

China does not want conflict between Dhaka, Yangon

Says Shanghai Institutes for International Studies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

China does not want any conflict between Bangladesh and Myanmar on the maritime boundary dispute in the Bay of Bengal, said a china-based think-tank Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) yesterday.

"All kinds of debates should be solved through negotiation. China would play a facilitating role to resolve any

conflict between the two neighbours," SIIS Director Zhao Gancheng told newsmen at a press conference at the National Press Club.

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) in partnership with SIIS organized the programme. A six-member SIIS delegation led by its president Yang Jiemian and BIPSS president ANM Muniruzzaman attended the

function.

"We do not want to interfere in the internal affairs of any country, but surely we will do everything to resist any extremism or separatism," Zhao said. Terrorism and separatism are non-traditional threats in the world today.

He also suggested that the proposed South Asian Anti-Terrorism Task Force could be formed under the existing

umbrella of SAARC to enhance the regional cooperation against terrorism and separatism.

The installation of an elected government and the return of political stability under a "smooth transition" paved ways for enhanced Dhaka-Beijing relationship and will earn Bangladesh more supports from China, said Jiemian, the SIIS president.

He criticized the "double standard global financial systems" of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) saying, "Asia was hit by the financial crisis in 1990s, IMF then set a lot of conditions in financial matters, but now when the US originated the crisis, it (IMF) is not correcting the systems."

Jiemian suggested that the opinions of the developing countries must be incorporated in formulating fairer and reasonable financial systems.

The delegation leader also said the global financial crisis has surely hit Chinese economy, but not as much as that the double-digit growth rate would come down to six or seven percent. It would rather come down to eight percent, he noted.

The team will visit National Defense College and call on government leaders during their stay in Dhaka.



Shanghai Institutes for International Studies President Yang Jiemian speaks at a 'meet the press' programme at National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left are Maj Gen (ret'd) ANM Muniruzzaman and Zhao Gancheng. Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies organised the event.

'Make BSMMU service-oriented instt of high standard'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque has directed the authorities of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) to suggest measures for making it a service-oriented institution of high standard.

He gave the directives during a meeting with the vice-chancellor and senior teachers after a visit to BSMMU on Thursday.

The minister also ordered the expansion of outpatient departments and increase the number of operation theatres.

He said the poor should get proper treatment from public hospitals.

The minister asked the authorities to spend the fund for poor patients that was given to the university during the previous Awami League (AL) regime.

He also called for long and short-term measures to solve various problems facing the university.

"Appointment of qualified teachers is an important factor for ensuring quality of an educational institute," he added.

Replying to a question from reporters, the minister said the health sector has now started moving from its static situation.

Judicial officials, lawyers urged to ensure justice to litigants

BSS, Chittagong

Justice Mohammad Tazazzal Islam of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has called upon the judicial officials and lawyers to work together with the utmost sincerity to ensure justice to litigants.

"Litigants come to courts with enormous sufferings to get justice. So we should not forget that delaying justice in any way would further increase their sufferings and harassments instead of getting peace and justice," he said at a gathering of lawyers and judicial officials at a function of Chittagong District Bar Association (CDBA) on Thursday night.

CDBA President Advocate AKM Sirajul Islam Chowdhury chaired the function which was also addressed by Chittagong Metropolitan Session Judge Bhabani Prosad Singha, Chittagong District and Session Judge Moynun Ahsan, Member of Bangladesh Bar Council Advocate Anwarul Kabir, President of Chittagong Tax Lawyers Association Advocate Shahab Uddin, and CDBA Secretary Advocate Mohammad Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury.

Emphasising cordial relation between the bench and the bar, Justice Islam said judiciary cannot function properly and justice cannot be ensured if these two important organs do not work in a cooperative and professional manner.

Handcuffed robber escapes

UNB, Narail

A handcuffed robber suspect escaped from police custody hours after his arrest in Narail yesterday.

Lohagara police said they arrested Rakib, 25, on charges of robbery and taken to the police station in the morning. But he escaped after breaking open the ventilator of the toilet at about 2:30pm.

The authorities suspended constable Golam Ali, who was standing guard in front of the toilet, for his negligence.

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable

The daily Prothom Alo organises a roundtable on expectations to the new government. Venue: Prothom Alo office. Time: 10:00am.

Reception

Bangladesh Economic Association will accord a reception to its members who have been elected as members of the parliament. Venue: Economic Association auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dhaka organises a seminar on '30 years' role of Islamic revolution for the awakening of nations'. Venue: Iran Embassy compound, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion on Rohingya crisis

Neel Gobeshona Kendro organises a discussion on 'Rohingya crisis: South and South East Asian perspective'. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Time: 10:00am.

