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The Daily Star

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Star

Images of '97

We are happy to announce to our readers that we will be bringing out a special year-end edition of The Star Weekend Magazine — Images of '97 — a 48-page pictorial album of memorable events of 1997.

Given the volume and quality of this issue we are unable to distribute it today (Friday) and will do so tomorrow, with our Saturday issue of The Daily Star. We apologise for any inconvenience to our readers.

Ominous sign at BIRDEM

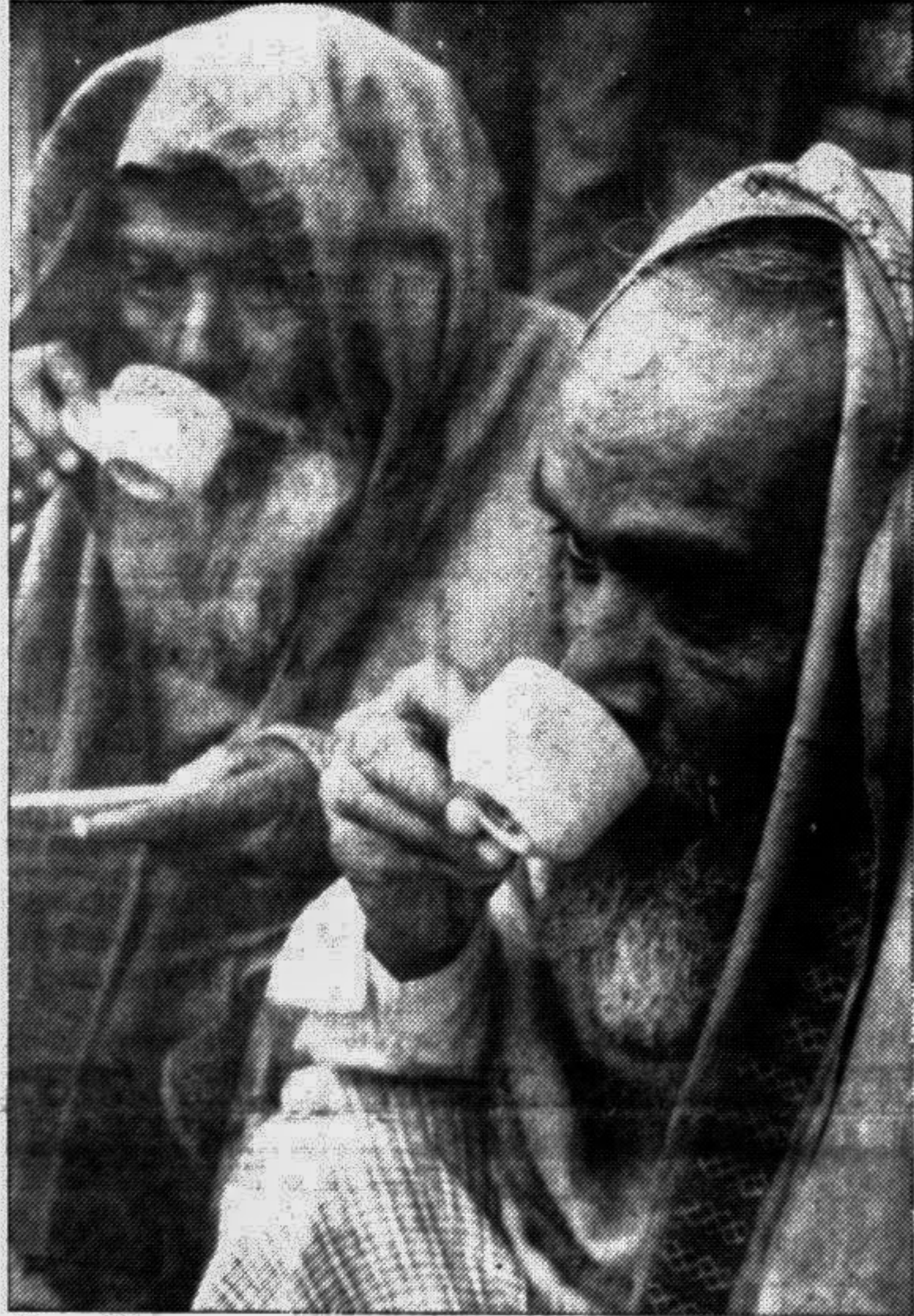
By Staff Correspondent

The Employees Welfare Association (EWA) of BIRDEM has threatened that they would declare the 'eight top office bearers' of the 1996 service rules not scrapped by January 5.

