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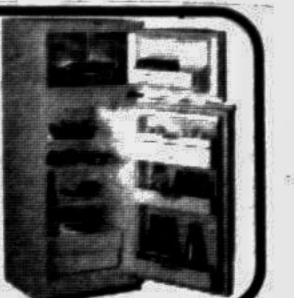
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Down to Burth Bldg collapses create panic By AS M Nurunnabi

Recently some episodes of faulty building collapse in the city have tended to create alarm in public mind. There are two kinds of faulty buildings in the city which pose threats to the occupants and neighbours. One is the many new houses built on weak and unstable foundations in the new part of the city; the other is the large number of old and dilapidated building in the

old part. In course of the recent trend of construction in many new areas of the city on weak and unstable foundations to keep pace with the current hectic construction activities, many low-lying areas and ditches have been selected as sites for construction without proper examination of their suitability. Even during the process of construction, no care is taken for durable foundation by way of piling or other methods. As a result, we read about two cases of house collapse last month one in Lalbagh area and the other at Shahjahanpur. These incidents sent a red signal to the multi-storey house owners

across the country. In view of the fast growing population in the city, the demand for housing has increased phenomenally. Taking advantage of this fast rising demand, some persons, bent on quick profit, have been building houses with house-building loans on unsuitable sites acquired by them at low price. It has been found that such sites are not properly filled up or compacted before starting construction. Owners of such lands, in some cases, do not engage any engineer or architect to supervise the construction work. As a result, serious defects remains in the construction

process. On the other hand, RA-

Bangladesh will contribute

to 10 UN funds and programmes

for 1998 despite the devastating

floods that hit the country this

Bangladesh Permanent Repre-

sentative to the world body

Ambassador Anwarul karim

Chowdhury in the United Na-

tions Pledging Conference 1998

According to a message re-

The funds and development

ceived in Dhaka yesterday, the

contributions altogether will

amount to approximately 2.41

programmes for which

Bangladesh pledges funds are:

United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP-headquar-

ters) 1,50,000 US dollar; United

Nations Development Pro-

gramme (local office cost) Tk

Children's Fund (UNICEF)

32,000 dollar: United Nations

Capital Development Fund

(UNCDF) 3,600 dollar; United

Nations Population Fund

(UNFPA) 26,000 dollar; United

Nations Environment Pro-.

gramme (UNEP) 2,550 dollar;

United Nations Volunteers Pro-

gramme (UNVP) 1,000 dollar;

UN Centre for Human Settle-

ment (HABITAT) 1,500 dollar;

Fund of the United Nations In-

ternational Drug Control 1,000

US dollar and United Nations

Development Fund for Women

Bangladesh believes that the

United Nations operational ac-

tivities for development and

The envoy in his speech said

(UNIFEM) 1,000 dollar.

1,100,000; United Nations

It was announced by

year, reports APB.

on Wednesday.

lakh US dollars.

JUK and the other loan-giving agencies who also have an obligation to conduct from time to time inspection of the progress of construction, sometime fail in their duty in this respect. As a result of manifest defects and weaknesses, the houses become liable to collapse, involving threat of loss of life of the occupants of such buildings and serious financial loss to the thoughtless owners.

The threat of collapsing of houses has become more prominent after the prolonged flood recently that caused water to remain stagnant at places for over two months at a stretch. According to experts, because of such stagnation of water around the houses, soil beneath and around the foundation tended to loosen considerably, thus heightening the possibility of giving in at any time.

