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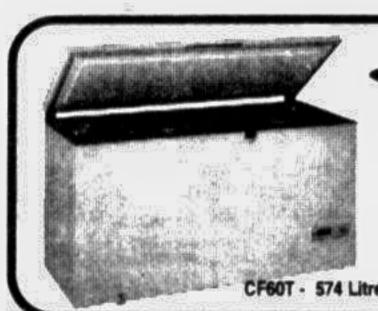
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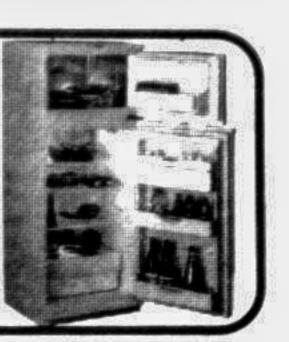
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Down to Earth Terrible trouble to city systems

By A S M Nurunnabi

With the growing use of poly-

in a highly disciplined and or-

derly society, such recycling

can never be achieved cent per

cent. The residue from the ap-

palling quantity adds up over

the years to a serious environ-

polythene bags by saying that

the polybag industry is a thriv-

ing one and has generated em-

ployment opportunities for

many. Such argument is hardly

tenable because this has

severely affected the jute bag

wiped out plunging them into

complete economic and social

movement to take special atti-

tude towards the needs of the

LDCs to get them out of the

clutches of poverty and eco-

of many Least Developed

Countries (LDCs), the foreign

minister said. "Where poverty is

a major challenge, no economic

development, social progress

and meaningful cooperation

are possible." Azad stressed the

need for preferential trade sup-

port, sharing development ex-

perience, transferring technol-

ogy and constructive coopera-

Referring to the conditions

He urged the members of the

crises.

nomic crisis.

message said.

through.

Some may argue in favour of

mental problem.

Dhaka seeks coop for holding

NAM summit in 2001

In the city's post-flood situaand drainage systems. tion, polythene bags have emerged as alarming objects on account of their sinister role in Since the polythene materi-als are not biodegradable or, in other words, since they do not clogging the drainage and sew-erage systems of the city. Even before the flood, their damaging decompose through natural process, whenever a polythene bag is thrown away, it contributes to the accumulation of effects were long in evidence. In January, 1994, the government indestructible, wastes of perissued orders banning the promanent nature. If anybody cares to look at the garbage dumps at Sydabad or Kalyanduction of polythene bags. But these orders were not implepur, it will be seen that almented because of a contrary trend of opinion. And under though other garbage matters get decomposed and merged into pressure from the vested quarthe soil, the discarded polyters, the processes of manufacturing, sale and use of polythene bags are going on un-abated. thene bags of many colours stand out bravely. Here lies a

Now, is view of their devasserious environmental threat. tating effects from their ubiquiaffecting not only the drainage tous use, there seems to be no and sewerage systems but also scope for dithering on the issue the fertility of the soil as they of polythene bags. It was resink deep into its fold. ported that in a recent interministerial meeting, the ministhene bags, such a fear becomes all the more ominous. Out of the ter for environment and forests said that serious efforts are unpresent estimated use of 60 lakh polybags daily in the city, only der way for the gradual phasing 20% may be amenable to recyout of polythene bags. In this context, we have cling. But recycling is not a permanent answer because even

come across some disconcerting information. It has been reported that about 60 lakh polythene bags are now used in the Dhaka city. Previously the total quantum was said to be 52 lakhs. On account of the flood, 8 lakh more only bags were in use. A large part of these discarded poly bags could be seen floating during the flood in the city. The pace of recession of flood water from many city areas has been largely affected by the clogging of the mouths of outlets in the city's drainage

Bangladesh sought the coop-

eration and support of the

member countries of Non-

Aligned Movement (NAM) for

holding the next summit sched-

uled for 2001 in Dhaka, reports

NAM Foreign Minister's meet-

ing at the UN General Assembly

in New York Thursday, Foreign

Minister Abdus Samad Azad

said Bangladesh is determined

Due to the decision.

