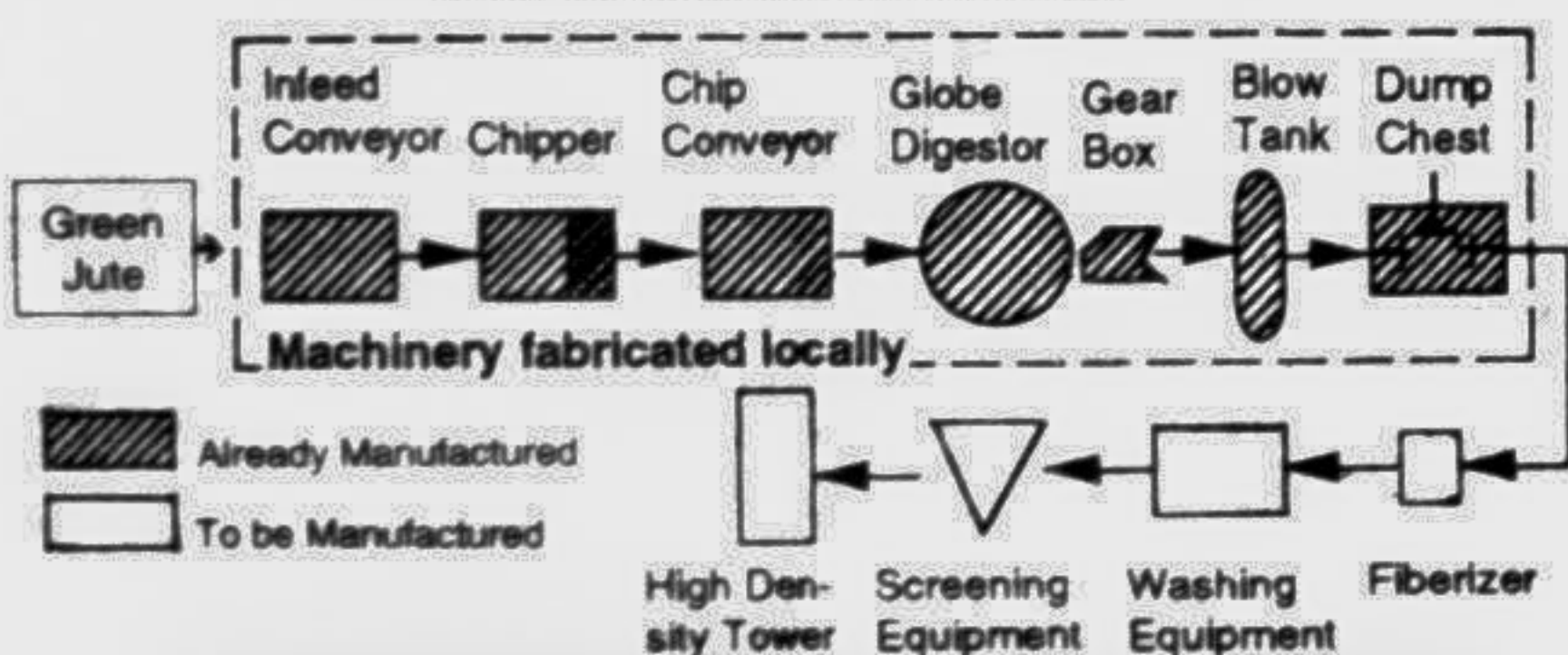


Chipper Capacity 15 ton per day Green Jute

Gear Box Manufactured by BITAC

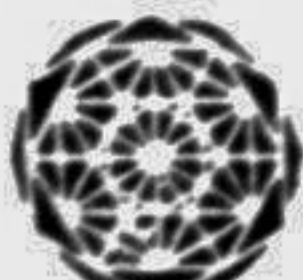


PULP-MAKING MACHINERY LINE



Process flow chart : Pulp line of Karnaphuli Paper Mills

THIS ENGINEERING BREAKTHROUGH REPRESENTS AN EPOCH-MAKING CONTRIBUTION OF THE GOVERNMENT IN ACHIEVING OUR NATIONAL GOAL FOR ATTAINING SELF-RELIANCE IN MANUFACTURING PULP & PAPER MACHINERY WITHIN THE COUNTRY.



BANGLADESH CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION
BCIC BHABAN, 30-31, DILKUSHA C.A., DHAKA-1000.

Foreign companies to seek oil, gas in Bay

By Sharier Khan

A joint review committee of two foreign companies and Petrobangla at a meeting Tuesday approved a one-day work programme for exploration of gas and oil in the Bay of Bengal, official sources said.

