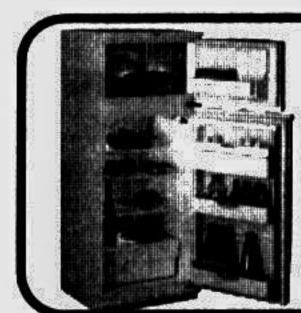
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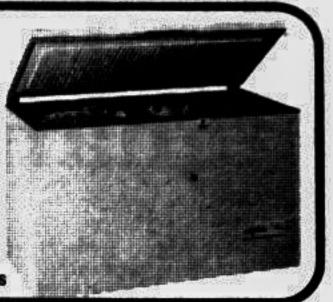


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Down to Earth

Food Regimen Patterns of City Dwellers

By AS M Nurunnabi

Food intake patterns of Dhaka city dwellers follow no specific lines. Apart from some basic elements which are discernible, there are peculiarities proclivities and idiosyncracies which make the subject quite interesting.

Urban food habits differ in many ways from rural ones which are essentially simple. As city denizens, by and large, are forced to pace themselves up for earning a living, their food habits undergo extraordinary changes. These changes mainly focus on how to prepare foods quickly and save time in enjoying those.

This essential need is growing fast as the process of urbanisation is picking up. At the same time, city limits are rapidly expanding making commuting more time-consum-

Naturally, the commuters leave their homes early to be on duty on time. In so doing, they cannot afford to spare much time in preparing food at home. So, they carry their own food or depend on the fast food shops which may be at hand. It is only in the past few

years that a proliferation of these fast food shops has been seen all over the city. The commercial and office neighbourhoods are where these shops are mostly concentrated. And here during lunch time, there is a heavy rush of customers. From this trend, it appears that a substantial change has taken place in the food habits of a large section of urban populace. No longer do they seem to depend on rice and curry to satisfy their appetite at mid-day.

At these fast food shops, the urban customers have become

S'pore to back

yesterday. Bangladesh sought

support of Singapore for the two

sought Bangladesh's support for

its candidature of the Security

Council's non-permanent seat

eral relations with special em-

phasis on trade and invest-

ment, manpower, education

and human resources develop-

ment. The two sides expressed

satisfaction at the current level

of relations and agreed to ex-

plore new areas of cooperation.

trade between the two countries

was significant and registered

remarkable growth in recent

years, the two sides agreed to

increase scope of Singaporean

investment in Bangladesh.

sources added. The two-way

trade during last fiscal year was

one billion Singapore dollars

(about 650 million US dollars)

and Singapore so far invested

175 million Singapore dollar

out of 400 million dollars regis-

tered with Board of Investment

Biman

progress but negotiations with

the others are proceeding posi-

A delegation from the Royal

Jordanian Airlines would be

coming to Dhaka soon to hold

further talks on launching a

joint-venture cargo operation

creasing pressure from ex-

porters, particularly those

sending wet cargo such as fish

and vegetables catering to the

needs of the Bangladeshi immi-

grant community in Europe, the

garments are also pressing Bi-

man for more space to meet

their shipment deadlines. They

prefer airfreight to avoid delay

in transfer by sea due to short-

age of containers and traffic

Airbus

"restoration" within the next

two-three days after the probe

committee completes its inves-

the crew and others concerned.

It has already talked to some

from ZIA started operating on

halted flight operation at ZIA

for 12 hours from 7:30 am, leav-

ing several hundred people

stuck up at the airport's depar-

ture lounge due to rescheduling

passengers, sources added.

schedule yesterday.

The committee will question

Meanwhile, all flights to and

Thursday's incident had

tigation.

of flights.

From Page 1

jam at the Chittagong Port.

Exporters of readymade

Gulf and North America.

Biman is coming under in-

with Biman, the official said.

tively, the officials added.

From Page 1

in Bangladesh.

While noting that two-way

for the term 2001-2002.

Meanwhile, Singapore also

The talks were held on bilat

posts.

acquainted with a large variety of food items which were previously alien to our gastronomical culture. Among the popular items are beef or chicken burgers, sandwiches, pizzas, hot dogs, salamies, pies, sasliks,

etc. Different types of cakes and pastries are also available. Some of these shops offer very expensive foods. Since some of the customers belong to high income brackets, the high prices of the products do not stand in the way of steady business of many of the shops having good locations.