One of the main clauses of the 1996 Supplementary Service Rules of BIRDEM gave the authorities right to hire and fire. In a letter to the Director General of BIRDEM, dated December 23, EWA leaders said that they would also physically prevent the office bearers from entering office if their demands were not met.

The leaders resented the 'hire and fire' clause and demanded that the 1992 service rules be reinstated. "First they will have to scrap the 1996 rules, then we can sit down to talk and find ways to amend the 1992 rules," said Shamsul Haque Ahmed, Vice President of the EWA.

EWA had submitted a six-point demand to the BIRDEM authorities on November 5. The top office bearers, said that the 1996 service rules were not for those who had once



Two old men sipping tea at a roadside tea-stall in the biting cold yesterday evening. — Star photo

Cold wave claims 5 more lives

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 25: The severe cold wave, now sweeping the country, claimed at least five lives in three northern districts of the country in last 24 hours till 9 pm today, reports UNB.

Two of the deaths were reported from Shahjapur and Sadar thanas of Sirajganj district. One of them was identified as Tafizuddin Bepari, 68, of Makra in Shahjapur thana, according to unofficial sources.

They said cold wave claimed lives of three persons in Gaibandha and Kurigram districts during the period.

Injured extortionist dies at DMCH

By Staff Correspondent

An alleged extortionist, who was fatally wounded in a mob beating in the city's Green Road area on Monday, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday morning.

Police and hospital sources said Oais Mustafa, 23, and Arif, 30, went to a motor garage at Green Road at about 12 noon on Monday. They demanded ten thousand taka from the owner of the garage.

As garage owner refused to pay them any toll, they had an altercation with the owner and workers of the garage. At one stage, the workers with the help of local people beat up Oais and Arif mercilessly and handed them over to the police.

Police immediately took them to DMCH in critical condition where Oais, son of Abdul Motin, a resident of Konapara under Demra thana, succumbed to his injuries at about 7 am yesterday.

The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy. However, police could not arrest anyone in this connection till filing of this report last night. A case was lodged with Dhanmendi thana in connection with Monday's incident.

Muggers stab 7 in city

By Staff Correspondent

At least seven people, including a woman were stabbed while resisting a gang of muggers on Banogram Lane under Sutrapur thana in the city last night.

Six of the injured were identified as Shamim Ara, 32, Monir Hossain, 35, Mohammad Ali, 34, Alauddin, 30, Abdur Rahim, 52, and Rezaul, 35. All of them were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

According to hospital sources, at about 8 pm, a gang of about ten youths snatched a gold chain from Roni, a young man. As Roni cried out for help, local people rushed to resist the muggers. But the gang attacked them with sharp weapons and stabbed seven persons.

However, none was arrested or no case was lodged in connection with the incident till filing of this report last night. Sutrapur police said they heard about the incident, but could not give further details.

Bankruptcy courts start functioning in Feb

By Staff Correspondent

Two Bankruptcy Courts and two Metropolitan Courts of Sessions (MCS) — one each in Dhaka and Chittagong — are likely to start functioning by early February next, official sources said.

Each MCS will be manned by a judge of the rank of sessions judge. Besides, there will be five additional sessions judges and seven assistant sessions judges.

The Establishment Ministry has created the posts and the Finance Ministry has sanctioned the required funds, the sources mentioned.

The MCS in Dhaka may be housed in the old city corporation building at Luxmibazar and the other option is to construct one floor each in the two

four-storied buildings of the district judge's court, Dhaka.

Officials of the Law Ministry said the MCS will have jurisdiction to try only 'sessions cases' from the Metropolitan area while the Court of District and Sessions Judge will try civil cases from the entire Dhaka district and sessions cases from all areas of the district other than the metropolitan area.

The provision for setting up of MCS was made as early as in 1976 and was to be made effective in 1979, under the same law which provided for the creation of metropolitan magistracy and metropolitan courts.

A four-member committee set up by the present government early this year suggested

the creation of MCS for quick dispensation of criminal justice in the country.

The Bankruptcy Court will be initially manned by a judge of the rank of additional district judge. This arrangement is being considered due to shortage of senior officials in the judicial service," an official said.

In Dhaka, the Bankruptcy Court will be set up in the Bangladesh Bank complex at Motijheel.

The Bankruptcy Act was passed in the Jatiya Sangsad early this year and was gazetted in March. The courts are being set up as per provisions of the Act.

CHT accord BNP's agitation across country tomorrow

Opposition BNP will hold rallies throughout the country and stage demonstration in cities and district headquarters tomorrow to press its demand for cancellation of the CHT peace accord, reports UNB.

BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will address a meeting at Shataiyu Angan of Ramna Park at 3 pm.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement yesterday urged all the city and district units of BNP and its front organisations to make the programme a success.

