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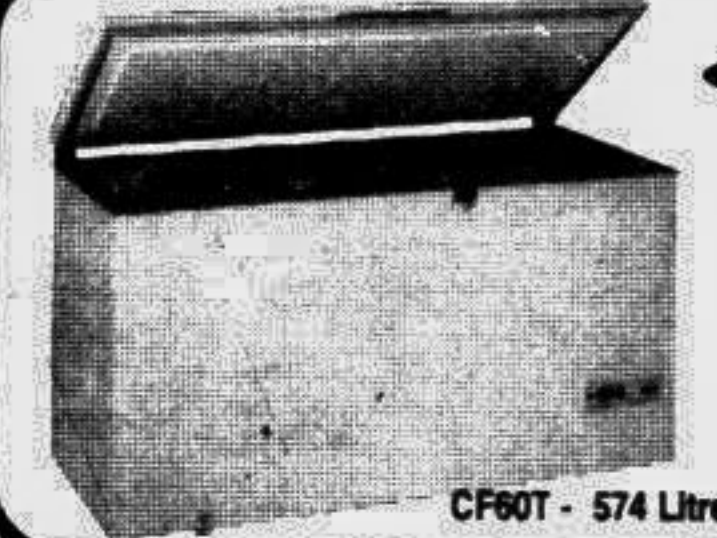
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Case against Prothom Alo publisher, editor stayed

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court yesterday stayed the proceedings of the criminal case filed by Barrister Rafiqul-Huq against the editor of Prothom Alo, its publisher and special correspondent for eight weeks.

The High Court also asked Huq to explain within six weeks why the case should not be quashed.

The High Court Division orders came Sunday following an appeal made by Prothom Alo Publisher Mahfuz Anam, Editor Matur Rahman and Special Correspondent Sanaullah. The appeal was heard by a Bench comprising Justice Sirajul Islam and Justice M M Ruhul Amin.

Barrister Rukonuddin Mahmud appeared for the petitioners. He was assisted by Murad Reza, Mubina A Rahman and Sheikh Hasan Arif.

Army, navy to be withdrawn from Ctg port Thursday

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: Stage is set for pulling out Army and Navy personnel from Chittagong port on Thursday, port security sources said.

The withdrawal follows the decision taken by the defence ministry, they said. About 500 Army and Navy personnel were deployed at Chittagong port.

In the first phase army personnel were deployed under the food cell of Chittagong port to expedite and supervise the discharge of foodgrains and other food items on September 17 last year.

Meanwhile, Chittagong port authority requested the government to keep some Army personnel at the port to provide security service at the jetty gates, port official said. But any response in this regard was yet to be received, they said. On the other hand, port users opposed the move for withdrawal of army from Chittagong port.

President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry and convener of Port Users' Forum Kamal Uddin Ahmed talking to this correspondent said that a meeting of the forum would be held tomorrow here to protest the move for withdrawal of Army. He said that appeal would be made to the government to keep Army at Chittagong port for security reason.

Noori Mosque

Another skull, 26 more bones recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Excavators yesterday recovered another skull, 46 bones, one bangle and a chain from around the Noori Mosque area as excavation work continued for the 10 day yesterday.

The Liberation War Museum (LWM) started digging from July 31 on receiving information that the Noori Mosque committee had found skull and bones while digging the well and its adjoining areas for renovation work.

The excavation work is being carried out by the Liberation War Museum with the help of Ekattor Smriti Parishad, mosque authorities and local people.



Ami with his mother at the press conference yesterday.

— Star photo

Ailing Ami leaves for London today

By Special Correspondent

A seven-year-old student of Udayan School in the city, Ahad Hossain Ami, who was injured in a road accident, is leaving for London today for treatment after people responding to a call for help donated Tk 13 lakh and 12 thousand to pay for it.

Donors included President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who gave Tk 40 thousand and Tk 50 thousand respectively. Parents of the students of Udayan School raised Tk 140,000 at the initiative of the headmistress.

The large amount of money required for specialised treat-

ment to save the meritorious student's life was collected as a businessman and social worker of Srinagar, Munshiganj, Abdul Jalil Bikrampur, made a lot of efforts for this.

Bikrampur told newsmen yesterday at the Jatiya Press Club that he helped raise the funds as Ami's parents sought his help after spending over Tk 10 lakh for treatment of their son. He thanked all for helping Ami get necessary treatment.

