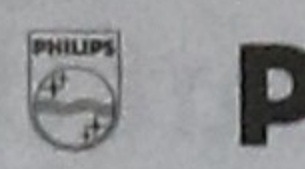


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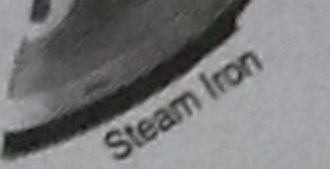
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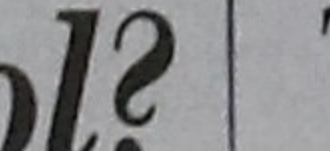
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2 Slice Toaster



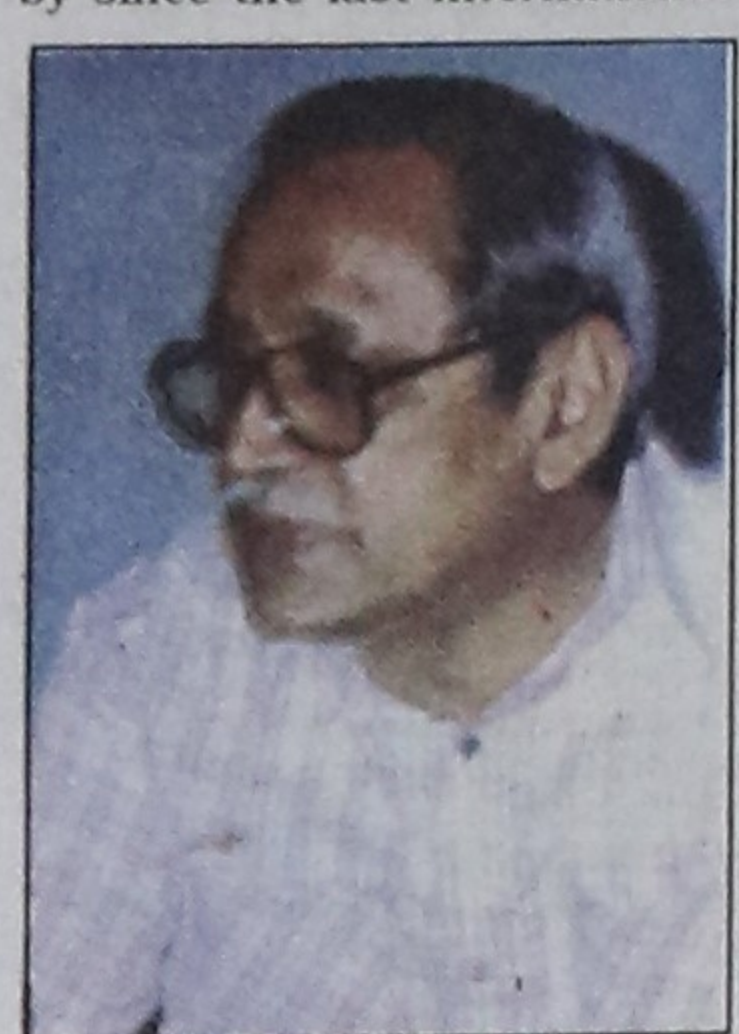
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Lack of co-ordination weakens crusade against arsenic

Professor Mahmudur Rahman tells The Daily Star

By Naimul Haq

 "More than a year has gone
by since the last international


Professor Rahman

There is a tremendous lack of co-ordination among the government, non-government organisations, UN agencies and development partners in efforts to redress the arsenic crisis.

It has been more than three years now since the government declared 'emergency' in the ever-escalating number of arsenicosis patients in 1996. However, there is yet to be any concrete policy on watershed management. There has not been any research on patient management, either.

The 'silent disaster' is not taken seriously by the government and non-government organisations, and not even by the UN bodies, experts said.