Azad said NAM could play

to make the summit a success.

Bangladesh has become a mem-

Gas pipeline

From Page 1

unauthorised extension line" as

the cause of the incident at West

yesterday, the officials insisted

that "unauthorised extension

lines" were causing most of the

the illegal connections by

scanning the residence of every

consumer of Titas," a top offi-

cial said when asked about

measures against the "unau-

detected in the distribution

pipelines of Titas Gas in differ-

ent areas of the country, par-

ticularly in the flood affected

ing one official and three staff,

have already started repairing

the leaks in the city, they

offices in areas like Munshi-

ganj, Narayanganj, Tongi,

Brahmanbaria and Savar have

been alerted to repair the leaks.

they noted. The repair work

will be completed by October

culties as gas distribution

pipelines in different areas are

still under flood water " - a top

official of Titas Gas replied

when asked why it should take

such a long time to repair the

"We have been facing diffi-

Twelve teams, each compris-

Outside the city, its regional

As many as 1500 leaks were

thorised extension lines".

areas, officials said.

claimed.

31, they said

"It is difficult for us to detect

Talking to The Daily Star

ber of the troika of NAM.

Jurain.

accidents.

Making a statement at the

manufacturers who need be rehabilitated through abolition of the environmentally hostile polythene bags. It is widely felt that with an extended research and development programme, polythene can be made to play a more environment-friendly part by replacing wood in furni-ture-making, etc.

It has been lately reported that in the Sabujbagh-Moti-jheel area of the city, a social movement has been mounted against polythene bags under which incentive has been provided for clearance of used polybags by way of offer of each money or rice/when in line of specific quantities of surrendered collection of used polybags. It will be good sign if such kind of social movement gets currency in other areas of the city. It needs hardly be overemphasised that arousing of social consciousness against the evil effects of polybags may play a significant part in safeguarding society from environmental perils associated with the use of

It is, therefore, felt that the 1994 orders should be enforced and import of raw materials for polythene bag manufacturing should be severely restricted.

It is felt by some observers that our failure in this respect may be regarded as a national scandal if we give way to the tendency of some important people to avert their eyes from the polythene curse as if it is

an important role among the members of the movement and advance its multilateral principles for disarmament. He said EMU countries. Bangladesh has been endeavouring to improve cooperation

among the developing countries in order to enhance South-South cooperation in line with the decision of the last summit.

The foreign minister who mentioned that Non-Aligned Movement was passing through a watershed period, observed that the economic progress achieved over the years in some tains a dollar reserve. developing countries has been

Introduction of the new international currency is being welcomed by Multi-National Companies (MNCs) as, they said, it would make cost calculations and global transactions

Patrick Child explained that the Euro will bring an end to the exchange rate fluctuations between the participating member states. Low inflation and interest rates and more predictable growth will reduce the uncertainties that hamper investment decisions. Also by eliminating the exchange risk, the Euro will make firms in EMU countries more competitive and give them the springboard from which they could fight and

tion among the members to overcome the situation, the Samad Azad apprised the members of the devastating floods Bangladesh is going Earlier in the morning, Azad as a member of NAM Troika atcurrencies.

tended the meeting between the "The Euro may as well European Union and the Troika emerge as the leading currency of the 21st century."

Spanish airliner

From Page 1 stationed in the enclave, ac-

cording to national radio. "It appears the plane crashed into a hilltop and broke into pieces," said Melilla regional government chief, Enrique Palacios.

of Non-Aligned Movement.

The 86-seat plane, a Britishbuilt BAE 146, belonged to a Spanish charter airline called

More 60,000 pages

"high crime and misdemeanor." That is the standard for impeachment, but the term is not defined in the US Constitution. Lofgren handed out copies of

the motion she made as the committee met to approve deletions of irrelevant material in the documents — much of it sexually graphic.