Album release

Duet Rabindra Sangeet album 'Ojanar Shandhane' of Himadri

Shekhar and Lily Islam will be released. Venue: Natmondal, Dhaka University. Time: 5:00pm.

Seminar

Sammilito Tarun Peshajibi Parishad organises a seminar on the role of young generation in implementation of the Vision 2021. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

Mujib Sena Parishad organises a discussion and cultural programme marking its 15th founding anniversary. Venue: Engineers' Institute auditorium. Time: 4:30pm.

Chittagong Samity mezbani

The annual mezbani of Chittagong Samity in Dhaka will be held. Venue: Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex. Time: 9:00am.

Award giving ceremony

"The Lifetime Achievement Award-2009, Father of the Nation Bangladesh Gold Medal" giving ceremony will be held. Bangladesh Sangbadik Kallan Foundation will give the award. Venue: Public Library seminar hall. Time: 4:00pm.



Temperature may rise

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may rise slightly, Met office said, adding that light to moderate fog may also occur over the country during late night till morning.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 10.6 degree at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:49pm today and rises at 6:36am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	29.5	15.4
Chittagong	30.0	15.5
Rajshahi	28.3	12.0
Khulna	29.3	14.2
Barisal	29.5	13.6
Sylhet	31.5	15.0
Cox's Bazar	32.5	18.0
	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	62	36
Chittagong	71	64
Rajshahi	96	67
Khulna	92	71
Barisal	92	67
Sylhet	67	55
Cox's Bazar	57	54



Oxford University to honour Fazle Hasan Abed

BSS, London

Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac, will be given honorary Doctor of Letters by the University of Oxford.

Abed founded the Brac after the 1971 War of Liberation to provide relief and rehabilitation to war refugees in a remote area of the country before turning to long-term poverty alleviation.

The organisation now works in health, education and microfinance sectors and is the world's largest NGO.

Abed is among the seven leading figures from various fields to receive honorary degrees from the university on June 24.

Others to get the honour are Philip Pullman (novelist), Dr Santiago Calatrava-Valls (architect), Prof Natalie Zemon Davis (historian), Prof Erwin L Hahn (physics), Prof Barry Marshall (microbiology) and Mitsuko Uchida (pianist).

Robbery at showroom of electronics goods in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

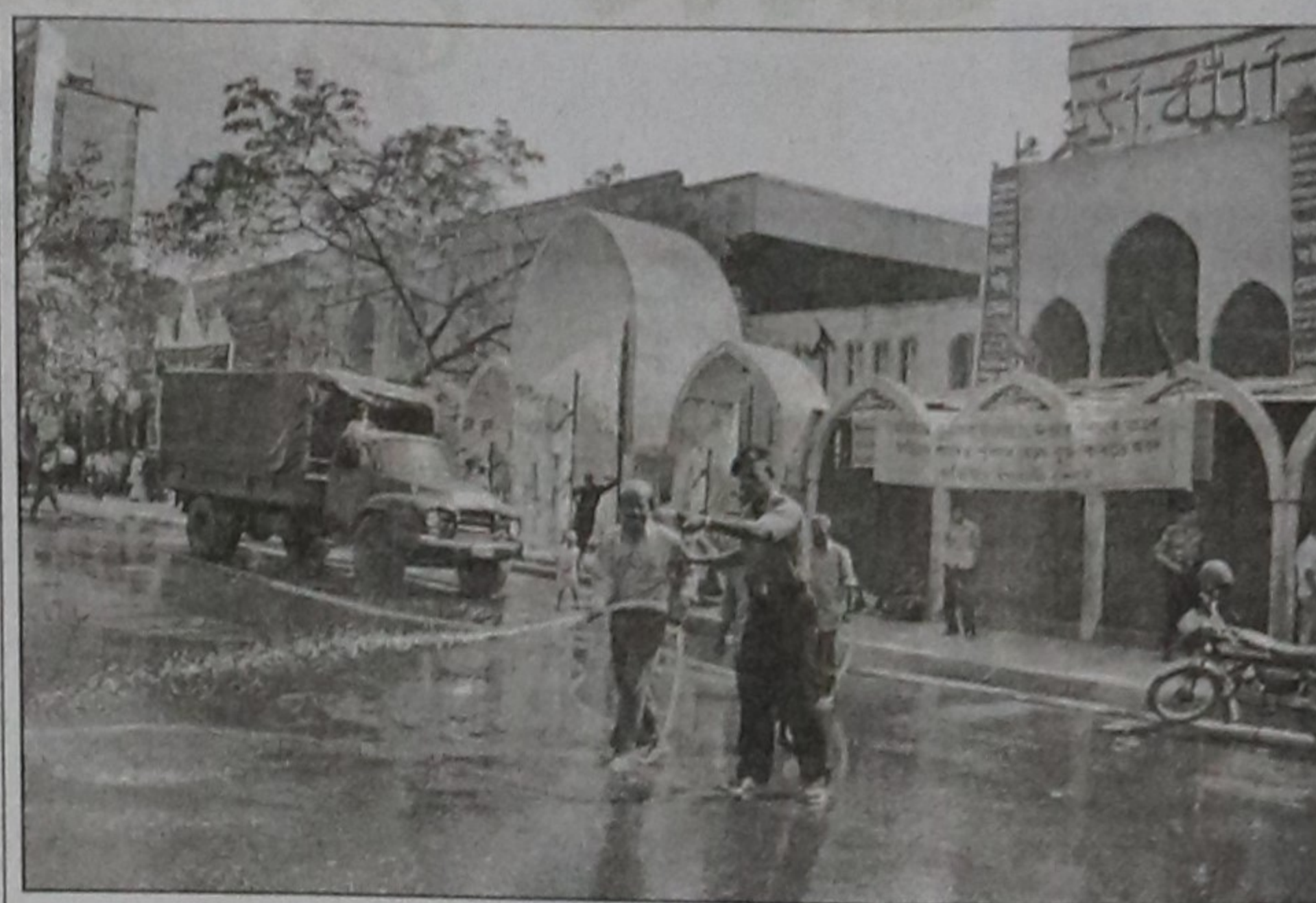
Armed criminals looted electronics goods worth Tk 2 lakh and Tk 20,000 after shooting and injuring a salesman at a showroom of Butterfly company at Jatrabari in the city yesterday afternoon.