The prolonged flooding and stagnation of water cause damage to the foundations of buildings is not unknown to the building experts of RAJUK, and other concerned agencies. Yet there have been no warnings or instructions from any quarter to make the city dwellers aware of such hazards. Even after the receding of flood water from many residential areas, no survey work was carried out to ascertain the extent of damage. Now that two houses have lately collapsed proving the point, it is to be hoped that the concerned authorities would make sincere efforts to prevent occurrence of such incidents in fu-

There is another kind of faulty buildings. This comprises the large number of old and dilapidated buildings in the old-part of the Dhaka city. Such old buildings which have un-

among the most effective means

to support the development ef-

forts of the developing coun-

the least developed countries

Miscreants

threaten TV

artiste Falguni

By Staff Correspondent

men threatened renowned TV

artiste Falguni Hamid in front

of her residence at Shajahanpur

on Wednesday night, police and

carrying Falguni, her daughter

Tania, and sister was chased by

a private car while they were re-

turning home after attending

rehearsal of a TV programme at

Bijoynagar. They trailed her to

the gate of her residence at Sha-

jahanpur government colony

Falguni's husband, BTV pro-

gramme manager, M Hamid

came out of the car and started

hurling abuse at them. One of

the young men aimed a pistol at

Falguni through the window of

ter firing a blank shot inside

The culprits left the scene af-

A case in this connection

her car, he added.

Two people aged around 30

told The Daily Star last night.

The sources said that the ear

family sources said.

Some unidentified young

(LDCs)," said Karim.

"This is particularly so for

Dhaka to contribute

\$2.41 lakh to UN

dergone decay over long periods of time, have become so decrepit that one may wonder how they could yet stand. For such buildings, there is the risk of their collapsing at any moment. The occupants of such decrepit buildings do not seem to care about their safety. Mostly such occupants are poor people who are compelled to live with the risk because such houses are their only shelter.

The RAJUK have also a duty to look into the matter. In fact, there is an urgent need to declare these houses as unfit for human habitation. If, despite such declaration, they fail to vacate them or their owners induct tenants in them, the RA-JUK should take legal steps to prosecute them. At the same time, steps should be taken to pull down such dilapidated structures before they collapse causing loss of human life.

It thus behoves the Ministry of Works and the RAJUK to look into the problems of defective and dilapidated houses in the city to pave the way for riskfree development of housing in the city. According to an estimate, during the last 15 years, a total of 14 multi-storied houses have suffered collapse or dangerous tilting, causing a death toll of 12 persons and injury to

In the backdrop of the rapidly expanding building activities in the city, it seems to be of utmost importance that in the interest of proper development of building ethics, all shady deals for allowing con struction of multistoried apartment buildings on unsuitable sites without taking due engineering safeguards for their safe construction should be firmly checked.

Nov 7 today From Page 1 Khandaker Mushtaque on November 3, the elements in the government killed four national leaders in the Dhaka

Central Jail. Khaled Mosharraf set up a government with a view to what he claimed restoring discipline within the army. He removed Khandaker Mushtaque and appointed Chief Justice Sayem as President. He also confined Chief of Army Staff Major General Ziaur Rahman and became the Chief of Army

On November 7, there was a revolt by the lower ranks instigated and inspired by retired Colonel Taher and his Ganobahini. In the process Brigadier Khaled Mosharral was killed and Major General Ziaur Rahman was released from confinement and restored to his command. Later he became the CMLA and the Presi-

· This year, the day carries special significance as it comes at a time when the persons involved in the Bangabandhu murder are being tried while the charge-sheet against those involved in the jail killing has been framed. The verdict in the Bangabandhu Murder Case will

be given on November 8. Today BNP will hoist its party and national flags atop its offices across the country in the morning and its leaders and workers visit Zia's mazar at 9 am. Offering of fateha and milad mahfil will also be held

A rally will be held at the Paltan Maidan at 3 pm which will be addressed by Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia.

The central committee of the JSD led by Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rob and Hasanul Hug Inu will hold a discussion meeting at Dhaka District Sports Association Auditorium at 4 pm.

Jamaat-e-Islami will also hold discussion meeting on the significance of the day. Besides, rallies, procession

and discussions will be held across the country. UNB adds: BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday

raised the flag of independence on behalf of the whole nation in When Awami League leaders were busy fleeing to India, he (Zia) along with more than 150 soldiers of East Bengal Regiment revolted and declared war

of independence at the zero

hours of March 25," she said in

said it was "Major Zia" who

a statement on the eve of 'National Revolution and Solidarity Day' today. On the next day, she said, Zia took control of the Kalurghat radio station and urged the international community to support independent and sovereign

Bangladesh. Begum Zia said Zia's declaration and undaunted leadership had led to the victory in the nine-month-long independence war.