Some popular brands of soft drinks also flow freely at these fast food shops. Thus a soft drink culture is already on the ascendancy in the urban areas.

The young age group, by and large, constitutes the larger segment of patrons of these fast food shops.

Another phenomenon worthy of notice is the large number of boys engaged in carrying food to the employees in different offices and business establishments from their homes on reasonable payments. This phenomenon is particularly noticeable at the shops in busi-

We all know how popular the so-called Chinese food is nowadays. The burgeoning growth of Chinese restaurants in the city is indicative of that popularity. A recent development is the operation of mobile restaurants in some selected localities of the city where educational and well-known business establishments are situated. A couple of these mobile restaurants are known for handling their food

items hygienically. There are innumerable spots on sidewalks in the city where

seasonal fruits are sold from mobile or makeshift stalls. The vendors are seen to do a brisk business particularly in areas where people gather in large numbers, such as railway stations, bus stations, steamer ghats, shopping areas, etc. To make their wares easily accessible to customers with small means, some of the fruits are cut into small pieces carrying low price tags.

Something undesirable, however, can be found about this trade from the hygienic point of view. Most of the fruits offered for sale, are either peeled off in whole or cut to pieces, and are kept without any cover putting consumers health

at great risk. Besides the fruit stalls, there are many spots on city thoroughfares where a variety of eatables are offered for sale. The fare mainly consists of rice, curry, dal and roti and different kinds of snacks and beverages. The locations of this business can be found mainly on the streets of Motifheel, Sadarghat, Tejgaon and other busy places like bus stops, railway stations, launch ghats, etc. Maintenance of hygiene and sanitary conditions preparing and handling the foods is lacking in most cases.

A significant aspect of our Bengali culture is reflected in our fondness for sweets. This is quite evident from the growing number of sweetmeat shops al over the city. The sweets are of a large variety and are irresistable to the connoisseurs.

Some of our citizens are fond of biriani, kebab, ice cream evident in the growing number of establishments catering these

From Page 1

where none can play with the voting right of the people," she

Opposition leader should read the Constitution to know how the polls will be held next in the country. "Her remarks about election are without any merit." She accused the opposition

anced statements after losing

while there was no flood in the country

money, she alleged, saying the people will take account of this

Referring to the flood situation, Hasina said while Awami League was in the opposition, it stood beside the people during their bad times. But now the opposition is busy criticising the government instead of helping

"You better help the people along with the government. This will benefit the people," she added.

The Prime Minister, during her day-long visit to the floodhit district, addressed several meetings at Shibchar, Rajoir and Madaripur town, and distributed relief among the flood victims.

Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury. Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, State Minister

JS body okays Code of Civil Procedure (Amend) Bill '97

amend "The Code of Civil Procedure Bill 1908" was earlier introduced in parliament and sent to the committee for

ment came at a meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban. It had earlier sought opinions of judges and lawyers of higher and lower courts, said a press release of the Parliament Secretariat.

had struggled to establish the rights of the people, including their right to vote.

"We've established a system

The Prime Minister said the BNP of starting to issue unbal-

its chance to plunder the relief. Hasina said while in power, BNP had exhausted the Prime Minister's Relief Fund through 'misappropriation.' They distributed Tk 25 lakh to each MP

They had plundered the

the people.

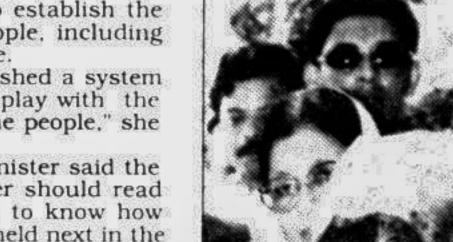
Forest and Environment

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs yesterday endorsed in principle "The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill 1997," reports UNB.

The bill seeking to further scrutiny.

The committee's endorse-







Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hugs a flood victim at Shibchar in Madaripur.

