

**FedEx**  
Federal Express

 Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.  
Licensee Of Federal Express Corporation  
Tel # 9565114; Fax # 9565112

CHITTAGONG

 Hotel Hawaii Building  
39, Agrabad C.A., Chittagong  
Tel # 712127 Fax# 710106

CEPZ

 Ctg. Export Processing Zone  
Old Admin Building  
Halishahar, Chittagong  
Tel # 740108 Fax# 710106

KHULNA

 K.D.A Building  
Khan A. Sabur Road, Khulna  
Tel # 725008 Fax# 731932

**Whirlpool**  
Home Appliances USA

 Installment  
facility  
available

**TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS LTD.**  
Authorized Distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA  
Dhaka: 8115307-10 CTG: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 8215

## Down to Earth

# Improper use of city's wetlands

By A S M Nurunnabi

It has been lately observed that in the absence of coordinated planning, wetlands and low-lying areas in the eastern part of Dhaka city are quickly losing their geographical characteristics, inviting an ecological imbalance and a probable environmental disaster of a serious nature.

The urban development authority, RAJUK, in its metropolitan development plan has earmarked a number of retention ponds in the eastern part of the city and discouraged permanent structures in the area. The ponds are reportedly planned to retain rain water and city waste waters.

According to environmental groups, the wetlands around the city should be retained to maintain ecological balance and help the rivers Buriganga and the Sitalakhya as balancing factors.

According to available indications, the property developers and influential quarters are, however, carrying out massive land filling and housing developments works ignoring the warning from RAJUK. Besides, there are government orders asking the authorities concerned not to change the geographical characteristics of the wetlands and low-lying areas. But it has been seen that such orders and instructions are not being attended to. Under the existing rule, permission has to be obtained for removing earth or any other digging in the RAJUK area. But no one really bothers about taking permission for this. The apparent neglect or indifference of the concerned

quarters has provided scope to carry out massive land filling in the low-lying areas without obstruction from RAJUK.

After the area was developed to some extent, it has become easier to get new construction plans approved by RAJUK.

In a recent report it has been stated that the Department of Environment and the Department of Forests of the government have taken up a project proposal for examining the feasibility for building a circular waterway round the Dhaka city to relieve its traffic congestion and air pollution. At the end of the project study, the Ministries of Water Resources and Shipping will be brought into the picture.

In this context, it has been explained that to facilitate drainage of flood water, protection of lakes and ponds and wetlands in and around the capital are imperative needs for maintenance of a healthy environment.

The volume of Dhaka city's men and vehicles has been steadily building up to a monstrous proportion. We have already a surfeit of plans and ideas as viable *modus operandi* for tackling the ever growing city congestion. Ambitious plans on this behalf with substantial volume of foreign aid for construction of flyovers, by-pass roads, etc are frequently heard of. But there has been very scanty evidence so far by way of solid achievement through their implementation. While an interminable debate on possible relief in this sector continues, the size of the city

with its population and their infrastructural needs suffering under severe strain has been bloating all the time.

Keeping in mind the future expansion of the city, the government also carried out a study of the wetlands area in the eastern part of the city. It is said that the government is trying to find out suitable donors, apart from expected funding from the JICA for further study.

In this context, the Water Development Board authorities have assured that any development initiative in the eastern part would be done in consultation with the people and in accordance with their desire. Meanwhile, experts have warned against any permanent construction in the area.

There is indication that this warning has not produced any effect. Building spree in the city is very much in the ascend. It is easy to foresee that the building spree will spare very little of the wetlands and other water bodies around the city. So the project proposed for building a girdle of water way around the city or any other similar project seems to be a utopian idea.

Some experts have also drawn attention to another aspect of the current situation. A process of subsidence is said to be taking place in the lowland areas in Rampura Jheel, Gulistan Jheel and the low-lying areas of Motijheel and Malibagh. Ignoring the tectonic changes a rapid and crazy race for structural growth is seen to be going on in the eastern part of the city. This is likely to bring a catastrophic disaster in case of an earthquake.

## Schoolboy drowns in Shitalakhya

 From Our Correspondent  
NARAYANGANJ, Aug 18: A schoolboy drowned in the river Shitalakhya on Thursday.

He was identified as Moazzem Hossain Prince, 12, son of Syed Ahmed of Missionpara in the town.

Police said Prince, a student of class eight of Adarsha School, went to the river along with his friends for a bath on Thursday evening. Since then he was missing.

