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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presenting a cheque for Tk one lakh to the wife of Ibrahim Selim who was killed during the movement against the Ershad government in 1983.

— PID photo

## Damaged decay tank to be isolated from N-reactor

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) yesterday decided to isolate the leaked decay tank from the three megawatt research reactor at Ganakbari in Savar.

Talking to BSS, BAEC Chairman M A Quayum said the decision was taken on the basis of the recommendations made by a committee formed with scientists from BAEC and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

**Employees assault IF official**

An assistant director of the Islamic Foundation was injured in an attack by a group of its workers and employees yesterday, reports BSS.

Police said the group attacked Anisur Rahman, Assistant Director (Marketing) of the Foundation, at his office room at about 12 noon.

They said the attack on Anis followed a drive to evict the illegal shops from Baitul Mukarram Market owned by the Foundation.

A section of employees and workers of the Foundation have set up the shops on the compound illegally, police said.

The victim was given first aid at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. A case was filed with Motijheel thana.

**Trader, teacher**

From page 1  
miscreants stabbed him severely and snatched the money. He was taken to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

The business men in Jhenidah town observed a dawn-to-dusk hartal today to protest the killing. They also demanded punishment to the killers.

In another incident, Hossain Ali alias Hassan Mia, 52, a madrasah teacher of village Bogura under Salkupur thana of the district was beaten to death by some rival villagers yesterday.

Police and eye-witnesses said, two armed men called Hassan out of his house as about midnight. The miscreants allegedly cut the tendons of his legs and left him near Motrampur police said. He was rushed to Salkupur Thana Health Complex where he succumbed to injuries at about 4:30 in the morning.

A case was filed with Salkupur Thana. Police arrested two young men, Tushar Majumder and Enamul Hassan, in this connection.

## Ban order misquoted

From page 1  
directive meant, which banned any coloured SSP and all kinds of granular SSP.

The colour is the catch here, for the farmers are befooled to buy the much cheaper SSP which looks like TSP. This was the main reason why, according to the minutes of the Cabinet meeting, the axe came on that type of fertiliser.

The February 17, 1997 Cabinet decision signed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was formally communicated five days later to Commerce Secretary Alamgir Farooq Chowdhury on February 23 (The commerce ministry notification with the mistake was dated February 20).

The next day, February 24, based on the decision, a Bangladesh Bank circular "advised" fertiliser dealers "not to open LCs and to refrain from extending shipping deadlines for already-opened LCs".

Six days later, on March 2, the commerce ministry admitted the mistake when it wrote to the BB Governor requesting issuance of another circular to correct the situation.

On March 4, 1997, the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports (CCIE) issued

a public notice putting the "colour-coated and granular SSP" on the list of goods prohibited to be imported.

But by then, the three firms owned by the two men completed their task. And the commerce ministry appeared to have come to their rescue.

"The prohibition order will not be applicable to those LCs which were opened or those SSP shipments which were made before the March 4 notice," the Ministry wrote to the CCIE on March 13.

The issue went further as the LCs were given validity far beyond the normal period -- three months in such cases, six months for capital machinery. Sources claim that the LCs were valid for nine months.

Meanwhile, one shipment has already been unloaded; another ship called Ocean Falcon is unloading at Mongla. The second shipment for which figures were obtained carried at least 13,000 tonnes.

A 50-kg bag of SSP costs Tk 220 at normal times, and now, when it is in short supply, SSP is selling at Tk 290 a bag.

A simple arithmetic puts the figure at Tk 10 crore in extra profits in a sellers' market, at the expense of farmers.

Another common tactic to grab land in the city is building a mosque or declaring a site a shrine of a pious man. City's waterlogging problem could not be solved for years as two mosques -- one at Fakirpore and the other near Notre Dame College -- were illegally built, encroaching the water outlet. WASA's sewerage officials, in the face of criticism from mem-

## Crime: 1500 acres of land

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istry and other departments said in many cases, the actual owners could not be found. Such case is the land on both sides of the Tongi Diversion Road. Nobody knew who owned the land. So, illegal shops, houses and businesses have mushroomed there over the years.

Town planners in RAJUK and DCC said this sort of negligence has been caused by un-planned and haphazard growth of the city.

