

Dhaka Day by Day

Supply of Money and Circulation of a Bad Habit

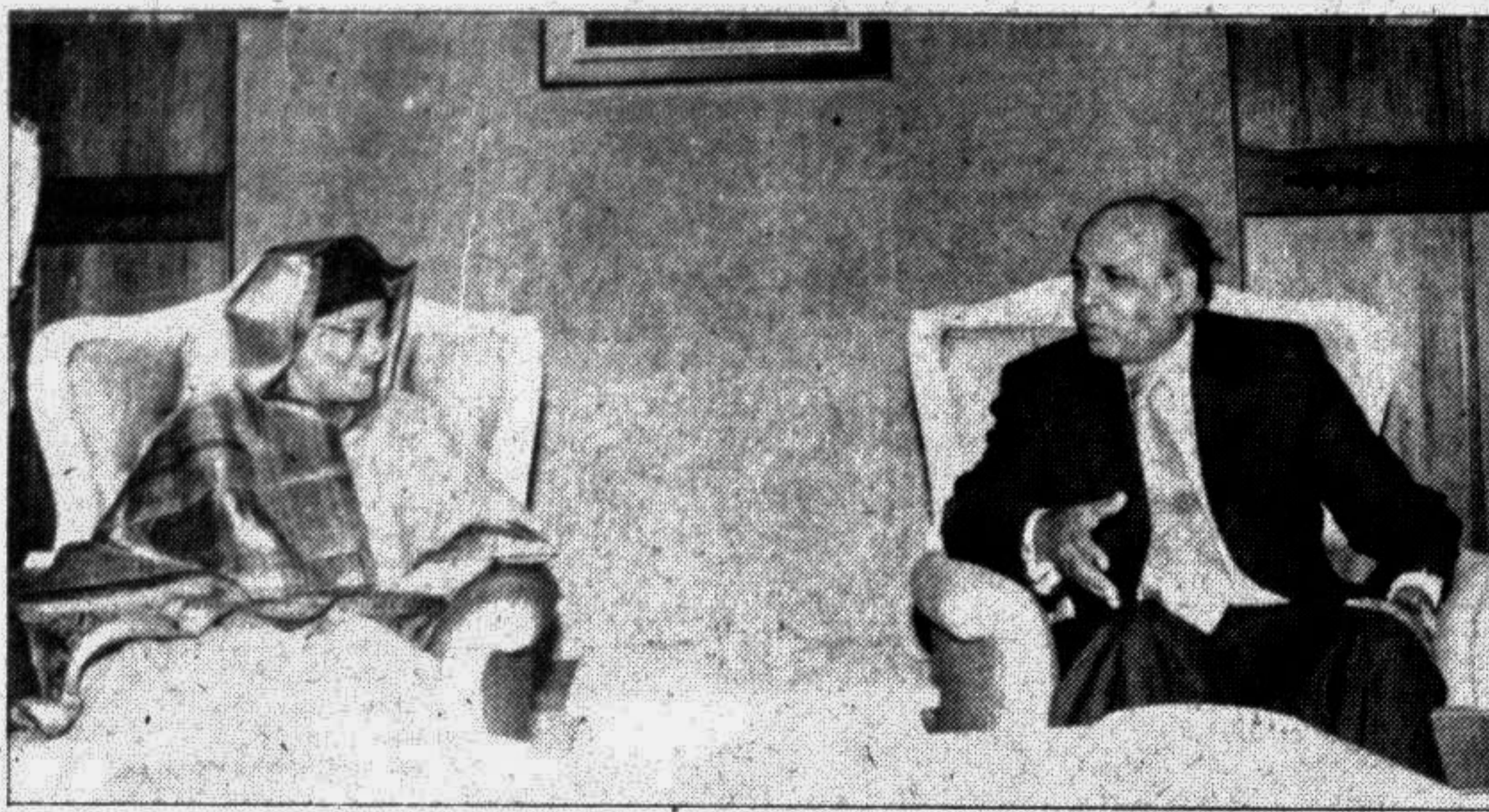
By Muneera Parbeen

There is a popular saying, "Money makes the world go round," and it is actually true. The supply of money in any country however is strictly controlled by only the government and new money or 'currency notes' are not brought out unless the economy of the country so demands. Therefore the small pieces of paper that we call money or name as 'taka' in our local language is not easily replaced if we happen to blot one with ink or wet it badly in the rain, by mistake of course.

