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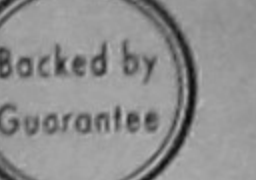
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Dual admin? Kamal, Javed both go to CCCI office

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Mar 8: President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Kamal Uddin Ahmed and senior vice-president Safuzzaman Chowdhury Javed who are at loggerheads went to the office.

Kamal stayed for over one hour and signed some cheques and other documents, chamber sources said. It is the second time he went to the office after the dispute.

Sources said there is a dual administration in the chamber. But chamber officials denied it.

The statement at CCCI started on Sunday following a row over the post of the president as the tenure of Kamal Uddin Ahmed expired on December, 1998.

Kamal Uddin continued as president of CCCI taking advantage of a legal battle when the chamber directors and members fell divided over some election related issues, sources said.

Kamal's continuation as president without trying to break the stalemate angered his rivals led by an ex-president who dramatically ganged up with Javed, son of Aktaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, to elbow out get rid of Kamal, sources said.

A dissident director, Salimullah, claimed that now the 'rug of war' is between Kamal and the board of directors.

Rubel Murder Case Two prosecution witnesses cross-examined

By Court Correspondent Two prosecution witnesses of Shamim Reza Rubel Murder Case were cross-examined in the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's court yesterday.

The two — Asikul Bari and Deen Islam — were in DB custody on the night of incident.

They told the court that they were arrested in connection with a dacoity and kept inside the DB Hazat. They said that they saw Hiatul Islam Thakur was torturing Rubel.

The following morning they came to know that the victim died in the custody of DB police.

Rubel, 24, a BBA student of the Independent University, was picked up by a team of Detective Branch of Police from near his residence on July 23, 1998 and was tortured to death in custody the same day.

The CID chargesheeted 14 people, including former AC Akram Hussain and Mukul Be-gum, a local Awami League leader, for killing of Rubel. Of the accused, 10 were produced before the court at about 2:30 pm yesterday.

The remaining four — SI Nurul Alam, constables — Mong She Oen, Abul Kalam Azad and Zakir Hossain — have been absconding since the killing.

150 megawatt loadshedding in city & its adjacent areas

By Staff Correspondent The country went through a power shortage of 181 megawatt yesterday with 150 megawatt load shedding in the capital and its adjacent areas.

The Power Development Board (PDB) supplied 2469 megawatt power against the requirement of 2650 megawatt. Yesterday's load shedding was nine megawatt more than Tuesday's, PDB sources said.

None of the 10 power plants which were shut down on Tuesday could start operation until yesterday due to 'technical reasons', the sources said.

They said many of the power generation units are old and can not operate continuously. Moreover, another unit, Sikol-baha Steam, could not operate from 6 p.m. to 7:20 p.m. yesterday.

PDB allocation for DESA command areas was 850 megawatt against a requirement of 1000 megawatt yesterday, the sources added.

The units that remained shut down until yesterday included Ashuganj gas turbine-2, Siddhirganj-4, Sylhet gas, Shahjibazar-3, Syedpur, Fenchuganj, Khulna barge-mounted-1, Baghabari gas, Ghorasal-4 and Khulna 110 megawatt.

Almost all areas of the city, including Dhanmondi, Moghbazaar, Kawranbazaar, Khilgona, Mughdipara, Uttara experienced power disruption yesterday.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Apply PSA properly, PM asks DCs

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the Deputy Commissioners to apply the Public Safety Act properly for ensuring fair trial of cases, reports UNB.

She also directed them to closely monitor the development activities and implement the projects in time for rapid economic growth and national progress.

Inaugurating the DCs Conference at the International Conference Centre in the morning, Hasina said: "Our aim is to ensure public security and rapid development. And you are the field level workers of the government, directly involved in the development process."

She advised the officials to work neutrally for rapid economic growth.

The Prime Minister said the government is determined to establish rule of law in the country and has enacted the Public Safety Act for ensuring peace and security of public life.

"You'll have to see that people get justice and cases are disposed of speedily," she said alleging that terrorism has increased in the country due to the opposition movement.

Accusing the opposition parties of giving protection to the terrorists, she said it is duty of the government to remove terrorism.

Hasina called upon the DCs to remain alert so that the PSA is not abused and take special care to ensure that people do not face any harassment.

She said the government has taken massive development programmes and the DCs are directly involved in the development activities at grassroots level. Success depends on overall management which is your responsibility.

The Prime Minister said the government has taken steps to give democracy and institutional shape and is reforming the laws to update those. We've formed the Law Reform Commission and the Administrative Reform Commission to ensure justice and service to the people.