Tremors shake Ctg city

CHITTAGONG, Dec 25: Two mild tremors shook the port city this morning in a span of about one minute, reports UNB.

However, there was no report of any damage or casualty.

Local Met Office said the first tremor was felt at 7:23:02 am and lasted for 12 seconds while the second one at 7:24:20 am and its duration was 14 seconds.

The epicentres of the tremors were some 101-km and 125-km off the city respectively.

Inside Today Article

Does Dream Count?

Column: Do I Dare
by A Z M Obaidullah Khan
Page 4

Focus

Do women have any right, at all? Plans for airspace management; and Renewable energy for poverty alleviation
Pages 8, 9

Parity among all cadres demanded

By Staff Correspondent

The upgrading of 329 posts in the administrative cadre including that of the Metropolitan Magistrate, Deputy Commissioner and Additional Deputy Commissioner have evoked sharp reaction among other cadres.

The Establishment Division on December 21 upgraded the posts. Those who were in fourth, fifth and sixth grades were now placed in third, fourth and fifth grades in the National Pay Scale.

An emergency meeting of the Bangladesh Civil Service Coordination Committee Wednesday reviewed the situation and urged the government to remove what it said new discrepancies

in the pay scales of officials in other cadres, according to a press release of the committee.

The meeting observed that new discrepancies would be created following the arbitrary decision. It fails to understand the rationale behind the decision, the committee noted and urged the government to bring parity among all cadres.

Presided over by Mohammad Golam Habib, President of the BCS Forest Cadre Association, the meeting was attended by representatives of other cadres also.

They recalled that parity was established in 1977 among officials of all cadres but

Upgrading of 329 posts

See Page 12 Col 6

Probe body awaits information from black box

By Staff Correspondent

The committee probing the accident of Biman's F-28 aircraft is waiting for decoding of information from the black box and voice recorder of the plane.

The investigators have returned to Dhaka after completing 'preliminary survey' of aircraft, now lying on a marshy land at Omargaon village, eight km from the runway of Sylhet airport.

Meanwhile, a team of the F-28's insurance company is likely to arrive in the city from Singapore this afternoon. The team will go to Sylhet tomorrow for surveying the aircraft, Biman sources said.

Officials who visited the accident site
See Page 12 Col 4

Shibir-called hartal observed at Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 25: A dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the Islamic Chhatra Shibir protesting the killings of two students in police firing on Tuesday was observed peacefully at Cox's Bazar today.

Shops and business establishments remained closed and vehicles, including rickshaw were off the roads during hartal hours.

Shibir activists brought out a number of processions in the town defying section 144. No untoward incident was reported.

Meanwhile, a five-member enquiry committee led by Akmal Hossain Khan, additional district magistrate, was formed today to investigate the Tuesday's incident.

Road barricade programme observed in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Dec 25: An 8-hour road barricade programme was observed here today.

Police said the traders of the district put up barricade on Rangamati-Mahalchhari-Khagrachhari road from 6 am to 2 pm protesting extortionism by the Shantibahini.

Meanwhile, a tobacco trader Shah Alam of Kutukchhari Bazar was abducted by the members of Shantibahini on December 21 and later released on payment of a ransom of Tk 6,000.

Biman in quest of hired wings

By Staff Correspondent

Biman authorities are trying to temporarily hire an aircraft from the National Airlines of Australia to meet the acute shortage of aircraft in the airlines' domestic fleet.

Biman sent an urgent fax message to the Australian airlines in this regard on Wednesday and is now waiting for reply.

Meanwhile, purchase of two narrow-bodied aircraft for its domestic routes is awaiting approval from Biman's Board of Directors.

