


Over 3 million customers depend on **FedEx** everyday for timely and reliable delivery of their packages and freight to 211 countries worldwide. You will get the same level of world-class service here at **FedEx**

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation. 95, Motiheel C.A. Dhaka-1000. E-mail: banex@bangla.net Internet: http://www.fedex.com

For customer service details, please dial:
Dhaka (880-2) 9565114, 9884851, 9883927, 894213, 9130647, 9338931, 9345261, 9667462, 808803, 863986, 9010493
Chittagong (880-31) 712127, 724823, CEPZ 740108 Narayanganj (880-2) 9714336, Khulna (880-41) 725008

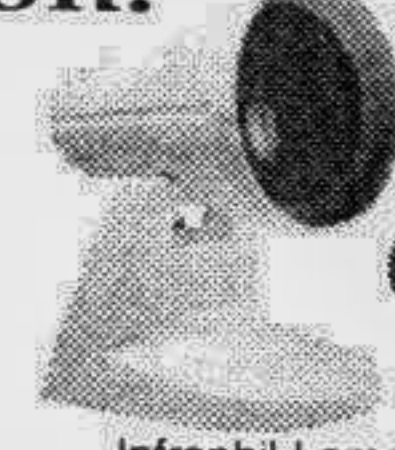



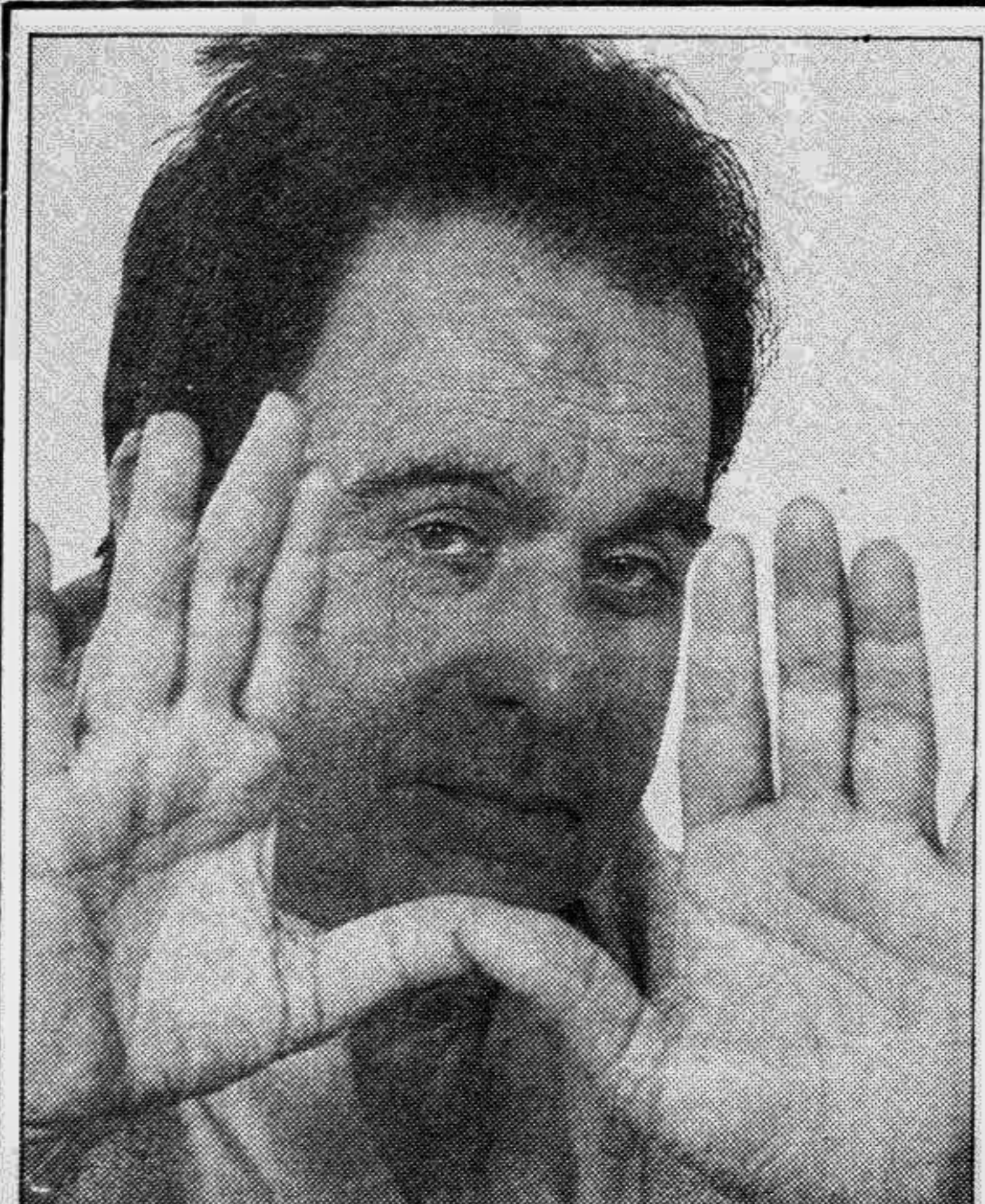
Backed by Guarantee
Let's make things better
PHILIPS