The boy was injured in a road accident in April last year. Parents of Ami were present at the press conference. They also thanked people for the help.

More slums, illegal shops removed

By Staff Correspondent

More than three thousand shanties, shops and illegal establishments on both sides of rail lines starting from Shamibagh to Jaurain in Shaturpur thana were evicted in presence of police personnel yesterday.

The drive was carried out from morning till evening in presence of a railway magistrate. The slums evicted yesterday were Sayedabad rail crossing, Guntigar and Nama Dayaganj-Jurail rail crossing.

Witnesses said that thousands of people became homeless as slums and shops were evicted from both sides of the rail lines stretching for about four kilometres.

The recent police drive to evict slums was carried after a police constable was shot dead inside a police camp at Gopibagh, Friday night.

Three slums at Balurmath, Barrack and TT Para were evicted on Sunday in presence of more than a thousand police personnel and para-military border forces.

According to police officials more slums in the different areas of the city will be evicted gradually.

A slum dweller at Sayedabad rail crossing alleged that several slum dwellers were killed at different times following conflict among feuding groups of illegal drug traders but police did not take any action about

it. But this time police are reacting severely as one their colleague was shot dead by the illegal drug traders.

Meanwhile, panic gripped the slum dwellers following the recent drive by the police. It was learnt that several people from Gopibagh area rushed to the BNP colony at Agargaon area while a senior police official said that they are planning to continue their drive to the BNP colony very soon.

Nasim firm to remove slums

Star Report

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday said all slums in Dhaka city will be evicted, as those have become dens for criminals.

The Home Minister in an interview with BBC said that if we allow slums to grow on government land then the whole of Dhaka city will turn into a big slum.

He said evicted people will return to their respective village homes and some will be rehabilitated under the government's rehabilitation programme.

Thousands of phensidyl bottles, bombs and arms were recovered during the slum eviction programme, the minister informed.

Police officers on UN mission Dhaka still in dark about events in Kosovo

By Staff Correspondent

The fate of 36 of the 49 Bangladesh police officers who have reportedly failed a performance test in Kosovo remained uncertain till yesterday as there was no official version of the events.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad told official BSS news agency yesterday that he had instructed the Bangladesh mission in New York to take up the issue with the UN. The minister said there was no official communication between the foreign ministry and the UN about the issue reported by the media in the last few days.

But police officers reached in Kosovo by phone said they were "disappointed" and "frustrated" by the turn of events. They said they had been "unfairly" treated by some UN officials who had asked Bangladesh officers to undergo tests "one after another".

"First, they asked for a language test which we passed comfortably. Then we went through a driving test which we also passed... and then, a so-called gun test. Strangely, they rated our performance as being unsatisfactory."

"Even those trained at the Bangladesh Military Academy have failed the gun test. Some of these officers had previously taken part in previous UN missions," one officer said, speaking by phone on condition of

anonymity.

In all, only 13 Bangladeshis passed all the tests, the officers said.

Police sources in Dhaka blamed a particular UN official from a European country for the "maltreatment" of the Bangladesh officers along with those from Nepal. The UN official, the sources said, angrily refused to accept police officers from these two countries.

State minister for foreign affairs Abul Hassan Chowdhury has said he sees no reason for the officers to fail such a test. He said it was surprising that officers who had successfully accomplished similar missions earlier should be declared unfit.

Earlier on Saturday, BBC had quoted a UN spokesman to report the gun test failure by the officers from the two countries.

The 49 Bangladesh officers went to Kosovo on July 27. And for the first time, they had been selected through tests conducted by the police headquarters. Asked last night, Home Secretary Shafiqur Rahman said the tests followed all standard procedures and that there was no reason for so many officers to fail the tests.

The foreign minister dispelled rumours that the Bangladesh policemen had been sent out to Macedonia. "They are in Kosovo," he said.

Meghnaghat

From Page 1

The Ministry further noted that since AES already had the First Phase Meghnaghat Project and the Haripur Power Project in hand with a total generation capacity of 810 MW, it would not be wise to award it a third project.

However, official sources said that the whole idea contradicted World Bank recommendations regarding private sector power generation in the country.

The WB says the government should not pursue private sector power projects beyond a total generation capacity of 1330 MW (which are already in the pipeline).

