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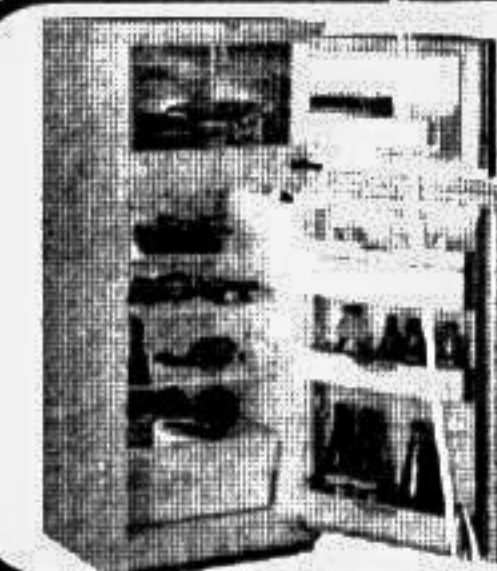
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Bangabandhu murder case

Taheruddin Thakur was involved in events at Radio station, says IO

Taheruddin Thakur, the State Minister for Information, was involved in the events that took place at the radio station soon after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975, reports UNB.

"He (Thakur) voluntarily came to the radio station," said ASP Abdul Kahar Akand, the investigation officer (IO) in the Bangabandhu murder case during the cross-examination by the defence in the District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday.

Akand who is the last of 61 prosecution witnesses in the case told the court that the chiefs of the three services and other senior army officers were forced by Major Dalim to go to the radio station.

Replying to a defence query the witness said, no copy of the announcement of allegiance to post-August 15 government was available during his investigation.

"No document about Taheruddin Thakur was found at the radio station," he said. No document about the presence of Reazul and Pronob, two other witnesses in the case, was also available.

The ASP of the Criminal In-

vestigation Department (CID) told the court that the DG of radio station is dead and no producer, announcer, security personnel or driver of the radio station at that time was made witness in the case.

The prosecution witness admitted that Thakur was at his official residence during the killing, but denied that he was forced to go to the radio station by armoured car against his will or he was the victim of the situation.

Akand denied the defence suggestion that the chiefs of the three services discharged their duties on August 15, 1975 in the same position they were occupying a day before (August 14).

Asked if the three services' chiefs resigned or revolted after the August 15 killing, the witness said that they neither resigned nor revolted.

He informed that no relatives of the victims of August 15 incident was made witness in the case and no case was lodged against the plaintiff for the delay, as in the ejaahar he had described the reasons.

Akand also told the court that no officials who worked with Thakur was made witness other than four persons working in the radio. "However,

many officials were interrogated."

"No paper about crossing the ferries on way from Dhaka to Comilla at that time was found. I didn't seize any paper from government transport pool about traveling of ministers," he said.

He denied a suggestion that Prof Charted Alam was made witness to establish Thakur's connection with the army officers.

The IO admitted some names who were in both the Bangabandhu and Mushtaque cabinets. They included Mohammadullah, Justice Abu Syed Chowdhury, Prof Yusuf Ali, Faneer Bhushon Majumdar, Sohrab Hossain, Abdul Mannan, Monoranjan Dhar, Abdul Momen, Asaduzzaman Khan, Azizur Rahman Malik and Dr Mozaffar Ahmed Chowdhury.

Some names of the Mushtaque cabinet were Moslehuddin Khan (Manikganj), Syed Altaf Hossain (NAP), Shah Moazzem Hossain, Dewan Farid Gazi, Prof Nurul Islam Chowdhury and Nurul Islam Manju.

The cross-examination of the IO concluded yesterday. Judge Golam Rasul adjourned the hearing to resume on July 20.



BNP brought out a torch procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for today's half-day hartal.

—Star photo

Flood situation worsens

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have been marooned in both the districts while the road communication remained snapped, administration sources said.

In Chittagong, the worst affected areas are Raozan, Fatikchhari, Satkania, Mirsharal, Lohaghara, Anwara, Banskali and Sandwip island, the sources said.

Our correspondent reported that road communication between Chittagong and Rangamati also remained snapped from yesterday as the road was blocked at Ghagra due to landslide.

However, the administration was yet to take any measure to take the marooned people to safety or provide any other succour.

At Sandwip island, several thousand of people took shelter at high lands, sources said.

In Chakaria, three lakh of people have been marooned as most of the low-lying areas were submerged, district administration source said.

Our Pabna correspondent reported that a baby drowned in flood waters at Bangura.

Over five thousand families have been rendered homeless and nearly 8 thousand acres of land with standing crops have been inundated in the district due to onrush of waters from Jamuna and Padma.

Vast areas of 13 unions out of 18 in greater Pabna district have been flooded.

Our correspondent from Rajshahi said low-lying areas of the district have been inundated due to heavy rains for last three days.