This approval, made for the first time in the history of Bangladesh, would allow the foreign companies to start seismic surveys in the Bay off the coast of the Cox's Bazar-Sandwip region from late this year, the sources added.

The review committee of the Cairn Plc of Scotland, Holland Sea Search of the Netherlands and the Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) also passed a budget of nearly three million US dollars for the exploration.

Cairn Plc and Holland Sea Search would also carry out

off-shore drilling during this period.

The meeting was presided over by Petrobangla Director (Finance) Syed Sajedul Karim while three representatives from the foreign companies and two other officials of the government attended.

The two foreign companies would jointly explore the off-shore region, identified by Petrobangla as Bloc 16, covering an area of 821 sqkm, including the 242-sqkm Kutubdia gas field.

Sources said that they are yet to submit a specific proposal on the Kutubdia gas field.

"They may set up a power plant from the natural gas of the Kutubdia field, or supply the gas to the Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company (Kafco)," a competent sources said. The See Page 12 Col 7

Manmohan Singh threatens to quit

NEW DELHI, Aug 3: Indian Finance Minister Manmohan Singh has threatened to resign after some Congress party colleagues accused him of mishandling the response to a parliamentary report on the country's worst financial scandal, reports Reuters.

Congress deputies said today that Singh had told a party meeting he would quit rather than withdraw the government's partial rejection of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) report on the 1.28 billion scandal.

The virtual rejection of the JPC report has triggered a showdown with the opposition. Its members first paralysed parliament then on Tuesday decided to boycott the rest of

the current month-long session.

Opposition deputies, starting a sit-in protest at parliament's main entrance on Wednesday, demanded Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's resignation along with those of Singh and several other ministers named in the JPC report.

"We want this corrupt government to go," said Sharad Yadav, leader of the centrist Janata Dal party.

Congress deputies said Singh was visibly annoyed at Tuesday's party meeting when a Congress deputy accused him of mishandling the government's response, contained in an 'action taken report,' to the JPC's findings. See Page 12 Col 4

ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF HANDING OVER CEREMONY OF PULP MAKING MACHINERY

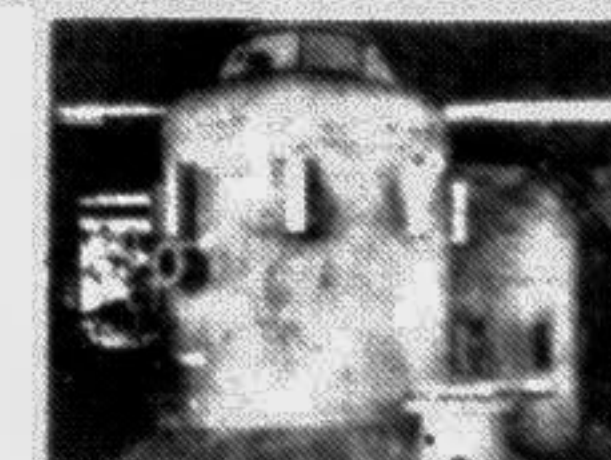
WE EXTEND HEARTIEST CONGRATULATION TO BANGLADESH STEEL AND ENGINEERING CORPORATION

AND THEIR UNITS-CHITTAGONG DRY DOCK AND KHULNA SHIPYARD LTD. FOR THEIR ENTRY INTO HEAVY MACHINERY-PULP SECTOR BY SUCCESSFULLY MANUFACTURING GLOBE DIGESTOR, TUBULAR REACTOR, BLOW-OFF TANK, GIRTH GEAR, CONDENSER, GEAR PINION ETC. FOR EFFICIENT PROCESSING OF GREEN JUTE TO PRODUCE PAPER AND RAYON GRADE PULP WITHIN A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF SIGNING OF THE CONTRACT.

Globe Digester and Blow off Tank Manufactured by Chittagong Dry Dock and Khulna shipyard



Globe Digester Capacity 15 ton per day



Blow Off Tank Capacity 30 ton per day

PULP-MAKING MACHINERY LINE



Process flow chart : Pulp line of Karnaphuli Paper Mills

THIS ENGINEERING BREAK-THROUGH IN MANUFACTURING AROUND 65 PERCENT PULP & PAPER MACHINERY LOCALLY REPRESENTS AN EPOCH-MAKING CONTRIBUTION OF THE GOVERNMENT IN ACHIEVING OUR NATIONAL GOAL FOR ATTAINING TECHNOLOGICAL SELF-RELIANCE.



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