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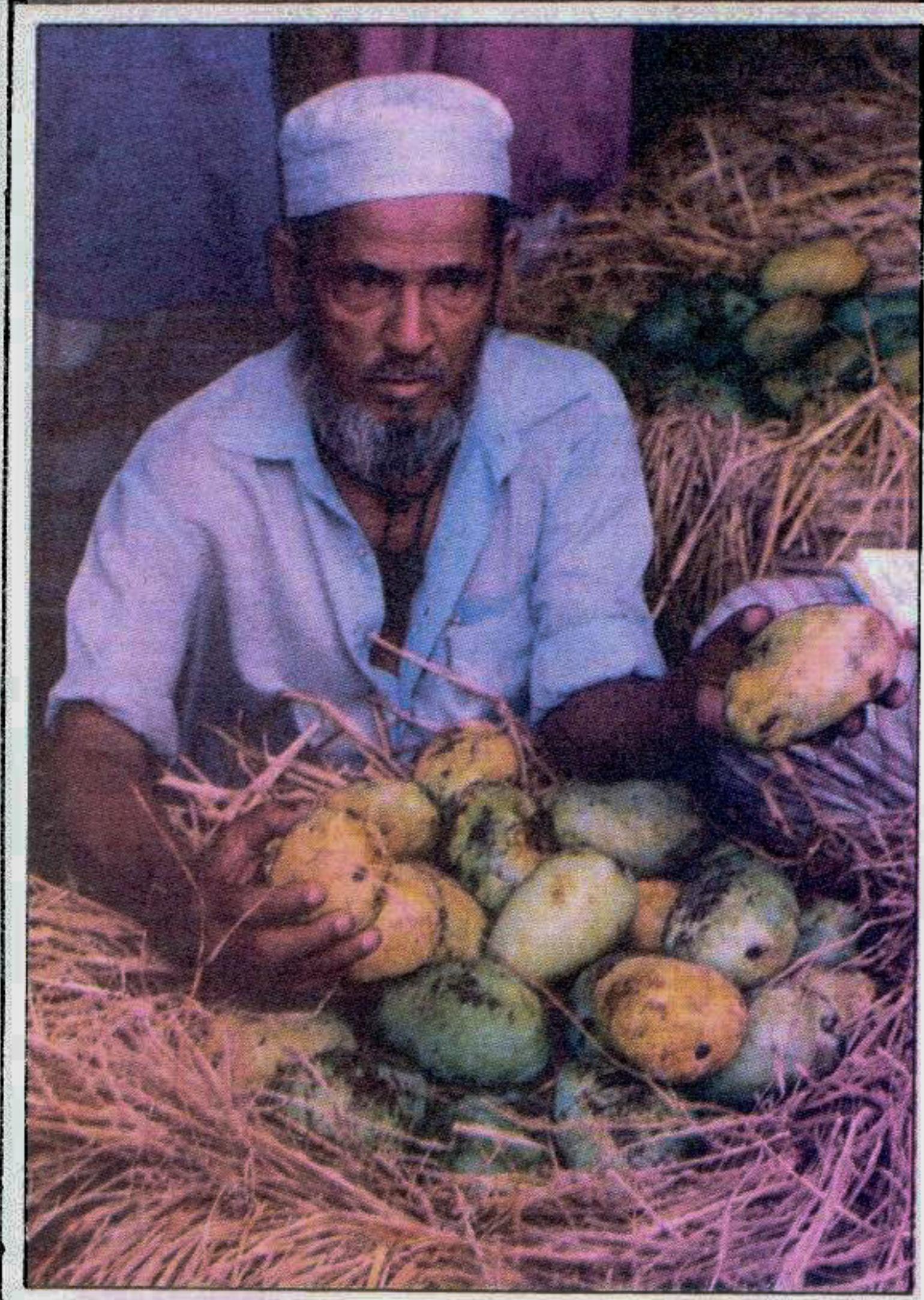
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Immaculate conception

The Urdu poet Mirza Ghalib termed the mango as God's most perfect creation. The summer fruit remains abundant and cheap even in monsoon this year. — Star photo

Mangoes still abundant, could be cheaper

By Reaz Ahmad

ident of the Fruit Merchants' Association, told The Daily Star that a low price because of import during the peak-season would frustrate local mango growers and urged for an end to mango import.

Meanwhile, the season's mango bonanza saw a rapid expansion of mango markets across the city. Traditional fruit markets apart, baskets full of mangoes are now finding their ways to every city neighbourhoods.

Badsha sells mango at a little shop facing Sadarghat launch terminal. For him fall in mango price is no good news. But increase in sales volume brings in much profit for him to meet the price factor. "There are over 50 fruit shops in the vicinity. I can guess an average business of Tk 5000 per shop a day," he said.

Despite a huge supply of mangoes there have been no reports of wastage. The only time they rot is during hartsals and other communication disruption.

Alleged terrorist held in Ctg

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 11: An alleged terrorist was arrested from Agrabad area in the city last night.

Double Mooring thana police arrested him from a place behind "Mistimukh" at Sheikh Mujib Road.

The arrested was identified as Md Maksudur Rahman alias Masud alias Rana, 27. He was arrested in connection with five criminal cases filed with the same thana, police said.

Meanwhile, CMP police arrested 48 people on various charges from different thana areas of the city in the last 24 hours ending at 6 am today.

Girl shot dead by extortionists in Feni

From Our Correspondent

FEJI, July 10: A minor girl was shot dead and a young boy injured with bullet by a gang of extortionists at village Hakdi under Sadar thana this morning.