For rapid development of rural areas, the government has taken up programme to strengthen the local government system through establish-

ing a four-tier local government body, she added.

Union Parishad and municipal elections have been held and in the next phase the government will hold upazilla and zilla parishad elections, she mentioned. "We want to reach the services to the doorsteps of the people by decentralising power," she said.

The Prime Minister said the government has introduced the Women Repression Prevention Act to stop torture and repression on women.

The present government believes in transparency and accountability, she said. "For ensuring this we want to keep the administration transparent and accountable."

Hasina said the government has given special emphasis on removing poverty and illiteracy from the country. "Without removing illiteracy economic development will not be possible."

She said the members of the district administration are working for removing illiteracy and make people self-reliant in all aspects.

"We have fertile land, natural resources and huge manpower. If we can utilise all these resources, we'll be able to build a self-reliant and developed nation."

See page 11 Col7

Factory fire at Urdu Road: 1 killed, 4 hurt

By Staff Correspondent At least one person was killed and four others injured in a fire at a chemical factory on Urdu Road yesterday.

Police said they could not identify the dead man. Siraj, Miraj, Mafizul Islam and Mir Masum were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Fire brigade officials said the flame from a candle, lit in the coconut oil factory on the second story of the four-story building, might have sparked the blaze at about 8 p.m. last night.

Labagh police said they were still searching the building for more victims.

Custody or bail CMM to decide Shad's fate

By SC Correspondent

The High Court did not decide the issue of custody or bail of Master Rahgir Almahe Ershad alias Shad, son of former President H M Ershad, yesterday and gave directive to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka to decide it as per law.

A Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice M M Hoque and Justice M A Rashid also directed the respondents including the OC of Cantonment Thana to produce Shad to the CMM court on Sunday and to keep him in thana custody till he is produced in the court.

The court also gave Ershad the liberty to pray to the CMM court for custody or bail of his son.

Shad was arrested in the early hours of March 4 on charge of kidnapping a school girl.

The HC further directed the CMM to consider its observation, the FIR, the March 6 application filed by the father of the girl, physical appearance of the tender aged boy and his future welfare.

The HC also ordered for sending a copy of the order to the CMM by a special messenger.

Police took Shad on remand for two days on March 4.

On March 5, Ershad filed a writ before the HC challenging Shad's detention, saying that

