
 APARTMENTS ON SALE
 PROPERTY DELIGHT
 MOTIJHEEL AREA, 1050-1160 sq ft.
 THE NAME MOST TRUSTED
PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT LTD
 12, R. K. MISSION ROAD, DHAKA
 P. O. BOX 21, D. O. C. 1000
 PHONE 882184 & 888012-234917

 VOL. V NO. 268 REGD. NO. DA 781

The Daily Star

Standard Chartered
Fingertip Convenience
 Standard Chartered
 12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 5.00

KARTIK 6 1402 BS, DHAKA SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1995 JAMADI-UL-AWAL 25, 1416 HIJRI

Inside Today

- Article**
 Where does Economic Growth Originate From?
 Column: Beneath the Surface
 by Abdul Bayes
 Page 4
- Focus**
 Feminisation of poverty and structural adjustment policies in Bangladesh. Minorities left out in the cold; 'Thousands dying' from an epidemic of doctors
 Page 5
- International**
 Russia won't join peace force in Bosnia under NATO command
 Rabbani accuses Islamic states of apathy towards his country
 Page 8
- Business**
 Master plan for low-cost power development soon
 Lanka stops sale of aviation fuel to foreign airlines as oil depot blown up
 Pages 6, 7
- Metropolitan**
 Dhaka Day by Day

NEWS BRIEFS

Beer recovered
 CHITTAGONG, Oct 20: Anwara police today recovered thirteen cartons of foreign beer and arrested two persons from a house at village Goira here, district police said, reports BSS.

248 more Rohingyas repatriated
 COX'S BAZAR, Oct 20: As many as 248 more Rohingya refugees today returned to Myanmar, officials here said, reports UNB.

Loan repayment to outstrip US food aid flow

By Inam Ahmed and R M Titumir

With the fall in US food assistance to Bangladesh, coupled with the expiry of the Currency Use Off-set (CUO) facility system of the PL-480 loan agreement last year, the government is apprehending that the outstanding food aid repayment will outpace the inflow resulting in a massive drainage of hard currency.

The availability of US food assistance under Title-III of Public Law-480 declined from the level of 60 million US dollars in 1989 to 40 million dollars in 1995. At the same time repayment of 728.86 million dollars food aid loan, due by the year 2021, started this year with nine million US dollars. This is expected to graduate to a height of 48.63 million dollars in 2006.

Under the CUO facility, the US food aid, given as loans, was sold in the local market and the amount deposited with the Bangladesh Bank under a special drawing account in local currency. This money was then disbursed for the mutually agreed development projects against which the loans were off-set. This system saved repayment in hard currency.

But as the CUO facility has expired and the US food aid has been declining steadily since 1989, repayment on the accumulated loans would amount to more than what the country is receiving from the US.

Since the CUO service expired last year, repayment of debt to USA will now be made under hard currency which will affect the hard earned foreign currency reserve of the country. The CUO was introduced in 1991.

In 1989, the government received food aid worth 60 million US dollars under Title-III of PL-480 which declined to 7.5 million dollars in the beginning of 1995. Later active lobbying by the government had raised the amount to 40 million dollars, sources said.

Meanwhile, the government has repaid the first instalment of nine million dollars. The due for next year is 27.36 million dollars which will lead to 36.28 million dollars in the year 2001 and to 40.20 million dollars in 2003. After reaching the peak level of 48.63 million dollars in 2006, it will again slow down to 41.66 million dollars in 2010 and gradually decline to 18.77 million dollars in 2015. The last due will be only 21 million dollars in the terminal year.

As the situation is turning for the worse, the government has been actively lobbying for the write-off of the loan debt. Meanwhile, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, who is now on a visit to the US in connection with the World Bank-IMF annual meeting, is expected to see the US Secretary of State.

Opposition may go for week-long hartal

By Nurul Kabir

The major opposition parties agitating for a non-party caretaker administration are now considering a fresh package of 'aggressive' anti-government programme including a week-long hartal, gherao of the residence or the office of the Prime Minister, residences of ministers and the Secretariat soon.

The parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami — are scheduled to announce new identical programmes from separate rallies in the city this afternoon.

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina discussed her party's next course of action with some of her colleagues in the party's central working committee yesterday evening.

A leader attending the meeting told this correspondent last night, on condition of anonymity, the party leaders proposed many programmes including a week-long hartal, gherao of the Prime Minister's office, ministers' residences, the Secretariat, two-day sit-in around the Secretariat, sit-in at the thana headquarters and mass hunger strike across the country.

The AL leader said "The next month would witness a very aggressive anti-government agitation, while we shall intensify our mass campaign."

SL outclass Windies

Sports Reporter
 The Sri Lankan cricketers delighted a partisan crowd from across the sub-continent when they comprehensively beat the mighty West Indies to lift the Singer Champions Trophy at the desert venue of Sharjah yesterday.

Playing in front of a boisterous and colourful crowd, the spirited islanders displayed a superior brand of cricket altogether to outclass the defending champions — ultimately winning the high-scoring match by 50 runs.

Sent in to bat by the West Indies skipper Richie Richardson, the Lankans took full advantage of a placid wicket amassing 273 runs before being all out with one ball to go in the allotted 50 overs. In reply, the Caribbeans could only muster 223 before being all out.



A human chain in the city yesterday demanding immediate solution to the persisting political impasse. — Star photo

Road accidents in 3 places Four killed, DC, ADC of Bogra injured

By Staff Correspondent

Four persons including an Assistant Commissioner of Sirajganj were killed and the DC and the ADC (Gen) of Bogra and a senior journalist of the Ittefaq and six others were injured in three road accidents in Sirajganj, Bogra and Narsingdhi yesterday.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reports: A K M Newaz Ali, 35, Assistant Commissioner of Sirajganj and Fazlul Haq, 42, Office Assistant of Collectorate office died on the spot and five persons including four policemen were injured when their jeep collided head on with a Dhaka-bound bus from Gaibandha at Ariabazar near the Rural Development Academy on Bogra-Nagarbari highway.

The mishap took place about 10-km off the Sirajganj town when they were going to Bogra to collect HSC results announced yesterday. The driver of the bus escaped with the vehicle.

The four police personnel — Havildar Ashraf Ali and constables Emdadul Haq, Ashraf Ali and Mohammad Habib of Sirajganj Police Line were admitted to the Combined Military Hospital at Bogra. Seriously injured diver Dulal Mia, 38, was taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Clinton to meet Khaleda, other world leaders

WASHINGTON, Oct 20: President Bill Clinton will tell Chinese President Jiang Zemin next week that the United States wants to improve relations with China but still has longstanding concerns, the White House said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Clinton will meet leaders of at least 14 countries, including Jiang and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, on a three-day trip to New York to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

During what Clinton's Deputy National Security Adviser said was a "very busy" trip, Clinton will meet with Khaleda Zia.

Blasts leave 9 hurt at RMCH

RANGPUR, Oct 20: At least nine people were injured, three of them seriously, in bomb explosions in the Rangpur Medical College Hospital complex today, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said some unknown miscreants exploded 7-8 crude bombs in front of the hospital canteen at about 7:30 pm.

Of the injured, Dr Mokshed of the Surgery Department, Hasan, a technician of the Radiology Department, and an unknown minor boy were admitted to the hospital in critical condition.

Fidel Castro leaves NAM summit early 'Unite against non-tariff trade barriers by rich nations'

HAVANA, Oct 20: Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said developing countries should seek to defend their economic freedom by joining forces to oppose non-tariff trade barriers erected by rich industrial nations, says Reuter.

Bhutto, speaking to reporters at the 11th Non-Aligned summit in Cartagena, said non-tariff barriers, especially linked to human rights and labour issues are causing "real concern" in the developing world.

"We need to formulate common responses to global issues regarding economic equity, the Pakistani premier said.

She noted that the Non-Aligned Movement was increasingly switching its attention from the question of political freedom to the issue of economic freedom.

Bhutto said rich industrialised nations are invoking human rights and social issues like slave labour as an excuse to erect invisible trade barriers to block competition from third world producers.

"Of course, human rights and bonded labour are real issues. But when are they addressed as issues and when are they used as pretexts for undermining competition from the developing world?" she said.

Meanwhile Cuba's President Fidel Castro unexpectedly left early from the summit in Colombia on Thursday, robbing the meeting of one of its leading figures before it issued a final declaration.

The 69-year-old Cuban leader, a founder of the non-aligned group, flew out of the port city of Cartagena, the summit venue, at around 2 pm (1900 GMT), heading for Cuba, airport officials said.

No reason was given for his early departure from the summit, which was due to close on Friday morning with the approval of a final declaration setting out the goals of the 113-member movement over the next three years.

Castro, who had flown to Cartagena on Thursday from Argentina where he had attended a two-day Ibero-American summit, had looked

Human chain in city demanding end to political impasse

By Staff Correspondent

A group of citizens formed a nearly 9-km long 'human chain' in the city yesterday afternoon in demand for an immediate and amicable solution to the present political impasse.

The human chain started at the Sangsad Bhaban and ended at the Central Shaheed Minar, passing through Mirpur Road, Elephant Road, Shahabagh, TSC and Doel Chattar areas.

A large number of women, children, teachers, lawyers, journalists and people from different walks of life formed the human chain. Many carried banners and placards imprinted with their demands for peace and political

50.57 pc pass Rajshahi Board HSC exams

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 20: The results of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations of 1995 held under Rajshahi Education Board were published today.

A total of 1,10,144 students appeared in the examinations, of whom 55,700 came out successful. The percentage of pass is 50.57.

Of the successful students, 8,209 got first division, 37,328 second division and 10,163 third division.

A total of 12,073 students out of 19,783 came out successful in the science group, the percentage of pass is 61.03.

In humanities group, the percentage of pass is 50.57.

WE MOURN

WE ARE DEEPLY GRIEVED AT THE SUDDEN DEMISE OF **ALHAJ JAHURUL ISLAM**, A RENOWNED INDUSTRIALIST, SOCIAL WORKER, SPONSOR DIRECTOR AND FORMER CHAIRMAN OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCE INVESTMENT & COMMERCE BANK LIMITED WHO DIED OF HEART ATTACK IN SINGAPORE AT 2-30 A.M. ON THURSDAY LAST (INNA-LILLAHE-WA-INNA ILAHE-RAJUEWON).

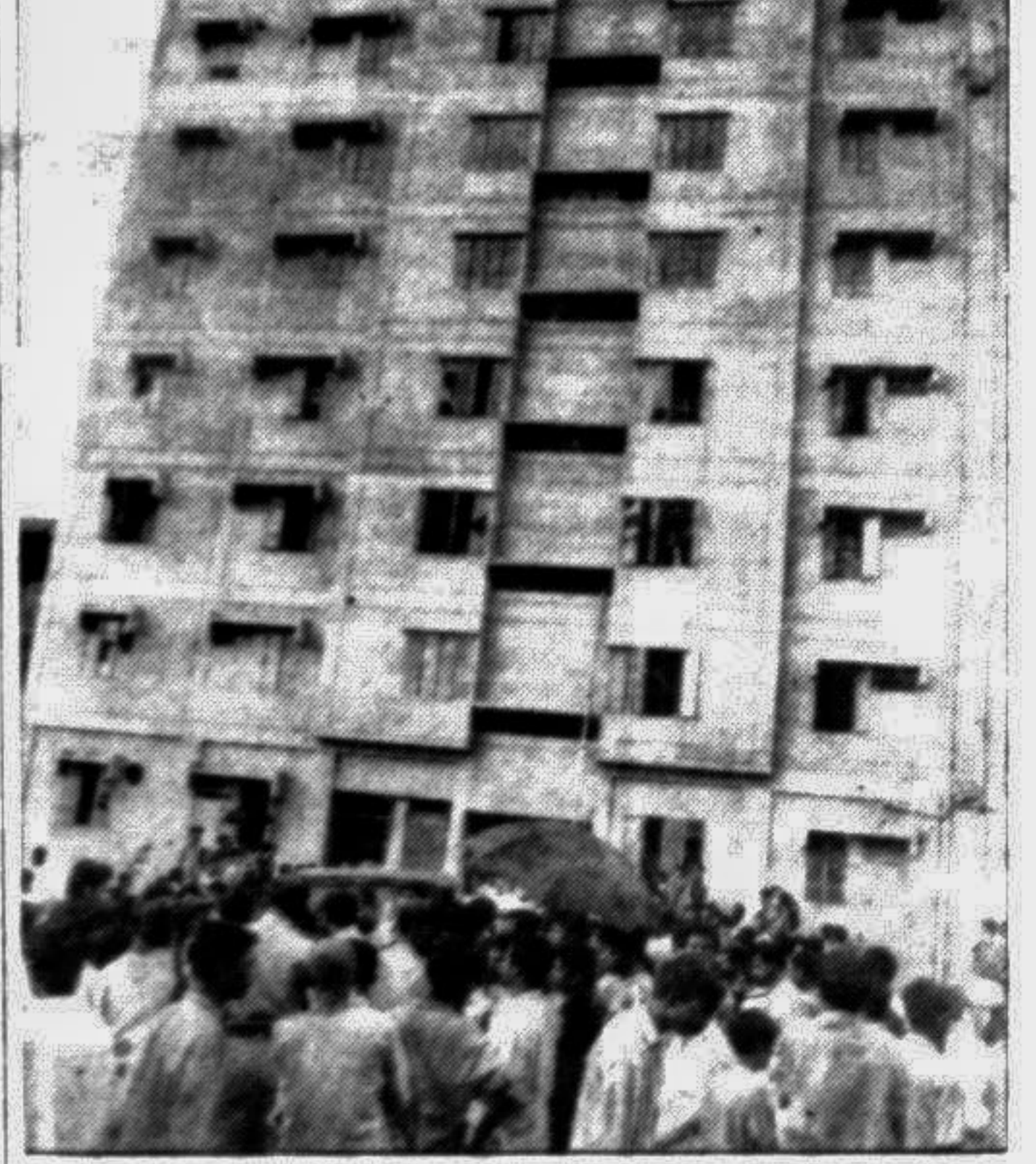
WE PRAY TO ALMIGHTY ALLAH FOR THE SALVATION OF THE DEPARTED SOUL MAY ALLAH, THE MERCIFUL, GIVE STRENGTH TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE LOSS.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ALL EMPLOYEES OF IFIC BANK LTD.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE INVESTMENT AND COMMERCE BANK LIMITED

Most garments factories in city lack safety measures

by Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed



A high rise building in the city housing a garments factory without any emergency exit and fire safety measures, where 9 persons died in a stampede on August 5 following a false fire alarm. — Star photo

Twenty-five workers, including 16 women, died in a fire at Saraka Garments, Mirpur on 27 December 1990; five female workers died and at least 30 others were injured on 11 February 1995 at the Prostor Garments, Mirpur; and most recently, on 5 August, nine teenagers aged between 13 and 19 perished in the Lusaka Fashion Garments Factory, Ibrahimpur in a stampede resulting from a false fire alarm.

Garment factory owners are not taking lessons from the ever-increasing fire-related incidents, some of them fatal. Contrary to its rapid growth, the safety record of this industry has been steadily declining in Dhaka city; the consequences being tragic and alarming.

Many accidents and fire incidents in these congested, non-ventilated, ill-lit, hot and humid factories have not been reported in the press because there were no deaths. If these incidents were properly reported then a more realistic picture would have emerged of the danger that our garment unless face.

স্বপ্নের আলোয় জ্বলন্ত শোকবার্তা

শোকবার্তা

আমরা গভীর দুঃখ ও বেদনার সাথে জানাচ্ছি যে, বাংলাদেশের পথিকৃৎ শিল্পপতি ইসলাম গ্রুপের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা ও আমাদের শ্রদ্ধেয় চেয়ারম্যান আলহাজ্ব জহুরুল ইসলাম গত ১৯শে অক্টোবর বাংলাদেশ সময় রাত ২-২০ মিনিটে সিঙ্গাপুর অবস্থানকালে হৃদযন্ত্রের ক্রিয়া বন্ধ হয়ে ইন্তেকাল করেছেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহে ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহে রাজেউন)। আমরা ইসলাম গ্রুপে কর্মরত সকল পরিচালক, কর্মকর্তা, কর্মচারী ও শ্রমিকবৃন্দ এই অপ্রত্যাশিত আঘাতে গভীর ভাবে মর্মান্বিত ও শোকাভিভূত।

আমাদের সকল কর্মকাণ্ডের প্রধান সংগঠক পথিকৃৎ আলহাজ্ব জহুরুল ইসলাম ছিলেন আমাদের সকলের জন্য বিশেষ অনুপ্রেরণার উৎস সকল কর্মকাণ্ডের মধ্যমনি, সৃজনশীলতার স্বচ্ছ প্রতীক, সকল সফলতার প্রধান পরিকল্পক এবং সর্বোপরি আমাদের সংবেদনশীল অভিভাবক। তাঁর অভাব জনিত ক্ষতি কোনদিনই পূরণ হবার নয়।

এই শোকবিহবল মুহূর্তে আমাদের অঙ্গীকার যে কোন মূল্যে তাঁর সাফল্যের পতাকা আমরা সকলের সম্মিলিত প্রয়াসে সমুন্নত রাখব এবং তাঁর সকল স্বপ্নকে বাস্তবায়িত করব।

আমরা তাঁর রুহের মাগফেরাত কামনা করি এবং পরম করুণাময় আল্লাহর কাছে ফরিয়াদ জানাই যেন আল্লাহ তাঁকে জান্নাতবাসী করেন।

এই শোকবিহবল মুহূর্তে আল্লাহর কাছে আরও দোয়া করি, তিনি যেন মরহুমের শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবারবর্গ ও আত্মীয় স্বজনকে এই অপূর্ণীয় ক্ষতি সইবার শক্তি প্রদান করেন।

আল্লাহ আমাদের সকলের সহায় হউন।

ইসলাম গ্রুপে কর্মরত পরিচালক, কর্মকর্তা, কর্মচারী ও শ্রমিকবৃন্দ।