Among other land grabbers are political parties, especially their local offices. Once the local partymen grab a land and set up an office, it is never an easy job for anyone to evict them unless the party leader takes interest in it. "If it is the office of the party in power, none will dare to touch it," said a DCC official.

Next in the list comes the trade union offices. After grabbing an empty space the unionists quickly move to the Labour Directorate and get the premises registered. Then they display the registration number prominently and use that as a basis for their right to remain there. Roadside land is usually the prime target of the unionists.

Another common tactic to satisfy the investigators as to why they stayed for a long time at the Cantonment police station, where Rezvi was detained after his arrest on July 20 from their house.

Jaglu, brother of Neela Chowdhury, was a witness while the "surathal" report of Salman's body was prepared after his death on September 6, 1996.

## CFTC urged again to withdraw surcharge

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 18: The Chittagong Port Authority has made a fresh protest against the imposition of congestion surcharge on container cargo at Chittagong Port by the Chittagong Feeder Trade Committee (CFTC), a Singapore-based organisation of feeder vessel operators, port officials said.

The CPA protest note was sent to CFTC yesterday, urging it to immediately withdraw the punitive surcharge, the officials added.

Meanwhile, port officials today held a meeting with the local representatives of mainline operators to persuade them to withdraw the surcharge. The delegation will return from Singapore tomorrow.

**Move to resolve dispute on work distribution**

CHITTAGONG, Aug 18: As the Coaster and Hatch Workers Union threatened an indefinite gherao of the Port Bhavan from tomorrow, the Shipping Ministry today announced its decision about the work distribution in the port, reports UNB.

According to the decision, merchant workers would now work at Jetty numbers 1 to 17 and at vessels alongside the ships at Sadarghat lighterage jetty while the coaster and hatch workers would perform on ships at the outer anchorage.

Moreover, the merchant labourers would continue their shed delivery works as before in the port's protected shore areas. They will also handle the works of overside delivery at river mooring and other specialised berths.

A senior assistant secretary of the Shipping Ministry, Farid Uddin Ahmed, informed the decision to the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) by a fixed message tonight, port sources said.

The Ministry will observe the work distribution for the next three months, the message said.

**Yasmin murder**

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line driver Amrita Lal Barman said that prosecution counsel failed to show documentary evidences that his client was on duty when the incident took place.

Mr Iqbal, another defence counsel argued that the autopsy report prepared by his client Dr Md Mohsin was correct and nothing was concealed in it.

Arguments in the case began yesterday. All the nine accused in the case were on dock. They are facing trial under Section 201 (34) of the Penal Code. The court will sit tomorrow.

Managing Director of BTC Hugh Tweed was present as special guest while Chief Conservator of Forests SM Jalil also spoke on the occasion.

operators move in the route between Singapore and Europe. The mainline operators also imposed a surcharge of 50 US dollars on every container and from Chittagong Port, port sources said.

The CFTC imposed 150 dollars surcharge against each 20 feet long container and 300 dollars for 40 feet long container at Chittagong Port from August 16.

A six-member delegation comprising port officials and port users went to Singapore to urge the CFTC representatives to withdraw the surcharge. But the talks failed as CFTC did not agree to withdraw the surcharge. The delegation will return from Singapore tomorrow.

**Body on local govt reforms meets**

The second-meeting of the committee on local government reforms was held yesterday with its convenor and cabinet secretary in the chair, reports UNB.

The meeting discussed different matters relating to the transferring of subjects and departments to the different tiers of local government.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on August 31, said an official handout.

**Bonsai Nursery**

opens in city

Minister for Forest and Environment Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury yesterday urged the people to play a vital role in the protection of environment, alleviation of poverty and economic development through tree plantation and its nursing.

Inaugurating the "Bonsai Nursery" of Bangladesh Tabacco Company Limited (BTC) at Panda Garden premises, the minister said the government had turned the tree plantation drive into a political as well as an economic movement.

She urged all non-government organisations to come forward to make the tree plantation drive a success.

The minister laid stress on the coordinated planning to set up pollution-free industrial units at all levels and keep the water of the river Buriganga free from pollution. The Bonsai Nursery will distribute one lakh saplings among the city dwellers free of cost this year to create awareness about the afforestation programme.

Managing Director of BTC Hugh Tweed was present as special guest while Chief Conservator of Forests SM Jalil also spoke on the occasion.