"Suppose, if the country were hit by a flood like the one in 1998 or a cyclone like the one in 1991, we would see massive mobilisation and aid to address the crisis. Arsenic contamination is even graver a problem than flood or cyclone. Yet, the lead agencies are not taking the issue seriously," said Prof Mahmudur Rahman in an interview of The Daily Star yesterday. The co-ordinator of the Dhaka Community Hospital Trust talked at length about our success and failure since the Dhaka Declaration.

conference was held in Dhaka. During this period, we did have some success. Most importantly, we have been able to create awareness amongst the villagers about groundwater arsenic contamination, a problem now recognised world-wide. "What I mean to say is that the level of consciousness has increased to a great extent and

there is a general understanding that something urgent needs to be done about this. However, a single body or the government alone cannot solve such a gigantic problem. It needs a national consensus to address the problem on an emergency basis but this is not happening.

"I see a tremendous lack of co-ordination between national and international agencies working on this issue. The NGOs are also failing in same manner. In the past we have repeatedly called for co-ordination but none paid attention. "We have urged the UN agencies, government and non-government organisations, and the stakeholders to sit together to address the issue in a unified manner since the problem is not going to be solved overnight. It is a long-term problem and therefore requires a long-term solution.

"What is lacking is a policy for watershed management, i.e. exploring best and cheaper means to utilise our natural resources of water. We don't think that underground water source is safe. In the past, we repeatedly raised our voice for use of surface water but unfortunately we increasingly became dependent on it."

Faisal murder Domestic help Parul placed on remand

By Staff Correspondent

Domestic help Parul, the only eyewitness in the Faisal murder case, was placed on a five-day remand on Wednesday with the Detective Branch of police, sources said yesterday.

Earlier, she had made a judicial statement in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka accusing the victim's cousin Sumon along with three others of the murder.

Police have sufficient evidence of her involvement in the killing, said a source declining to elaborate further.

Eighteen year old Faisal, son of a high government official, was killed in their Azampur Colony flat in the city on February 3.

The victim was hit on his head and neck with a stone used for grinding spices. He was hit when he tried to prevent the gang from taking away valuables.

Anwar Hossain, Project Director of Crop Diversification Programme and his wife Tazneem Saleha, Principal Officer, Prime Bank found their son Faisal and housemaid Parul lying on the floor when they returned from their offices at about 6 pm on February 3.

When they were taken to the DMCH, Faisal was declared dead and Parul was admitted for treatment.

Powerful men behind Kajol?

From Shaikh Nazrul Islam and Delwar Kabir

Jhenidah, May-11: Faruk Ahmed Kajol, the main accused in money lending trade and defalcation of more than Tk 1,200 crore from people, always got shelter from powerful quarters for about five years of his illegal business, various sources at Kotchandpur thana said yesterday.

He received all cooperation from different sections in the administration and police and some political leaders. They also deposited money in his Syndicate Bank in return for 'benefits', the sources added.

When complaints in this regard were made to those concerned in the administration and police, they simply said that people deposited money in the underground bank secretly and did not inform them about this.

Police officials rather blamed people for doing so 'to become rich quickly'.

Several local political leaders were found in the office of OC of Kotchandpur thana to inform him about the loss of their money and those of their relatives, kept in the Syndicate Bank.

Local people who deposited money in that bank included students, teachers, bank officials, government officials, lawyers, doctors. Some political leaders alleged that a Municipality leader and some

administrative officials also kept money there.

When contacted, Deputy Commissioner Shoyebur Rahman told The Daily Star that he did not receive any complaint in this regard.

Some police officials said these correspondents that they 'invested' money in that bank and 'benefited' from Kajol and his associates.

Even some legislators also invested money there, sources said.

A businessman from Elephant Road in the capital admitted, "I have invested in Syndicate Bank." But now he regrets it.

Several village societies also invested money in the bank for an interest rate of 12 per cent.

A police official said the 'situation was reviewed several times at the meetings of district law and order committee but no action was taken in this regard'.

A college teacher at Chuadanga said that bank officials also invested money in syndicate bank and that an official of Krishi Bank, Kaliganj, acted as an agent of that bank.