Police recovered the body from 'Baratkal' area in the river today.

A case was lodged with Narayanganj thana today in this connection.

## Rape: Two get life term in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 18: Two persons have been sentenced to life term imprisonment for violating a girl.

The convicted persons are Ashrafur Islam and Ebadul Haque of Matikata village in Godagari upazila.

The verdict was given by the judge of Women and Children Repression Prevention Court here yesterday.

The prosecution story in brief is that the accused Ashrafur Islam and Ebadul Haque forcibly took away the victim to a solitary place and raped her on August 20, 1998.

A case was filed with Godagari thana in this connection. After investigation, police submitted the chargesheet to the court against the accused.

After examining the witnesses and documents the judge found the accused guilty and pronounced the judgement.

## SC Bar Secy criticises filing of contempt case

Secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association Advocate Shahidul Karim Siddiq yesterday strongly criticised the filing of a case by its President Barrister Mainul Hossain against the prime minister, reports BSS.

"I think the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association by filing the case unilaterally has caused damage to the unity of the lawyers," Advocate Siddiq said in a statement and urged all concerned to refrain from using the association for their party interest.

In his statement, he argued that only the general members of the association reserve the right of taking any decision for filing a contempt case against the prime minister. "The decision relating to filing a case against the prime minister can only be taken at the general meeting of the association and

See page 11 col 6

## Extortionists stab hotel manager at Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 18: A gang of extortionists stabbed a residential hotel manager, ransacked the office and looted some valuables of the hotel at Shahab Bazar in the city last night.

According to police and witnesses, the gang numbering about 10 equipped with lethal weapons entered the hotel Sukuma at about 11:30 pm and demanded Tk 5,000 from the hotel manager Sarwar Hossain.

As the manager refused to give money, the extortionists stabbed him. They also damaged furniture of the counter and looted some valuables.

Hossain was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

A case was filed with Boalia thana in this connection. None was however, arrested till filing of this report.