Her resolution demonstrates differences between the parties. Republicans want to release information provided by Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr and then begin an impeachment inquiry before delving into such legal issues. Democrats believe the legal standard must be addressed first.

Democrats say their constant calls for fairness to Clinton is taking hold with the public - as demonstrated by the president's still-strong job approval rating and opposition by most Americans to impeach-

ment. AFP adds: Fifty-three per cent of Americans would be satisfied if no action were taken

against Clinton for the Lewinsky affair and 64 per cent believe the investigation is partisan, a New York Times/CBS News poll said.

The poll showed that 65 per cent feel Republican lawmakers were unfairly trying to weaken Clinton and the democrats, according to the telephone survey of 960 adults.

Conducted Tuesday and Wednesday, a week after the videotapes of Clinton's' August 17 Grand Jury deposition were released to the public, 78 per cent of Americans and 65 per cent of Republicans said the House Judiciary Committee should never have released the

Sixty per cent of those who watched the videotapes on television and 40 per cent of Republicans said it was appropriate for Clinton to have refused to answer questions about his sexual relations with Lewinsky. Forty-nine per cent believe

Clinton committed perjury. down from 56 per cent last week, and 64 per cent said the investigation was partisan, up from 55 per cent last week.

Euro to emerge

From Page 1 in Euro with the launching of European single currency. The Bangladesh Bank is also expected to open a Euro account for purposes of exchange and accounting with members of the

Bangladesh would be the

single largest economic trading partner with of EMU with around 40 per cent of export earnings from the EU countries. Bangladesh is likely to make

foreign currency payments and settlements with the launching of the EMU. It may also maintain a Euro reserve as it main-

far easier.

withstand global competition.

Prof Eddy De Smitjer of the University of Leuven in Belgium said, "The Euro would make its mark on the international scene. It will become one of the world's significant transaction, investment and reserve

Waste disposal

From Page 1 out incineration.

Autoclaves are the most commonly used alternatives in the developing nations. Like most of the waste disinfecting techniques, an autoclave destroys infectious agents through the use of steam heat, like a high technology dishwasher "Unlike incineration, mate-

rial is not burned in this process, thus reducing the risk of dioxin production. Frequently, waste is shredded prior to autoclaving, in order to facilitate the process," an expert said.

Microwaves use radiant energy to boil water that is sprayed onto waste. Once the water reaches boiling point, it boils the microbes, rendering most of them harmless.

Microwaves, autoclaves and other alternative waste treatment technologies must be independently evaluated for safety and effectiveness, the expert noted.

Dr Samir Saha, a microbiologist, said, "When typhoid bacteria grow in laboratory from blood or stool specimen, a single bacteria multiplies to billions. If the cultures are discarded without killing the microbes, which occurs in most cases, it can infect another hundred persons. In fact most of our hospitals are disposing clinical waste without any treatment."

He added, "Apart from typhoid, cholera and dysentery. micro-organisms and hepatitis A and E virus are also spread in the same manner."



Move to sack Bihar govt

Opposition stages protests: 400 held

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: Indian opposition parties staged a nationwide day of action today as the country waited to see if President K R Narayanan would approve a cabinet decision to sack a state government, reports AFP.

Protests and rallies were held to denounce Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and his cabinet for recommending the imposition of direct federal rule on the eastern state of Bi-

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: Indian President K R Narayanan today refused to back a cabinet recommendation demanding the dismissal of the Bihar government, the Press Trust of India said. The United News of India news agency said the President has called for "clarifications" from Prime Minister Vajpayee's government on its recom mendations for the dismissal of Bihar govt.

The government said the move, which has also caused divisions within the Hindu nationalist-led coalition, had been forced by what it described as Bihar's slide into lawless an-

The protests were for the most part peaceful, although police in the southern city of Madras said they had taken nearly 400 opposition activists into custody after they tried to block a train leaving the main railway station.

