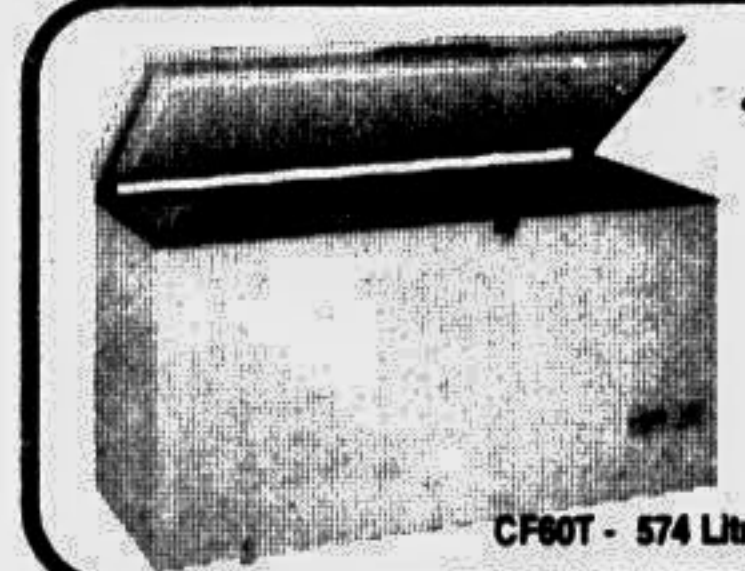


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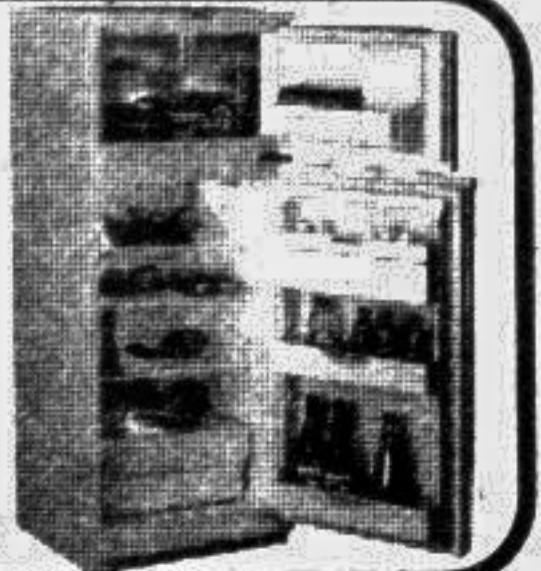
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ICC roundtable in city told

PARC should go for small but urgent reforms first

The Public Administration Reforms Committee (PARC) should not go for all-out reforms at a time, but implement some small yet urgent changes as a first step, reports BSS. This was observed by the participants at a roundtable on 'Reforms in public administration in the context of economic globalisation', organised by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), in the city yesterday.



Fahmda has to have her food cooked in a neighbour's kitchen as her house in a flood-hit area in the city has been submerged by flood waters. —Star photo

He also criticised the inter-service rivalry for disrupting the smooth functioning of the civil administration.

Maj Gen Moins appeal Disposal of petition challenging supersession Nov 15

By Staff Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has fixed November 15 for disposal of the petition for leave to appeal by Maj Gen Moinsul Hossain Chowdhury, now Bangladesh High Commissioner to Australia, challenging supersession by two of his juniors — Maj Gen A S M Nasim and Maj Gen Mahabubur Rahman — in the appointment of Chief of Staff of the Army.

The petition was moved before the Appellate Division on August 12 after a writ petition was rejected by the High Court earlier, a press release said yesterday.

It was submitted in the petition that Maj Gen Moinsul Hossain Chowdhury had joined the Pakistan Army in 1962 and participated in the Indo-Pak war in 1965. He was given the gallantry award of Bir Bikram by the Government of Bangladesh for his role in the War of Liberation. He was promoted to the rank of Major General in 1980 and thereafter he was appointed ambassador on deputation.

Maj Gen A S M Nasim and Maj Gen Mahabubur Rahman, both junior to Maj Gen Moinsul Hossain, were made Chief-of-Staff on August 27, 1996 and June 3, 1997 respectively without proper consideration of the case of Maj Gen Moinsul Hossain.