At least 15 houses and some areas land have been washed away by erosion of the river

Padma.

In Rajshahi city, some areas including Shaheb Bazar, Rani-bazar, Shalbagan, Kaliganj, Laxmipur, central Park, Sadhur More and Kazla, remained under knee deep water for three days.

Water level of Padma marked sharp rise at Rajshahi point. Strong current of the Padma has washed away 15 houses in Srirampur and Kazla areas in the city.

Our Gaibandha correspondent said that flood situation in the district deteriorated and more areas went under water. Gaibandha-Balashi road went under water at several points.

Due to flood water, a Santahar-bound local train derailed at Salmara on Bonarpara-Santahar section. Rail communication remain suspended because the rail track went under water at some points.

UNB correspondent from Bogra reports: A vast area in Dhunat thana was flooded after the flood control dam at Shimulbari developed a breach Tuesday night. One person drowned in Sonatola thana and another died in wall collapse caused by incessant rain.

Faruk murder

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ganj thana said last night that they raided two places in Sutrapur thana Tuesday night in search of Kala Faruk and one of the six suspected killers, absconding since the incident.

Police sources said the murder case was transferred as the place of occurrence is in the jurisdiction of Dhanmondi thana in the city.

BNP MPs

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Quader Chowdhury and Moin Khan.

Following discussions with the leaders, Begum Zia called a meeting of BNP standing committee, the highest policy making body of the party, this evening to evaluate the developments.

UNB adds: Opposition Chief Whip Khondokar Delwar Hossain has admitted that some of the party MPs have deposited their resignation letters with the party chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia.

"They have done it on their own, there was no such decision of the party," he told newsmen after a meeting with Begum Zia at her official residence last night.

Delwar and some other senior leaders had a long meeting with the party chief. Other leaders were Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, M Saifur Rahman, KM Obaidur Rahman and Dr Khondokar Mosharraf Hossain.

"We have discussed the current political situation," Delwar told the waiting newsmen. He said depositing the resignation letters by some MPs will be discussed in the Standing Committee and other forums of the party.

Prof B Chowdhury and Saifur Rahman declined to make any comment.

One of the young MPs from Chittagong, who deposited the resignation letter to Begum Zia, told the news agency last night that there is no conflict in the party. I have deposited the resignation letter to the party chief as we are not allowed to speak in Parliament, nor we can work for the constituency."

PM accorded reception

From Page 1
CHT that remained neglected so long, the Prime Minister sought cooperation of all including the political forces in implementing those.

Thousands of people from all walks of life converged in Paltan Maidan amidst incessant rains to participate in the rally.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, who headed the 1001-member national committee, read out the citation at the reception programme and handed over a copy of it and a crest to the Prime Minister with thousands of people cheering. She was also given a standing ovation amid slogans wishing her a long life.

"With your statesmanly sagacity, you have successfully concluded the Ganges Water-sharing Treaty and the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Treaty. All these achievements have earned you respect and admiration not only at home but also abroad. Please accept the nation's homage for this unparalleled act of statesmanship", the citation said.

CHT

From Page 1
tion plan for the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Conducting all the activities of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council and the three hill district councils.

Conducting all duties of thana parishad, pourasava, union parishad and gram sarkar in the CHT as per existing laws.

Coordinating all working divisions concerned to maintain environment and geological nature of the CHT.

Taking steps for socio-economic development of all tribal and non-tribal people in the CHT and maintaining their education, culture, social traditions and customs, language, religion, behaviour and respective identity.

Conducting and coordinating the relief and rehabilitation activities and facing any calamity.

Observing and monitoring NGO activities in the CHT.

Supervising and coordinating all development activities of all local government bodies, including Regional Council and coordinating inter-ministerial/divisional development activities.

Administration of Chittagong Development Board.

Matters of International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development about the CHT.

Keeping liaison with all international agencies concerned about the ministry and all foreign matters.

Working about formulating all laws concerned about activities under the ministry.

Investigation and statistics about the matter allotted to the ministry.

it also congratulated the premier for "championing" human rights in the country.

Those who spoke on the occasion include representatives of various social forces—from a senior leader of the ruling Awami League down to a rich-shawpuller. All of them congratulated Hasina for her 'rare achievement of bringing back peace' in the CHT and 'guaranteeing' equal rights to all sections of people.

Noted citizens and people representing various communities were also present.

As it rained, many of those attending the function used umbrellas while others were drenched. The corridors of both the stadiums—Bangabandhu National Stadium and Bhashani Stadium—adjacent to Paltan Maidan, were crowded with people.

However, a gigantic pandal sheltered the VIPs on the large podium and the invited guests sitting around the dais. In the background of the colourfully-designed stage, there was a painting of mountain inscribed with 'Grand rally in support of peace and harmony: People's reception to Sheikh Hasina, the architect of peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.' There was also a painting of Hasina, carrying a white pigeon, and a portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Banners and placards hailing the CHT peace accord and congratulating PM were all around and drum beats kept the rain-soaked audience cheering. Tight security measures were taken to maintain peace in the area.