Ideal gift for any occasion.

Instalment facility available only for purchases above Tk. 7,500

Transcom Electronics Limited
Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets.
Dhaka: 815307-10 Ctg: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215
Visit your nearest Philips Display Centre today

 Infra-red Lamp
 Vacuum Cleaner



'Such a big noise for such a small thing'

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, July 10: An emotionally-charged thespian actor Dilip Kumar who is under pressure from Shiv Sena to return Pakistan's second highest civilian award 'Nishan-e-Pakistan' awarded to him last year, has said he can sacrifice everything for the sake of India.

"What is in an award? All that one possesses can be given up for one's country and its prestige and anything can be sacrificed for that," he told reporters here late last night on arriving here from Mumbai.

Dilip Kumar, who has impressed film-lovers in the Sub-continent for decades, has sought an appointment with Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to discuss the controversy kicked off by the demand that the actor return the award following the Pakistani armed incursion in Kargil in India's Jammu and Kashmir state.

Clearly upset over the manner in which pressure is being brought on him, Dilip Kumar said "such a big noise is being made for such a small thing." He said although he was born in Peshawar (now in Pakistan) and came to India more than 70 years ago, "I got everything from India." His voice was clearly choked with emotions.

Describing the whole controversy as "absurd," the actor said "those who are putting pressure on me are in ill-informed."

Dilip Kumar said he would go by the guidance of Vajpayee who "is a great gentleman."

Meanwhile, several opposition parties, including the Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal and Communist Party of India, have disapproved with the demand that Dilip Kumar return "Nishan-e-Pakistan award" saying the actor's "patriotic credentials" were beyond doubt.

Congress spokesman Ajit Jogi said how can anyone doubt the patriotic credentials and nationalist fervour of Dilip Kumar. Besides, he recalled, the award was also given to former Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai.

The CPI said the demand that Dilip Kumar return the award represented the "height of jingoism and callousness."

In Mumbai, Dilip Kumar's actress wife Saire Banu said "nobody objected to Dilip Shahab being honoured with the award last year when he had gone there to receive it. Why a sudden hue and cry over it now?"

She said Dilip Kumar had intimated the Prime Minister and President of India before receiving the award in March 1998.

INS Vikrant may be turned into a war museum

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, July 10: A last-minute intervention by the government may have fated 'INS Vikrant', Indian Navy's first aircraft carrier which played a key role in Bangladesh's Liberation War, from being auctioned to a private ship-breaking firm.

The BJP Shiv Sena government in the Western Indian state of Maharashtra yesterday pledged Rs 6.5 crore for the ship, just a day after the warship, went under the auctioneer's hammer in Mumbai for Rs 5.8 crore for scrapping by a private shipbreaker firm.

A final decision on the fate of the auction, conducted by state-owned Metal Scrap Trading Corporation, will be taken by the Indian Defence Ministry.

The almost eleventh-hour intervention by the Maharashtra government, which plans to turn the INS Vikrant into a maritime museum, follows a directive from Shiv Sena supreme Bal Thackeray who has been firmly and consistently opposing the scrapping of the ship.

"It is a great feeling that this prestigious ship of the navy of the Sixties, Seventies and Eighties is being saved and preserved for the people of the country," said Vice-Admiral Madhavendra Singh soon after Maharashtra Chief Minister Narayan Rane pledged the money in the presence of Thackeray on the light deck of the vessel yesterday.