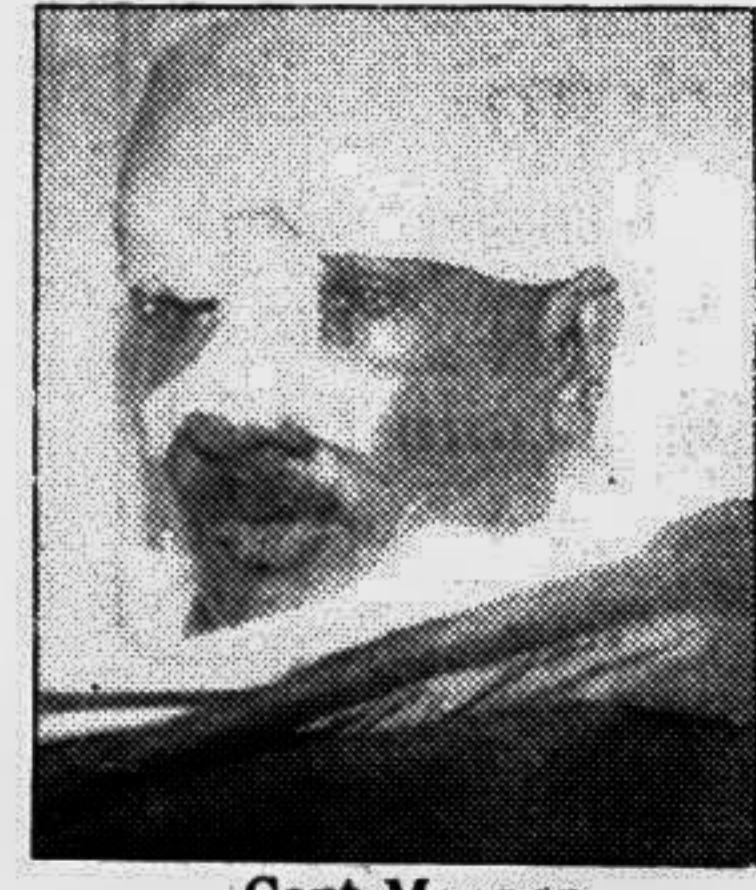
Sources said Biman is planning to introduce European aircraft ATR-42 and Canadian aircraft D-8-300, both having about 50 passenger seats.

All the domestic flights of Biman were suspended after an F-28 aircraft met with an accident in Sylhet on Monday last.

Biman is now cutting down the number of flights in several domestic routes to maintain its service in the Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet routes due to scarcity of aircraft, the sources said.

The national flag carrier is unable to maintain about 60 domestic flights in eight routes each week as the airline has now only one narrow-bodied ATP aircraft for its domestic routes.

See Page 12 Col 8



Capt Mannan
Captain, crew tightlipped

By Staff Correspondent

The four crew of Biman's Fokker-28 aircraft that crashed in Sylhet were brought back to Dhaka yesterday afternoon and admitted to the Holy Family Hospital.

Captain Mannan and the three others — all injured — were flown back to the city by an ATP aircraft and taken straight to the hospital. But they declined to talk to news-

See Page 12 Col 2

One shot dead by dacoits in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Dec 25: One person was killed and four others were injured when a group of armed dacoits opened fire on them at a village west Shakkura under Boalkhali thana last night, reports BSS.

According to district police, a group of armed dacoits entered the house of one Dhanabashi Jaladas and tied up the family members at gun point.

The dacoits open fire when Dhanabashi tried to resist them.

The houseowner Dhanabashi Jaladas, 60, died on the spot.

Production at AJM resumes

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 25: Production at the Adamjee Jute Mills resumed today following a fruitful discussion between the workers and the authorities regarding the payment of weekly wages.

Workers stopped working and closed the biggest jute mills of the country yesterday when the authorities announced that the payments of the workers would be made next Monday instead of Thursday, the pay-day, due to unavoidable circumstances.

Gen Mustafiz visits grave of Bangabandhu

Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, Bir Bikram, yesterday visited the grave of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara in Gopalganj, reports UNB.

The Chief of Army Staff placed wreath at the grave and paid glowing tributes to Father of the Nation. He also offered munajat there.

General Mustafiz, recalled with the highest esteem and gratitude the memories of the great leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman whose clarion call inspired him to defect on March 25, 1971 from the then Pakistan Army.

Earlier, on his arrival at Tungipara, the Chief of Army Staff was received by Jessore Area Commander Major General Abu Kaiser Fazlul Kabir.

Ctg port channel risky No night navigation for over a month

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Dec 25: Night navigation in Chittagong port channel remains suspended for over the month causing serious dislocation in movement of ships to and from the jetties, port sources said.

Chittagong Port Authority suspended night navigation over a month ago after a lighterage coaster carrying cement was later marked and night navigation was suspended for free movement of vessels.

The lighterage coaster — Bandura — sank when hit by a foreign container vessel, MV Kota Bintang.

The accident occurred while the coaster was entering port jetty lighting cement cargo from a mother vessel at the outer anchorage and the foreign vessel was sailing out with container cargo. The accident site was later marked and night navigation was suspended for free movement of vessels.

See Page 12 Col 8

YOUNG PEOPLE, SPEAK OUT

The Daily Star, in co-operation with The British Council, is organising a

Conference of Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs

on Sunday, the 28th of December, 1997, 3:30 pm
at the British Council Auditorium

How can Bangladesh face the world of the Twenty-first Century?

How can young people move forward in their own respective fields?