Popular singers rendered patriotic songs for several hours before the programme formally began at 4 pm. Verses from the holy Quran, the Geeta, the Bible and the Tripitak were recited at the start of the function. Popular actor Asaduzzaman Noor conducted it. A message from octogenarian poet Sufia Kamal was read out by him.

Health & FP

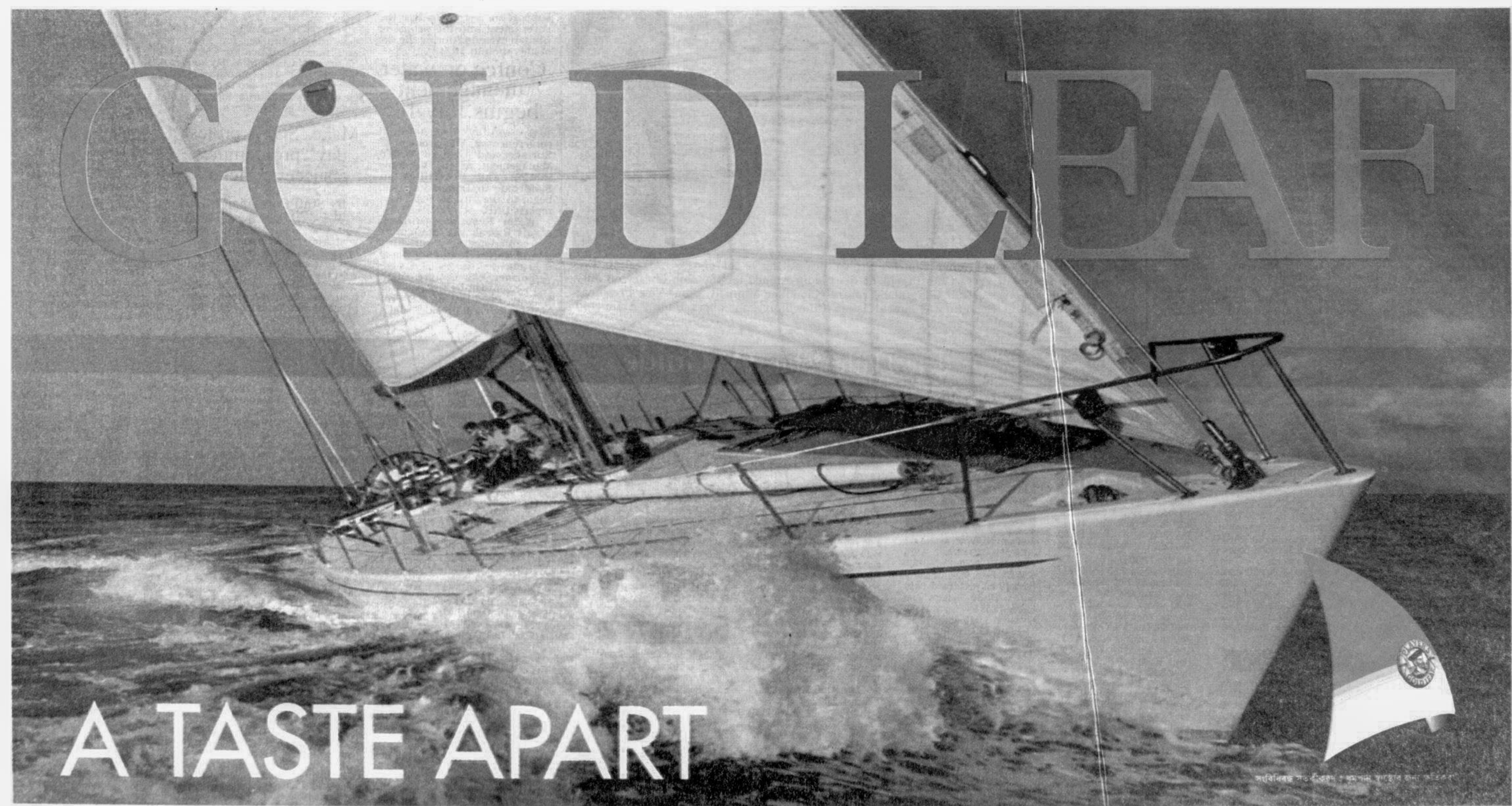
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client-focused delivery of all services related to health.

Under the reform programme, directorates at divisional and district levels will also be reorganised in phases, which will start after three years.

Sources in the health ministry and the health directorates, said that unification of the centres at the grass-roots level will facilitate implementation of the three billion dollar Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP) that started from July 1.

The sources said the status and salary of officers, staff and field workers at thana and union levels and the working system are being considered.



Editor: Mahfuz Anam