The WB further says the government must first assess the economic implications of these private projects so that payments for power do not create any 'debacle'.

"We have a lot of time to assess the existing private projects," commented a source. "Right now, it will be wise for us to pursue power projects under suppliers' credit and streamline financial matters in PDB-DESA."

"Since we already have a lot of private power projects in hand, it should be our last option now to pursue any more project," the source pointed out. "We should concentrate on maintaining the schedules of the present projects which will be bearing fruits in the next couple of years."

Dates of Manzoor murder trial shifted

The First Additional District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, yesterday shifted the dates to August 22, 23 and 24 for passing the order of cancellation of bail of all the accused including Jatiya party Chairman and former president HM Ershad in Major General Manzoor murder case, reports BSS.

ICC seeks WC place for Bangladesh

NAIROBI, Aug 9: The International Cricket Council (ICC) recommended today that Kenya and Bangladesh qualify automatically for the 2003 World Cup in South Africa, reports Reuters.

Ali Bacher, chairman of ICC's development committee, said because the two countries had full One Day International (ODI) status it made no sense to take them through the qualifying rounds in Canada in 2001.

"There is terrific potential here and the very latest they can join full test status is 2007 so it does not make sense to ask them to go to Toronto (Canada) for the ICC Trophy to qualify for the World Cup," Bacher said here.

Bacher is leading a 15-member ICC team to Nairobi to assess the game's facilities and infrastructure. A decision on whether Kenya and Bangladesh will get automatic entry to the next World Cup will be made in London next June.

Bacher said recommendations had been made for Zimbabwe and Kenya to host some 2003 World Cup matches.

Bacher said automatic qualification for Kenya and Bangladesh would see 14 teams, instead of 12, competing in 2003.

Transport strike called off

The countrywide indefinite transport strike scheduled to begin today was called off by Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation following an agreement between the government and the Federation yesterday, reports UNB.

The agreement was signed at the end of the two days' hectic meeting with the government representatives at the Communications Ministry.

30 hurt at Ctg as transport workers clash

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: At least 30 people including a photo-journalist and a police official were injured in a clash that took place at Barik Building Crossing when some transport workers tried to enforce strike here today, witnesses said.

Police and witnesses said, two rival groups of transport workers today locked in a clash and blasted a huge number of cocktails.

Police rushed to the spot and fired teargas shells to disperse the clashing workers. Police also resorted to lathicharge to disperse the clashing groups.

At that time the agitating workers pelted stones and threw cocktails at the police injuring the officer-in-charge of port thana, Zafarullah, police and witnesses said. Photojournalist Debu Prashad of Bangladesh Observer was allegedly beaten by police during the incident.

Shibir enforces strike at CU

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: The Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) unit at Chittagong University today enforced a day-long strike on the campus to press its three point demand including resumption of bus service.

Meanwhile, Anti-Communist Student Forum (ACSF), an alliance of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and Samakhantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) called an indefinite class boycott from tomorrow.

ACSF also brought out a procession today demanding resumption of bus service. Classes and examination could not be held today due to the agitation programmes.

Shibir also called for a rally on the campus tomorrow and indefinite term class boycott from August 11.

New China-led economic bloc in the offing

China takes the lead in carving out a new economic bloc grouping three other nations — Bangladesh, India and Myanmar — aiming to attain their shared prosperity, reports UNB.

A groundbreaking three-day international conference will be held at Kunming in Yunnan province of China August 15-17.

The Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences of China has organised the meet to be participated by business leaders of these four countries.

FBCCI president Abdul Awal Minto and DCCI president MH Rahman will attend the conference on "Regional Economic Cooperation among China, India, Bangladesh and Myanmar with Special Focus on Yunnan's External Contacts."

Talking to UNB, DCCI president MH Rahman said these types of regional groupings became imperative in the context of present world economic order.

"When economic blocs are emerging in different regions as regional economic power in the wake of globalisation of the world economy, this grouping, if formed would play an important role in protecting our region from uneven competition," says the Dhaka chamber chief.

He said it would not only increase intra-regional trade and business, but also spur trans-border investments.

According to the Yunnan Academy, this meet aims to strengthen regional economic cooperation and cultural exchanges and make these areas the real "Suyarabhum" (golden land) as they figure in ancient legends.