"Those who were close associates of Kajol and started business early with the syndicate were benefited but those who came later to invest their money were seriously affected." Additional superintendent of Police Abdul Momin Chisty

Two gunned down in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two people were gunned down and six others injured when a bus carrying supporters of local commissioner Saidur Rahman Shahid came under attack on Dayaganj bridge under Sutrapur thana yesterday evening.

The two killed were identified as Kamal Hossain, 32, and Chan Mian, 35, police said.

The injured were identified as Faruk, 25, Jahangir Alam, 35, Manu Miah, 28, Mansur Ali, 32, Mostafa, 38, and Sadik, 30, police said.

The supporters of Shahid were attacked on Dayaganj bridge at about 7:30 pm. When they were returning to their locality after attending a reception accorded to him at the Jatiya Press Club, sources said.

Commissioner Shahid was earlier accused of conniving with the murder of Ahmed Hossain Sumon who was shot dead in his house at Karmullah Bagh in the city in the early hours of February 10. Sumon was killed following a raid by DB police.

Petrobangla still without a chief

Uncertainty over appointment

deepens

Star Report

The country's oil and gas agency Petrobangla is in a limbo as it has been without a chairman for the last one month.

The government decided last week to promote the director, Mines and Minerals of Petrobangla, who is currently on contract, to the post.

However, the move did not gather steam mainly due to fears among top government officials that it will be a gross violation of the 1974 Public Servant Retirement Order if someone was promoted to the job after retirement.

It was also argued that the promotion and appointment of the director, Mines and Minerals, would trigger dissatisfaction among Petrobangla officials since he was the junior most director.

It is now widely rumoured in the Petrobangla that previous chairman Mosharraf Hossain, whose job was extended thrice on contract, will be re-appointed the new chairman, on contract too.

However, sources ruled out the possibility on the ground that there has been no precedence of extending someone's contract four times.

Another rumour has it that former Power Development Board chairman Nuruddin Mahmud Kamal will get the appointment on contract. However, this is also unlikely, said a source. He said it is likely that the government may pick up someone from the BCS cadre.

The only non-retired candidate the Prime Minister's Office considered for this post was former director of Petrobangla Sajedul Karim. But the prime minister rejected the proposal last month.

Sources said the PMO had earlier expressed its preference of seeing an engineer as the Petrobangla chairman. "This criterion seems to suit only two persons—the former chairman and the director, Mines and Minerals," said a source. The director, Mines and Minerals, has been lobbying for the post for a long time, added the source.

"If promoted as per seniority, the director of Planning would have been the natural choice," observed a source. "However, he does not have a chance since he is hardly involved in any sort of lobbying."

Petrobangla is infested with manpower problems for a long time. While the normal promotion process is somewhat upset, there has been shortage of experts in important divisions, such as the Petroleum Concession Division for many years.

The high-grade post of director, Operations, has been vacant for two years. The director, Mines and Minerals, is on a two-year contract, which will expire very soon.

The subsidiaries of Petrobangla also suffer manpower shortage due to government policy on transfer, posting and appointment.

PM opens Cardiac Care & Research Centre at Sikdar Medical College

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced that 1,000 nurses would be recruited and number of beds at Dhaka Medical College Hospital raised to 1400 from 800 for expansion of health services, reports UNB.

She said the steps were being taken under an essential health plan undertaken by the government to ensure basic medical care for all.

She unveiled the plans while inaugurating the Cardiac Care and Research Centre at Z H Sikdar Women's Medical College and Hospital at West Dhanmondi in the city.

The new health policy would soon be implemented, she told the function and urged the doctors to improve the standard of treatment and take more care of patients.

To build up a modern medical industry in the country, Hasina said, import duties on sophisticated medical machinery, equipment and essential drugs were withdrawn for treating major diseases like bypass heart surgery and cancer in the country.

Tayebee murder: Charges framed against 8

CHITTAGONG, May 11: The Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court framed charges against eight accused today in the Gibran Tayebee Murder Case, reports UNB.