Tele link with Ctg snapped for 2 hours

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 6: Microwave link between Chittagong and rest of the world remained snapped for about two hours from 7-30 pm today due to fog at Begumganj-Hajiganj point, T&T sources said.



A 17-member West Indies 'A' team flew into the city yesterday on a 10-day tour.

- Star photo

Israeli cabinet suspends ratification of peace deal

JERUSALEM, Nov 6: A car bomb exploded today in a Jerusalem market crowded with Israelis shopping for the Sabbath, reports AP.

The blast killed two, apparently the assailants, and wounded 21 Israelis. In response, Israel's Cabinet suspended implementation of the new peace accord with the Palestinians.

The Islamic militant group Hamas, which has been trying to sabotage the peace accord, claimed responsibility for the 9:45 am (0745 GMT) attack in the Mahane Yehuda market, police said.

Friday's bombing marked the third time in less than three weeks that Hamas tried, but failed, to carry out an attack with large numbers of Israeli casualties, suggesting that a recent crackdown by Israel and the Palestinian Authority has had an effect.

Palestinian officials condemned the attack, but accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of political blackmail for holding up the agreement that was to give the Palestinians another 13 per cent of the

West Bank. In the attack, a red Fiat drove slowly toward the main intersection at the entrance of the outdoor market, smoke coming out of the hood and windows.

Rahel Zaken, who was waiting in line at a bakery to buy Sabbath bread, turned toward the street and glimpsed the driver. "I saw his eyes. He looked right at me," said Zaken, a 23-year-old secretary.

Seconds later, an explosion shook the area.

"I fell to the ground and stumbled over one of the beggars and crawled away on my hands and legs," she said. She was hospitalised after complaining of ringing in the ears.

Other witnesses said they heard two explosions, followed by fast pops, like the sound of firecrackers. Israel radio said two suitcases filled with explosives were found near the car. suggesting the blast went off prematurely and that the assailants had planned a more powerful explosion.

Israel TV said the two dead were the assailants.

C'wealth Dev Corpn to invest \$ 100m more in Bangladesh Lord Cairns, the Chairman

of Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) and Commonwealth Business Council (CBC) called on Prime Minister Sheik Hasina at her Ganobhaban residence yesterday, reports UNB.

Lord Cairns apprised the Prime Minister that the CDC has already invested 60 million US dollar in Bangladesh and is going to invest another 100 million dollar.

Emphasising on early implementation of the 1.2 million ton cement producing plant project of LaFarge in Sylhet, he said the CDC invested 30 million dollar in the project.

The ground breaking of the project will be held in the middle of December after completion of all formalities, he said. Lord Cairns invited the Prime Minister to attend the Commonwealth business Council's meeting in New Delhi in mid February next year.

The Prime Minister said her government is encouraging investment in sectors like agro processing industries, backward linkage industries for garments, production of jute goods, computer software, tourism and infrastructure development.

About investment in the tourism sector, she said Chittagong Hill Tracts, Cox's Bazar and Kuakata beach could be prospective areas for investors.

Hasina said there is also a good prospect of investing in the public sector industries, which the government is planning to hand over to the private sector. After BMRE, these industries can be made profit earning.

Illegal arms factory found in city: 3 held

Police unearthed in illegal arms factory in the city's Sutrapur area yesterday and arrested three people on charges of making illegal firearms, reports UNB.

Ehsanur Rab alias Babu, 38, Iftekhar alias Jhalak, 28 and Ainuddin alias Tutul, 30, were arrested from the factory at Basu Bazar Lane in Sutrapur at about 3:45 am.

Police seized some arms and ammunition as well as some arms making materials from the first floor of the house. These included one country made revolver, one pipegun and

19 bullets. The Demra and Sutrapur thana police raided the house acting on a tip off that some terrorists were engaged in manufacturing illegal arms for use in subversive activities on November 8 and 9, said a DMP

- AP/UNB photo press release yesterday.

