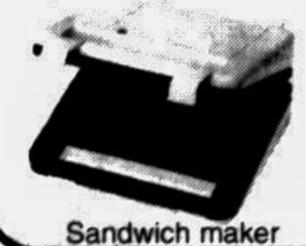
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Down to Earth

City Rly Station in Sorry State

By ASM Nurunnabi

The Kamalapur Railway Station is the country's principal railway station. Covering about 157 acres of land, the station was commissioned on May 1, 1968. Though the main station building and the platform area appear quite clean, it is generally alleged that the station management and the standard of passenger service are far from satisfactory. There are other ills from which the station suffers, such as artificial scarcity of tickets, indiscipline scribed rate. of the porters, harassment of passengers, inadequate security system and various kinds of irregularities and corruption.

The Kamalapur Railway Station enjoys a unique beauty in its architectural and structural construction styles. Until 1962, the main station for railway communication with Dhaka had been located at Fulbaria. Thereafter, for over-all development of railway communication system with its expansion and greater mobility aspects, the Kamalapur Railway Station was set up in 1960. The designing, planning and drawing were done by two American architects — Robert Bogis and Daniel C Dunham. In the construction of the station building, the influence of Islamic architectural style is in evidence.

The station has ten platforms of which seven are covered. The station employees work in 8-hour shifts. There are 16 ticket counters which function from 6:30 in the morning till 11:30 at night. At present, 16 railway lines are reported to be in operation. Every week, 24 trains start from this station for different destinations. There are some dark aspects

Fashion Competition at a city hotel yesterday.

Uncontrolled use of toxic

chemical pesticides is severely

contaminating the country's

surface water, said a survey re-

water quality of Bangladesh

was conducted by the

Bangladesh Atomic Energy

residues of toxic chemical pes-

ticides including lindane.

dieldrin, DDT in the surface wa-

ter samples indicated that there

is no regulatory control over

the use of hazardous pesticides.

the laboratory of Institute of

Food and Radiation Biology

(IFRB), Savar, the lone modern

and sophisticated establish-

were collected from different

regions of the country espe-

cially from beels of Gaibandha,

'nigor' of Comilla and Begum-

the beel of Gaibandha show the

presence of concentration of

DDT is little less beyond the

World Health Organisation

(WHO) guide-line value while,

the water samples from Begum-

ganj beel are containing DDT

residues beyond WHO guide-line

Although the samples from

The surface water samples

The samples were tested at

The survey on the surface

It said the presence of the

port, according to BSS.

Commission (BAEC).

ment of the BAEC.

ganj beel of Noakhali.

of the station administration. Centring round the station, a powerful porters' union has grown up. It is estimated that the total number of porters is about five hundred. It is alleged that this union of porters wields great power and influence. Though the station management has fixed the rate of porterage at Tk 5 per load, it is hardly followed by the porters who reportedly charge five to six times higher than the pre-

Another complaint relates to the creation of artificial scarcity of intercity train tickets. From various sources it is learnt that a section of employees allegedly create an artificial scarcity by making over a large number of the tickets to the persons engaged in black marketing. It is understood that there is a large racket operating in this behalf which involves both leaders of the porters and some station employees. is also the other side of the picture. It is said that when a large

number of tickets remain un-

sold, the racket agents in collu-

sion with the staff, manage to

return them to the booking of-

fice which are shown as losses in the computers. This is not the end of the story. As the unsold tickets with seat numbers are returned to the ticket counters, many passengers are compelled to buy tickets for unnumbered seats shown as vacant on the computers from some unscrupulous employees with extra payment of Tk 20 to Tk 30 per ticket. This kind of complaints is received from numerous passen-

The security system for the

station is reported to be far from satisfactory. It is alleged that there is a laxity in the matter of protection of valuable property of the railway. In this respect, some collusion is reported among the security

agents, the porters' leaders and

the blackmarketeers. Since the eighties, there has been a trend of growing introduction of coach services for long-distance journeys. Because of their better standard of service, the coach operation business has been reportedly prov-ing more profitable. On the other hand, the railways, inspite of a large demand for availing of their services, are proving themselves a losing concern. The recurring losses every year have been the characteristic of railway operation in Bangladesh.