The salesman, Raihan Uddin, 36, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with a bullet wound in his head.

Witnesses said a gang of three or four criminals posing as customers entered the showroom at North Jatrabari at about 3:30pm and held all the employees hostage at gunpoint.

They opened fire at Raihan as the employees raised an alarm.

On receiving information, the police rushed to the spot but could not arrest anybody.



A worker sprays water on the road in front of Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the city yesterday at the instruction of the police so that no protesters can gather there. The police took such steps as a section of devotees have been protesting the appointment of Khatib Maulana Muhammad Salahuddin for the last several weeks.

PHOTO: STAR

Steps taken for optimum use of marginal, fallow lands

BSS, Rajshahi

The Department of Forest has taken up a development programme for optimum use of marginal and fallow land through participatory social forestry.

Official sources said raising of seedlings for distribution to local people and planting timber, fruit and economically important trees are the main thrust of the project.

Besides, creating alternative income generating sources to support poverty alleviation and supply raw materials to 'lakha' and 'khair' producing cottage industries and protect those from extinction are the related objectives.

The five-year project titled 'biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation in greater Rajshahi and Kushtia districts' will be implemented in 44 upazilas in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Natore, Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga districts at a cost of Tk 13.20 crore.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Abul Basher Mian told BSS that planting trees in marginal, fallow, private and char lands efficiently with participatory management approach is the main component of the programme.

The project has a provision for plantation of three lakh host trees of 'lakha' and 'khair' on 10 acres of land for creating eco-tourism and improving socio-economic condition of local people by engaging them in the production of 'lakha' and 'khair'.

Different types of birds and animals are still living in different parts of the region and they are starving and immediate food supply is needed for their survival and sources of food

should be created through plantation of fruit-bearing trees.

For conservation of animals and birds, the project will plant 8.3 lakh saplings of forest, fruit bearing and timber on marginal lands, homesteads and graveyards.

Mango plantation would be extended to marginal and private lands involving local people under the programme as the existing mango plantation has been playing an important role in the local economy. Around two lakh mango saplings would be planted.

In the project-covering districts, he said there is a huge area of charlands. So, charland plantation is another compo-

ment that might improve biodiversity, environment and economy of the local people side by side with stabilising charland. At the preliminary stage, 480 hectares of charlands would be brought under plantation.

Apart from this, there exist some natural scenic and historic spots like Sona Masjid in Chapainawabganj, Paharpur in Naogaon, Shelaiddaha and Lalanshah Mazar in Kushtia and Mujibnagar in Meherpur, which are frequently visited by a huge number of people every year.

The programme has been designed to turn those spots into eco-tourism by building some recreational facilities along with more plantations.

Lawyer, college student killed in road accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A lawyer and a college student were killed in two separate road accidents in Gulistan and Mirpur areas in the city yesterday.

Advocate Mosharraf Hossain, 45, was killed in front of Zero Point at Gulistan when a passenger bus hit a three-wheeler he was riding in from back at around 7:30am, injuring his wife, son and the driver.

The victim's wife Nargis Begum, 35, and son Toufiq, 10, also a student of class four, are undergoing treatment at a local hospital.

Family members said Mosharraf, who practised at Bhola Judge Court, was com-

ing to Mohammadpur to see his daughter who is a student of a private university.