However, official sources confirmed five deaths in the two thanas during the period.

**Bangabandhu**

From page 1

tonment, the BDR, the Police Head Quarters or the Police Control Room when he heard the Radio announcement that Bangabandhu had been killed.

He said that he had talked to the duty clerk at the Ganabhaban over telephone at around 6:30 am but could not remember his name.

Bashar said he also tried to contact Brig. Mashrurul Huq, then Military Secretary to the President but could not reach him. Brig Mashrurul Huq was his commanding officer in Dhaka, Bashar said.

About the responsibility of the military guards deployed at the residence of Bangabandhu, Bashar said that their duty was ceremonial and the police was responsible for security. There was coordination between the police and military guards, he said.

Daily events during duty used to be reported verbally to the superior officers and there was no system of reporting those in writing. Bashar said answering questions from the state defence.

For emergency communication, there was a system of sending messenger to me, which did not arise, Bashar said adding that there was no communication system between him and the guards through wireless set.

He said that during inspection, he found the guards discharging their duties properly excepting on August 15, 1975. Asked whether he had issued show cause notice for negligence to duty, Bashar said, in the Army there is no such system. Their negligence to duty was verbally reported to the commanding officer of the regiment in Comilla, he said.

**Qui Khwani**

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MW in key areas covered by substations like Tejgaon, Satmasjid Road and Kamalapur, the DESA sources said.

As the DESA engineers and technicians grapple with a system that appears to have gone errand, baffled residents find it difficult to cope with the situation.

The power shortage also disrupts water supply adding to the miseries of people.

In addition, frequent voltage fluctuations are also damaging domestic appliances like televisions, refrigerators, water pumps, washing machines and computers.

The DESA System Control officials said that the voltage fluctuations were due to problems in the local distribution lines. But insiders say there are trouble in the whole system of regulating the voltage in the capital. A number of regulators are not working. The auto-system being controlled manually sometimes cause havoc in the flow, according to a DESA source.

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**Govt, donors**

From page 1

planting of trees like Eucalyptus which affect the soil. The government has ordered cutting of Eucalyptus and such other trees from all government lands and urged others to refrain from planting these trees.

About the post-GAAT conditionality, Motia said, "We have to study it more to ascertain whether its impact will be good or bad for the third world countries." She also spoke about IPM (integrated pest management) and evolving low-cost agro-technology.

Other speakers stressed on establishing the right of LDCs on bio-diversity and raised a note of caution that new laws are in the offing under World Trade Organisation (WTO) to curb their rights on seeds and agro-products.

Other speakers included Dr Vandana Shiva of Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology (India), Kristin Dawkins of Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (USA), Jean Christie of Rural Advancement Foundation International (Canada), Sebastian Mattheus of International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (India), Meenakshi Ramam of Consumers Association of Penang (Malaysia), Ahmed Selim, a renowned poet from Pakistan, Manzurul Haq of Bangladesh, Hasanul Haq Inu of JSD (Inu) and Farhad Mazhar, director of the UBINIG.

**Family Members**

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**Khaleda urged to form national front**

**PDB employees demonstrate to press their 11-pt demand**

By Staff Correspondent

Workers of the Bangladesh Power Development Board are holding countrywide demonstrations to press home their 11-point charter of demands including withdrawal of the government decision to hand over the power distribution zones of PDB to the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Grid Company (PGCB).

A group of workers yesterday brought out a procession inside the Biddut Bhavan in Motijheel. They are scheduled to hold a large rally in front of WAPDA building tomorrow.

Led by Bangladesh Jatiya Biddut Sramik Karmachari Union, which dominates the Combined Bargaining Agent of the BPDB, the workers and employees at the BPDB offices in Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna, Barisal and Dhaka have launched a series of demonstration programmes from July 28 last.

The other demands of CBA include immediate implementation of the new pay scale and various agreements signed with the CBA, withdrawal of the decision to import power from a foreign country, stoppage of all types of politically motivated transfers of workers and cancellation of the contracting out of four power distribution and management areas to private sector in Chandpur, Tangail, Kushtia and Dinajpur.

As a conscious citizen I support that the Buriganga River should be free from all kinds of pollution and encroachments. I declare here in a forthright manner that I have no land in the area covered by the story and therefore, the question of my encroaching is irrelevant, fictitious