

'Reach IT services to people's doorstep'

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister's Adviser H T Imam yesterday said services of information technology should be reached to the doorstep of people at an affordable cost to build Digital Bangladesh based on modern technology.

"We've to reach at the people's doorstep with affordable cost of the service of information technology so that the country can be turned into modern digital country", Imam said this while he was speaking at the inaugural session of a training workshop for deputy commissioners.

UNDP organised the workshop under the Access to Information project.

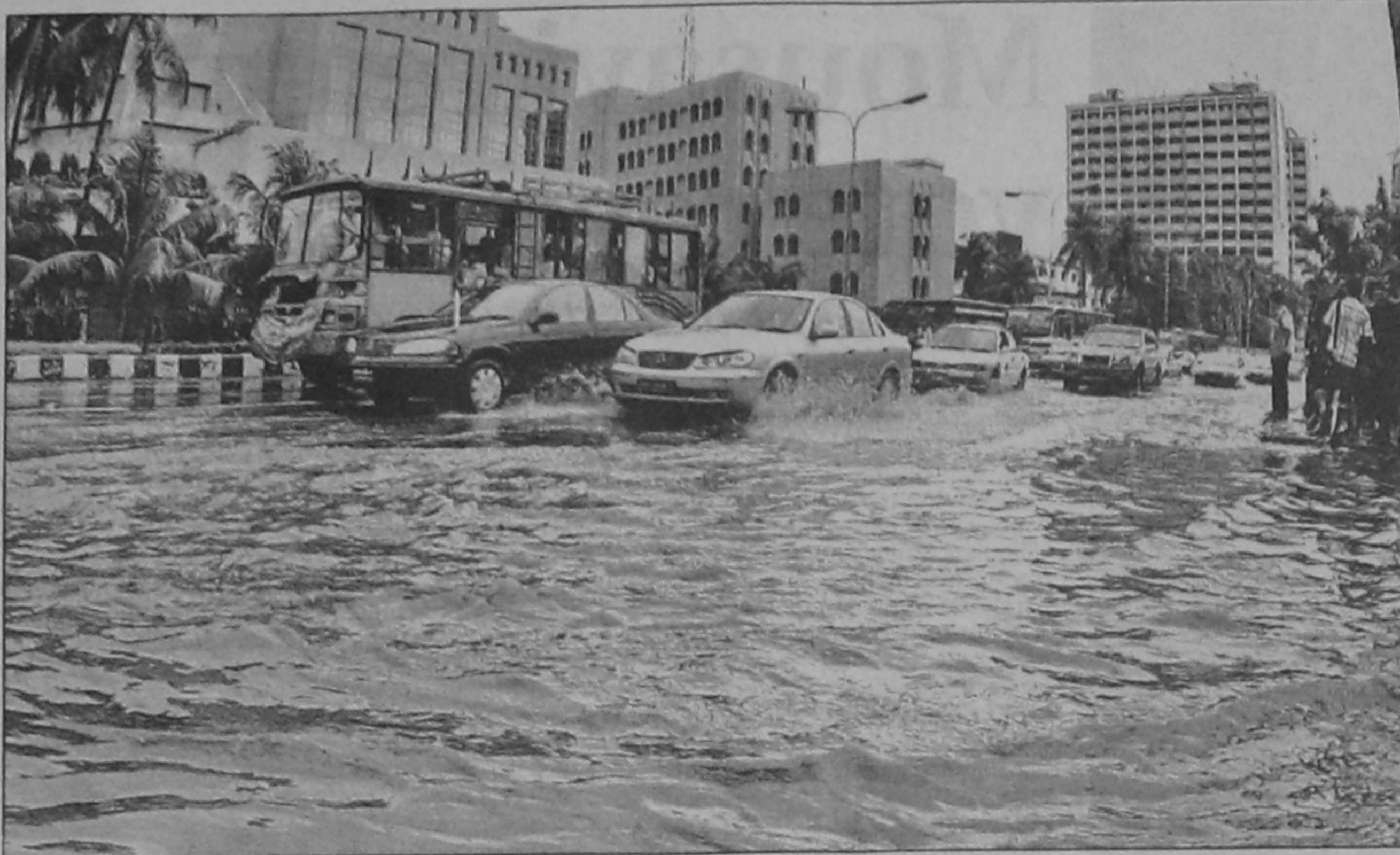
A former bureaucrat, Imam emphasised on minimising distance between man and man through ensuring services for people by utilising information technology.

"To establish rule of law, good governance is urgently needed and information technology can be the best tool to ensure good governance by proper utilisation of modern technology," he said.

He asked the DCs to be aware in providing services to the people so that misinformation cannot create administrative complexity.

"Free flow of information, administrative reforms and good governance are the key aspects of 'charter of change' on which the government is working," he added.

The adviser hoped the training workshop would help removing gap between people and civil administration.