The causes of the malaise are said to be deep-rooted. At present, according to sources, there are many loopholes in effective management of the railways. These provide opportunities to a racket of powerful operatives covering a wide spectrum of corrupt elements in the railway. Even within the periphery of the Kamalapur railway station, corruption is said to be rampant in the matter of illegal occupation and leasing of railway lands, stealing of valuable railway equipments and, corrupt practices in the handling of goods imported or due for export at the container depot.

All these factors, in their cumulative effects, make the Kamalapur Railway Station a prey to an uncertain future without definitive prospects of improvement.

The presence of residues of

dieldrin, lindane and DDT in

different water samples indi-

cates that the banned toxic pes-

ticides are sold at random and

The BAFC officials observed

MA Matin, the chief scien-

tific officer of IFRB said deter-

mination of pesticides residues

in water in a wider scale as well

as regulatory vigilance are

needed to protect water quality

in analysing the water quality said laboratory infrastructure

for monitoring residues re-

quires to be recognised and ex-

panded for safeguarding the wa-

ter resources from pollution of

Trafficking

From page 1

station in Bongaon, used for

trafficking children and

women from Bangladesh. "We

hope Indian police have taken

and women trafficked across

the border, police and BDR

officials said in most cases.

their initial destination was

About the fate of the children

toxic pesticides residues.

action," he said.

Matin, who is also involved

and environment.

in city today

Social Welfare and Employment Minister APW Melcut. week-long visit to Bangladesh. reports UNB.

During their stay here the ter for Youth and Sports.

NWD exchange

NARSINGDI, Dec 19: A new today, reports UNB.

Local parliament member Raziuddin Ahmed Raju inaugucations Minister Mohammad

versation, the Minister said the present government has taken steps to reach telephone service in the far-flung and remote areas of the country.

Sharif's man

From page 1 be more defamation of the judiciary and the judges than this, he said of another statement at tributed to Tarar in the masscirculation Urdu daily Jang.

Junejo based his ruling on a constitutional clause that bars acting in any manner, prejudi-Pakistan."

Chaudhury set the next hearter recess, the sources said.

counts belonging to Benazir, her husband Asif Ali Zardari and her mother Nusrat as well as the bank accounts of at least six companies.

minister in November, 1996, on charges of corruption and misrule, has denied allegation she siphoned off millions of dollars during her tenure as prime min-

put the total amount at more than 80 million dollars.

at Kalabagan, Grameen Bank's project in Gazipur, BRAC Sreepur-Maona project, Marine Diesel Academy in Narayanganj, Chittagong EPZ and Sri-mongal Tea Garden.

opens at Narsingdi

rated the exchange by making a telephone call to Telecommuni-Nasim in Chittagong.

up by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to investigate corruption among politicians.

ing for January 14 after the courts reopen following a win-

were produced before the court today, but neither Benazir, Nusrat, Zardari nor any counsel for them was present, the court sources said.

Benazir, sacked as prime

partment.

All 104 feared killed as SilkAir jet crashes

JAKARTA, Dec 19: A Singapore-owned SilkAir jet carrying 104 people crashed on the Indonesian island of Sumatra today, the airline said. All aboard were feared dead, reports AP.

Flight MI-185 left Jakarta's Soekarno Hatta Airport for Singapore, but lost contact with air traffic controllers and went down eight kilometers north of Palembang in Sumatra, SilkAir said in Singapore. The airline said it got confirmation of the crash from Indonesian officials. The plane was carrying 97 passengers and seven crew members.

An Indonesian search and rescue official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it

AL workers attack

BNP office in

Sirajganj

League activists allegedly at-

tacked the district BNP office

here today as a sequel to Thurs-

day's clashes between the two

ploded bombs during the attack

at about 5 pm. At least seven

The AL activists also ex-

The injured were admitted to

A clash between the two ri-

the local hospital. Armed police

have been deployed in front of

val parties occurred on Thurs-

day when BNP activists made

an attack on the former general

secretary of the district AL. At

least 40 people were injured in

Lawyers should

know techniques

of advocacy: CJ

terday emphasised on improv-

ing the techniques of advocacy

to develop professional skills of

is not enough to know the law

only - one has to know the

technique and methods as well,

he told a function at Osmani

Memorial Auditorium in the

the Australian Bar Association

jointly organised the function

- certificate awarding cere-

mony of "Intensive Trial Advo-

cacy Workshop" and the 4th

founding anniversary of Con-

tinuing Legal Education Pro-

trial advocacy concluded yes-

The five-day workshop on

20 injured

From page 1

College Gate area at about 8 am.

the defeated chairman candi-

date tried to resist police and

hurled bricks at them. They

opened fire on the demonstra-

Police used batons and

also overturned a police van.