Locals rushed the injured to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where Mosharraf died at around 9:30am, they added.

Police recovered the smashed three-wheeler, but failed to seize the bus.

In another incident, Mohammad Mithu, 19, an HSC examinee of Mirpur Bangla College, received severe injuries as a CNG-run three-wheeler knocked him from back while he was crossing a road at Tolarbagh in Mirpur at around 10:45am.

He was rushed to DMCH where doctors declared him dead at around 3:00pm.



The Confucius Institute at North South University (NSU) organises the 'Chinese spring festival 2009' on its Banani campus on Thursday. Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Zheng Qing Dian, NSU Foundation Chairman MA Awaal, Vice Chancellor Hafiz GA Siddiqui, Dr Khaliquezaman Elias, and Prof Jiang Yin Lian were present at the programme.

70pc can't read, write

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class eight because five years is not enough for a children to remember the skills of reading, writing and calculations," Serajul Islam told The Daily Star.

Other experts also agree that increasing the number of years students spend at school would strengthen their literacy skills.

Former vice chancellor of Dhaka University, Moniruzzaman Miah, thinks that a severe shortage of qualified teachers and a faulty examination system are the main reasons why children complete school years without learning the entire curriculum.

"Most teachers at the primary schools do not have adequate teaching skills. Teachers for primary schools should be recruited through the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examination under the Public Service Commission to ensure a certain standard of skills," said Miah who is also the chairman of the Education

Commission.

To assess the status of learning by the primary students, the directorate of primary education has conducted three national level assessment studies in the past -- in the years 2000, 2002 and 2006. These assessment studies carried out surveys on students from urban and rural areas across the country.

The alarming results have come out of the 2006 assessment where researchers tested primary school students with a set of questionnaires covered by the school curriculum.

The study also found that quality of education in remote rural areas is far worse compared to urban areas.

This assessment study has found that students in class V have completed about 56 percent of the Bangla, 46 percent of Mathematics and 47 percent of the English syllabus in the national curriculum.

The study also revealed an alarming weakness in mathematics, as only 13 percent of

class V students were found to be able to do simple addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Thirty-one per cent of class V students were found to be able to read news headlines in Bangla newspapers properly.

The researchers have identified many factors behind the lack of quality in education imparted at primary level.

Weak organisational and institutional framework for delivery of primary education, lack of proper physical environment at schools, comparatively short school hours, lack of support materials and teachers particularly trained teachers have been pointed out amongst others through the assessment.

The assessment study has recommended that to improve the quality of education contact hours between teachers and students should be increased and more attention should be paid to mathematics and literacy skills in both Bangla and English.

ISA demands removal of new Khatib

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Shashantantra Andolon (ISA) staged a demonstration in front of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the city yesterday demanding removal of newly appointed Khatib Maulana Muhammad Salahuddin.

At a rally, the ISA leaders also called on the government not to sign the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) agreement with the USA and any agreements on transit with India.

Meanwhile, devotees offered Juma prayers at the national mosque amid tight security yesterday. Several hundred personnel from the police and intelligence were deployed in and around the mosque to avert any untoward incident.

Witnesses said the law enforcers searched every devotee before they entered the mosque.

The ISA leaders and activists took out a procession on the road in front of the mosque after Asr prayers and held a rally demanding removal of the Khatib.

They also warned that if their demands are not met, they would launch a tougher movement.

Confce on disaster management concludes

UNB, Dhaka

A five-day initial planning conference of Multinational Communications Interoperability Programmes jointly organised by Bangladesh and the US Pacific Command concluded at a city hotel yesterday.

Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Maintenance) Air Commodore M Mazharul Islam attended the closing ceremony as the chief guest and distributed certificates among the participants.

Armed Forces personnel from Australia, Indonesia, Maldives, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the USA and Bangladesh took part in the conference.

Shallow machine operator found dead

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Police recovered the body of a shallow machine operator from Madaripur Sadar upazila yesterday.

He was identified as Abdul Razzak Fakir, age 40, of Purba Ghatkhar village.

Officer-in-Charge of Madaripur Police Station Nasim Khan told The Daily Star that they recovered the body from a paddy field in the morning.

Marks of stab injuries were found in the victim's body, he added.



Jubo Ainjibi Oikya Parishad executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advocate Sheikh Salahuddin Ahmed and Advocate Mohammad Monirul Islam Akash were elected president and general secretary of the 101-member executive committee of Bangladesh Jubo Ainjibi Oikya Parishad for the two-year term, says a press release.

The election of the parishad was held at Dhaka Ainjibi Samity auditorium recently.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the first death anniversary of Mustafiz Uddin, CSO-1 at the office of the

Chief Administrative Officer, Ministry of Defence, says a press release.

He also served as a general manager of the Army Printing Press.