IT IS TIME TO SPEAK OUT
and prepare
an AGENDA FOR ACTION

If you are YOUNG, VISIONARY and between 25 and 35, come and
JOIN THE CONFERENCE

Participation is free, but by registration and invitation only

REGISTER TODAY
(Contact Rafi Hossain/Manjurul Kabir Kollol between 5:00 & 7:00 pm
at The Daily Star on phones 863036, 500092-4)

C-1064

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

(উৎসে মূল্য সংযোজন কর কর্তন সংক্রান্ত বিধানাবলী)

সরকার উৎসে মূল্য সংযোজন কর কর্তন করে, বেশ কিছু সেবা প্রদানকারী (যেমন, নির্মাণ সংস্থা, মোটরগাড়ির প্যারেঞ্জ ও ওয়ার্কশপ, ডকইয়ার্ড, ছাপাখানা, ইজারাদার, কনসালটেন্টসী ও সুপারভাইজারী ফার্ম এবং যোগানদার) ক্ষেত্রে সেবা গ্রহণকারী সকল সরকারী, আধা-সরকারী সংস্থা, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠান, বেসরকারী সংস্থা (এনজিও), ব্যাংক, বীমা প্রতিষ্ঠান এবং লিমিটেড কোম্পানী কর্তৃক সেবামূল্য প্রদানের সময় উৎসে মূল্য সংযোজন কর কর্তনের বিধান থাকলেও তা কোন কোন সেবা গ্রহণকারী যথাযথভাবে কর্তন করছে না বা কর্তন করলেও তা যথাযথ সরকারী বাতে জমা প্রদান করছে না।

মূল্য সংযোজন কর আইন-১৯৯১-এর ধারা-৬-এর উপধারা (৪গ) অনুযায়ী বর্ণিত সেবা গ্রহণের বিপরীতে সেবা গ্রহণকারী কর্তৃক উৎসে মূল্য সংযোজন কর কর্তন ও তা সরকারী কোষাগারে "১৪-ক মূল্য সংযোজন কর" বাতে জমা প্রদান একটি আইনগত বাধ্যবাধকতা। উপরিউক্তভাবে সেবা গ্রহণকারী কোন প্রতিষ্ঠান কোন সেবা প্রদানকারীর নিকট থেকে সেবামূল্য গ্রহণের সময় উৎসে মূল্য সংযোজন কর কর্তন করে সেবা গ্রহণকারীকে সে ক্ষেত্রে এই বকেয়া মূল্য সংযোজন কর পরিশোধের সব দায়-দায়িত্ব সেবা গ্রহণকারী ব্যক্তি/সংস্থার উপর এমনভাবে বর্তাবে যেন এক্ষেত্রে সেবা গ্রহণকারী নিজেই একজন সেবা প্রদানকারী এবং এক্ষেত্রে সেবা গ্রহণকারীকে মাসিক ২ শতাংশ হারে সুদসহ বকেয়া মূল্য সংযোজন কর পরিশোধ করতে হবে।

এ বিষয়ে আরো বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য নিকটস্থ মূল্য সংযোজন কর অফিসে বা নিম্নলিখিত ঠিকানায় বা ফোন নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারেঃ

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ডিএফপি-২৯১০০-৩৪/১২
৩-১১০

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

Manpower export to Malaysia Regaining lost image Dhaka's prime task

By Reaz Ahmad

Bangladesh is strongly pursuing its case to resume manpower export to Malaysia once the ban on recruitment of foreign workers in that country is lifted, possibly early next year.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad recently hinted at lifting the ban after adoption of a new policy for recruitment of foreign workers. The policy is being prepared now and is likely to take effect early next year, official sources said here recently. The ban was imposed over a year ago.

Malaysia, with a population of about 20 million, has some two million foreign workers now. But influx of illegal foreign workers has, of late, become a big problem for that country.

Over three lakh Bangladeshis work in Malaysia with legal work permits. Talking advantage of a grace period offered by the Malaysian authorities, some 1.5 lakh more Bangladeshis got their stay there legalized in recent months.

As prospect for more jobs in Malaysia brightens, at home, there is a lack of proper coordination between the manpower ministry and the private recruiting agencies to stop illegal export of manpower there by a section of unscrupulous dealers, which somehow tarnished the good image of Bangladeshis in that country in the past.

Both the ministry and the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) feel the necessity of better coordination but it has never happened.

Talking to The Daily Star Minister of State for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan said Bangladesh's potential for larger shares in overseas job markets were being affected by adoption of illegal means by some people. But he could not say what measures his ministry is going to take to stop it.

The minister said that over 3,000 Bangladeshis, now languishing in detention camps in Malaysia, would be brought back home before fresh manpower export to that country

See Page 12 Col 8