The agitated supporters of

gramme (CLEP).

Bangladesh Bar Council and

To become a good lawyer, it

the lawyers, reports UNB.

Chief Justice ATM Afzal yes-

rival parties, reports UNB.

people were injured.

the BNP office.

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 19: Awami

was feared some of the Boeing 737-300 may have gone down in

SilkAir said a Fokker 50 plane was sent to the location where the plane was last heard from and spotted the wreckage.

The wreckage was sighted at the village of Parit 12, Makati Jaya, a swampy coastal area also known as Pulau Payung that can only reached by boat, the official Antara news agency reported. A search-and-rescue team of

three craft, including a C-130 and two Super Pumas, quickly arrived at the scene. The state-owned TVRI net-

work said that a soldier found several passports in the wreckage, including one belonging to

an American and another to a Malaysian.

There were probably no survivors, the director general of air transportation, Zainuddin Sikado, was quoted as saying by Antara.

SilkAir was set up in 1975 as the holiday operator arm of Singapore Airlines. It was originally called Tradewinds and changed names in 1992 to SilkAir. It flies to 21 business and leisure destinations in

It said this is the first Singapore Airlines or SilkAir plane to go crash. Today's crash was the second

major commercial jetliner accident on the island of Sumatra in three months.

Team in Pabna to detect arsenic contamination

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Dec 19: A high-powered team led by Dr Bakar N Kabir of the World Bank today visited Hatigara village under trict to conduct survey on arsenic contamination in tubewell waters.

The team will conduct similar survey in 203 villages under 50 thanas of 23 districts as part of its three-month-long pro-

team members made on the spot test and found arsenic contamination in tubewell waters of different houses.

Arsenic contamination in tubewell waters of this village was detected six months back after conducting a primary test

threat

Family members of a freedom fighter in Pabna district are now passing their days in a precarious situation as a terror ist group has been threatening to grab their landed property including the dwelling house, reports BSS.

mal Dutta, also a senior journalist, vesterday appealed to the home minister to immediately look into the matter and save their lives and property from the constant threat.

In a statement, they said that the terrorist group through a fake document tried to grab their property forcibly on December 13.

The terrorist group is also threatening that they would occupy the lands by killing all members of Bimal Dutta's fam-

The land owners filed a case with the Second Sub-Judge's Court in Pabna which served an interim injunction in this regard, the statement added.

jointly by Dhaka Community Hospital, Public Health Engineering Department and Direc-

torate of Health. Several persons with skin diseases caused by drinking arsenic polluted water were also found in the village. While talking to The Daily

Star, the team leader Dr Bakar N Kabir disclosed that tubewell waters in many unions and villages under Bera thana are found containing arsenic within permissible level. The other members of the

team were Dr Deepak Battacharya, Chief of Water and Sanitation Section of UNICEF: Mike McCarthy, First Secretary. Engineering Adviser, DFID, British High Commission; Mofazzal Haque, National Field Programme Officer, WHO; Zahirul Haque, Superintending Engineer, Department of Public Health Engineering, Rajshahi; Miss Lamia Karim, Raice University. America: GB Sarkar Senior chemist, WHO: Abdus Sattar, chemist, Department of Public Health Engineering and Prof Quazi Kamruzzaman, Chairman of Dhaka Community Hospital.

Train service

From page 1 left Sylhet station at 5:55 am on Wednesday.

Train service to and from

Sylhet was first suspended on stations.

11 days, Railway sources

Gunshots, blasts rock Jamal Khan road area in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Dec 19: Gunshots and bomb blasts rocked the entire Jamal Khan and Momin road areas this evening while traffic movement came to a halt for sometime, witnesses

Police said no casualty was reported.

JCD alleged that some rival activists had attacked its function by exploding bombs. Police rushed to the spot and

brought the situation under control.