See page 11 Col7

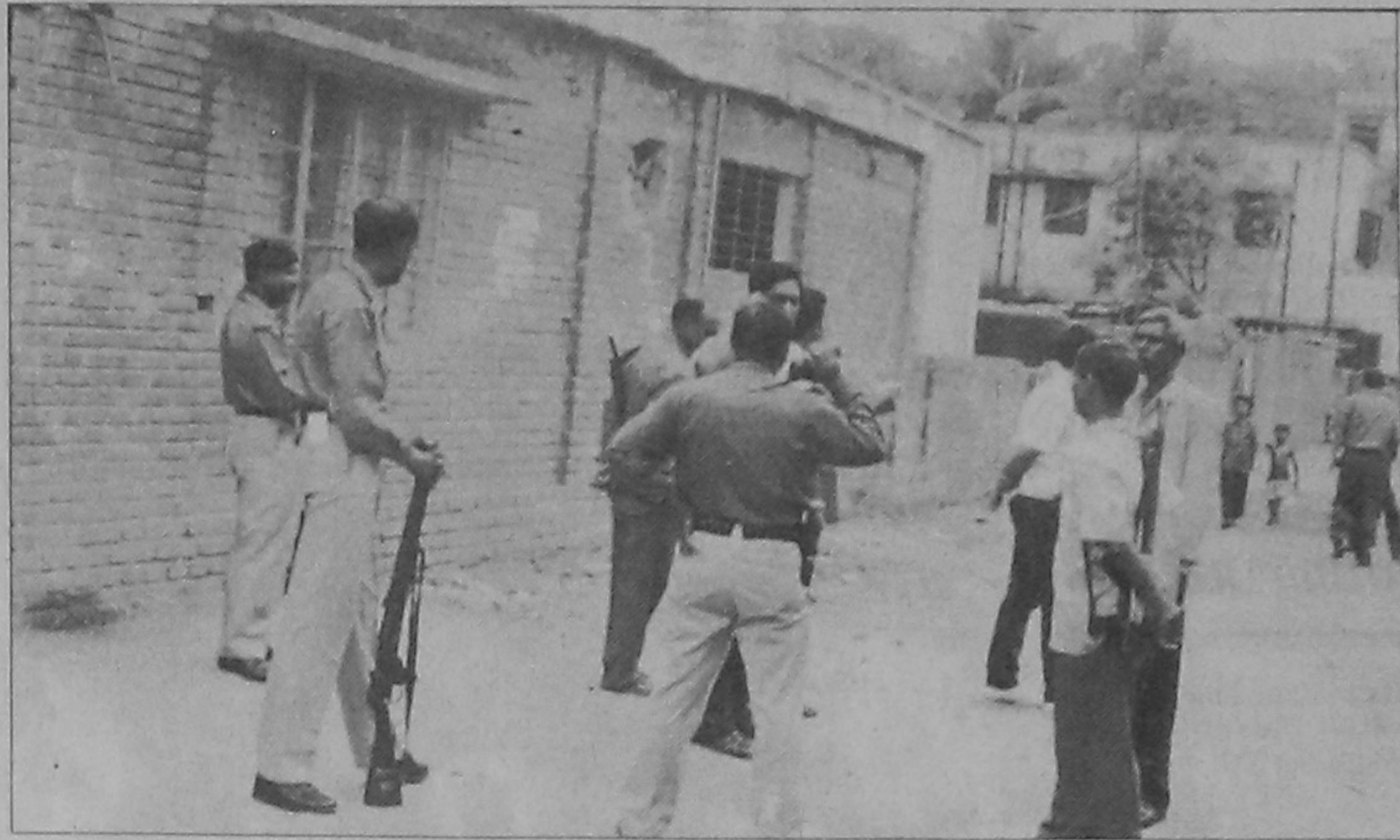
BCL activist shot dead at Raozan

By Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Mar 8: An activist of Chhatra League was gunned down by his rivals at Raozan last night, police said.

Sharan Barua, 24, an activist of BCL Tinku Group, was gunned down while he was riding a motorbike there at 7:30 pm.

Police said Barua was killed due to an intra-party rivalry at Raozan.

None was, however, arrested in connection with the killing till filing of this report at 6 pm today.



Police guard the Daily Dinkal office in the city's Tejgaon area during a raid yesterday. Police, however, would not say why they went there or who were 'the gunmen' helping the uniformed ones. — Photo: Dinkal

Police raid Dinkal office

By Staff correspondent

Police yesterday "raided and ransacked" the offices of the Daily Dinkal, mouthpiece of opposition BNP, the newspaper's executive editor said in a statement last night.

Police said the newspaper office in the city was raided to arrest a reporter and some officials in the administrative section on the basis of a case filed by ruling party MP Shamim Osman following a series of reports under the headline, "Terror Striken Narayanganj".

A team of policemen led by Sub-inspector Abdul Noor raided the office at about 2:30 pm, said a press release issued by Executive Editor Kazi Siraj. It created panic at the office and disrupted work, he said.

The policemen entered the office and started looking for Managing Director of the newspaper, Mosharraf Hossain MP, Publisher Prof Majidul Islam and Staff Reporter Shamsul Alam Liton, the press release said.

They misbehaved with journalists and intruded into the office, ignoring requests from journalists, it added.

They laid a siege to the office for about an hour and searched the editorial desk, new desk, computer section, administrative and circulation departments, it added.

The policemen from Ramna thana were accompanied by plainclothes people who were brandishing automatic weapons, the press release claimed.

The policemen however withdrew themselves after consultation with their higher authorities, it added.

The DC of Detective Branch, when contacted last night, denied having any knowledge about the incident. He also denied when asked whether plainclothes police from DB also participated in the raid.

Shmim Osman told the Daily Star that a warrant of arrest was issued against some employees of the Daily Dinkal on the basis of a case filed by him recently. He however said he was not aware of the developments after issuance of the warrant.

Vow to resist setting up of terminal Dock workers' strike at Ctg port today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 8: The dock workers' movement against setting up of a container terminal at Patenga by an American company has gained momentum as the 22 trade unions have called a 24 hour strike at Chittagong port from 8 am tomorrow.

The strike has been called to press cancellation of the government permission given to the Stevedoring Services of America (SSA) for setting up a container terminal.

Several thousand dock workers staged demonstrations in and around the port premises today in support of the strike.

The demonstrators later held a rally in front of the port office, where their leaders said setting up of the proposed terminal will be resisted at any cost.

Port activities were disrupted for about two hours from

11 am due to the demonstrations, port sources said.

The rally, presided over by Sirajul Islam, President of Dock Bondar Sramik Karmachari Parishad, was addressed by other leaders including Mahfuzur Rahman Khan, Md Aslam, Saiful Alam Chowdhury, Golam Md Chowdhury, Iskander Meah, Abu Jafor, Abdul Ahad and Jahur Ahmed.

