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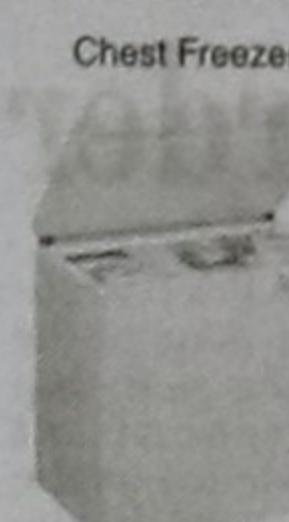
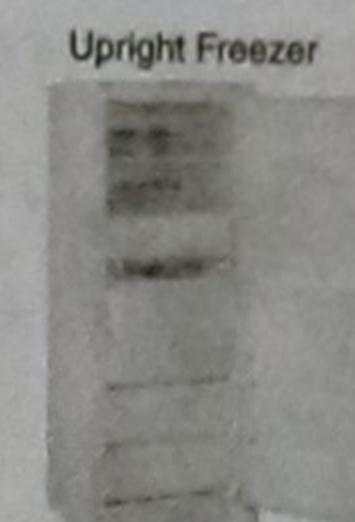
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Never-ending story ... A Palestinian protester throws a stone at Israeli troops during clashes at the entrance of the Kfar Darom settlement in the Gaza Strip yesterday hours after Yasser Arafat and Ehud Barak agreed to work towards a truce in the trouble-torn area at the Sharm el-Sheikh summit on Monday. Forty Palestinians were wounded in scattered clashes in the West Bank and Gaza. — Star photo

West Bank, Gaza tense despite steps for truce

JERUSALEM, Oct 18: Palestinian militiamen fired at Israeli troops and rock-throwing erupted at friction points in the West Bank and Gaza today, despite Yasser Arafat's call to street activists to observe a US-brokered cease-fire with Israel. Still, neither side walked away

from the hard-won truce, reports AP.

Israel took several steps to ease restrictions on Palestinians, including the lifting of an internal closure on Palestinian areas, which prevented residents, from traveling out of their communities. The Israelis also allowed the

Palestinians to reopen their airport in the Gaza Strip, and opened border crossings to Egypt and Jordan.

However, a general closure that prevents Palestinians from entering Israel remained in effect.

Despite the persistent tensions, high-level Israeli and Palestinian security officials were meeting to find ways to carry out the promises made to US President Bill Clinton at the Mideast summit in Egypt.

Over the next two days, Israel

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ADB dissatisfied at quality of DMCH renovation

By Staff Correspondent

A four-member team of consultants from Asian Development Bank is now in the city to review the renovation of Dhaka Medical College Hospital with a Tk 11 crore ADB loan.

The team which arrived here on Tuesday visited DMCH yesterday and expressed 'dissatisfaction' over the quality of renovation, sources concerned said.

Some heads of departments at DMCH also expressed similar feelings when the consultants met them.

The renovation started in 1993 and ended in June 1999.

The team members found the operation theatres, doctors' rooms, intensive care unit, gynaecology, paediatric and surgery wards are still in the same condition as these were years ago, one source said.

The consultants from ADB Headquarters in Manila were shown cracks in the walls, plasters falling, water leaking through walls, incomplete roads on the hospital premises and such other things.

The renovation was a sub-component of the ADB Assisted Second Health and Family Planning Services Project.

The contract for the work was given to a local firm -- Development and Design Consultant which gave the job to another firm, Project Builders Limited, on a sub-contract.

A project management unit (PMU) was formed by the health ministry to supervise the work but the officials concerned in collaboration with the contractors allegedly misappropriated a huge amount of the funds for it.