Floods may drag

From Page 1

The water held back onshore for more than a month is raising a number of questions, Sajedur Rahman said. It could be a rise in the water level of the Bay of Bengal, at least a metre higher than the normal astronomical tide, that is holding back the water reportedly due to Tsunami effect, he said.

The Tsunami, a heaving effect, follows tremors in the sea bed, that release huge amount of energy, producing mountainous sea wave triggering sea surges.

It affects wide areas along the coast, he said citing reports that there had been a quake in the sea bed off the Nicobar Island in the Bay of Bengal last week.

'We need to study it,' Sajedur Rahman said. 'The quake may have created the blockage in the drainage of flood water. But the rains and rush of water from the upstream are also contributing to the worsening of the situation, he said. The slow rush of water downstream is posing the question that something may have gone wrong, Rahman added.

100 hurt

From Page 1

100 people were killed in bomb explosion early last month as a sequel to a clash between activists of two rival unions. So far, about 200 cases have been filed with various thanas in the city by the rival groups accusing each other. However, no action has yet been taken by police in this regard.

One policeman killed, 50 others hurt in road accident

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 17: One police constable was killed and 50 others were injured in a road accident today at Gopahati under Pathia thana on the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway.

The dead was identified as Abul Hossain. Seven of the injured persons were rushed to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in critical condition while 22 others were admitted to the Natore Sadar Hospital. Others were treated at the Pathia Thana Health Centre.

The police personnel came from Dinajpur to perform duties at Bagha of Rajshahi where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was scheduled to visit today. But the PM's visit was cancelled due to inclement weather. The accident occurred when they were returning to Dinajpur today.

According to police, the accident occurred when the driver of the police van lost control of the vehicle and it fell into a roadside ditch.

DIG, Rajshahi Range, and SP of Rajshahi visited the place of accident and the injured policemen in the hospitals.

Outsiders

From Page 1

UNB adds: Police arrested an outsider from Suryasen Hall of Dhaka University yesterday following a dispute between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and outsiders at the hall.

Hall sources said a group of outsiders had beaten Parvez, also an outsider, and handed him over to the on-duty police there.

Khaleda's demand

From Page 1

Government machinery to keep on full alert to face any eventuality from further deterioration of flood situation.

He said relief goods were being distributed properly and there was no report of any inequity or corruption.

He, however, added that the government will do 'whatever is required for the interest of the distressed humanity.'

Floods

From Page 1

'So far 77,002 people have been attacked by diarrhoeal diseases since July 15 and 45 of them died,' said an official at the control room of the Health Directorate.

The official further informed that 2,436 people were affected by diarrhoea in last 24 hours till 12 yesterday noon and two of them died raising the death toll to 45. Meanwhile, another official at the Health Directorate said that cases of fever, dysentery and worms were also being reported from across the country.

5 court employees suspended for preparing false evidences

CHITTAGONG, Aug 17: Five employees of the District and Sessions Judge Court were suspended today on charge of preparing false evidences leading to the release of eight accused on bail, reports UNB.

The suspended employees are Bench Assistant Nur Mohammad, Sessions Assistant Mohammad Shahjahan and peons Mohammad Omar Khan, Monir Ahmed and Mohammad Nurul Alam.

District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Zahurul Islam gave the suspension order after the allegation brought against them was primarily proved. He also filed a departmental case against the employees and asked the Bar Council to cancel the licences of the lawyers of the eight accused granted on bail on the basis of the forged evidences.

The eight accused are — Toslimuddin, Nasiruddin, Fazl Haq, Ayesha Bibi, Kaosar Bibi, Mohammad Aminur Rahman, Mohammad Iftakhar and Mohammad Shah Alam.

Baburabad

From Page 1

landless families have been living for many years on yearly lease-outs.

The farmland, they said, was fraudulently declared as *jalmaha* three months back and the vested quarter played a major part in it.

The members of the delegation submitted a memorandum to the President praying for necessary help, compensation and medicare for the affected and injured landless people on humanitarian ground.