They urged the government not to sign any agreement with SSA in this regard.

Security has been beefed up in and around the port ahead of tomorrow's strike, port and police sources said.

The Dock Workers Federation also held a rally at 4 pm today in support of tomorrow's strike. Dock workers' agitation against the government decision continued for the last one week.

Allow women to play major role in politics: SNS

By Staff Correspondent

Sammillito Nari Samaj (SNS), a women's rights organisation, held a rally and brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday evening in observance of the International Women Day, 2000.

Addressing the rally at the TSC road island on the Dhaka University campus, SNS leaders reiterated their demand for direct election to the reserved seats for women in the Jatiya Sangsad. This will ensure political empowerment of the womenfolk, help stop use of black money in election and contain terrorism, they said.

Parliament is the supreme body for framing laws but women representatives can not play any effective role there because they are not elected by the people, the leaders pointed out. If elected directly, they would be able to play a major role in country's politics, the SNS leaders said.

They also demanded specific duties for elected women members.

See page 11 col 6



Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has leased a road in front of the WASA building at Karwan Bazar for Eid cattle market, defying its own ban on obstructing traffic on the city roads. — Star photo

Cable operators to mobilise public support to resist fee hike

By M Shamsur Rahman

Bangladesh Cable Operators Oikya Jote will hold a convention today to generate public support for their protest against a Nation-wide Communications Ltd., which increased fees for pay channels.

The cable operators have already suspended channels, including Star Movies, Star Plus, Star World, AXN, Zee Cinema, Channel V, Channel V International, Sky News, Star News, National Geographic, in certain areas of the city. They are expected to announce the date for a nation-wide suspension today.

Four ministers are expected to attend the conference at the Officers Club around 9:00 a.m.

An official from Nation-wide Communications Ltd. said most cable operators were breaking the law, which calls for mandatory licenses for satellite program broadcasting.

They official also said the operators charged customers Tk

200 to Tk 300, compared to monthly expenses of Tk 60 to Tk 70 per customer.

"The government has failed to collect revenue from these operators, who have been in business from a long time, because they don't have a policy," said the official. "The operators are taking advantage of the situation and charging their subscribers high rates."

Mustafizur Rahman, secretary of Cable Operators Oikya

Jote, denied the allegations. "Our expenditures are much higher," said Rahman. "Package channel providers charge 15 per cent in VAT and the government also charges 15 per cent in VAT. We also have to cover office rent, electricity bills, employees and huge establishment costs."

Rahman said they have started to pay the VAT on regular basis last year.

However, Khan Manjurul Islam Polash, former general secretary of the association, said the government received no revenue from the cable operators.

Sources in BTV registration said the government made it compulsory for all the cable operators to get licenses in 1993. The fees were fixed at Tk 50,000, but lowered to Tk 25,000 for operators in the division town in 1995 after they protested.

The fees were reduced to Tk 10,000 for operators outside the division town. However, the operators didn't comply with the rules. Sources said only 50 of the operators bothered to apply for licenses.

There are about four lakh cable subscribers and 2,000 cable operators in the country. About 80 per cent are located in Dhaka and Chittagong.



Advertisement for 'লেকসিটি কনকর্ড' (Lexus City Concord) featuring a large building and promotional text. Text includes: 'ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা ২০০০', 'আকর্ষণীয় প্যাকেজ মাত্র ৯ লক্ষ টাকায় এ্যাপার্টমেন্ট', 'যার মাসিক কিস্তি ৮,০০০ টাকা মাত্র !!!', 'ক্রেতা সাধারণের সুবিধার্থে ভীড় এড়ানোর জন্য আগামীকাল শুক্রবার অফিস খোলা', 'সময় সকাল ৯টা থেকে সন্ধ্যা ৬টা', 'যোগাযোগ: কনকর্ড গ্রুপ, মার্কেটিং অফিস- ৮, মহাখালী বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১২ অথবা ৩৫ নং প্যাতিবিয়ন, ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা', 'কনকর্ড রিয়েল এস্টেট এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট লিঃ ৮, মহাখালী বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১২', 'ফোন: ৯৮৮৬৮৬০, ৯৮৮৬৮৬৩, ৮৮১৪১১০, ৮৮১৪১১২, ৮৮১৪২৯৩, ০১১-৮৫৩৫১৬, ০১৮-২২৫০০৩, ০১৮-২২৯৬৬৮, ০১৮-২২৯৬৬৯, ০১৮-২২৯৭০২, ০১৮-৩১১২০৯, ০১১-৮৬৬৮৬৬', 'ফ্যাক্স: ৯৮৮৭০৩৭, ৮৮২৩৬০৭'.