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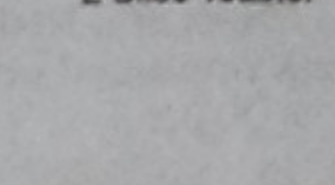
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A woman with a baby in her lap crying as she lost everything she had in a fire at a slum at Maniknagar in the city yesterday (Left) and other victims searching for their belongings in the debris. --Star photo

Kalam murder: Alam yet to be rescued

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAH, Oct 8: Police is yet to rescue Kalam's kidnapped son Alam Sheikh.

The terrorists kidnapped Alam immediately after the murder of his father Abul Kalam Azad known as Kalam.

Mathar thana said police was not confirmed if Alam was kidnapped. "He may be absconding or in hiding," a police official said.

Kalam was beaten to death in presence of police at Char Khidirpur under Mathar thana on Thursday.

A total of 50 people have been accused in the Kalam Murder Case. Most of the FIR named accused are residents of Laxmipur in the city who went to Char Khidirpur along with police, Mathar police said.

Meanwhile, local people alleged that police was trying to divert the case.

Officer-in-charge of Mathar thana Abdul Qayyum went to Char Khidirpur on Friday night and stayed there till Saturday. See page 11 col 6

No further progress in setting up of Grameen Adalat

By Nazmul Ashraf

Despite substantial progress initially, noting has been done in more than a year now to replace the virtually non-functioning Gramya Adalat (rural court) with a more effective one due to government's indecisiveness.

The structure and powers of the proposed Grameen Adalat went through scrutiny several times earlier. But there was little progress since the Cabinet approved the idea in March last year.

A law ministry official said the lack of progress was due to government's indecisiveness about the structure of the proposed court.

Gramya Adalat, headed by the Chairman of Union Parishad, was introduced in 1976 to lessen district court's burden of cases centring ordinary disputes in rural areas.

A UNDP survey report in late 1996 found that the Gramya Adalat was doing 'farce' in the name of trial. The Adalat virtually

became ineffective as people lost confidence in it. It failed to deliver justice due to the 'biased role' of the UP chairman, the report said.

The UNDP report had also revealed that 80 per cent of the cases in district courts came from villages, centring ordinary disputes. Effective functioning of rural courts could greatly ease the pressure on district courts which lack adequate manpower, it said.

A rural court needs no infrastructure facility and operating cost as required by a formal court as it operates in open place and the 'jurists' volunteer their services.

On the basis of the UNDP report, the government in 1997 decided to replace the Gramya Adalat with an effective Grameen Adalat and assigned a three-member committee headed by the then Law Secretary Aminullah to formulate policies for the proposed court.

The committee submitted its report the same year. It suggested that a three-member body comprising the district sessions

judge, the district magistrate and the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) would appoint two panels of 'judges' for a Grameen Adalat.

Each panel would comprise a retired government official, a school teacher and an elite of the area and the UP chairman would act as member-secretary, it suggested.

The UP chairman will receive all complaints and forward those to the TNO who will select those for disposal by the court. On selection of the complaint, the TNO will also instruct the UP chairman to summon the accused.

The committee suggested that disposal of a case and execution of the verdict would be completed by 90 days.

The village choikidar, backed by police, will execute the verdict.

In late 1998, an inter-ministerial meeting disapproved the suggestions of the committee. The meeting suggested that a two-member committee comprising a senior assistant judge and an assistant judge would appoint

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25 shanties gutted at Maniknagar

By Staff Correspondent

At least 25 shanties in a slum at Shandergali of Maniknagar in the city's Sabujbagh area were gutted in a fire yesterday morning, fire brigade sources said.

The fire originating from an earthen oven in a shanty at about 11:45 a.m., quickly engulfed other shanties in the slum, police and fire brigade sources said. Local people, however, extinguished the fire before the firefighters reached the spot.

There was no report of casualties.

Jute godown gutted in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Oct 8: A jute godown was gutted in a fire in Kashipur area under Fatullah thana today.

Witnesses and police said the fire originated from a nearby welding shop at Hatkhola in Kashipur area at 1-30 pm and soon engulfed the godown. The workers of the jute godown and local people tried to extinguish the blaze but failed.

Later, two fire fighting units from River Fire Station and Mandalpara rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze.

BCL man murder
BNP worker held in Barisal

BARISAL, Oct 8: A BNP worker was arrested at Shaestabad Launch Ghat here today for his alleged involvement in the killing of Chhatra League activist Masum, reports UNB.

Sources said police arrested Akhtaruzzaman when he came to his village home at Shaestabad from Dhaka after avoiding arrest for 14 months.

Chhatra League cadre Sida Masum was chopped to death in August last year.



Vojislav Kostunica waves to members of the Yugoslav parliament after his speech at the oath-taking ceremony at the Sava Center in Belgrade --AFP photo

Kostunica sworn in as Y'slav president

BELGRADE, Oct 8: Opposition leader Vojislav Kostunica was sworn in as President of Yugoslavia yesterday, in a historic shift towards democracy in a nation scarred by more than a decade of economic ruin and isolation, reports Reuters.