- PID photo

3 hurt in amonia gas pipe explosion in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Aug 21: Three persons were severing injured in Amonia gas pipe explosion in the godown of Sundarban Seafoods Ltd Thursday

The injured were identified as Dulal, 30, Ali Akbar, 26, and Mosharef, 30.

shrimp processing factory from where five rifles and 90 bullets were looted by miscreants from Ansars on duty in November last year.

5 electrocuted From Page 1

local people who started the rescue operation. Fire Brigade

power lines connected with the slum were cut off. Hundreds of people from nearby localities crowded there. Senior police officials were visiting the spot till filing of this



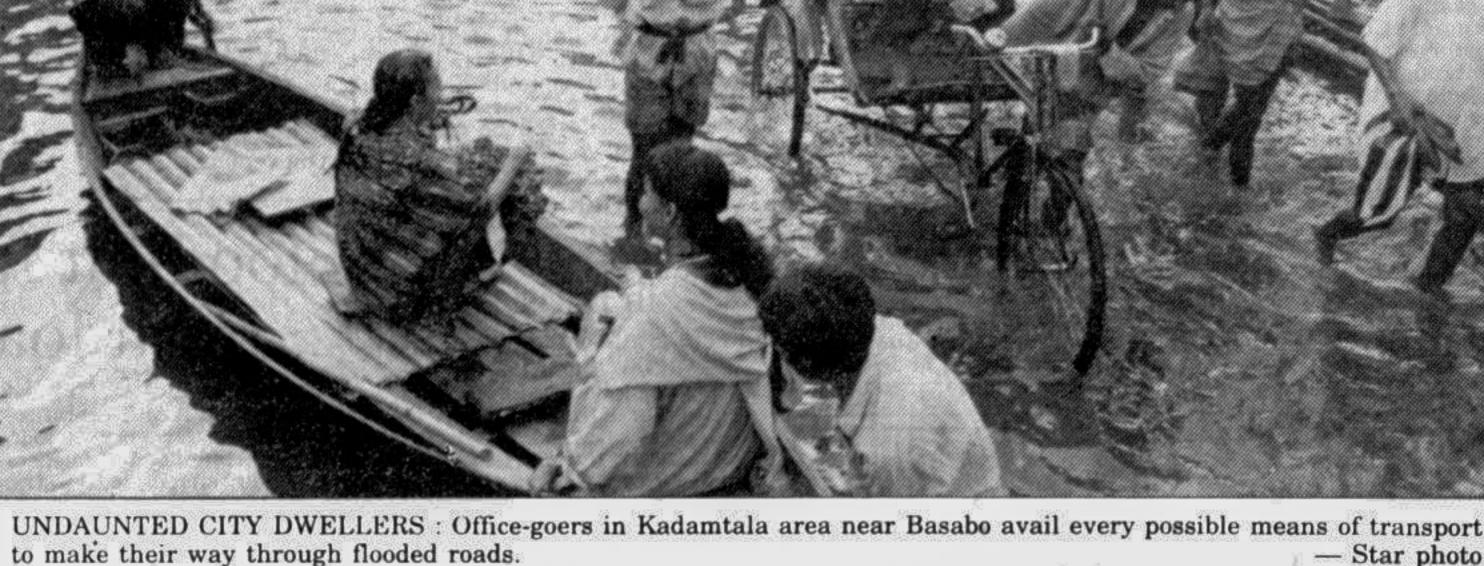
for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleg and Nure Alam Chowdhury Liton MP also addressed the meetings.

They are mechanics of the

as the slum was under chest deep water. Local people said the dead included a mother and her child.

Screams of the victims drew personnel from Tejgaon later joined them. Later, all the

report late last night.



Star photo

BNP Secy-Gen asks PM US missile attack

From Page 1 given," Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz told the Senate (upper

house) today. The attack on Afghanistan was a serious matter, he said adding that the people of Pakistan were 'justifiably outraged' over the loss of innocent lives, which was 'a cause of serious

The US also launched missiles at a chemical weapons-related factory in Sudan. Both attacks were in retaliation for the bombings at US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania which killed 257 people on August 7.

US military officials said that cruise missiles were fired from US navy ships in the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea Thursday.