Last year, the Defence Ministry had set a deadline for Maharashtra government to receive the ship as a gift and convert into a war museum by spending Rs six crore.

"INS Vikrant is the ship which saved the nation in a crisis. It could become a war museum, a convention centre and an educational site—all rolled into one," said Thackeray.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motiheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmendi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cite: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

Nasir's arrest prompts others to go into hiding in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 10: Most of the top terrorists in the city and its surrounding areas still escape arrest despite a police crackdown following some sensational incidents of murder last month.

Police sources said the ring leaders of terrorists went into hiding after local Awami League leader AZM Nasir was arrested in connection with some criminal cases including those for murders last week.

Nasir's name was on the list of 'identified terrorists' prepared by Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

The CMP list carried the names of over 40 top terrorists in the city involved in violence, terrorist activities and illegal toll collection.

Some sources said the top terrorists who have gone into hiding are maintaining secret contacts with a section of police personnel to escape arrest.

The arrest of Nasir became a cause of concern to the ring leaders of terrorists here, prompting them to go into hiding under the shelter of their godfathers and mentors who are influential political leaders of the port city, the sources mentioned.

Despite a series of police crackdown in the city, Nasir earlier escaped arrest, reportedly having links with police high-ups, sources said.

But eventually he was arrested in Dhaka and his supporters blamed Awami League central leader Akteruzzaman Chowdhury for this. Akteruzzaman, once a mentor of Nasir, denied having any hand behind the arrest of Nasir.

Previously enjoying the blessing of Akteruzzaman, Nasir later defected his mentor due to rivalry between them, the sources said.

Police is virtually doing nothing to nab the top terrorists outside the city, particularly in Raazan and Fatikchhari, known as stronghold of armed criminals.

Sec 144 in Manikganj town to avert clash between 2 BNP factions

MANIKGANJ, July 10: District administration imposed section 144 in the town today to avert any possible clashes between two factions of local BNP, reports UNB.

The situation arose following convening of meetings by the two factions at the same time at same venue.

The district BNP divided into two factions under the leadership of Opposition Chief Whip Khondaker Delwar Hossain and Harun-or-Rashid Khan Munnu, MP after formation of a 72-member convening committee.

Supporters of the two factions took positions near the district council office creating panic in the area.

However, both the meetings could not be held due to police intervention.

Fresh areas in three districts inundated

Flood situation in three districts—Sunamganj, Kustia and Lalmonirhat—has deteriorated further inundating fresh areas, reports UNB.

In Sunamganj, flood situation in the district deteriorated further today with inundation of low-lying areas and erosion by the rivers.

Low-lying areas of Doara Bazaar, Chhatak, Bishwambharpur, Tahipur and sadar thanas have been submerged due to onrush of hill water from across the border.

Roads of Uttar Arpin Nagar and Teghaha on the town have also gone under water this morning, causing disruption to traffic movement.

Water of the River Surma is entering into Machhbazaar, Natunbazaar, Launchghat, police outpost and Surma Market creating panic among the people residing in these areas.

Besides, water is entering into the haor areas and a vast tract of it is being eroded by large waves. Surma was flowing 55 cm above its danger level near the town at 6 pm today.

Water Development Board recorded 91-mm rainfall in the district today.

In Kustia, water level in the rivers Ganges and Gorai continued to increase inundating fresh areas in the district today.

The river Ganges recorded a rise of 8 cm at Harding Bridge point while the Gorai recorded a rise of 12 cm at Gorai Railway bridge point, according to flood forecasting and warning centre.

Erosion by the Ganges in eight unions of Daulatpur thana turned worse with due to strong current in the river caused by incessant rain and onrush of water from the upstream.

River erosion in these areas has already devoured 50 houses affecting many families.

Flood situation in Lalmonirhat district worsened further with incessant rain and onrush of hill waters from across the border.

Sources said water levels in all the rivers marked further rise leaving at least 2,000 people of over 500 families of low-lying areas marooned.

Hatibandha Thana Nirbahi Officer Swapna Kumar Shah told UNB that water level at Teesta Barrage was flowing well above its normal flow and if the rain continued a huge area including flood bypass road might be washed away.

Local administration including Water Development Board have been kept alert to face any situation, he said.

Arafat, Ehud hold talks today

GAZA, July 10: Palestinian President Yasser Arafat hopes that his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak tomorrow will "begin a new chapter" in efforts to achieve a bilateral peace settlement, reports Reuter.