Kostunica swore to uphold Yugoslavia's "integrity, sovereignty and independence" before a joint session of both houses of the Yugoslav parliament, the diplomatic corps and the visiting Greek and Norwegian foreign ministers.

He looked tired after a tumultuous two weeks of protests that eventually forced ex-President Slobodan Milosevic to admit defeat in elections.

But the 56-year-old constitutional lawyer happily acknowledged the cheers and applause of the crowd as he formally took office.

"We have long lived in a country where democracy never existed," Kostunica said in a speech after taking his oath.

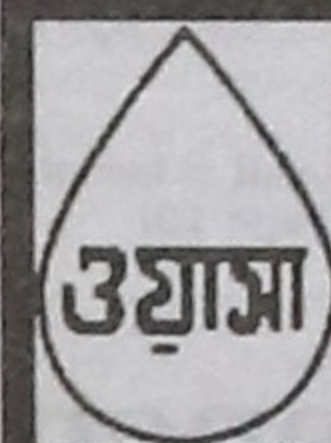
"Today political parties are replacing one another in power. Everything is peaceful and Yugoslavia and Serbia have joined the community of democratic nations."

Earlier, the parliament born out of elections 13 days ago met to confirm the poll results, ushering in what has been hailed as a new era of hope under Kostunica.

The 178 deputies of the Yugoslav Chamber of Citizens and the upper house, the Chamber of Republics, spent several hours on procedural disputes over disputed seats. See also page 9

নির্মানাধীন সায়োদাবাদ পানি শোধনাগার প্রকল্পের ঋণ বাতিলের খবর প্রসঙ্গে

সম্প্রতি বিভিন্ন সংবাদপত্রে ঢাকা ওয়াসার চতুর্থ পানি সরবরাহ প্রকল্পের আওতায় "সায়োদাবাদ পানি শোধনাগার প্রকল্প"-এর নির্মাণ কাজ স্থগিত, বন্ধ, বাতিল হওয়া ইত্যাদি প্রসঙ্গে খবর পরিবেশিত হয়েছে। এ প্রসঙ্গে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানান যাচ্ছে যে, অত্র প্রকল্পের ঋণ স্থগিত বা বাতিল হয়নি। ইতোমধ্যে শোধনাগারের প্রায় ৫০ ভাগ কাজ সম্পন্ন হয়েছে এবং নগরবাসীকে পর্যাপ্ত পানি সরবরাহ নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্যে নির্ধারিত ২০০২ সালের মধ্যে শেষ করার জন্য বর্তমানে প্রাক্টের সকল অংশের কাজ পুরোদমে চলছে। ঢাকা মহানগরীর পানি সরবরাহের জন্য খুবই গুরুত্বপূর্ণ এ প্রকল্পের কাজ সুষ্ঠুভাবে সম্পন্ন করার লক্ষ্যে ঢাকা ওয়াসা সংবাদপত্রসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের আন্তরিক সহযোগিতা কামনা করছে।

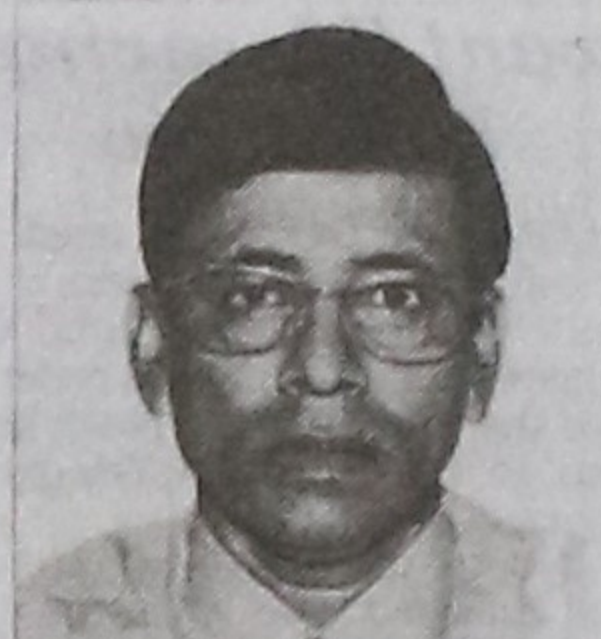

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We, the Employee's of Maan Bangladesh Ltd., are hereby **Congratulating** our dearest Chairman Mr. Habibur Rahman for achievement of the above rare international honour & Trophy.

Employee's of Maan Bangladesh Ltd.


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- আপনি কি ভাড়া বাড়ির নানান ঝামেলা থেকে মুক্তি চান?
- আপনি কি মনোরম পরিবেশে একটি এ্যাপার্টমেন্ট কেনার ইচ্ছা পোষণ করেন?

তাহলে আপনি -

আল বারাকা এ্যাপার্টমেন্ট ঋণ প্রকল্প-এর একজন গ্রাহক হতে পারেন।

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