In Patna, opposition sup-

Dhaka-Sylhet flight of Biman delayed for five hours

A Biman flight from Dhaka to Sylhet was delayed for over five hours following a quarrel between the operating captain and the ground engineer, reports UNB.

The Dhaka-Sylhet flight, BG 601, was scheduled to take off from Zia International Airport (ZIA) at 8:45 am with operating Captain Aribinda.

The on-duty ground engineer refused to work with Capt Aribinda due to previous quarrel that had also delayed another Dhaka-Sylhet flight on

Monday last. The flight BG 601 finally left the airport at 1 pm with ATP. Captain Siddique operated the flight.

A Biman official said a onemember committee was constituted with the DG (Admn) to inquire into both incidents. The committee was asked to submit its report within a week.

porters held a rally at which they burned effigies of Vajpayee and other members of the cabi-

In New Delhi, a noisy protest was staged at Jantar Mantar, a medieval observatory in the heart of the city.

A source close to the President said Narayanan was 'through with consultations and would announce 'any time his decision on whether to dismiss the administration in Bihar, India's second most popu

Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi, an illiterate mother of nine, has threatened to fast to death' of her government is removed. The state is ruled by her centrist national people's party a part of the national opposi

Nagorik From Page 1

It will also support relief and rehabilitation activities of the government and the non-gov ernment organisations.

The press release also said the activities of the organisa tion will be guided by a 23member steering committee.

The committee comprises:

Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Execu

tive Chairman, CPD, Convenor Prof. Mohammed Yunus, Former adviser to the Caretaker Government and Managing Director, Grameen Bank, Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Former Adviser to the Caretaker Government, Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury of BUET, Former Member, Caretaker Government, and former President Bangladesh Institution of Engineers, Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud, Former Member, Caretaker Government and President, BEA, Kazi Fazlur Rahman, Former Member Caretaker Government, AMA Muhith, Former Finance Minister, M Syeduzzaman, Former Finance Minister, Mahfuz Anam. Editor. The Daily Star Motiur Rahman, Editor, Prothom Alo, FH Abed, Executive Director, BRAC, Ms. Khushi Kabir, Coordinator, Nijera Kori, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Managing Director, PKSF, Qazi Faruque Ahmed, Executive Director, Proshika, Dr FRM Hassan, Executive Director, GSS Prof. Syed M Hashemi, Project Director, Grameen Trust, Prof. Ainun Nishat of BUET, Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS, Dr. Binayak Sen, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS Dr. Atiur Rahman. Senior Research Fellow. BIDS, Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad, Dept. of International Relations. Dhaka University, Ms. Laila Rahman Kabir, President MCCI and S. Humayun Kabir, Chairman, Renata Ltd. and

20 JU students

Politics, Atiqur Rahman Naim of History and Anisur Rahman of the department of English.

The six are also influential leaders of the BCL at the univer-

The report found that top particular political party and some outsiders were involved in the incidence of rape. The outsiders were Sohel, Mukul and

Raj.
The abettors in the incidents were identified as Titu, Ferdous, Rafiq. Ruhul, Sohag and Kajol. They were also students of the JU and leaders of BCL.

As many as 20 sites were identified on the university campus where the incidents took place. The sites included the Shaheed Minar, Library premises, M H Hall and its adjacent areas, university gymnasium and the Green Room of the Drama and Dramatics Department.

"When the victims approached the administrative ofticials including Provosts of halls and former Proctor Afsar Ahmed, they hardly got any remedy on grounds of adverse social repercussion," the report said.

former President, MCCl.

The 213 page report is now being discussed by the JU Syn-The Fact Finding Committee

scrutinised more than 350 'secret' letters and interviewed 18 alleged offenders and about 30 witnesses including students and others. The committee also visited the alleged sites of the incidents, the report noted. The seven-member Fact

Finding Committee headed by Prof Anwarul Hug Sharif, comprises Dr A Mannan Chowdhury. Proctor of the university: Prof Abul Hussain. Provost of Al Beruni Hall; Kanchan Chowdhury, Provost of Pritilata Hall; Prof Nasim Akhter Hussain, Provost of Nawab Faizunnessa Hall; A N Rasheda. Syndicate member and Prof Sauda Akhter a teacher of Bangla Department of the uni-

Durga Puja begins tomorrow

Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindu community, will begin tomorrow, reports UNB.

Mahanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee has drawn up a fiveday programme to celebrate the festival.

In view of the devastating flood, the organisers, however decided to celebrate the puja in a simple way and save the money to help the flood affected

The programmes will formally begin on Sunday at the Mahanagar Puja Mandop by observing the Shasti. The Saptami, Astami, Nabami and Mahadasami will be celebrated on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday respectively. Immersion of deity Durga will take place on Thursday.

The puja committee has arranged religious songs on the day of Astami and Arati competition on the day of Nabami.

A blood donation programme will be held on the day ol Dasami

3 JU students

From Page 1 from them," another Syndicate told The Daily Star, requesting anonymity.

The Syndicate is also considering whether it should draw criminal proceedings against the 13 students, he said.

When the syndicate members were coming out of the conference room after the meeting activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League gheraoed them, de manding adequate proof support of the charges of rape.

The activists demanded of the VC to give them a copy of the fact finding committee's report Declining to do so, the VC assured them that no action would be taken against anyone without sufficient evidence.

The committee had earlier identified 13 students for involvement' in rape of some female students of the university. Seven of them committed rape and six others abetted them, it

All the 13 are leaders and activists of JU unit of BCL student front of the ruling Awami League, sources said quoting the committee report

Token strike Oct 1 DUJ blasts move against 5th Wage Board Award

An emergency extended meeting of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday condemned the conspiracy of a section of owners of newspapers and news agencies against the Fifth Wage Board Award and its implementation, reports BSS.

Held at the National Press Club with DUJ acting president Subha Rahman in the chair, the meeting resolved to thwart such conspiracies with united efforts of the journalist community and other employees of the newspaper industry.

As part of its greater movement, the meeting unanimously resolved to observe a four-hour token strike from 10 am to 2 pm on October 1 (one) in all newspaper and news agency offices to press home the demand for implementation of the Wage Board Award in all news organisations where it has not yet been materialised.

A protest rally of the journalists will also be held at 11 am at the National Press Club on the same day in support of the movement.

The meeting called upon the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) to announce countrywide programmes for the implementation of the Wage Board Award.

BFUJ president Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General Abul Kalam Azad attended the meeting as special guests while journalists leader Shafiqur Rahman, Azizul Is lam Bhuiyan, Akhter Ahmed Khan, Abdur Rahman, Shah Alamgir, Quzi Maqsudul Hasan Ataur Rahman, Abdul Mannan and Mustaq Mobaraki spoke on the occasion.

Road accidents kill 8 in Bandarban, Pabna

By Staff Correspondent

At least eight people were killed and five others injured in road accidents, in Bandarban and Pabna yesterday.

Of them, five were killed in

Bandarban and three in Pabna. In Bandarban, five people were killed and five others injured when a passenger bus col-lided with a tempo at Haludia on Bandarban-Keranihat road yesterday.

The killed were identified as Golam Quader 50, Animong Marma 25, Sudhansu 55, Jakoria 45, and Abdul Karim, 18.

UNB quoting witnesses and police said the Bandarbanbound bus hit the Keranihatbound tempo at about 4 pm

killing all five passengers of the tempo on the spot. Of the injured A R Long Murong 25, was rushed to Chittagoing Medical College Hospital while another four - Anwara Begum 40. Hafez Hamid 40. Nurul Afsar 20, and Craw Crue 25 - were admitted to

Bandarban sadar hospital.