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BB dispels speculations

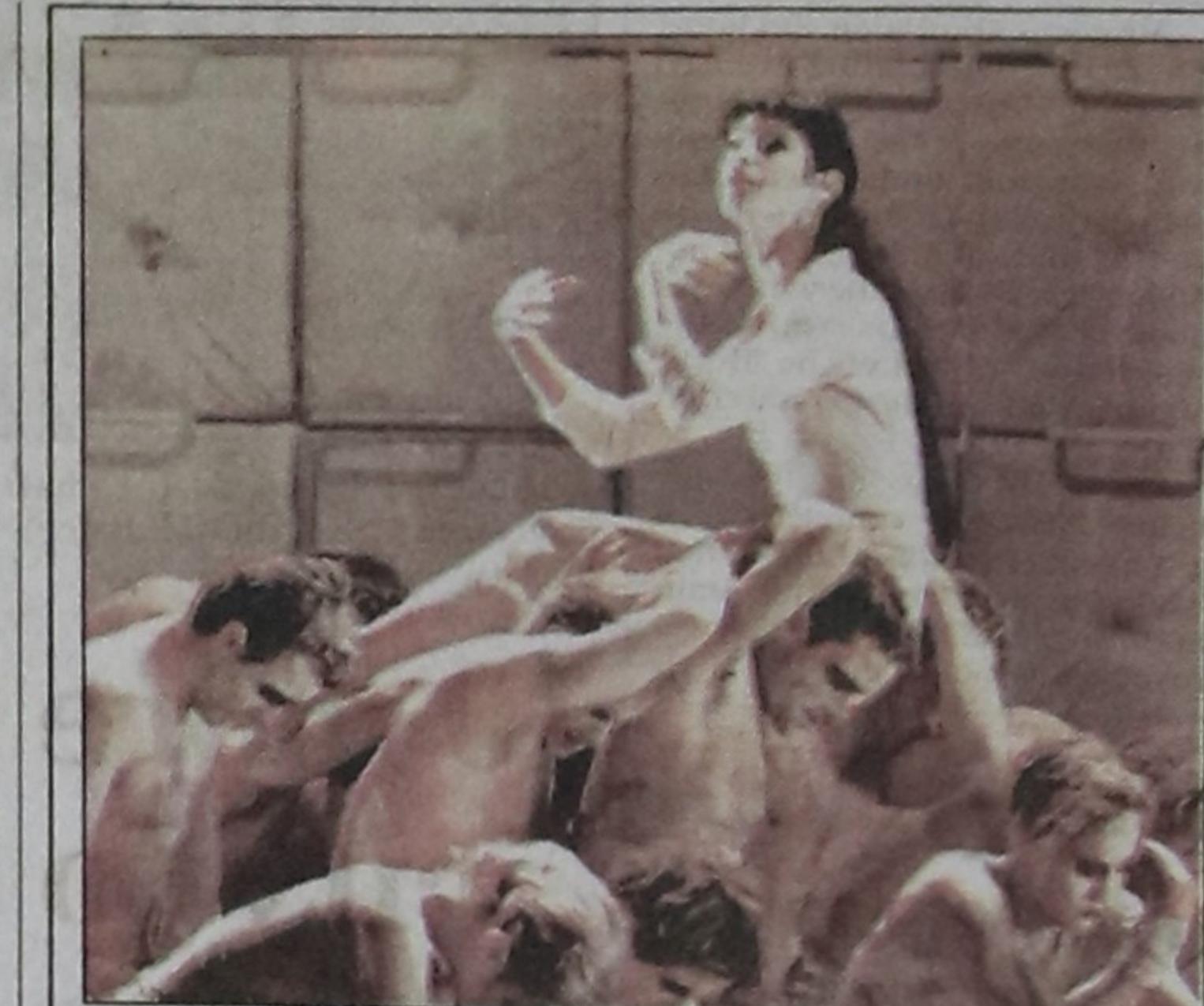
Star Report

Bangladesh Bank (BB) dispelled yesterday speculations that it would sell gold bars from its reserve to overcome the foreign exchange reserve crisis.

The BB high officials said there wasn't any such decision and the bank did not even discuss the issue either.

The foreign exchange situation is not anything unusual and we do not need any such actions to support the balance of payment situation," said a BB official.