Eviction should be stopped and the land should be leased out to them on a regular basis, they told the President.

The President said that he would look into it. Among others, local MP Shahadul Hossain, former minister Tariquul Islam, former MP Dr Gazi Abdul Haq and Sakhira Municipality Chairman Abdul Jalil were present on the occasion.

Meghnaghat plant

From Page 1

also said that AES would provide machinery made by European multinational ABB or equivalent. It also specified a certain model of ABB equipment for the proposed plant.

PDB said, since AES had mentioned a model, the US company must provide ABB machinery. AES argued that PDB could not dictate such terms since its original proposal had kept some flexibility for changing machine configurations.

The final agreement between AES and PDB will take place only after successful final negotiations, the source said.

Bangabandhu Murder Case

Possibly Huda was entrusted with the job & sent by Farooq: SPP

All the waters of the Pacific Ocean will not be able to wash the sins, but the tidal wave coming from the Bay of Bengal in the form of rule of law will bring you (killers) to book, reports UNB. This was stated by Special Public Prosecutor Serajul Huq in his argument in the Bangabandhu Murder Case on the second day yesterday referring to the killing of Bangabandhu's 10-year-old son Sheikh Russel during the August 15, 1971 carnage.

The prosecution began its argument on Wednesday at the court of Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Kazi Golam Rasul. 'Why have you killed Russel? Was it really necessary to kill that minor?' Huq asked those accused of killing Bangabandhu and his family members.

Quoting a statement of Justice Kayani of Pakistan that 'our soldiers are so courageous that they have invaded their own country,' he said here also 'our brave soldiers could not pardon a minor boy like Russel.'

The special PP termed the August 15 killing 'the direst cruelty' and said: 'Let the passage of remorse stop, so that I can utter the truth.'

Wondering why Bangabandhu went upstairs before his being and closed the door of his bedroom for a while, the sweeping Huq himself guessed the answer: 'Probably to say his last prayer knowing the fate he was going to face soon.'

Bangabandhu came out after a short while from his room and faced the killers, he said quoting the statement of PW-1 Muhtul Islam. The cross-examination by the defence lawyers, the SPP argued, has proved that there was

no counter-fire from the Bangabandhu's house. About a reported (by PW-1) conversation between Major Bazul Huda and Major Farooq in front of Bangabandhu's residence on August 15 morning, when Major Huda told Farooq 'all are finished,' Huq said possibly 'Huda was entrusted with the job and sent by Farooq.'

On a suggestion by the defence lawyers during the cross-examination of PW-1, the SPP said where from the witness would show papers that he took admission in hospital, 'If I can't show my marriage document, does it prove I am not married?' he argued.

About another suggestion that the same Awami League government had continued after the killing of Bangabandhu, the SPP said: 'Taheruddin Thakur does not mean the whole Awami League.'

'It was a figment of imagination that the whole Awami League was behind the killing of Mujib,' he said. 'Mir Zafar didn't fight with his 25,000 troops against 1,200 soldiers, but that doesn't mean the whole Bengali nation was responsible.'

Referring to another suggestion that former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger would have been made an accused in the case, Huq said 'If the defence have any evidence, they can produce the same in court.'

He added: 'Probably the defence has knowledge about his (Kissinger's) involvement in the killing of Bangabandhu.'

Justifying the truthfulness of the content of the FIR filed after 21 years of the gruesome murder, Huq said PW-1 Muhtul Islam, who lodged the FIR, did not narrate any story, he stated what he had witnessed.

He added that the PW-1 had expected to admit what advisers called an 'inappropriate' and physical relationship with Lewinsky when she was a 21-year-old unpaid White House intern.

But they said he would insist he did not commit perjury when he denied an affair with Lewinsky in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case last January. Lewinsky, now 25, told the grand jury earlier this month of numerous sexual encounters with Clinton inside the White House, sources have said.

Clinton became the first sitting US President to give sworn testimony before a grand jury in which he is accused of crimes. His testimony was expected to take several hours.

Once it was completed his lawyer David Kendall was expected to deliver a brief statement to reporters.