The point being clear, it is really sad and amazing — not to say embarrassing as well — to see that people have such a nasty habit of writing on money. From calculations to telephone numbers to love notes, many seem to think that a currency note is just the right thing to use for it. This habit is becoming so increasingly popular that it has almost taken epidemic proportions among the masses these days.

(this is more true of the smaller currency notes as 1-taka, 2-taka and 5-taka notes) hardly work in a clean environment or circumstances and therefore can hardly be expected to keep the money 'clean', literally. That may be excusable to a large extent, but to make these vulnerable notes yet more weak by thoughtlessly scribbling on them is an undesirable, nasty and definitely unpardonable crime. Many may think that the world crime is a bit too strong here but to spoil or contribute to spoiling our national wealth definitely is not a light matter. Therefore it is a punishable for those who indulge in this unspeakable shameful habit.

Calculations at shops; can and must be done on plain paper (or brown paper or newspapers etc which are in plenty) and love messages certainly don't have to be on currency notes either. But we have yet another very common practice amongst us... we practise our



Governor of Sindh province Kamal Uddin Azfar called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her stopover at the Karachi Airport, Pakistan, yesterday. — PID photo

Indian dailies hopeful of solution to water crisis

Some Indian dailies have expressed the hope that the outstanding issues with Bangladesh, specially the sharing of the Ganges water, would be resolved soon. BSS reported from New Delhi Thursday.

The Calcutta-based Bengali daily, the Anandabazar Patrika in an editorial July 10 was sharply critical of the New Delhi government for unilateral withdrawal of water from the common rivers depriving Bangladesh of its rightful share.

Commenting on the outcome of the three-day visit of Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider to Bangladesh, the daily said, "It is not possible for Bangladesh to agree to any Indian proposal until the water sharing dispute is resolved." The daily said, "As India has kept alive the problem, so Bangladesh is involved in anti-Indian politics."

The daily said citing the need of Parakka waters for the functioning of Calcutta port to deprive Bangladesh of its just share of the Ganges water is a lame excuse. It said Calcutta would never become suitable for use by big vessels, as a result, Haldia is being developed as an alternative port for handling big ships.

The daily was critical of the attitude of New Delhi government in keeping alive disputes with all its neighbours excepting Bhutan. It expressed the hope that the New Delhi government would normalise relations with its neighbours as there cannot be any successful foreign policy keeping hostilities with neighbouring countries alive.

Meanwhile, Ganoshakti, another Calcutta-based Bengali daily, pleading for promoting better relations with Bangladesh stressed the need for a decision at the highest levels of the two countries to activate the Joint Rivers Commission and Joint Economic Commission.

Describing the sharing of the Ganges water issue as the main problem between the two neighbours, the daily in an editorial comment on Wednesday, said centering the issue there

developed occasional bitter relations between the two countries. It stressed the need for political goodwill and sincerity among leaders of both the countries in finding a solution to the problem.

The change in governments in both the countries was described as a positive development towards improving relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the Hindustan Times in its editorial July 11 expressed cautious optimism on the outcome of the visit of Salman Haider. The daily wanted to link transit facilities for transporting Indian goods to its north-eastern states through Bangladesh with the solution of the sharing of the Ganges water.

The daily said, "Though there has been no official rejection of the proposal, it is known that Bangladesh somehow sees security threats from the movement of Indian goods through its territory." It said, "Friendship will not come through one-sided gestures. A gesture cannot be made unless the intentions of the other side are transparent and basically non-hostile."