Major test for BJP govt attributed the rise to decline in From Page 1

of dropsy disease in August this more important role in influen-

In Madhya Pradesh, eleccing the result of assembly elections than in general elections where national issues become more important.

President Clinton welcomes Hollywood film legend

Gregory Peck to a White House reception honouring

achievements in the arts and humanities to Americans

who "help us make sense of the world in which we live" in

There were rumblings of discontent in Delhi unit of BJP with a senior party leader Rajendra Gupta, who was Transport Minister in Sahib Singh Verma cabinet but dropped from Sushma Swaraj ministry, reflecting it.

Washington on Thursday.

Gupta said the "culture of casteism" had crept into major political parties and BJP was no exception to it. BJP spokesman Venkaiah Naidu, however, asserted a day after Gupta's remarks that his party's actions were not guided by caste considerations.

Factionalism in BJP in Delhi is an additional source of worry for its leadership after its government in the National Capital Territory has earned flaks for its handling of power and water shortages, law and order and mustard oil adulteration which led to outbreak to

toral history favours the Congress which won eight of the 10 assembly elections held in the state since the creation of the state in the fifties. Besides, no party other than Congress has ever come back to power having ruled the state once. But BJP would be out to prove that its victory in 1990 was no flash in the pan.

Given the importance of the assembly elections, campaign by two major contenders for power in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi - BJP and the Congress - are heading towards a feverish pitch.

The steep rise in prices of vegetables and some other essential food items is likely to become a major poll issue. Sonia Gandhi, spearheading the Congress campaign, has accused the Vajpayee government of failing to check rise in prices of vegetables and other essential

commodities. The BJP, on the other hand,

output caused by rains and flood, hoarding by a section of traders and cumulative effects of "wrong" policies pursued by successive governments over the last 20 years.

The BJP is hoping to bank on division of anti-BJP votes it Bahujan Samaj Party of Kanshi Ram and Samajwadi Party of Mulayan Singh Yadav decide to contest all the assembly seats in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi on their own without seat-sharing accord.

Although Congress has ruled out alliance or seat-sharing with any other party in the three states, there are speculations that BSP and SP would put up "serious" candidates in constituencies where they feel they are strong and "weak' nominees where they feel Congress can benefit from nondivision of anti-BJP votes.

However, Bahujan Samaj Party, Samajwadi Party. Janata Dal or communists have negligible presence in the three

'Hold trial of 42000 political killings'

A seminar on "Today's Bangladesh and Importance of November 7" yesterday demanded the trial of the killings of 42,000 political activists, in-cluding left leader Siraj Shikdar, reports UNB.

"Before holding trial of the killing of Sheikh Mujib, it is necessary to hold the trial of 42,000 political killings staged in early 70s," some discussants told the seminar organised by Shato Nagoric Committee at Engineer's Institution.

Former Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, Prof Mu-niruzzaman Mia, Gias Kamal Chowdhury, former VC of Rajshahi University Prof Yusuf Ali, Supreme Court Bar Association president Justice Habibul Islam Bhuiyan, Jatiya Press Club president Reazuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh University Teachers Association president Dr Jasimuddin Mondal, Sadek Khan, Dr Khalilur Rahman, Amanullah Kabir, Mobaidur Rahman, Dr ZM Tahmina Begum and Chashi Nazrul Islam addressed the seminar.

Dhaka University Prof Dr Aftab Ahmed presented a keynote paper and Prof Emajuddin Ahmed presided over it. Dr Aftab said the Awami League government during 1972-75, killed nearly 42,000 political activists and imprisoned about 86,000 leaders and workers.

"The fascist government created a chaos in Bangladesh unleashing repressive measure on the opposition,' Dr Aftab said. He said the various forces including paramilitary Rakkhi Bahini formed under the supervision of the Indian army committed those political

"The government's attempt to take political revenge in the name of trial of Sheikh Mujib killing will not bring any good result," Dr Aftab warned. He said "The nation got rid of

a suffocating situation with the killing of Sheikh Mujib, though the killings of children and rel-atives of Sheikh Mujib was sad. inhuman and unwarranted." Aftab said.