The condition of the injured persons were stated to be criti-The bodies were sent to Ban darban sadar hospital for au-

Police seized the bus. Both the drivers managed to flee the

A case was filed in this connection Our Pabna Correspondent writes: Three people were killed

From Page 1 gheraoed ministers in severa

districts protesting plundering and improper distribution of relief Many people still remained

marooned, but the government could not arrange to shift them to flood shelters, she said. She reiterated her demand for immediately starting reha-

bilitation and reconstruction work, creating mass employment, and giving interest-free loan and supplying agri-inputs to the farmers free of cost. The Opposition Leader warned that if her demand is

not met and the relief operation is not run properly, an antigovernment movement will be launched. Criticising the deployment of army in traffic control, she

asked the government to immediately withdraw the army personnel from traffic duty. The government has engaged army in this job in a bid to de-

stroy the institution and undermine its glorious image, she Referring to a statement of some intellectuals that there is

the BNP Chairperson said the government is planning to reduce the army gradually. Recalling the performance of army in protecting the flood control embankments along with people, she said the army have proved their efficiency in

no need of army in the country,

tackling the natural calamity. She said the main duty of the army is to safeguard the country's sovereignty.

Accusing the government of handing over one-tenth of the territory to tribal insurgents in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Begum Zia said the army camps are being withdrawn gradually from the CHT. Referring to law and order.

she said: There is no chain of

command in the police forces

due to politicisation. Police cannot perform their duty impartially. People have lost confidence in police. The army have been deployed for traffic duty following

the failure of police, Begum Zia

when a speeding truck hit a motorbike near Calico Cotton Mills at Rajapur on Pabna-Nagarbari road yesterday.
Police said the Sirajganj-

bound truck collided with a motorbike coming from opposite direction at about 10:30 am, killing three passengers of the bike on the spot.

The dead were identified as Sirajul Islam, 22, Mithu, 25 and Don. 15. Police seized the truck, but

its driver managed to flee the A case was filed with Pabna sadar thana in this connection.

14-year-old girl allegedly raped in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Sept 25: A forest officer who was arrested yesterday on charge of violating a 14year old girl has been sent to

jail hajat this afternoon. Gowainghat police said, the victim's father, a guard of the Forest Department, lodged a case yesterday afternoon. Police said Alamgir, the officer, had raped the girl at midnight on Wednesday when the victim's father alongwith his wife, went out of their house adjacent to

the officer's lodge. The victim and her father are now in the police custody at the Gowainghat thana. Medical test of the victim would be done on Sunday, police said.

BCL-JCD clash at Sirajganj: 10 injured

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 25: Ten persons were injured in a clash between the activists of Chhatra League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal in the town today, reports APB. Police said the clash between

the two student organisations erupted at about 5 pm following the attack on AL worker, Akbar Ali, 30, by his opponents Thursday night.

Several shops were also ransacked during the clash. Police resorted to lathicharge to bring the situation

Wanted criminal

under control.

From Page 1

League chief Sheikh Hasina's meeting at Laldighi in 1993. Police today raided a house at Zakir Hossain Road at about 11-30 am and caught him. Police said Mamun was involved in extortion and leading his

armed cadres in various offences in the port city. Mamun was sent to Chittagong jail immediately after

his arrest.

Turag flows From Page 1 Room yesterday reported 28 di-

15,798 others were affected during the same period. Normal transport movement on Dhaka-Aricha Highway has been restored with the completion of its first phase re-

pair work, an official press re-

arrhoeal deaths in 24 hours un-

til Friday morning while

lease said Earlier, Dhaka-Mawa Highway was reopened to traffic reestablishing direct road link between the capital and the southwestern part of the country, Thursday.



Prof. Mofizuddin Ahmed 1923-1997

Today, Saturday, 26th September 1998, is the First Death Anniversary of Professor Mofizuddin Ahmed, (Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Chemistry, Dhaka University; first Vice Chancellor, Jahangirnagar University, etc.).

His former students, colleagues, friends and relatives, are kindly requested to remember him in their prayers. D-499

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