A Washington report says. missile strikes against targets in Afghanistan and Sudan signalled what President Bill Clinton said would be a lengthy war Calling Thursday's strike a

pre-emptive measure, US officials nevertheless warned that the military action almost certainly would provoke a terrorist Some US airports tightened

security immediately, and the CIA told senior Clinton administration officials that the prospect of retaliation against Americans overseas was "very, very high." The State Department issued warnings to US citizens travelling or residing abroad

The FBI issued a nationwide alert to US law enforcement officials to watch for signs of terrorists action. Unidentified gunmen seri-

ously injured two UN workers in the Afghan capital of Kabul today, a day after Washington's missile attack. The United Nations con-

firmed two men. Italian and a French man, were shot as they drove in Kabul. No other details were available. Interrupting his vacation on

Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. Clinton jolted the press corps and the nation from the scandal over his relationship with a former White House intern with the surprise announcement of the strikes, which took place at 1:30 pm EDT (1730 GMT)

US ships in the Red and Arabian seas fired 75 to 80 Tomahawa cruise missiles at a suspected chemical weapons plant in Khartoum. Sudan, and a suspected Islamic militant base in eastern Afghanistan near the Pakistani border.

Smoke, flame and smoldering ruins signalled the destruction of the suspected chemical plant in Sudan. Pentagon offi-

From Page 1

lenge to development with its

enormous density of population

and problems. Bangladesh is a

microcosm of world poverty

and if we can solve its problems,

then there is a hope for the rest

of the world. The scale and

importance of the problems

that people and specially chil-

dren face in this country is

mistic about the potential for

development of Bangladesh. He

points out to a number of areas

where success could be boasted

about like iodising salt. EPI.

and vitamin A. In another two

years, Bangladesh will eradi-

cate polio which is another suc-

"The effort to end child

labour is now a model for all to

involve the private sector in

such a movement," says Car-

riere. "Another huge success

story is the achievement of uni-

versal water supply coverage. At

the same time, people using hy-

gienic sanitary latrines have

Carriere is now quite opti-

enormous.

cess story.

cials said it might take days to assess the damage caused by strikes in Afghanistan at the sprawling complex, which encompassed six separate targets in remote, arid countryside. Sudanese hospital officials

said at least 10 people were injured in the attack there. Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir said his country "reserves the right to respond to the American attack using all necessary measures," Egypt's Middle East News Agency re-

"This is not simply a response to some specific act. said Army Gen. Henry Shelton. chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, "but a concerted effort to defend US interests."

ported today.

At United Nations headquarters in New York, Ambassador Bill Richardson informed the Security Council that the United States acted in self-defense, in accord with the UN charter.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who led the push within the administration to strike, said the action demonstrates "there will be no safe haven for terrorists.

America's allies mostly reacted favourably to the US attacks, although many Arab nations condemned them. The Russian Interfax news agency quoted President Boris Yeltsin as saying he was "indignant and I condemn these bombings," although his spokesman later said Yeltsin mainly was upset at not being informed in advance of the strikes.

The US action sparked widespread backlash from the Muslim world.

AL labour front office ransacked in Mymensingh MYMENSINGH, Aug 21: A

group of miscreants ransacked a Sramik League office and 12 under construction shops at a market in the town today, reports UNB. They also burned the portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the Sramik League office. Witnesses said the miscre-

ants numbering about 50 attacked the Agriculture Mechanics' Sramik League office at Ganginarpar Hawkers Market with lethal weapons.

Local people said the attackers belong to opposition BNP but the cause of the attack could not be known immediately.

A tense situation was prevailing in the town. Police were deployed there.

increased from 15 per cent to 50

per cent. Now, we are offering a

package of hygiene education

which will result in a decline in

diarrhoea rate and reduction in

All schools will have hy-

giene education about how to

keep their latrines clean and

how to keep themselves clean. It

will first start in a small scale

and then be launched in a bigger

these and other direct pro-

grammes like weighing chil-

dren and giving temporary food

supplement to under-weight

children will bring malnutri-

tion rate from as high as 93 per

cent to 45 per cent, he said. "The

World Bank has already com-

mitted 700 million US dollars

for malnutrition control which

will help us to reduce malnutri-

ence of arsenic in groundwater

is now posing a new challenge

for Unicef to ensure safe

Carriere views that the pres-

In the next five to ten years,

malnutrition.

tion."

drinking water.