Vehicles waded the submerged Hare Road in front of Hotel Sheraton in the city due to heavy downpour in the afternoon yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Non-govt primary teachers demand nationalisation of jobs

DU CORRESPONDENT

Non-government primary schoolteachers staged a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding immediate nationalisation of their jobs.

Around one thousand teachers from across the country gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar in the afternoon as per their scheduled programme.

They proceeded in a procession towards the prime

minister's office to submit a memorandum to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to realise their demands, including amendments to all the government circulars which, they said, are discriminatory.

Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Undertakings Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

received the memorandum at Shahbagh intersection where they were staging demonstration being intercepted by police, Secretary General of the association Md Mansur Ali told the Daily Star.

Alamgir assured them of considering their demands, Mansur added.

Mansur, however, threatened to forge a countrywide tougher agitation if their demands are not met by July 14.

He announced fresh agitation programmes at the rally. The programmes include demonstrations at upazila headquarters on July 15, submission of memorandum to district commissioners on July 20 and sit-in at Central Shaheed Minar in the city on July 28.

The leaders urged the government to remove discrimination among primary schoolteachers and ensure equal facilities for all.

Indigenous people demand rights to land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous leaders at a press conference yesterday demanded their democratic rights to land be established and constitutional recognition as ethnic groups.

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad (JAP) organised the press conference at the National Press Club in the city ahead of the 154th anniversary of Santal Hool (rebellion).

Movements during the period between the Santal Hool and the recent attack on indigenous village in Naogaon have always been waged over the same demand -- ensuring their rights and democratic ownership of indigenous land, said Rabindranath Soren, general secretary of JAP, while reading out the written statement at the press conference.

But the demand still remains unmet and indige-

nous people are continuously losing their lands, he added.

JAP also announced at the press conference that a rally in participation of indigenous people from all over the North Bengal will be held at Naogaon on July 5 protesting the attack on indigenous people at Naogaon.

"So, on the eve of the 154th anniversary of Santal Hool, we, the disadvantaged and harassed indigenous people, demand democratic ownership of our lands as it is a precondition of any democratic and elected government to ensure rights of the indigenous people," said Soren.

Anil Marandi, Bimal Chandra Rajar, Shantipada Tripura, Numan Ahammed Khan and Moyeen Uddin Chisty were also present.

The JAP also organises a daylong programme at Public Library in the city tomorrow to

observe the 154th anniversary of Santal Hool.

The programme features discussion, documentary show and cultural programme staged by the indigenous people.

7 Japanese volunteers arrive

METRO DESK

Six Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) and one Senior Volunteer (SV) arrived in the city recently, says a press release.

They will work in public organisations or NGOs for the next two years in different sectors -- infection control, primary education, machine tools and karate.

Waiting for pension for 13 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of a primary schoolteacher, who passed away in 1996, have been passing their days in a miserable way, as they did not receive his pension and welfare funds even 13 years after his death.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday, family members of Nur Alam Chowdhury, a teacher of Kendurbar Government Primary School at Begumganj in Noakhali, said this.

Alam passed away in 1996 while on Leave Preparation for Retirement (LPR).

They alleged that the school authorities refused to provide them with his after retirement benefits claiming that Nur Alam Chowdhury had taken a voluntary retirement before his death and had already withdrawn his retirement funds from the school.

However, the school authorities failed to show any documents to substantiate their claims, they added.

The papers provided by Upazila Audit Officer and Primary Education Office are confusing and do not correspond with each other.

Moreover, the signature shown in the papers is not Nur Alam's, they further added.

The family also said they had filed a complaint with the office of DG Primary Education, who ordered an investigation, but they haven't been provided with a copy of the investigation report till date.

Nur Alam Chowdhury was suffering from disability at the time of his death. He left behind his wife, three sons and two daughters.

The press conference was attended by Mosammat Sabura Khatun, wife of late Nur Alam, younger son Md Morshed Alam and Samul Alam, brother of Sabura Khatun.

1,542 arrested

UNB, Dhaka

Police in separate raids arrested 1,542 people on various charges from different parts across the country in last 24 hours until 6:00am yesterday.

Eleven firearms and 36 bullets were recovered during the countrywide drive, said a release of police headquarters.