Prof Muniruzzaman questioned why Awami League got feared of late president Ziaur Rahman and is spreading falsehood to undermine him and erase from history.

Because, he said, "Lakhs of people had listened to the proclamation of liberation war in 1971 by Ziaur Rahman.

Prof Emajuddin said Awami League wants to cast off Ziaur Rahman from history as Zia had succeeded where Sheikh Mujib failed.

Reazuddin Ahmed said the foundation of nationalist politics was introduced since November 7, 1975.

Dr Khalilur Rahman said BNP and its allies will have to occupy the streets following the ruling party. "If it is possible. the government will not find way to escape," he said.

Amanullah Kabir said a situation has been created for another November 7.

Bangabandhu murder

From Page 1

is the investigation officer. November 2, 1996: Zobaida Rashid, wife of Col (retd) Abdur Rashid, was arrested.

November 12, 1996: Indemnity (Repeal) Bill was passed in parliament.

January 15, 1997: Chargesheet was submitted to the CMM's Court after three and a half months (108 days) of investigation. Some 450 people, both civil and military, were interrogated. The chargesheet is under Sec 147, 148, 302, 34 and some other sections of the CrPC.

outside the chargesheet as dead). Dead: Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed, Mahbubul Alam

Total accused: 20. (4 kept

Chashi, Capt (retd) Mostafa and Risalder (retd) Sarwar. Arrested accused: Col (retd) Syed Faroogur Rahman, Ltd Col (retd) Shahriar Rashid Khan, Lt Col (retd) Muhiuddin, Hon Capt (retd) Abdul Wahab Joardar, former State Minister

for Information Taheruddin Thakur, and Zobaida Rashid. Zobaida Rashid was later acquitted of the case by High Absconding accused: Col (retd) Khandaker Abdur Rashid Lt Col (retd) Aziz Pasha, Maj (retd) Shariful Haq Dalim, Maj

(retd) Bazlul Huda, Maj (retd) Noor, Maj (retd) Mohiuddin, Maj (retd) Rashed Chowdhury. Maj (retd) Ahmed Sharful Hasan, Capt (retd) Kismat, Capt (retd) Majed, Lt Nazmul Ansar, Risalder (retd) Moslemuddin, Marfat Ali Shah and Abul Hashem Mridha.

Number of witnesses: 72. Number of documents: 46. January 20, 1997: Arrested accused were produced before

the court. January 28, 1997: Indemnity (Repeal) Bill was declared valid by the High Court after a 13-day

hearing. February 3, 1997: Notification was issued by newspapers asking the absconding accused

to appear before the court. February 20, 1997: Accused were produced in CMM's Court. March 1, 1997: The case was sent to District and Sessions

Judge Court. March 3, 1997: A special court was set up at Nazimuddin Road near the Dhaka Central

Judge: Kazi Golam Rasul, District and Sessions Judge

Court, Dhaka. Eminent criminal lawyer Serajul Haq was appointed chief special PP by the govern-Nov 8 verdict

Highest security alert in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Nov 6: The port city of Chittagong has been put under highest security alert to avert any untoward situation before or after the verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case, reports UNB. Security measures have been

tightened at various vulnerable points, intelligence sources

Police are keeping watch on the movement of some political personnel, including five MPs of opposition parties.

The ruling Awami League has drawn up programmes of rallies and processions in the city and all thana headquarters on November 7 and 8.

Sources said intelligence agencies have gathered report about possible trouble by militants of opposition parties after announcements of the judge-

The agencies recommended to keep vigil at 20 sensitive points and follow the movement of 12 opposition leaders. including a former minister.