Barak, who took office on Tuesday, has pledged to inject momentum into Middle East peacemaking which moved at a snail's pace under his predecessor, right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu. (Arafat) will be going to the meeting with Israel's prime minister ready to begin a new chapter and to wipe out the past three years of mistrust," said a Palestinian cabinet statement issued today by the official Wafa news agency.

It said Arafat hoped the talks, the first summit between the Palestinians and Israel in seven months, would lead to a "speedy resumption of the peace process and the immediate implementation of the Wye agreement and a halt to Jewish settlements."

Palestinian officials today rejected a suggestion by Barak that the US-brokered Wye River



Backed by Guarantee
Let's make things better
PHILIPS

Ideal gift for any occasion.

Instalment facility available only for purchases above Tk. 7,500

Transcom Electronics Limited
Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets.
Dhaka: 815307-10 Ctg: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215
Visit your nearest Philips Display Centre today

 Infra-red Lamp
 Vacuum Cleaner



A 'citizens' procession' were brought out in the city after a rally at the Osmany Uddyan yesterday protesting felling of trees there.

Akhteruzzaman's statement

By Staff Correspondent

BNP's controversial MP Maj (ret'd) Akhteruzzaman yesterday issued a press statement on the recent killing of a police constable in the city, almost contradicting the spirit of another statement of his on the same incident only the day before.

Referring to a case against some BNP men in connection with the killing, Akhteruzzaman said yesterday that the government has filed a false case. Demanding withdrawal of charges against the BNP leaders and activists, he said that the government "has filed the false case out of political vindictivity against the BNP."

Police constable Farhad was killed in a bomb blast near the zero-point of the capital, reportedly some time after the BNP had ended its torch procession some two hundred yards from the place on Wednesday evening.

Akhteruzzaman that day condemned the killing and reportedly observed that there were elements in the BNP who are 'out to bring the party to a state of confrontation with police.'

In this connection, he had also called upon the party leadership to 'purge those who are trying to mislead the organisation on the path of terrorism.'

APSU threatens hunger strike at BUET

By DU Correspondent

All Party Students' Unity (APSU) at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) threatened to go for an indefinite hunger strike from Tuesday if the BUET authorities do not reconsider the expulsion order on some students for their involvement in the April 25-26 incidents of violence on the campus.

APSU leaders also threatened to boycott all the rescheduled examinations beginning July 20 to press home their demand for a judicial probe into the terrorist activities on the campus.

APSU, a platform of four student organisations of BUET, has already started its movement from yesterday with a mass contact drive in Ahsanullah, Suhrawardy, Nazrul Islam and Rasheed halls of the university and holding rallies and processions on the campus.

A group of APSU leaders told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon that they would declare their final course of action at a press conference on the campus tomorrow (Monday).

BUET authorities recently expelled one student for life and three others for four terms with two terms of suspended expulsion for their involvement in vandalism and terrorist activities on the campus on April 25 and 26. The authorities have also ordered suspended expulsion of 22 students for varying periods for involvement in the incidents. The action followed a probe body report on the incident that comprised some influential BUET teachers.

The APSU had earlier rejected the probe body report terming it as "partial and motivated" and a reflection of the demands of BUET Teachers' Association (BUETTA). The APSU has been demanding judicial probe for a 'neutral and impartial' investigation of the incidents.

Some students ransacked different academic buildings on the night of April 25 and attacked some teachers' dormitories on the campus the following night after a row over expulsion of a student for impersonating during examination. BUET was closed, *sine die*, on April 27 following the incidents.

Meanwhile, sources said that the BUET authorities were determined not to withdraw the expulsion order. Sources also said that the BUET Academic Council at a recent meeting rejected an appeal of the expelled students for reconsidering the decision.

DU to observe population day

By DU correspondent

Dhaka University will observe World Population Day '99 for the first time this year. The decision was prompted by the establishment of a new department of population sciences under the social science faculty.

A number of programmes have been chalked out to mark the occasion including an open discussion at the Teachers' Students' Centre (TSC) at 4:30 p.m. The topic will be: 'Year of 6 billion: Choices and Responsibilities in the next millennium.' Prof A K M Nurun Nabi, project coordinator of the population department will present the keynote paper, while Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of the university will preside. Pro-vice chancellor Prof M Shahadat Ali, Prof Rehman Sobhan, Dr Kholiquzzaman, Prof Nazrul Islam, Shu Yun Zhu of UN Population Fund, Mahfuz Anam, editor, Daily Star, Toab Khan, advisory editor, Janakantha, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor, Daily Observer and other eminent journalists, educationists and experts will participate in the discussion.

