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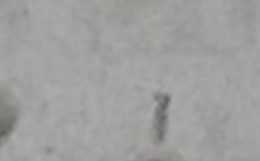
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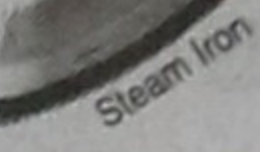
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Major change in Interpol planned

PARIS, Oct 28: International crime-fighting organisation Interpol is set for a major shake-up during an upcoming meeting of the organisation on the Greek island of Rhodes set to begin on Monday, reports AFP.

Delegates from the 178 member states will vote on a replacement for the current president, the secretary-general and seven of the 13-strong executive committee at the gathering, which will last until November 3.

Although the choice of new president is still wide open, the key post of secretary general responsible for the day-to-day running of Interpol has virtually been agreed.

The executive committee selected American lawyer Ronald K Noble to replace Briton Raymond Kendall and the general assembly is expected to rubber-stamp his candidacy.

Noble, 43, is a specialist in See page 11 col 1

PWD engr, official assaulted by contractors in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 28: Two contractors assaulted Executive Engineer of PWD Division-2, Abu Ehsa Sarkar and an official at his office on Thursday.

A case was filed under Public Safety Act with Rajpara thana last night in this connection. The two contractors were absconding, police said.

Witnesses and police said, Awal and Mukul bought a contract of constructing Kankonhat Police Investigation Centre building from the original bidders.

They came Thursday noon to take the security money returned back.

They assaulted the engineer when he refused to return back the money unless the original bidders come. They also beat an official when he tried to resist the contractors, sources said.



A plan for comfort has turned into a bane for city dwellers. The authorities removed the age-old Loharpool (iron bridge) at Gandaria about two months back to construct a road. But there is no sign that work will begin soon. -- Star photo

Discord over increased 'penal rent' Importers stop taking delivery of vehicles at Ctg port

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Oct 27: Delivery of imported vehicles, mostly reconditioned ones, from Chittagong port remained suspended from Thursday due to a tug of war between the port authorities and importers.

The importers are not taking delivery of vehicles protesting four times increase in the 'penal rent'. The 'penal rent' was increased in September to force the importers take their vehicles to reduce congestion in sheds.

As a result of the non-delivery, port sheds are crammed with 3,500 imported vehicles against

their capacity of 1700, port sources said.

The space problem in sheds will be more acute as three more vessels with 1,500 imported vehicles are scheduled to arrive soon, a port official said when contacted.

"We do not know how we will accommodate those vehicles if imported vehicles are not cleared by importers quickly", he added.

The vehicle importers had gone to court after the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) increased the 'penal rent' in September. The court had issued an injunction,

which expired recently. This gave the CPA the scope to re-impose the enhanced 'penal rent', port sources said.

Sources in the Vehicle Importers Association said that they would go for legal battle again soon and seek further injunction from court.

Port sources say, most of the vehicle importers, many of whom 'brief-case businessmen', use port sheds as 'show-room' to sell their transports. They take customers to port sheds to show their vehicles before transaction as

See page 11 col 7

Warrant for arrest of Benazir

ISLAMABAD, Oct 28: A Pakistani court has issued a warrant for the arrest of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for failing to appear before it to answer corruption charges, court officials said today, reports AFP.

The court, sitting in Rawalpindi, issued the arrest warrant on Friday against the former Prime Minister, who ruled Pakistan from 1988 to 1990 and then again from 1993 to November 1996.

The court ordered that Benazir, currently living in self-exile abroad, be arrested and brought before it on November 10.

A similar warrant against her in the past could not be implemented.

The former Prime Minister has been charged with misusing powers to acquire illegal wealth and owning undeclared assets worth around 1.5 billion dollars in foreign countries, the officials said.

Benazir and her jailed husband Asif Ali Zardari were sentenced to five years in another graft case in April last year for receiving kickbacks from a Swiss firm on a pre-shipment cargo inspection contract.