City BNP meets An emergency meeting of the

Dhaka city BNP will be held at the party's central office at 4 pm today, reports UNB. All members of the city convening committee, thana com-

mittee presidents, general secretaries and convenors, and the BNP-backed ward commissioners have been requested to attend the meeting.

BIMSTEC

From page 1

Four countries of the South Asian region formally launched the grouping to act as a bridge between the Indian Ocean Rim countries for expansion of trade and investment and for acting as an economic link between South-East Asia and Southern Asia. The organisation was launched in the Thai capital on June 6 this year.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury will leave for Bangkok tomorrow to participate in the twoday ministerial level deliberations.

BNP MPs

From page 1 Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia at 10 am. Opposition Chief Whip

Khondakar Delwar Hossain has urged all BNP MPs to be present at the Minto Road residence by 9:30 am. Earlier on Thursday, BNP in

its standing body meeting decided to launch an allout movement to resist the "black agreement" signed by the government on the Chittagong Hill Tracts issue, according to UNB. The main opposition also

sounded a note of warning to the government for its "bid to formulate new repressive black laws to suppress the opposi-It called upon the govern-

ment to give up such a plan and urged the people to remain alert. "No evil attempt to foil the hard-earned democracy and democratic rights will be allowed to succeed," the meeting said in a resolution.

The BNP standing committee expressed concern over the price-hike of essentials, deterioration of law and order, violence in the ongoing UP elections and the failure of the government to tackle the situation.

মহান বিজয় দিবস উপদক্ষে

অংশগ্ৰহণে ঃ

বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ

বাংলাদেশ পরমাণু শক্তি কমিশন

বাংলাদেশ কম্পিউটার কাউপিল

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও কারিগরি তথ্য সংগ্রহ ও বিতরণ কেন্দ্র (ব্যালডক)

ডঃ কুদরাত-এ-বুদা রোড, ঢাকা

তারিখ ঃ ২০ ও ২১ ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৭ সময় ঃ সকাল ১০-০০ টা থেকে বিকাল ৫-০০ টা

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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US expert on SPA that the United States governprejudicial act being committed ment, in late 19th century, en-

adding, "virtually any act of dissent could be construed as prejudicial." Prof Eskridge said that Constitution provides for emergency powers in emergency situations. But the SPA is not lim-

tentially all engulfing loop-Giving his view on the CHT accord, the law professor said, "It seems it has legal basis. The BNP has not challenged it in the court. Most governments have

ited to emergency situations, it

is applicable in normal circum-

stances, which make it a "po-

power to enter into treaties." He replied in the positive when asked whether it was legally correct to enter into an accord with some groups and whether it would be legitimate in the eye of law.

In this regard he mentioned

contaminating surface water

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed with the winners of Lux-Anyadin Eid

Random use of toxic pesticides

DDT in water is 19 microgram per litre.

crogram per litre.

Jhalakathi Poura chairman

the second time. Chairman Abdul Halim Gazi has been put under suspension following a recent letter signed and issued by the Secretary,

in connection with two cases. Earlier, he was suspended after an arms case was filed

thana in September.

tered into dozens of treaties with native indigenous tribes, although there is no provision. or even mention, of American Indians in the US Constitution. are sold to camel stables," said a He said all the treaties signed between US government and Indian tribes have been valid and within the frame-

work of US laws. Some have

been litigated - where certain

tribes would sue to enforce na-

tive Indian rights. Sometimes

the government or the tribe

concerned would re-invoke some clauses of a treaty. The Professor also said some treaty rights were superseded by statutes. Most treaties with native tribes have some sort of Senate approval, he stated and added that the US Congress has the authority to supersede treaties.