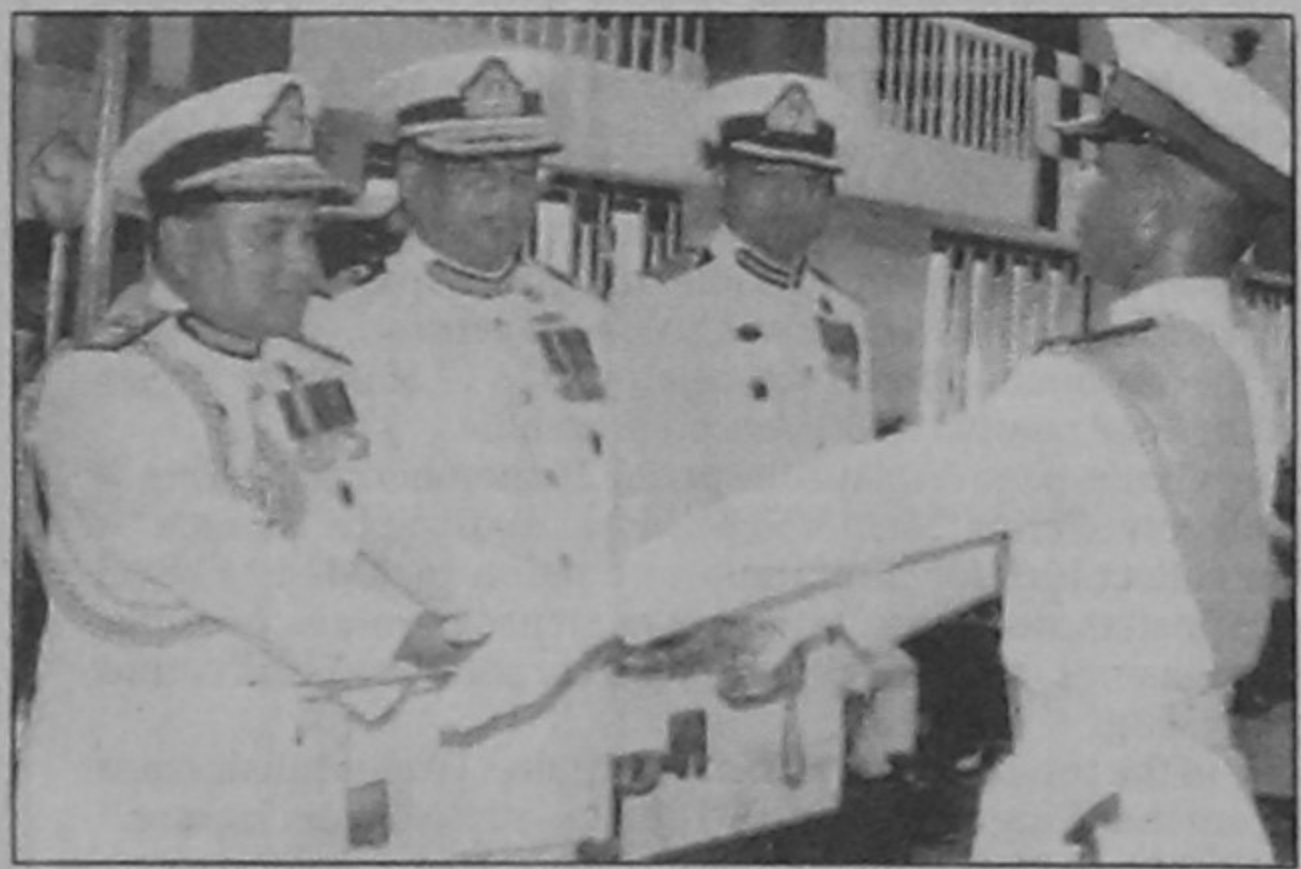


PHOTO: ISPR

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral ZU Ahmed hands over the 'Sword of Honour' to the best all round Midshipman Mehedi Hasan on the occasion of commissioning ceremony of Midshipmen 2007 'B' batch of Bangladesh Navy at Bangladesh Naval Academy gymnasium yesterday.

President's Parade held

METRO DESK

Summer Graduation President's Parade marking the commissioning of Midshipmen 2007 'B' batch of Bangladesh Navy was held at Bangladesh Naval Academy (BNA) gymnasium yesterday, says an ISPR press release.

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral ZU Ahmed attended the ceremony as the chief guest. He reviewed the smartly turned-out parade and took salute at the impressive march past. He also distributed certificates and trophy among the Midshipmen who came out with excellent performance and results during the training.

Thirteen Midshipmen from Bangladesh and one Midshipman from Palestine have been commissioned this time.

Midshipman Mehedi Hasan, BN was adjudged the

best all round Midshipman of the course and awarded the coveted 'Sword of Honour' and also received 'CNS Gold Medal' for best in professional subjects and leadership quality. Besides, Midshipman Ashfaqur Rahman, BN got 'Osmani Gold Medal' for his outstanding performance in academic subjects.

Addressing on the occasion ZU Ahmed called upon all newly commissioned officers to be honest and remain vigilant to protect the sovereignty of motherland.

Members of the Parliament of Chittagong, PSOs of Naval Headquarters, Commodore Commanding Chittagong, Area Commanders of Army and Air Force, high civil and military officials, diplomats of foreign missions, parents and guardians of the Midshipmen were present on the occasion.

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