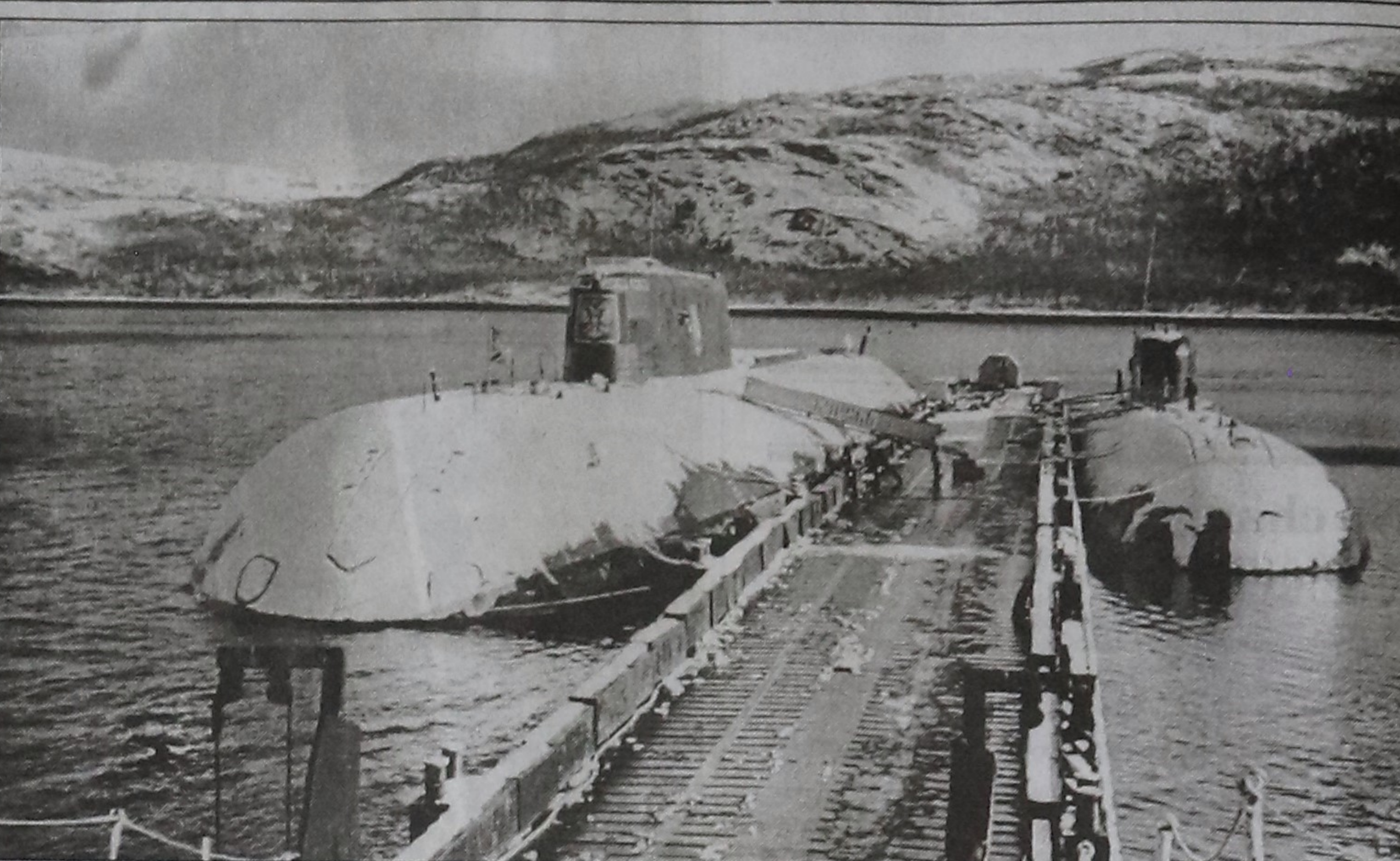
## England batter West Indies

LEEDS, England, Aug 18: England beat West Indies by an innings and 39 runs on the second day of the fourth Test at Headingley here on Friday to take a 2-1 lead in the five-Test series, reports AFP.

West Indies were bowled out for 61 in their second innings. Andrew Caddick taking five for 14 and Darren Gough four for 30.

It was only the second time since World War II that a Test had been won inside two days. The last time was when Australia beat New Zealand by an innings and 103 runs at Wellington in 1945/46.

It was the first time a Test in England had been won inside two days since Australia beat England by 10 wickets at Trent Bridge in 1921.



AFP file picture taken in winter 2000 shows the Russian nuclear powered Kursk submarine (left). The submarine, trapped on the seabed of the Barents Sea since Saturday is likely to run out of oxygen endangering lives of 118 aboard.

## Opposition's grand rally in Khulna on Sept 8

The four-party Opposition alliance will hold a grand rally in Khulna on September 8 as part of their current anti-government movement, reports BSS.

Leader of the Oppositions in Parliament and Chairperson of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Khaleda Zia will address the grand rally as the chief guest. Three other top leaders of the Opposition's alliance -- Hussain Muhammad Ershad, Prof Golam Azam and Moulana Mohammad Azizul Haq -- will also address the rally.

The rally will be held at Shaheed Haidi Park.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the Opposition's liaison committee held at the central office of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh with BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair.

Naziur Rahman Manzur of Jatiya Party, Moulana Motiur Rahman Nizami of Jamaat and Mufti Fazlul Huq Animi of Islami Oikya Jote were present at the meeting.

## Different bodies extend support to striking teachers

By Staff Correspondent

Different organisations yesterday expressed their solidarity with the movement of non-government teachers.

Pink Group, a forum of non-political teachers of Dhaka University yesterday expressed its full support to the agitating teachers of non-government schools and colleges.

Prof Kazi Nurul Islam, Convenor of the Group in a statement urged the government to resolve the crisis in the greater interest of the country and the nation.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will hold rallies and bring out processions all over the country tomorrow in support of the striking teachers.

In the city CPB will hold a rally at 5:00 pm at Mukhtang and bring out a procession.

Bangladesh College Teachers' Association (BCTA) will also hold a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar on August 26. Principal A K M Zahirul Islam and Kazi Farooq Ahmed, President and General Secretary respectively of the BCTA in a statement yesterday called upon all college teachers to attend the rally.

Teachers and employees of the country's non-government educational institutions began strike for an indefinite period on July 10 to press their six-point demand including 100 per cent salary from the public exchequer.

## Chhatra Oikya to submit memo to PM on Sunday

Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya will lead a procession toward the Prime Minister's office for submitting a memorandum on Sunday, reports UNB.

In the memo, they will demand recovery of arms from educational institutions, arrest and punishment of terrorists and publication of names of the identified terrorists at Dhaka University.

Their demands also include arrest and exemplary punishment of those involved in the killings in Kushiya, Jessore and Chittagong.