BAEC survey report

The WHO guideline value for

indiscriminately used in the country. The residue of dieldrin found in the water samples of that the presence of the residues Gaibandha beel is 0.64 microof extremely toxic pesticides in gram per litre while residues of the surface water is a matter of lindane are 0.231 and 0.547 migrave concern.

suspended

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Dec 19: Chairman of Jhalakathi Pourasava has been suspended temporarily for

Ministry of Local Government

against him with Jhalakati

Bombay. Syndicate leaders in Bombay then decide where and how these people could be exploited. "The women are sold to brothels or rich people in Pakistan or in the Middle East and most of the children are smuggled to Abu Dhabi where they

> senior police official. "But the most dreadful thing happens when the international human organ traders set their eyes on them," he said. While the law enforcing authorities ponder over the prob-

lem, the most notorious leader of the Jessore syndicate, Hasan, now remains at large. He is wanted by police on various charges including murder, child and women trafficking and smuggling. Local people said Hasan is the main leader of the syndicate in the area and nothing happens in the border without his knowledge and sup-

Dutch team due

A four-member delegation of the Netherlands, headed by its will arrive in Dhaka today on a

team members will call on the Prime Minister, the Commerce and Industries Minister, the State Minister for Labour and Manpower and the State Minis-They will also visit Agar-gaon slum, Child Labour School

100-line NWD telephone exchange was opened at Hasnabad in Roypura thana of the district

During the telephonic con-

any person from becoming a member of parliament if found "propagating any opinion, or cial to the integrity or independence of the judiciary of Pakistan, or which defames or brings into ridicule the judiciary or the armed forces of

Benazir

From page 1

Swiss authorities said in October they had blocked around 20 million Swiss francs (13.7 million dollars) in bank ac-

Copies of the Swiss orders

She went to court in her home province of Sindh in October to challenge the petition from Sharif's investigation de-

Swiss media reports have However, none was arrested in this connection till filing of this report. Probe into Diana's death

Rees-Jones recalls nothing new ana's Mercedes was rented. PARIS, Dec 19: Bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, the only

in charge of the case. But he didn't recall any significant new details, AP quoting a source close to the investigation Rees-Jones, 29, looked unsteady as he entered the Palais de Justice, trailed by dozens of photographers. His face was still heavily scarred from the

Aug. 31 accident that killed Di-

ana, her boyfriend Dodi Fayed,

survivor of the car crash that

killed Princess Diana, met

again today with a French judge

and their driver. Investigators had been hoping that Rees-Jones, who has struggled with memory loss since the crash, could remember more of the events leading up to the accident. But a source close to the case said after the meeting that Rees-Jones couldn't remember anything else of

"There is nothing new," the

source told The Associated

Press on condition of anony-

mity. "He still doesn't remem-

significance.

ber the accident. Rees-Jones's lawyer, Christian Curtil, said only that the two-hour meeting had "gone well" and that his client was "doing better physically." He said his client had told him to withhold further comment. After the meeting, Rees-

Jones, flanked by four body-

guards, was spirited through a

He was whisked back to the airport, where he was taking a private plane back to England. The bodyguard, who works for the Fayed family, has al-

ready met twice with French

investigators - in September and early October. Since Oct. 3 he has been recuperating in Wales. He returned to Paris in November for a 24-hour visit according to legal sources. At that time he met with doctors

Rees-Jones has said in the past that he only remembered leaving the Ritz Hotel and being followed by a white car. Opinion poll

From page 1

quences" so that people can use

natural gas over a longer period

and revisited the scene of the

crash.

of time. About 88.8 per cent of the respondents think that ensuring a "safe minimum reserve" for Bangladesh is a "must" before export is allowed. Only 6.5 per cent of people interviewed were totally opposed to the idea of exporting gas or oil and only 4.7 per cent favoured export for

Of the respondents, 89.9 per

cent feel that the on-going negotiations with foreign oil companies must be transparent to avoid future controversies and complexities. The poll was led by Prof Ainum Nishat of BUET and Dr

quick economic gain.

Bera Pourasava of Pabna dis-

gramme. During today's visit, the

Freedom fighter's family under

The family members of Bi-

situation will end," an official said.

pended eight times for a total of

"None knows when such a

Occidental allowed the BR to operate trains after more than five months, on November 26. Since then, as asked by, Occidental, train service was sus-

June 15 this year after the huge explosion and fire at Magurchhara gas field, located between Srimangal and Bhanugachha

pointed out. বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়ের উদ্যোগে

विख्वान ७ थ्याकि थपनी

জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘর

ञ्चान ३ वि त्रि এস আই আর প্রাঙ্গন

আপনি আমন্ত্রিত

back entrance to evade reporters. He rode in a convoy of two black Mercedes - rented, according to the drivers, from the AK Enamul Haque of North same company from which Di-South University.



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