The couple attributed the charges to victimisation by arch political rival and then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was ousted in a military coup in October last year.

Zardari, who also faces other See page 11 col 8

AAPP confce likely Jan 22

The conference of Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP), due in Phnom Penh in the first week of November, has been postponed because of flood in Cambodia, reports BSS.

The conference is now expected to take place in the Cambodian capital on January 22, next year, an AAPP press release said yesterday.

Extra import for Ramadan may ruin market for local sugar

By Raziur Rahman

The government decision to import additional 50 thousand metric tons (MT) of sugar to meet the extra demand during the month of Ramadan could ruin the market for the sugar produced in 15 mills across the country, fear officials.

The recent price hike and the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh's (TCB) failure to provide wholesale dealers with imported sugar in time has prompted the government to go for the additional import.

Every month between 25 and 30 thousand MT of sugar is consumed in the country. The production target for the sugar mills has been set at 1.5 lakh MT. Earlier, the government decided to import two lakh MT of sugar.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase has already issued the work-order for import of 25 MT on October 16. However, TCB, given the responsibility of handling the additional

import, is yet to take any step to import the rest of the amount.

According to sources, two ships, each with a consignment of more than 12 thousand MT, will carry the sugar from Brazil. The shipment would be made in two phases on November 14 and 21.

However, TCB officials could not confirm whether the sugar would be imported from Brazil or not.

"We would know about it once the contract is signed in a day or two," Mohammad Asaduzzaman, director of the TCB told The Daily Star.

It takes a ship 40 to 45 days to arrive at the Chittagong port from Brazil, sources said. So, the first consignment of more than 12 thousand MT of sugar would reach the port some time between the third week of December and the first week of January when Ramadan would draw near end.

Moreover, TCB officials could not confirm exactly when they

would be able to import the remaining 25 thousand MT.

Production at the local mills would be in full swing in January. Two mills have already begun operations while the rest would follow suit by next month.

Total output from the 15 mills in January, which, according to one Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) official is expected to be nearly 50 thousand MT, would more than enough to meet the demand across the country for the month. So, if the imported sugar is distributed among the wholesale dealers, fear BSFIC officials, it will bring down the price for local sugar.

On the other hand, there are ample indications that only 12 to 13 thousand MT of imported sugar will be available in the market during Ramadan.

The mills usually purchase sugarcane worth nearly Tk 300 See page 11 col 6

20 Palestinians hurt in street battles with Israeli troops

JERUSALEM, Oct 28: Palestinian police restrained rock-throwing youths at one protest today, but clashes with Israeli troops erupted in several chronic trouble spots in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, leaving more than 20 Palestinians wounded, reports AP.

An Israeli was shot and his body was burned near the volatile West Bank town of Ramallah, according to Palestinian officials. They said the man was allegedly involved in "organised crime and drug smuggling" activities that were not linked to the current wave of political violence.

Israel's military said the body had been returned to Israeli authorities, but it had not yet been identified.

In fresh clashes today, more than 20 Palestinians were injured in four separate confrontations in the Gaza Strip, among them a 14-year-old boy who was in serious condition after being shot in the head at Rafah, on the southern end of Gaza, hospital doc-

tors said.

In an unusual development, Palestinian police intervened at a protest at the Karni crossing point in Gaza, putting protesters on trucks and driving them away from the area. With rare exceptions, Palestinian police have not attempted to restrain protesters from moving on Israeli army positions.

A month of fighting between Israelis and Palestinians has left 133 dead and thousands wounded, the vast majority Palestinians.

After several days of comparatively low-level violence, Palestinian cities throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip once again saw large-scale confrontations Friday. Four Palestinians were killed and more than 150 were injured, while four Israeli troops were hurt.