## Rescue capsule reaches sub but fails to gain access

MOSCOW, Aug 18: A rescue capsule reached one of the escape hatches on a sunken Russian nuclear submarine for the first time today but was unable to gain access because of serious damage, a navy official said, reports AP.

The Russian rescue craft returned to the surface after repeated attempts failed, said navy spokesman Capt Igor Babenko.

Four Russian rescue capsules have been trying since Tuesday to reach the shattered hulk of the Kursk submarine, lying 108 metres below the surface. Powerful currents and poor visibility have repeatedly beaten the capsules back.

One of the capsules finally managed to reach one of the Kursk's two escape hatches but was unable to latch on to it with a special mechanism designed to establish an airtight connection, said Babenko.

"The grabbing device cannot get hold of the hatch," he said. The area around the hatch was

very badly damaged, he said. A larger escape capsule has taken over and was trying to latch on to the escape hatch, he said.

The capsules were having better success as the weather in the rescue area improved today, making it easier for them to manoeuvre above the submarine, navy officials said.

Navy officials said earlier there was no sign of life on the submarine, which went down with 118 men aboard six days ago during major naval exercises in the Barents Sea.

The pessimistic assessments came after film of the crippled Kursk showed massive damage reaching from the bow to the conning tower, which was much more extensive than earlier thought.

Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov, the head of a government commission that reviewed the rescue effort Thursday, said there was a "terrifying hole" on the starboard side of the submarine.

"A rather big part of the crew was in the part of the boat that was hit by the catastrophe that developed at lightning speed," Klebanov told reporters in Minsk, home of the Russian Northern Fleet.

"There have been no sounds for quite a long time" from within the Kursk, he added.

Both Klebanov and the Navy commander, Adm Vladimir Kuroyedov, have said that any survivors were expected to run out of oxygen today, but other high-ranking naval officers have given them until next week. Kuroyedov and Klebanov flew today to the rescue site, where about 20 ships are leading the operation.

British and Norwegian rescue teams were not expected to reach the site until tomorrow at the earliest, after Russia initially resisted accepting western assistance. A British navy team with a sophisticated rescue submarine was heading to the

See page 11 col 7

## Palace far Sheikh Zaid in Rangunia Project shelved, over 100 acres around site affected

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Aug 18: The project for construction of a palace by UAE President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahyan over 110 acres of land at Botagi union in Rangunia remained shelved for long after some initial work, sources said.

This has affected about 150 farmers as over 100 acres of land around the project site have become silted and unfit for cultivation. Botagi Union Parishad Chairman Syed Fazlul Karim and some of the farmers said.

The lands have become silted by sand and mud carried by rainwater due to unplanned cutting of hills for construction of the two-kilometre access road and a demarcation wall around the project site.

Rainwater has now flooded some of the lands and is threatening houses nearby because of lack of drainage system, the UP chairman added.

Former President H M Ershad had presented 110 acres of land there to Al Nahyan for a palace. Al Nahyan was charmed

with the scenic beauty while on way to Kaptai during a visit to Bangladesh during Ershad's rule. The land was handed over in 1995 during the tenure of BNP government.

A local firm, Hiranman Associates Ltd., was engaged on behalf of Al Nahyan for the first phase of the work.

Hiranman sources said it has no contact with Al Nahyan for about a year now. They could not say anything about the fate of the project.

See page 11 col 7



The price hike of petroleum products and gas has triggered widespread protests across the country. Picture shows city BNP activists staging a demonstration yesterday to voice their resentment over rise in fuel prices. — Star photo

## New grand jury to investigate Clinton-Lewinsky scandal

Politically motivated to hurt Gore, say Democrats

WASHINGTON, Aug 18: Independent Counsel Robert Ray is signalling that the Monica Lewinsky scandal is far from over, assembling a new grand jury to investigate the US president's conduct, legal sources say, reports AP.

News that the grand jury was impanelled a month ago reverberated to the other side of the country Thursday, with Democratic Party loyalists at the convention in Los Angeles decrying the story as a politically motivated leak designed to hurt Vice President Al Gore in his bid for the presidency.

"If Clinton was to drop dead, the Republicans would dig him up," complained US Rep. Charles Rangel.

The timing of the news "hours before Al Gore is to give this speech" warrants a federal investigation, said Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. of Illinois.

"You can bet your bottom dollar that the Republican Party was behind" the leak, said House Minority Whip David Bonior. "I think the American people are going to reject this kind of behaviour."