Tayebee, who worked as Country Manager in a shipping company, was shot dead on June 9, 1999 on Sheikh Mujib Road while returning home in a car from his Agrabad office.

A murder case was later filed with Doublemooring thana and CID submitted charge sheets against the accused on November 25 after investigation.

Metropolitan Sessions Judge M Ismail Mia today framed charges after a three-hour hearing in presence of six arrested accused in the dock.

The arrested are Ali Akbar, Mohammad Osman, Zillur Rahman, Zahid Hossain, Kiron, Mohammad Siddique and Omar Ali alias Jahangir. Two other accused — industrialist Yasin Rahman Tito and Alamgir are still at large.

The court also summoned all 58 witnesses, including Titli Chatterjee, wife of Gibran Tayebee, for their deposition from May 28 to June 1.

Crime curve on the up

 913 murdered in first four months,
an NGO survey says

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 913 persons were murdered and 13,249 injured across the country during the first four months of this year, Bureau of Human Rights Bangladesh, a NGO, quoting their survey report said yesterday.

It catalogued the crime incidents from January 1 to April 30. A total of 283 mugging incidents took place during the period and 21 people were killed and 103 were injured during the period under consideration.

A total of 414 dacoity incidents took place during the period, resulting in the death of 68 people and injury to 441. A total of 200 burglaries took place and 2 people got murdered in the process while 18 were injured, the report added.

A total of 199 incidents of hooliganism, ransacking and clashes left 48 people dead and 536 injured, while two women were killed and 46 injured in 46 acid throwing incidents during the period, it mentioned.

Some 27 women were killed and 85 women fell sick in 198 rape cases during the period across the country.

A total of 18 were murdered and 147 were injured in as many clashes which took place

in the educational institutions in the country during the time, it said.

A total of 30 people were killed and 949 were injured in 101 incidents with the rival and internal feuds of different parties. Some 37 people were killed and 56 injured in 95 incidents of extortion in the country during the time, it added.

36 people were beaten to death and 61 people were injured in 60 'mass beating' incidents in the country while 12 people were killed and 213 people were injured in the 53 incidents of police torture in custody.

Meanwhile two officials were killed in 21 were injured in eight incidents by police and other law enforcing agencies in

Prayer Timings

	May 12	
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Juma	12-15	1-30
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-35	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

190 sacks of rotten rice seized at Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 11: Police seized 190 sacks of rotten rice from a truck bound for Noakhali from Chaktai at Colonel Hat on Dhaka-Chittagong highway last night.

Acting on a tip-off, police seized the truck at around 2 am and arrested its driver, Md Harun on charge of carrying rice unfit for human consumption. The rice traders fled the scene.

Police said the arrested driver admitted that a section of rice traders of Khatunganj and Chaktai were involved in the racket.

Port sources said huge quantities of rotten rice looted from a foreign ship recently were sold in Chaktai and Khatunganj.

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প্রিয় বিজ্ঞেতা বন্ধু,
অনুগ্রহ করে বিজ্ঞাপন বাহক কেতাকে প্রতি কপি বিজ্ঞাপনের জন্য ১ বোতল পেপসি (২৫০ এম. এল. পানীয়) ৫ টাকায় প্রদান করুন এবং বিজ্ঞাপনগুলো সরেফণ করুন। এই বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশের তার দিনের মধ্যে পেপসি ক্রয়ের সময় পেপসি সেলসম্যানের কাছ থেকে প্রতিটি বিজ্ঞাপন কাটিং এর বিনিময়ে ৫.৫০ টাকা হিসাবে সমন্বয় সাধন করুন। এই কার্যক্রম শুধুমাত্র ঢাকা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ, চট্টগ্রাম, কুমিল্লা, ফেনী, ময়মনসিংহ, টাঙ্গাইল, সিলেট, যশোর, বগুড়া, বরিশাল, রাজশাহী ও খুলনা এলাকার জন্য প্রযোজ্য।
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