The main topic of the conference will be of practical and strategic significance for the regional cooperation among the four countries bound by historic linkages.

However, it will study the feasibility of interaction in the economic, trade and technological fields among China (Yunnan), India, Bangladesh

and Myanmar.

The main areas of cooperation are industry, agriculture, tourism, and finance.

It will also examine the possibility of constructing communications channels and networks among the members as infrastructure for the economic cooperation among the Asian nations.

The conference will discuss and form the framework for regional cooperation among the nations after evaluating all the policies related to trade and investment climate in China, India, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

"The conference, thus, is not just an academic exercise, but also an action plan," says the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences of China, the host of the moot.

Kapna-I well

Pre-production tests begin today

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Aug 9: US company Unocal with its associate Occidental will start 'pre-production' tests at the well 'Kapna-I' in the newly developed Kapna Gasfield in Sylhet from tomorrow, said an official this evening.

The gasfield is located very near to the Sylhet Gasfield Limited, a concern of the Petrobangla which was developed by the Occidental in the month of May and June this year. It is 19 kilometres off the Sylhet town and one kilometre from the Sylhet-Tamabil Highway.

Yeltsin sacks PM again

MOSCOW, Aug 9: President Boris Yeltsin sacked Prime Minister Sergei Stepashin along with the entire Cabinet today, touching off a fresh political crisis as the country prepare for two key elections in coming months, reports AP.

Yeltsin's unexpected move marked the fourth time in 17 months he has fired the government, and critics said the President's unpredictable behavior made him unfit to govern.

"It's hard to explain madness," Boris Nemtsov, a former deputy prime minister, told the Echo of Moscow radio station. "The people have grown tired of watching an ill leader who is not capable of doing his job."

The President immediately named an acting prime minister, Vladimir Putin, the head of the Federal Security Service, the main successor to the KGB. Putin, 46, has spent most of his career in the country's security services, and has little experience with political or economic issues.