There were speculations that the BB would sell 1676 kg of gold bars through auctions in England.



Sakountala in French flavour

Marie-Claude Petragalla (C), choreographer and leader of the Marseille National Ballet, plays Camille Claudel in her new ballet Sakountala on Tuesday in the south-eastern port city of Marselle.

— AFP photo

Benapole land port Tk 35 cr revenue loss in 21 days

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 18: Government has incurred loss of Tk 35 crore in revenue earning from Benapole land port due to suspension of import-export for 21 days, customs sources said.

The import-export activities were suspended as deluge submerged the land port.

Activities at the land port resumed with arrival of 140 trucks loaded with imported goods from India on Tuesday and today. These trucks entered Benapole directly from Petrapole.

Customs officials at Benapole land port refused to receive the imported goods without checking. Because, importers have lodged complaints about damage to their goods caused by flood.

But the imported consignments were received today as per directive of the Joint Commissioner of Customs.

He gave assurance to take up the matter with the authorities concerned.

Over 62 trucks are lying stranded at Petrapole border as importers are reportedly hesitating to receive the consignments.

Some importers complained that most of the goods have been damaged as trucks remained stranded in flood water since September 26.

Benapole land port normally earns about Tk 1.50 crore a day. This earning comes from loading and unloading operation and different charges including customs duty and VAT.

Meanwhile, road communication with Benapole was restored from 11 am on Tuesday. 197 trucks loaded with goods of 30 consignments left for different destinations from warehouse.

Passenger buses have also started plying on all routes from Benapole that remained under knee deep water since September 26.

Strike halts activities at Ctg Port

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 18: Loading and unloading at Chittagong Port were disrupted today due to a strike enforced by Bandar Sramik Karmachari Federation, an alliance of 22 trade union bodies.

The alliance enforced an 8-hour strike from 8 am demanding cancellation of permission for installation of private container terminal by Stevedoring Services of America (SSA), cancellation of recently opened green channel at Chittagong Port and procurement of container handling equipment.

Port sources said 14 vessels loaded with cargo remained stranded at port jetties as loading and unloading were suspended by about 20,000 dockers.

The dockers of the port also observed strike earlier as part of their protest programmes against installation of the proposed container terminal at Patenga near Chittagong port.

Bangabandhu Murder Case Dalim was not involved in killing: Defence

FIRs.

In the judgement of the case, he submitted, the time of occurrence was shown from 4 am to 6 am but plaintiff Muhibul Islam in his deposition before the court said that he saw Dalim at the place of occurrence at 8 am. This proved that Dalim was not involved in the killing of Bangabandhu, contended the lawyer winding up his argument.

The court wanted to know how Dalim was at the place of occurrence when no civilian was allowed to go there at that time.

Advocate Bari contended that three Ezbars (FIRs) were filed in connection with the case but Dalim's name was not in two

Advocate Bari said Dalim used to go to Bangabandhu's Dhamondi residence. None can

be blamed for his mere presence there.

Opening his argument the state appointed lawyer for Lt Col Aziz Pasha said only Havildar Kuddus Sikdar among 61 prosecution witnesses told the court that he saw him (Pasha) shot at Begum Mujib taking a gun from Risaldar Moslemuddin. No other witness corroborated his statement.

Referring to the judgement in the case Advocate Tarique said that Pasha was in front of BDR gate at about 5 am on the day of occurrence. So, how could he be involved in the killing.