March 12, 1997: Trial of Bangabandhu Murder Case be-

gan at the special Court. Court

fixed March 24 for framing the charge. April 7, 1997: After the date to frame charge, it was changed five times on plea from the defence counsels. The charge was framed against 20 accused on the basis of three specific charges (Sections 302/34, 120 (Gha) and 201 of the CrPC). Four dead were kept outside from the charge. Charge framed against all the rest of the accused, including six arrested and 14 ab-

later relieved of the case by an order of the High Court). July 6, 1997: Deposition and cross-examination began in the

sconding. (Zobaida Rashid was

historic case. July 20, 1998: Deposition and cross-examination completed. A total of 61 prosecution witnesses, including 39 of army, navy, airforce and BDR personnel, made deposition and were examined by the defence counsels, including the state appointed counsels for the ab-

sconding accused. August 5, 1998: Five arrested accused in self-defence claimed that they are not guilty. They also informed the court about extraction of the confessing statement made to the magistrates earlier.

August 12, 1998: Argument October 13, 1998: Argument completed. Case procedures also completed after 148 working

November 8, 1998: The day for verdict of the historic case.

Trial of Col Taher killing demanded

By Staff Correspondent Speakers at a discussion in the city vesterday demanded trial of all political killings in-

cluding that of Col Taher. Recalling Taher's commitment to and sacrifice for restoring rule of law in the country and discipline in the army following the August 15 killings. the speakers said autocratic military junta who had grabbed power illegally hanged Taher. The discussion was organ-

ised by Col Taher Sangsad. Held at TSC island, it was attended by, among others, by Nirmal Sen of Sramik-Krishak Samajbadi Dal, Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party and Havilder (retd) Abdul Hye Mojumder.

The discussion was conducted by Ruhul Quddus Babu.General Secretary of the Sangsad Mushtaque Hossain was the main speaker and its President Kamal Lohani was in the chair.

Software From Page 1

standard to compete in the global market, he said the sec-

tor would be the 'fortune changing agent' of the nation if handled properly. He said the departments of computer sciences in the uni-

funds, infrastructre facilities and teaching staff. Rezwan Bin Faruque said IT sector was the fastest growing sector with bright prospects for

versities are facing shortage of

the youths. Tarun Mitra said APTECH has so far trained more than 1000 Bangladeshi youths in one

year. The seminar was followed by a question-answer session on the prospects and problems of

the IT sector.

Civil service: 50 groups Officers Association, BCS From Page 1

The organisations are: Bangladesh Gano Karmachari Sangjukta Parishad, Bangladesh Sachibalaya Karmachari Samity, BCS (Economic) Officers Association, Institute desh Polytechnic Teachers Association, Bangladesh Krishi Institute Teachers Federation. Bangladesh Civil Service Audit and Accounts Association, Bangladesh Civil Service (Customs) Association, Bangladesh Civil Service (Taxation) Association, Bangladesh Institution of Engineers, Krishibid Institute Bangladesh, BCS (Police) Association, BCS (Postal) Association, Bangladesh Teachers Association Federation, Bangladesh Scientist and Scientific Association (BASSP), Retired Government Employees Welfare Association, Class Four Government tion, Bangladesh Sachibalay Karmachari Sanjukta Pa-Central Organisation, Audit and Accounts Karmachari

Parishad. BCS (Education)

Bangladesh Diploma Krishibid Parishad, Audit and Accounts Karmakarta Parishad, Oil, Gas and Mineral Resources Officers Federation, Bangladesh College University Teachers Association. Customs and Excise and VAT Class Three Nirbahi Karmachari Samity, Bangla Academy, Chief Administrative Officer, Defence Ministry, Bangladesh Medical Association, Bangladesh Architects Association, Bangladesh Customs Excise and VAT Execcurities of Civil Aviation Au-Bangladesh Navy Civilian Karmachari Association and

Bangladesh Non-cadre Gazetted Food Officers Association. Besides, there are splinter groups of Sachibalaya Karmachari Association, Sachibalaya Karmakarta and Karmachari Parishad and Non-cadre Offi-

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

address: dstar@bangla.net

was lodged with the Motijheel thana on Thursday. Nobody was accused in the case filed by M Hamid.

the compound of the colony.

of Diploma Engineers, Bangla-Employees Welfare Associarishad, Bangladesh Post Union

(Judiciary) Association, BCS (Administration) Association. utive Officers Association, Sethority, Bangladesh Inter-University Officers' Federation, Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association, BCS (Forest) Association, Bangladesh Registration Service Association,

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