Rubel's father cross examined

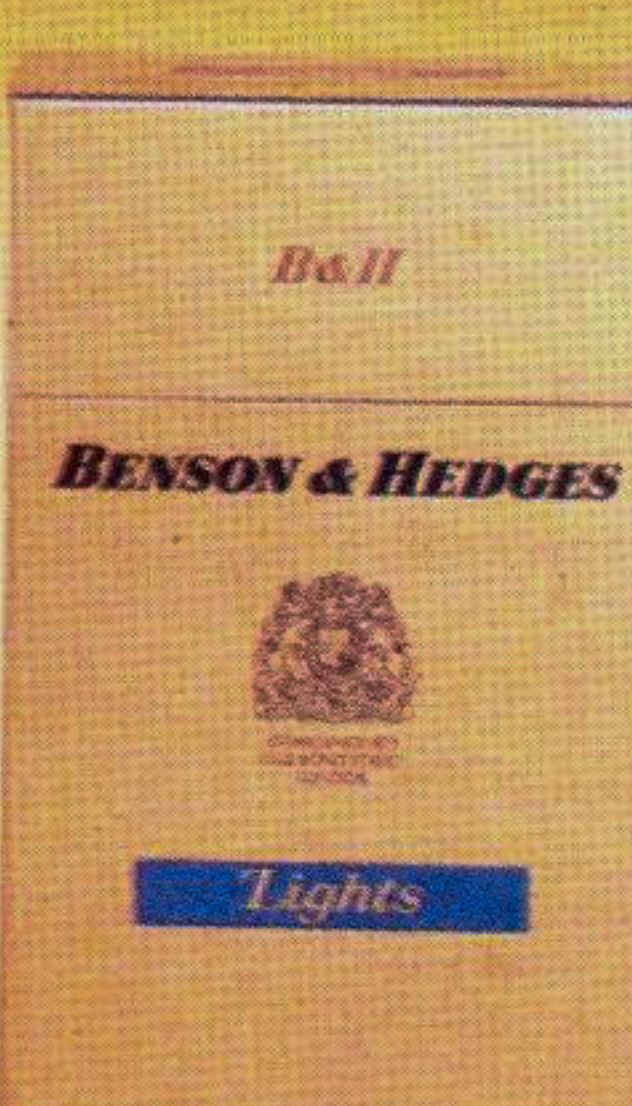
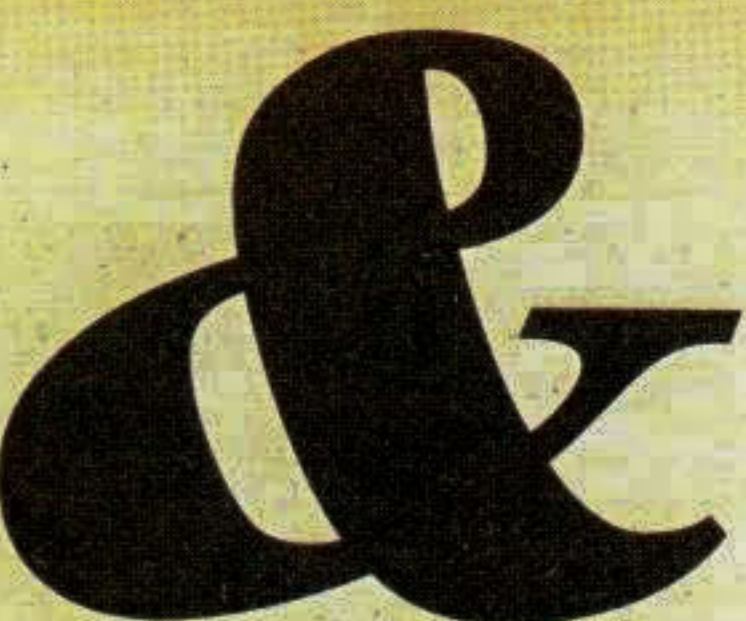
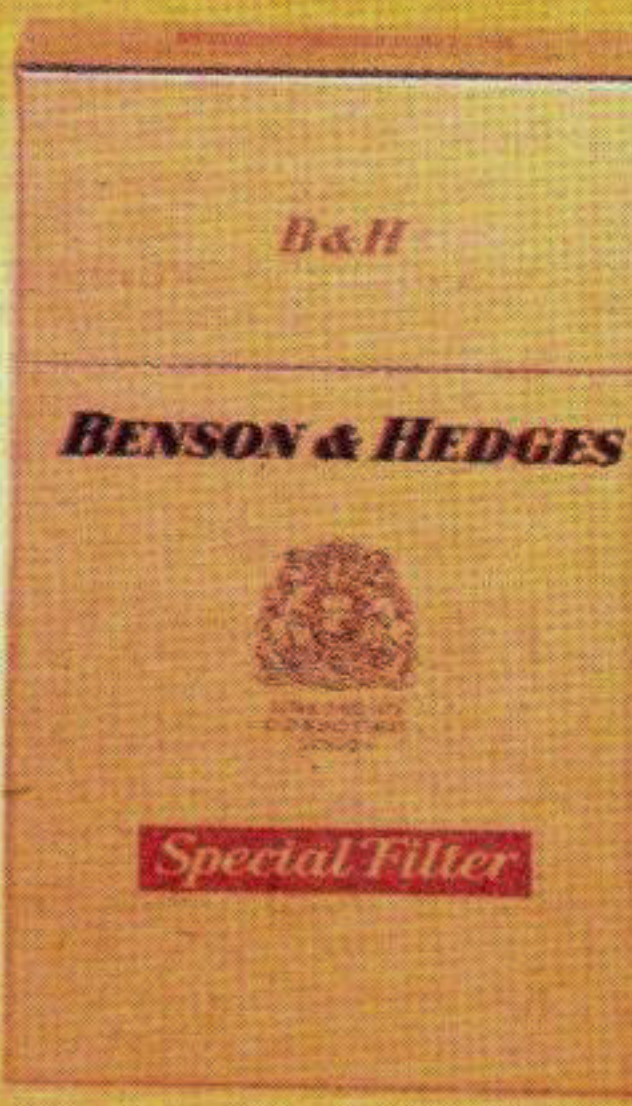
By Court Correspondent

Father of Rubel was cross examined by a defence lawyer for more than two hours at the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court yesterday.

Ten of the fourteen chargesheeted accused, including AC Akram and Mukuli Begum, were produced before the court yesterday at about 2 pm. The rest four — SI Nurul Alam, constables — Mong She Oen, Abul Kalam Azad and Zakir Hossain — have been absconding since the killing of Rubel.



Tribals staged a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding constitutional recognition. —Star photo

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