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FBCCI Election-2000

Notice

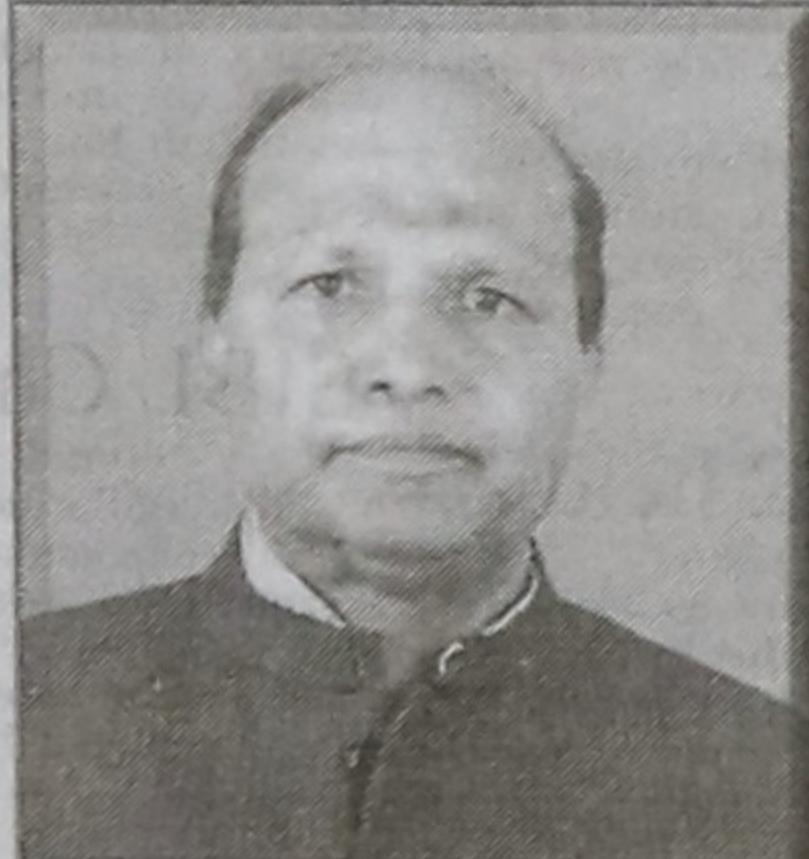
It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by Judgement and Order dated 17.10.2000 summarily rejected the Writ Petition No. 5041 of 2000 & vacated the order dated 10.10.2000 earlier passed by the Vacation Bench staying the Election of the FBCCI, which was due to be held on 12.10.2000

In view of the aforesaid Judgement, FBCCI Election-2000 of Association Group for the Posts of Vice President and 15 Executive Committee Members will now be held on Saturday the 21st October 2000 between 09.30 a.m and 04.30 p.m at Federation Bhaban, 60 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

All voters of Association Group are requested to exercise their right of Franchise by casting their votes at the FBCCI Election on 21st October, 2000.

Secretary
Election Board, FBCCI

FIFTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE AL-HAJ JAHURUL ISLAM



Today, October 19, 2000 is the fifth Death Anniversary of the Late **AL-HAJ JAHURUL ISLAM**, the founder and chairman of **ISLAM GROUP OF COMPANIES**.

We request all his relatives, well-wishers, colleagues, friends and staff to pray for the departed soul.

To mark the occasion humanitarian charity will be donated among the flood victim and destitutes of the flood affected south-western region of Bangladesh.

MRS. JAHURUL ISLAM & FAMILY.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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প্রকাশনি



আজ ১৯শে অক্টোবর ২০০০ নাতানা লিমিটেড ও আফতাব অটোমোবাইলস লিমিটেড-এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা, পরম শ্রদ্ধেয় মরহুম আলহাজু জহুরুল ইসলাম সাহেবের পৃষ্ঠম মৃত্যুবর্ষীকৰ্ত্তা।

জীবিত অবস্থায় তিনি ছিলেন আমাদের আদর্শ, পথ প্রদর্শক এবং সকল কর্ম প্রেরণার উৎস। আজ তাঁর বিদেহী আয়ার প্রতি জানাই গভীর শুক্রা এবং পরম করণশয়ের কাছে কামনা করছি তাঁর আয়ার মাগফেরাত।

মরহুমের শৃঙ্খল প্রতি শুক্রা নিবেদনের জন্য আজ নাতানা লিমিটেড ও আফতাব অটোমোবাইলস লিমিটেড এর সকল অফিস বন্ধ থাকবে।

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