Some 5,000 mourners gathered today in Gaza City for the funeral of one of the dead. Following a funeral in Ramallah, protesters and Israeli security forces clashed. See page 11 col 1



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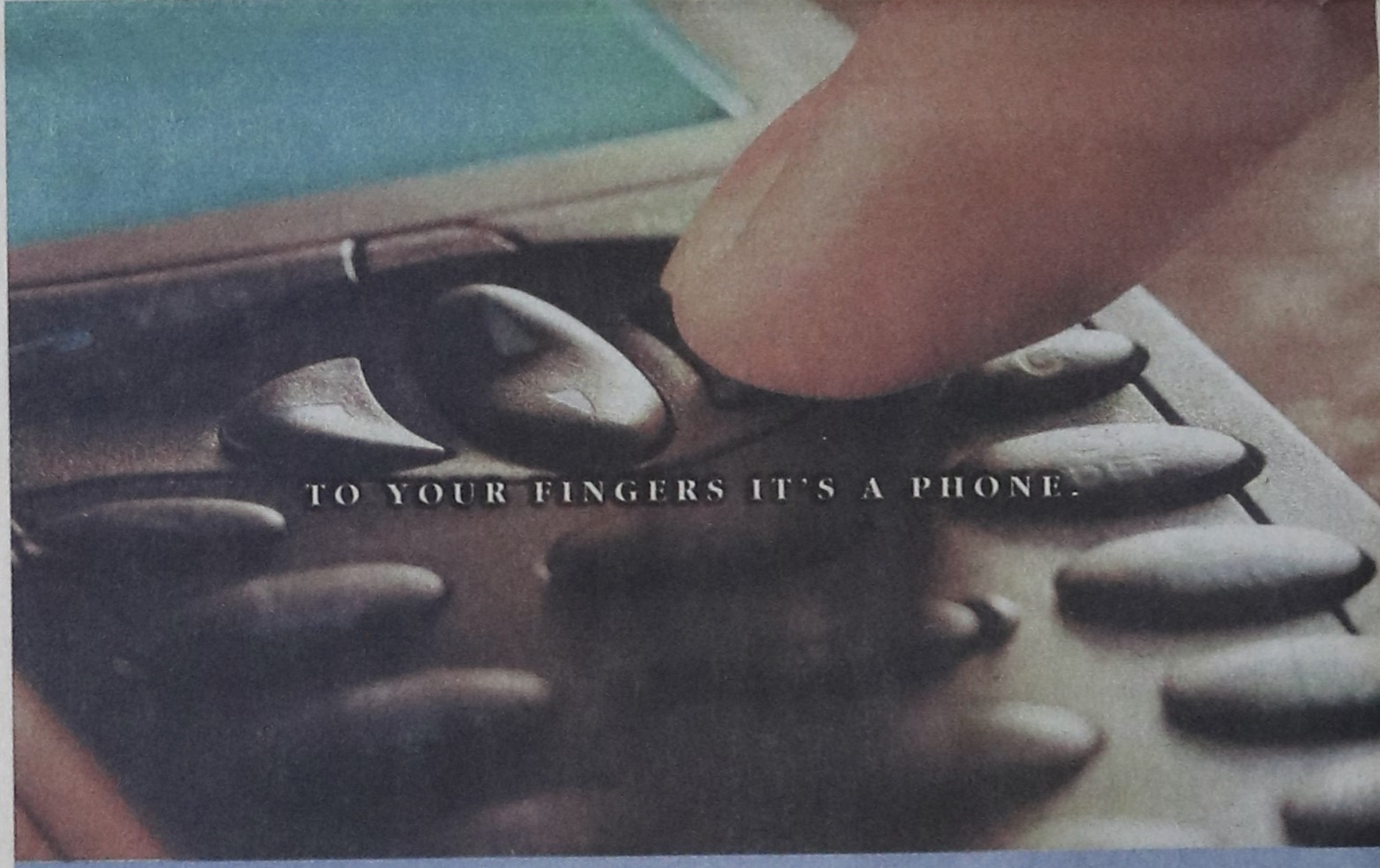
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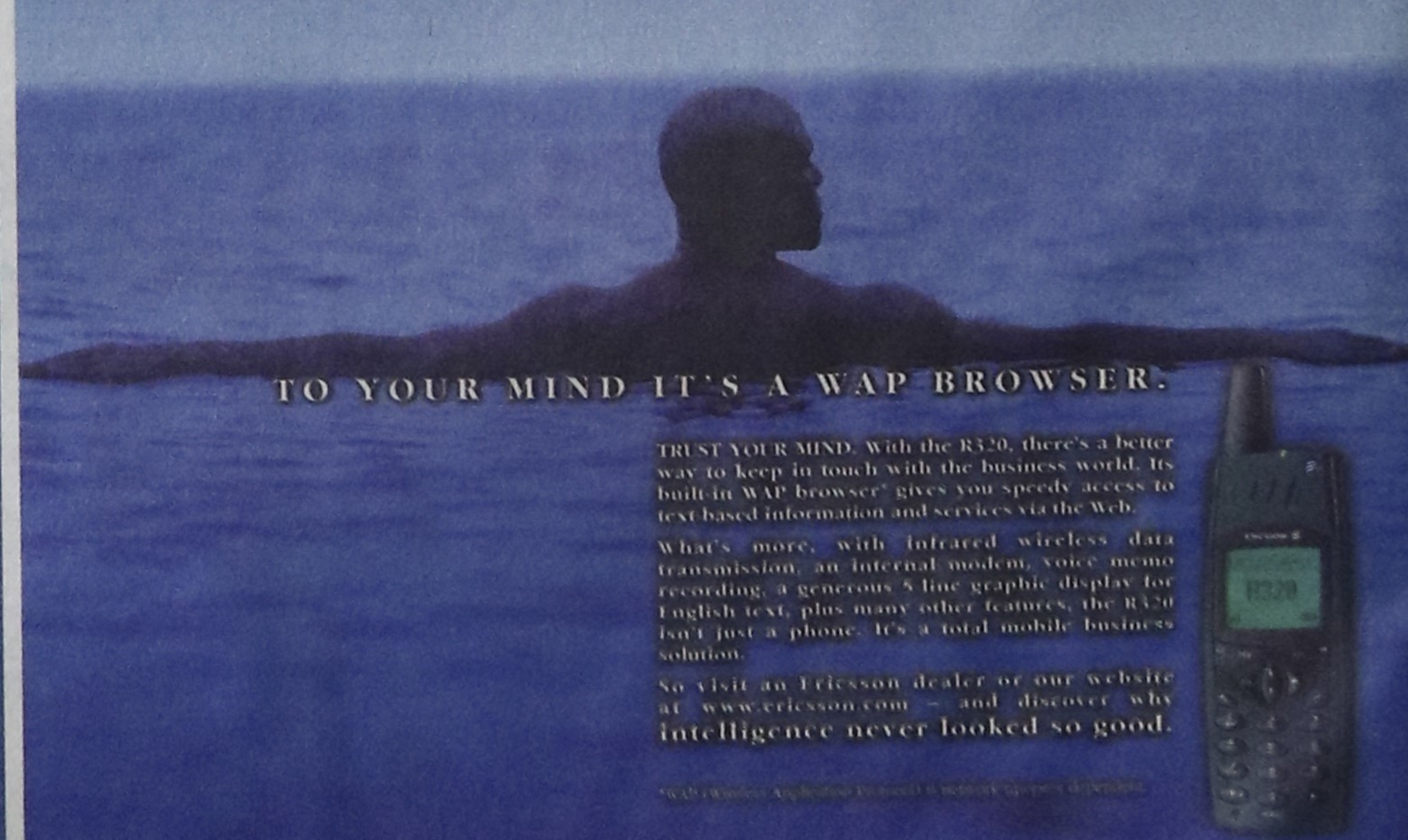
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