Then Clinton was expected to give a nationally televised statement tonight to the American people, in an effort to control the damage from more than six months of insisting he did not have sexual relations with the person he at one moment referred to as 'that woman, Miss Lewinsky.'

McCurry, while insisting he did not know what Clinton would say in the testimony, said nonetheless he believes that Clinton 'needs to talk to the American people.'

He said Clinton, his wife and their 18-year-old daughter Chelsea are now expected to depart on Tuesday instead of tonight for a vacation on the Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard.

Crab export

From Page 1

farmed crabs and some catches from the nature, to be fattened at farms. From the wild the crabs are brought to the ponds where they are reared and fattened for some time before attaining the export size and weight up to 230 grams.

The exporters blamed red tapism for hindering the permission. But officials said every aspect of conservation of the crabs would be taken into consideration before a decision is taken. It would not take much time for giving the permission, they added.

Wall collapse

From Page 1

is under PDB. PDB officials, however, said they only conduct the electrical operation of the station. The responsibility of 'maintenance of the sub-station' lies with DESA.

Local people rushed to the spot and conducted rescue operation before police and fire brigade arrived, witnesses said. They recovered the bodies of Nurul Amin, Amena Begum and the girl from under the collapsed wall, witnesses added.

The bodies of Nurul and Amena were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. But the body of the girl was yet to be sent till the writing of this report last night. An unnatural death case was filed with Pallabli thana in this regard.

Clinton gives testimony

From Page 1

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আপনি কি পার্সোনাল কম্পিউটার ব্যবহারকারী

আপনি কি Y2K সমস্যা সম্পর্কে অবহিত?

Y2K সমস্যাকে কি এবং কেন? কম্পিউটারে তারিখ দেখার জন্য এতদিন পর্যন্ত ৬ অঙ্ক ব্যবহৃত হয়ে আসছে। অর্থাৎ ১৬ ডিসেম্বর ১৯৭১, এ তারিখটি লেখা হয় ১৬/১২/৭১ হিসেবে, যা হওয়া উচিত ছিল ১৬/১২/১৯৭১ করণাতে। বর্তমানে ব্যবহৃত কম্পিউটারের প্রোগ্রামে ২ অঙ্ক ব্যবহার করা হয় চার অঙ্কের বসলে সমস্যা হইবে এবং মনে, যেমন পদ্মা জাদুঘরী ২০০০ সাল লেখা হবে ০১/০১/০০ হিসেবে, যা ১৯০০ বা ১৯০০ বা অন্য যে কোন শতাব্দীর দশক জানুয়ারী বুঝাতে পারে। সুতরাং, তারিখ সম্পর্কিত যে কোন পদার্থের ক্ষেত্রে কম্পিউটার সৃষ্টি করবে মারাত্মক বিস্ময়। এটিই বিশ্বব্যাপী আন্দোলন সৃষ্টিকারী ও বহুল আলোচিত Y2K (Year 2000 Problem) বা Millenium Bug হিসেবে পরিচিত।

Y2K সমস্যা এড়াতে আপনাকে কি করবেন?

যদি আপনার পার্সোনাল কম্পিউটারে তারিখ সম্পর্কিত কোন জটিল পদার্থ না করা হয় তবে কম্পিউটারটি Y2K সমস্যার আক্রান্ত হওয়ার সম্ভাবনা কম। অবশ্য কম্পিউটারটি সম্পূর্ণরূপে Y2K সমস্যামুক্ত কিনা, তা আপনার কম্পিউটার সরবরাহকারীর কাছে যেতে জেনে নিই।

নতুন কম্পিউটার, কম্পিউটার নিয়ন্ত্রিত যন্ত্রপাতি এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট অন্যান্য ইলেকট্রনিক যন্ত্রপাতি কেনার সময় Y2K Compliant বা Y2K সমস্যামুক্ত হওয়ার শর্ত জুড়ে দিন এবং পরীক্ষা করে সরবরাহ নিয়।

পরিষদের জন্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে যোগাযোগ করুন।

Y2K সেল, বাংলাদেশ কম্পিউটার কাউন্সিল

১৯৯৭-০১/১১, সড়ক নং-৬, ধানমন্ডি আ/এ, ঢাকা-১২০৫

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