Quit at once or face agitation

Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday asked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to step down at once and hand over the power to a caretaker government for holding mid-term polls.

"If the government does not concede to our demand, we will go for agitation," he said. In an interview with the UNB at 29 Minto Road in the city. Bhuiyan pointed the fail-

ures of the government in political, economic and administrative affairs to substantiate the demand for mid-term elections. He said depositing the resignation letters of BNP MPs with the party chairperson is a first

step towards final resignation from parliament. "We earnestly want to make parliament working, but it is the party in power that unfor-

tunately turned parliament

into a house of Awami League,"

in Dhanmondi go out of order By Staff Correspondent

Some 300 telephone lines at Road No 4, 5, 6 and 7 and at government quarters in the city's Dhanmondi residential area went out of order yesterday following complete damages to two telephone cabinets at Dhanmondi Road 6, says a BTTB

press release. The Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board release said the roadside telephone cabinets were damaged completely after being hit by a bus.

It regretted the inconvenience to the subscribers assuring that steps have been taken to restore the phone links.

Jewellery shops

From Page 1 Chhatra Shibir activist but he defected recently and joined the student front of another political party.

olice officials said, activists of a political faction backed by a 'godfather' were allegedly involved in the incident. They also said that residence of a Jubo League leader Mamunur Rashid Mamun, was raided at 12:30 am last night to nab him. But he escaped sensing presence of police.

country and marking contami-

nated tubewells. This calls for a

continued surveillance because

the tubewell which is free of ar-

senic today, may become con-

taminated the next day," said

in education of the children, he

said, the organisation is in-

volved in an 'ideal project' that

aims to teach children to learn

gence - ability to read and

write, ability to imagine, musi-

cal talent, interpersonal intel-

ligence which is his or her abil-

ity to communicate with others.

intra-personal intelligence

which is the ability to assess

oneself and emotional intelli-

gence by which a child is able to

feel and express his or her feel-

these faculties of a child need to

"For development of a child,

A child has seven intelli-

Talking about Unices's role

Carriere.

ings.

in a different way.

BNP secretary general Abdul

Mannan Bhuiyan said: "If the government does not change its attitude and make the House effective, our depositing the resignation letters may lead to the final resignation. He denied that the decision

of submission of resignation

letters to Begum Khaleda Zia is

a "patch-up formula" to cover up

the reported conflict between moderates and hardliners in The decision is "not a manifestation of any confusion, con tradiction or misunderstanding within BNP", the BNP general

secretary said. Rather, he added, the decision was taken after the government party had made parliament non-functioning, the Speaker lost his neutrality and BNP MPs were debarred from

discussing important issue. See page 11

BNP calls hartal 300 phone lines in Kishoreganj tomorrow

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 21: The BNP has called a half-day hartal in the district on Sunday demanding immediate release of its leaders and withdrawal of cases filed against them, reports UNB.

It was decided at a meeting of the local BNP with Maj (Rtd) Aktaruzzaman MP in the chair yesterday.

Police arrested party leaders Abdul Jalil and Masud Helali in a case filed against them last year when they appeared before a special tribunal yesterday.

GR police had field cases against four BNP leaders, including Helali and Jalil, on charge of ransacking railway station during a hartal in 1997.

Attack on BNP

From Page 1

Soon after Saifur left the spot, a group of people equipped with lathis and sharp weapons attacked the BNP activists at

about 11:30 am. At one stage the two sides were locked in a scuffle and chased each other for about twenty minutes. None was arrested in this connection till

filing of this report last night. A case was filed with Gul-

shan thana in this connection. Unicef plans edn for child workers

"We still do not know the be developed. We are now training the teachers of the govcause of arsenic contaminaernment schools so that they tion. We are now providing kits can help the children to develop to test water throughout the

riere.

enormous cooperation from the government, and NGOs," he said. "There had been a dramatic improvement in the lives of children because of this."

these intelligence," said Car-

"During my tenure, I received

But the bad news is there are much, much to be done and more resources to be made available to invest in children, he noted.