The daily further said, "India can forego some of its claims on the Ganga waters only if Bangladesh makes a gesture over the transit facility."

UNAB symposium of population

The United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) in observance of the World Population Day held a symposium at its office in the city on Thursday, reports UNB.

Kazi Anisur Rahman, Secretary General of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, was the main speaker.

President of Bangladesh Federation of University Women Begum Selina Khaleque presided over the symposium while Rasheda Zaman, Husne Ara Chowdhury, Fazul Karim, Shamanta Bhadra Barua, Dr Abida Khalil and Advocate Syed Ahmad Hossain took part in the discussion.

19 former student leaders against Ershad's parole

By Staff Correspondent

Release of the former president H M Ershad, would be considered an act of treachery to the spirit of the movement for restoration of democracy launched in the 80s, said a press release issued by 19 former student leaders.

The government will lose its moral ground to award imprisonment to ordinary criminals if it releases a criminal of the highest order like Ershad, the press release said.

Ershad should stand trial for violating the Constitution, added the press release.

Those who signed on the statement included Fazle Hossain Badsha, Abul Hasib Khan, Anwarul Haq and Akhtar Sobhan Masrur.

EC move to form law reforms commission hailed

Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) has endorsed the Chief Election Commissioner's recent proposal to form an Election Law Reforms Commission to look into inadequacies of the existing electoral laws, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, FEMA secretary general Feruz M Hassan said the proposal for formation of an election law reforms commission is a timely move.

The government should extend all out cooperation to such a commission which has plenty of scope for making improvement and plugging loopholes in the current election laws, he said.

FEMA, a citizens coalition for monitoring elections in Bangladesh, also suggested the inclusion of representatives of civic organisations and election observer groups in the proposed commission in addition to government, political party and election commission representatives.

Earlier, FEMA made specific recommendations to bring about changes in the existing electoral laws in order for the elections to be transparent and encourage citizens participation in the electoral process.