48-hr transport strike in Ctg Div from Tuesday

CHITTAGONG, July 10: Greater Chittagong Truck Owners' Coordinating Council has called a 48-hour transport strike in the division from Tuesday to press its various demands, reports UNB.

The demands include withdrawal of additional tax in the national budget, 25 per cent extra charge for registration and VAT imposed on the retail price of tubes.

Hasina

From Page 1

the post-independence period. Hasina said, when Bangabandhu concentrated on building the economy for improving the lot of the people, he was brutally killed by a handful ambitious and treacherous army officers dismissed from service earlier.

Sheikh Hasina also mentioned the achievement of her government and plan for future developments.

Hasina said her government is committed to establish rule of law, and for that, Indemnity Ordinance was repealed to try the killers of Bangabandhu.

The function was also addressed by Rashed Suhrawardy, Dr Mohammad Selim and AEBP General Secretary Dr Zahidul Hasan.

Terrorists

From Page 1

lice officials of KMP have secret links with this notorious criminal of fabulous wealth", one source said.

Meanwhile, crimes have increased alarmingly in the metropolitan city. Hardly a day passes without any incident of dacoity.

According to records with police, two murders, 10 dacoities, 20 robberies and two rapes took place in the city in the last one month. The actual number would be much higher, the sources claimed because many such cases are not recorded.

The listed terrorists are still at large in different areas of the metropolitan city. But police do not arrest them due to interference by political leaders, they claimed.