Police and witnesses said, the gang demanded toll from Noor Ahmed and his brother Abdul Kuddus at around 9:30 am. As they refused to pay toll, the extortionists shot at Kamrunnahar Shirin, 10, daughter of Noor Ahmed and Nurul Absar, 20, son of Abdul Kuddus. Shirin died on the spot while Absar was admitted to Feni Sadar hospital.

Barak promises to revive Wye Peace Accord

EREZ CROSSING POINT (Gaza Strip), July 11: Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Barak held his first summit today with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and emerged pledging to "move forward in peace" together, reports AP.

"Both sides have suffered enough," the new Israeli prime minister said at a news conference afterward, as Arafat looked on, nodding. "Palestinians and Israelis alike are waiting for us ... to provide them with a better and safe future," Arafat said.

Heading into the meeting, Barak warned it would take time to get diplomacy back on track. But Palestinian officials demanded quick action as a show of good faith.

"We expect full compliance" on existing agreements, Arafat

told Barak. The Israeli leader promised to implement the US-brokered Wye Accord and consult with the Palestinians about how to wrap that in with so-called final status talks leading to a permanent peace accord, reports AP.

The session at a border crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip lasted little over an hour. The two leaders — Barak in a dark suit, Arafat, in his trademark fatigues — shook hands and waved to onlookers as they entered the meeting room.

Barak's words about peace have to be followed up by deeds. Palestinian parliament speaker Ahmed Qureila, also known as Abu Ala, told official Voice of Palestine radio before the meeting began.

Palestinian officials said their main demand was to implement the US-brokered Wye

River accord and other existing agreements that call for Israel to hand over more West Bank land and release several hundred Palestinian prisoners. They also want a halt to Jewish settlement-building.

Barak, though, sought to dampen expectations about timing.

"The diplomatic road will not be short," he told a Cabinet meeting — his first — hours before the summit. He briefed ministers on talks Friday with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and upcoming meetings with Jordan's King Abdullah II and US President Bill Clinton, the Cabinet said in a statement.

Security was tight for the summit. More than 100 journalists on hand to cover the event spent an hour passing through metal detectors beforehand.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed, flanked by former chief adviser of caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman (right), breaks the silence over political financing at the BIBM, yesterday.



Bitter truth

President Shahabuddin Ahmed, flanked by former chief adviser of caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman (right), breaks the silence over political financing at the BIBM, yesterday. — PID photo

President

From Page 1
other banks, some having over Tk 1,000 crore each overdue loans, are getting shelter from political parties.

Former chief adviser in the caretaker government Muhammad Habibur Rahman delivered the second Nurul Matin Memorial Lecture on 'Ethics in Banking' at the function.

Rahman called for having a code of ethics in the banking sector and compliance with a circular issued by the central bank in 1996 which specified the responsibilities, powers and facilities of chairmen, directors and chief executive officers of banks.

He said code of ethics is a code of conscience based on fairness, honesty, courtesy, self-restraint and consideration for others. It is based on a collective sense of right and wrong which is influenced by the time frame and by the cultural background of a society.

"As a first step, the banks are to set their homes in proper order. Without a dependable work-ethics, their conflicting goals of solvency, liquidity and profits cannot be successfully reconciled," Rahman said.

Regarding delay in judicial process, the former chief justice called for a survey of a hundred or more cases that had already been disposed of.

He said that the records, particularly the order sheets, should be examined to find out who were actually responsible for the delay — the banks' executives, employees, their lawyers, functionaries of the courts or the presiding judges.

The former chief justice also said when a number of similar cases were going before the courts, the judgement in one case could cut short proceedings in other cases.

He said that an ethical banker is expected to apply values wider than his exclusive attention to economic values.

Rahman suggested enactment of relevant laws meticulously setting checks and balances. Select committees in parliament should examine more minutely the working of the banks and an ombudsman should be appointed, he felt.

He, however, cautioned that all these steps would not be of much help without having leaders with high ethical standard. (See Business Page for related story)

'Abductors' held

BANDARBAN, July 11: Bandarban police arrested three people in connection with the abduction of contractor Nazrul Islam from Napitpukura under Rangunia thana, in the early hours of today, reports BSS.

The arrested were identified as Ali Akbar, Sayed Baker and Abul Kashem.

India goes to polls Sept 4-Oct 1

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, July 11: India's election commission today announced a five-phased schedule for parliamentary elections with balloting taking place on September 4, 11, 17, 24 and October 1 in one of the most staggered polling to be held in recent history.

The counting of ballots will be held on October 5 and 6, said the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Manohar Singh Gill who released the election schedule at a news conference here.

Gill said the coming elections would be held in the extraordinary situation in the context of the Kargil stand-off with Pakistan. It is for the first time that the exercise would be held in September-October.

The election schedule was released two months after the dissolution of Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) following the fall of Valapayee government in a confidence vote and the opposition parties failure to cobble an alternative.

Main opposition Congress welcomed the election schedule saying it was the best possible looking at the present constraints and circumstances.

Ruling BJP hailed the an-

Planned transport strike in Ctg

Divn postponed

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 11: Some activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League city unit, observed a token hunger strike in front of Chittagong press club today demanding release of Awami League leader AZM Nasir.

Nasir was arrested in Dhaka on July 6 in connection with several criminal cases including murder.

The BCL activists belonging to Nasir faction joined the hunger strike for about six hours from 11 am.

4 more outlaws surrender

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 11: A regional leader of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party today surrendered to the Superintendent of Police, Jessore along with his three accomplices.

Police said, Zafar Sheikh, a regional leader of the party in north-east zone of the district surrendered to the SP in his office with arms and ammunition.

College student stabbed to death at Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, July 11: A college student was stabbed to death allegedly by a local youth at Kalibari in the town Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said Monjurul Alam Liton, 20, a student of Lalmonirhat Government College, was stabbed by one Masum while playing chess with his friends in a shop.



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