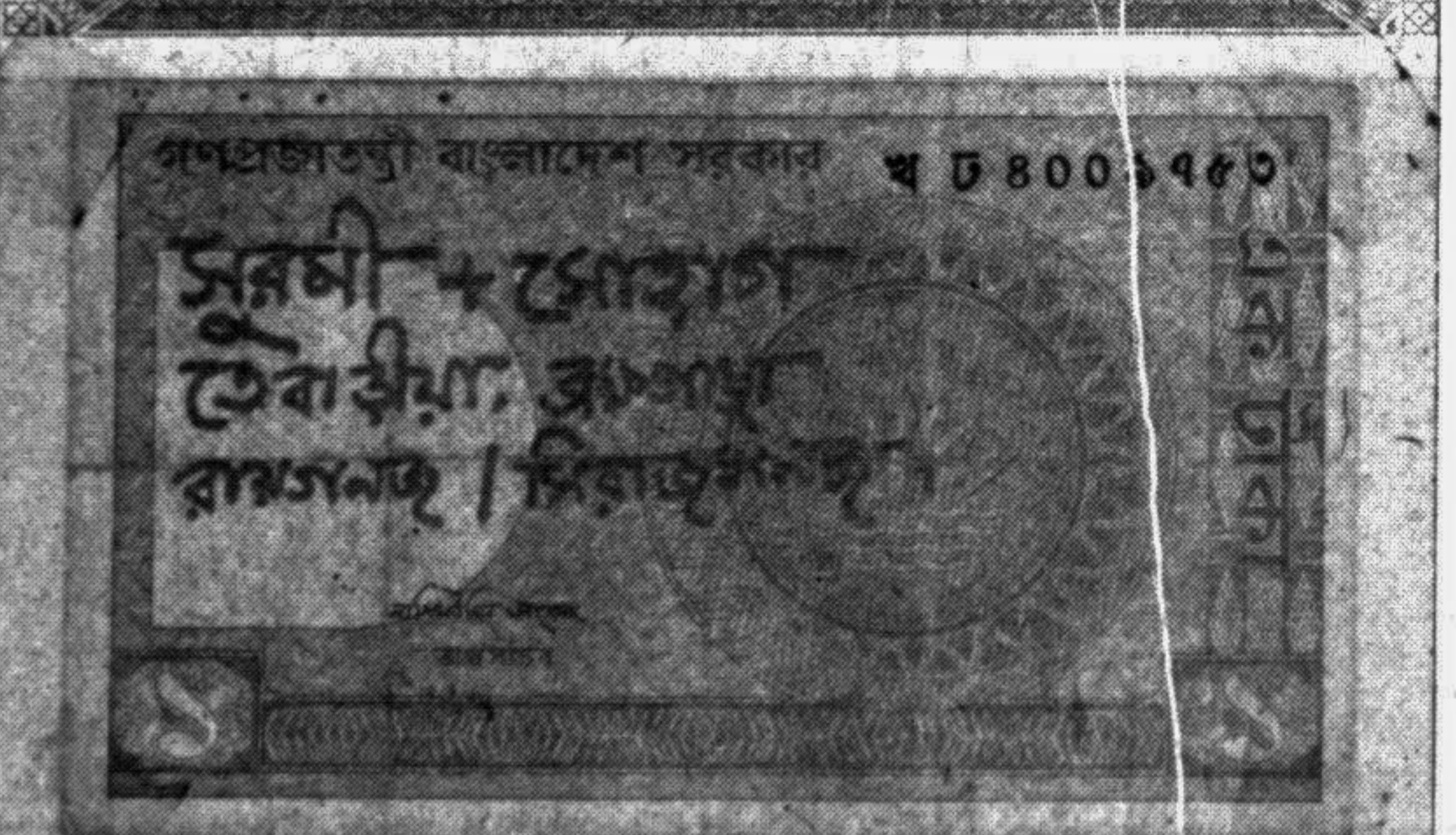
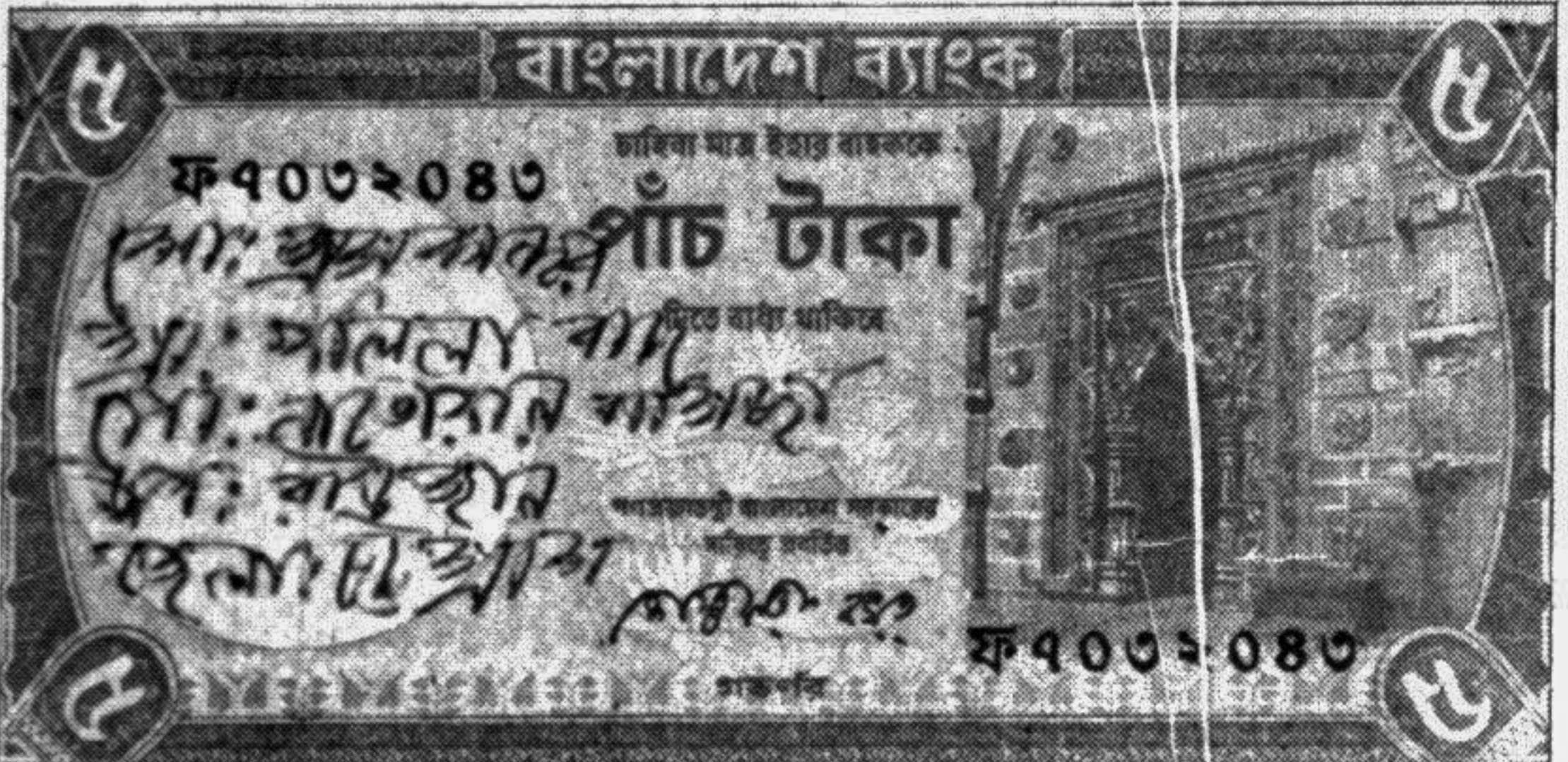
23 rounded up

Twenty-three persons, including a foreign national, were arrested and a huge quantity of narcotic were recovered by Narcotics Control Department from different parts of the city in six days till Thursday, reports UNB.

Two special squads of the department conducted the six-day operation from July 6 to 11, said a press release yesterday.

The recovery included 184 bottles of phensidyle, three kgs charas, seven kgs ganja, 12 ampules, tidigestic injection, seven bottles foreign liquor, 960 cans beer and five grams heroin.

Korean national J H Lee, the owner "Seoul Garden," a Chinese hotel at Gulshan, was arrested on Wednesday for illegal possession of liquor and beer.



Sometimes we find that days go by and we don't find a 'clear' riot in our hands.

The money in circulation, especially at present is hardly very clean and whether some of these pieces of paper are 'hygienic' to touch and use, is a debatable topic. But then we are a poor country and some who circulate the money more frequently than the others, as shopkeepers, rickshawpullers and the like

signatures' on currency notes as well. Now where do we stop? We should stop, definitely just now. As conscious citizens of this country, we should have realised so ages ago, yet many hasn't as yet. It is a demeaning habit and for our own sakes we must refrain from doing so anymore. One must remember that in the long run, ultimately we are the ones to suffer for it.



Begum Tahrunnessa Abdullah speaking as chief guest at the third biennial conference of the Bangladesh Mohila Forum at the WVA auditorium in the city yesterday. — Star photo

INTERNATIONAL QUOTATION

Sealed quotations are invited from well-known manufacturers and dealers for the supply of Solar PV Household Units for use in rural areas of Bangladesh with or without collaborative/partnership arrangements with Grameen Shakti. Grameen Shakti has recently been incorporated as an affiliate company of Grameen Bank. It is mandated to introduce and popularize renewable energy including household photovoltaic systems in rural Bangladesh at affordable price. Initially Grameen Shakti intends to procure 1000 pv units for household use. Quotations should contain in following information:

1. System Description—Make and type of the panel, how many light points, work efficiency in terms of hours of light availability and rainy time autonomy period. In particular, household Solar P.V Units with (a) two light points (8 cfl or so) and (b) one light point (6 cfl or so) and one 14" B/W TV point and (c) two light points (8 cfl or so) and one 14" B/W TV point.
2. Price information relating to: (a) CIF Chittagong port or Dhaka Airport, (b) panel, (c) batteries make, type and costs, (d) bulb size, life and costs (if not already included) and (e) any other costs.
3. Servicing and maintenance arrangements, in Bangladesh.
4. Warranty period for the panel, battery, bulb, inverter and controller.
5. Sealed quotations containing all the above information may be submitted to the following address by 2:00 p.m., August 31, 1996.

Grameen Shakti
Grameen Bank Bhaban
Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216.
Telephone: 801222
Fax: 880-2- 803559, 880-2-801138

Appointment

By Staff Correspondent

Sirajul Alam Khan has been appointed as Adjunct Professor of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh for a four-month period, from September this year, according to a press release issued by Peshajibi Parishad.

Michael Zimmerman, the Dean of the University, had requested Khan to join the department in January last.

Weather

Moderate rainfall likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by gusty wind is likely at most places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet divisions and at many places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country.

In its outlook for subsequent two days weathermen forecast increase in rainfall activity. Giving extended outlook for another five days Met Office predicted little change.

Meantime, Rangpur experienced the highest 67 mm rain in the last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday. Mymensingh had 66 mm rain and Sylhet 46 mm during the period.

The country's highest temperature 34.3 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rangamati yesterday and the lowest 24.4 degrees also at Rangamati.

The sun sets today at 6:09 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:20 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	morning	evening
Dhaka	32.2	27.2	80	75
Chittagong	33.4	26.6	72	87
Rajshahi	31.2	27.1	76	73
Khulna	33.6	26.0	86	69
Barisal	32.5	26.0	81	73
Sylhet	28.5	27.8	97	90
Cox's Bazar	33.4	26.0	78	81

What's on today....

Workshop on biodiversity: Bangladesh National Biodiversity Group in collaboration with IUCN-The World Conservation Union (Bangladesh country office) will hold a workshop on "Implementation of biodiversity convention." Venue: BARC auditorium, Airport Road, Farm Gate. Time: 9 am - 12 noon.

Photo show, discussion on Dr Shahidullah: To commemorate the 27th death anniversary of Dr Md. Shahidullah, the Bangladesh National Museum and Oitiya Bangladesh have jointly organised a discussion meet and photo exhibition on his life and work. Chief guest: Obaidul Kader, State Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture. Venue: National Museum auditorium, Shahbagh. Time: 4:00 pm.

Musical soiree: Indian vocalist Shyamol Baran Ghose will present songs at musical evening organised by Doyel-Koyel. Venue: Biswa Shahitya Kendra auditorium. Time: 6:00 pm.

Nari Grantha Prabartana: A *pala gaan* (folksong) session will be held. Venue: Nari Grantha Prabartana, 2/8, Sir Syed Road, Mohammadpur. Time: 4:00 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Downtown: The 12th installation ceremony of its board of directors for 1996-97 will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 5:30 pm.

Discussion on Dr Md Shahidullah: Bangla Academy has organised a discussion meeting commemorating the anniversary of death of Dr Muhammad Shahidullah. Prof Hayat Mahmud will present a paper. Venue: Bangla Academy seminar room. Time: 11 am.

Rotary Club of Dhaka: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Dr Flora J Majid, Chairman BCSIR, will speak on 'BCSIR at a glance'. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:15 pm.

Art exhibition: Pre-degree last batch students of Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University has organised an exhibition of their works marking the completion of their fourth academic year. Noted Artist Mohammad Kibria will inaugurate the show. Venue: Jainul Gallery. Time: 11 am.

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