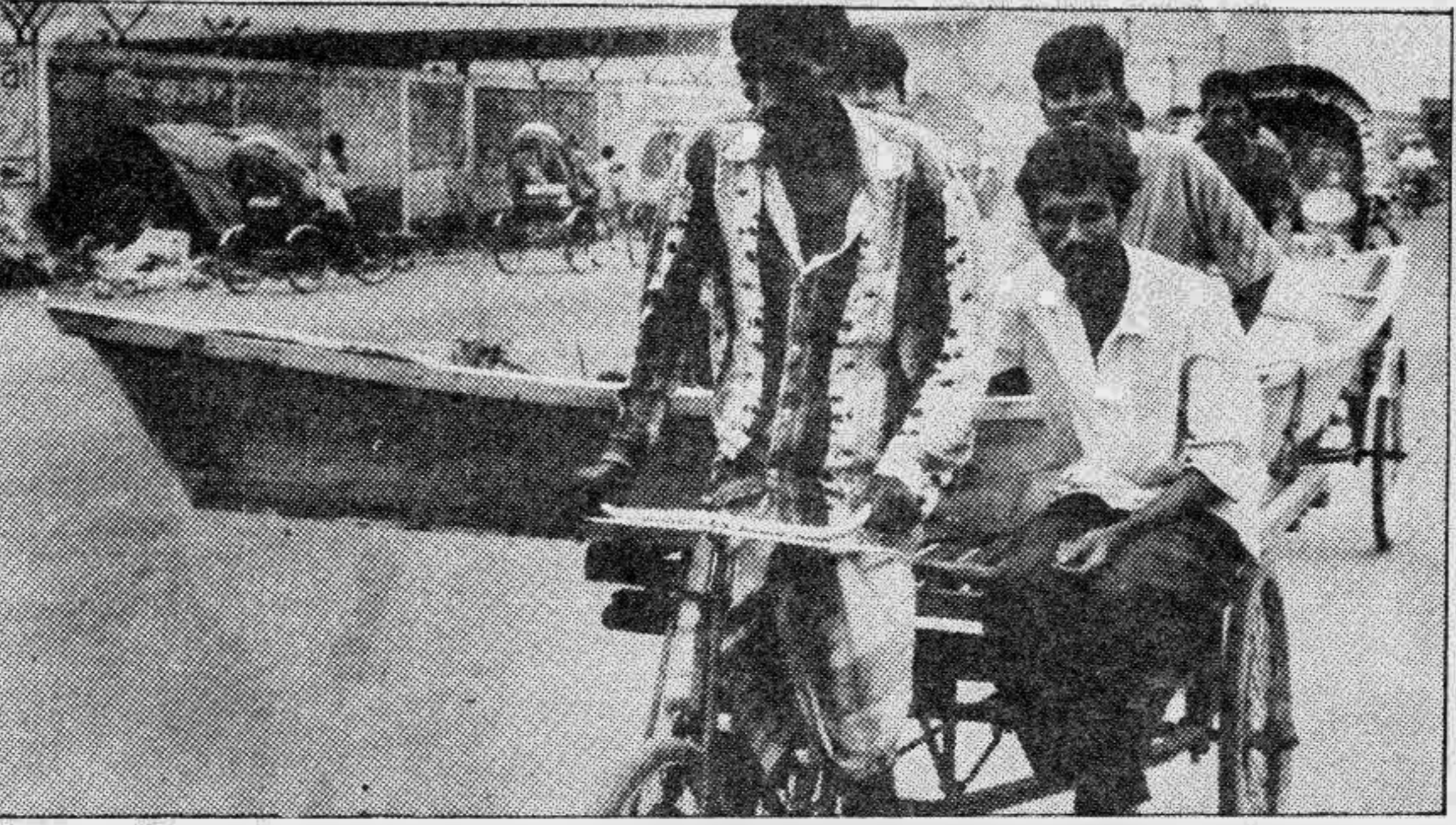
Kashmir

From Page 1

declare war against Pakistan to end its support to Islamic guerillas in the Himalayan state.

"We will have to start a war with that country (for) aiding and abetting terrorism in Kashmir (and) also for fiddling with the borders of our country," Feroq Abdullah told reporters in Jammu.

"I recommend war with Pakistan, and in this direction I will talk to the (Indian) president, prime minister and home minister soon," he added.



Some residents from a low-lying areas in the city submerged by rain water are taking a boat they purchased.

2 killed as dacoits attack villagers in Sherpur

SHERPUR, July 10: Two people were killed and 25 others injured in a series of attacks by a gang of dacoits at sadar thana here Friday night, reports UNB.

Police said one person was stabbed to death on the spot as the dacoits numbering about 20 swooped on the villagers of Andharia village under sadar thana.

The dead was identified as Dulal, 32.

The dacoits equipped with arms, attacked the villagers when they foiled the dacoity attempt at Surjadi Sonali Bank branch.

Later, the dacoits attacked Bhangin Bazar, some two km off Surjadi Bazar and looted eight shops.

The dacoits again attacked the villagers of Bhangin.

The armed gang exploded cocktails and fired shots leaving Moazzem Hossain, 55, of Raghunathpur village in the same thana dead on the spot and 25 injured.

Petrobangla silent

From Page 1

Other sources said, the rig arrived the country in April without prior inspection and permission from Petrobangla. Initially, Petrobangla refused to approve this rig for the South Sangu operation as it was very old. But Cairn argued that the rig was refurbished in Dubai and was in top shape.

When Petrobangla approved the budget for South Sangu on February 25, it was agreed by Cairn and Petrobangla that a Petrobangla team would visit Dubai to inspect and certify the rig. It was also decided that another Petrobangla team would visit and inspect Cairn's Singapore supply base, from where all drilling equipment are sent to Bangladesh by ship. Both these visits were supposed to be organised by Cairn.

But Cairn brought the South Sangu drilling equipment including the 25-year old rig without arranging the inspection visits to Dubai and Singapore. The rig reached Chittagong on April 8. The standby cost of this rig is fixed at 28,000 US dollars but Cairn did not charge anything in this regard.

As Petrobangla came to know about the rig last month, prior to Cairn's formal withdrawal from blocks 15 and 16, it has arranged a trip to Indonesia and another to Singapore for some Petrobangla officials as a "compensation".

According to seismic data, the gas structure in South Sangu appears to be the most prospective one. "It has 160 metres of gas sand - the thickest

Insurgents kill 5 troops in Tripura

NEW DELHI, July 10: Separatist guerrillas today killed five paramilitary personnel in a grenade attack in the far-eastern Indian state of Tripura, the United News of India (UNI) reported, reports AFP.

Ctg BCL to stage hunger strike today

CHITTAGONG, July 10: City unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League will observe a dawn-to-dusk hunger strike in front of local press club tomorrow demanding release of Awami League leader AJM Nasir.

Nasir was arrested in Dhaka on July 6.