Gore, spokesman Doug Hattaway said the judicial system was being "manipulated for political purposes."

With the convention in its final day, Clinton was at the White House, where spokesman Jake Siewert pointed to prosecutors as a likely source of the leak. Ray's office denied it. The sources telling the Associated Press that a new grand jury was convened July 11 in the Clinton-Lewinsky matter are outside the Independent Counsel's office.

The sources spoke only on condition of anonymity.

The setting up of a new Clinton-Lewinsky grand jury at the US Courthouse in Washington, D.C., follows through on Ray's promise to weigh whether the president should be indicted after he steps

down from office next January. A year and a half after Clinton was impeached by the House and acquitted by the Senate on a pair of 50-50 tie votes, a special panel of judges is renewing Ray's mandate for another year.

The judges issued a legalistic one-sentence order Wednesday declaring that "termination of the office... is not currently appropriate."

The legal questions are whether Clinton committed perjury or obstructed justice when he denied an affair in sworn testimony in the Paula Jones case.

The judge in the Jones case has already ruled the president gave false testimony and fined him for civil contempt of court. The disciplinary committee of the Arkansas Supreme Court has also moved to revoke Clinton's law licence.

Keith Ausbrook, senior counsel to Ray, declined comment about any grand jury activity, which is kept secret by law.

But in response to the judge's order, Ausbrook noted that "We've made public that the Lewinsky investigation remains open and that the e-mail investigation remains open."

The e-mail probe focuses on whether the White House concealed thousands of electronic messages sought by investigators. Presidential aides deny wrongdoing.

The new grand jury is likely to get up to speed on the scandal by receiving evidence in the form of transcripts and summaries of previously gathered evidence.

## Tiger kills one in Mongla

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 18: One person was killed and two others were injured by a Royal Bengal Tiger at Rekhmari Khristanpar under Mongla thana Thursday morning.

The dead was identified as Disent Mirza, 40. The injured are Ratan, 27, and Hakim, 30. The man-eater entered the village at the dead of night on Wednesday.

According to a source of Sundarban Forest Division, the tiger was also beaten to death by the villagers.

Autopsy of Mirza was done at Bagerhat sadar hospital while the tiger killed by the angry people was lying with Dhangamari Forest office.

DFO Zahiruddin visited the place of occurrence this morning. He arranged necessary treatment of the injured at Mongla Upazila Health Complex.

The Royal Bengal Tiger which is above seven feet long also killed two cows the same night.

## Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka Computer Centre

### Computer Application Courses

 The following courses will be offered at BUET COMPUTER CENTRE commencing from 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2000.

Sl. No.	Course Title	Duration	Remarks
1.	Visual Basic Programming	24 classes. Each class two hrs; 3 days per week. Time: 4:00 to 6:00 PM 6-15 to 8-15 PM	Good mathematical background and Windows 95/98 experience is a must. Class size: 25
2.	Visual Java Programming	24 classes. Each class two hrs; 3 days per week. Time: 4:00 to 6:00 PM 6-15 to 8-15 PM	Good mathematical background and Windows 95/98 experience is a must. Experience in other programming language(s) will be preferred. Class size: 25
3.	Visual C++ Programming Language	24 classes. Each class two hrs; 3 days per week. Time: 4:00 to 6:00 PM 6-15 to 8-15 PM	Good mathematical background and Windows 95/98 experience is a must. Class size: 25
4.	ORACLE	24 classes. Each class three hrs; 3 days per week (Sat-Mon-Wed) Time: 5 PM to 8 PM	Must have experience of either ACCESS/Foxpro/DBASE. Class size: 30

Applications in plain paper with full particulars stating course title, academic qualifications and experience should reach the DIRECTOR, COMPUTER CENTRE, BUET, DHAKA by 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2000. Fees for each course (from Sl. No. 1 to 3) is Tk. 6,000/- (Taka six thousand only) and fees for Oracle Course is Tk. 10,000/- (Taka ten thousand only) payable by Bank Draft or Pay-Order in the name of "BRTC Computer Centre Fund, BUET" should accompany the application. The fees include course materials, light refreshments, file bags etc. Name of candidates selected on first-come-first-serve basis would be posted on the Computer Centre Notice Board on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2000. Syllabus for the above Courses may be seen in the Library of the Centre before payment.

GD-779

Director

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. Telephone Numbers: 8124944, 8124955, 8124966. Fax: 8125155, GPO Box No: 3257. Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net