"If we invest in 0 to 18-year group for health, education, nutrition, and their rights, you would have a better Bangladesh. You need children who are alive, aware and empowered to participate in the democratic process. The Government of Bangladesh has realised the importance of children and kept them above politics. It is important that children do not become political footballs."

said Carriere.

Posts of JU Pro-VC, Treasurer lying vacant

By Staff Correspondent The government's delay in appointment of a new Pro-Vice Chancellor and a Treasurer of Jahangirnagar University (JU) is creating difficulties in day-to-day administrative activities, officials of the university

Important files are getting piled up for disposal at the VC's office causing delay in decision-making. The VC, Prof Alauddin Ahmed, is now in Canada, attending a conference.

The post of Pro-VC is vacant since July 18 after appointment of former Pro-VC Prof Alauddin Ahmed as VC. The university is running without a Treasurer since August 13 when the tenure of former Treasurer Prof Abdul Bayes ended on August

Meanwhile some senior teachers of the university are learnt to be lobbying for appointment as Pro-Vice Chancellor and Treasurer.

Former Treasurer and a columnist of The Daily Star and Bhorer Kagoj Prof Abdul Bayes and former president of JU Teacher's Association and an influential Senate member Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir are lobbying for the post of Pro-VC. Dean of Social Science Fac-

ulty and Vice Chancellor-In-

Charge Prof Azizul Haq

Bhuiyan is lobbying for the post of Treasurer, sources said. When contacted, Education Secretary Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday said that the appointments would be made shortly. He, however, declined to comment when asked about the probable candidates shortlisted for the posts.

Khaleda to visit Narsingdi today

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will visit the flood-affected areas in Narsingdi district today, re-

ports UNB. She will distribute relief materials among the flood victims at Nalbata, Battali, Monipura, Atsali, Haripur, Charmodhua, Mirzachar, Bashgari, Kalika-

pur, Paratali and Algi. Rubel murder

August 25.

From Page 1 to submit its report on August 10. The time was extended till

The commission is likely to record the statement of Mukuli Begum today, the sources added Jahanara Begum, mother of Rubel, in her statements to the CID and the judicial commission earlier said that she had rushed to Mukuli Begum for help soon after getting the information about her son's ar-

rest on July 23. Mukuli Begum, a local leader of the ruling party and a neighbour of Rubel also gave her statement to the CID on Thurs-

Pakistan

From Page 1 But hours later, a Foreign Ministry statement said Altars comments were based on 'inaccurate information'.

"No casualty has occurred inside Pakistani territory as believed earlier," the statement said. No damage either has been caused on the Pakistan side." Before Altaf's announcement, Foreign Minister Sartaj

Aziz told the Pakistani senate: "Irrespective of the motives of these strikes, the act of violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of these Islamic countries cannot but be a matter of grave concern to the people of Pakistan who justifiably feel outraged." Demonstrators burned US flags, threw stones at consulates and chanted angry slogans today across Pakistan.

Floods

From Page 1 Aricha, Old Brahmaputra at Jamalpur and Mymensingh, Buriganga at Dhaka, Shitalakhya at Narayanganj, Turag at Mirpur and Tongi, Kaliganga at Taraghat, Dharla at Kurigram, Padma at Pankha, Raishahi, Hardinge Bridge, Goalunda and Bhagyakul, Mahananda at Chapainawabganj, Surma at Kanaighat and Sunamganj and Meghna at

Bhairab Bazar. Meanwhile, rainfall recorded during the last 24 hours till 9 am yesterday were 38 mm at Sylhet, 35 mm at Sunamganj, 24.7 mm at Kushtia, 23.5 mm at Panchagarah and 23 mm at Dewanganj and Gaibandha.

Model PSC

From Page

be charged for filing important documents with Petrobangla, regarding the cost of Sangu project about a year after the scheduled time because the PSC did not specify the time limit in defining 'immediately'. The PSC only said that certain documents should be submitted to Petrobangla immediately.

"But there is nothing regarding these things in the proposal to modify the PSC," said a

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam