

Dateline Khulna

Cooperation for population census sought

KHULNA, Mar 10: The Mayor of Khulna City Corporation and Khulna Divisional Commissioner, A K M Fazlul Haq Mia, yesterday sought cooperation of the people to assist the personnel engaged in the four-day national census beginning March 12, reports BSS.

The Khulna City Corporation Mayor while presiding over a meeting of population census committee of Khulna statistical metropolitan area at the corporation's auditorium stressed the need for correct population census in the country towards bringing about desired balanced development.

He said unless we have correct statistics of our population it could not be possible to draw up plans for development. The meeting was also attended by elite of the city including local journalists.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: One Jamaluddin was caught by Khulna Kotwali police in connection with robbery that took place broad daylight in front of Bangladesh Bank on March 2.

The victim Amin Shaha, 45, a trader of Bagerhat who was stabbed on the spot by the miscreants later was taken to Khulna Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on Thursday.

Jamal was arrested from Harintana village of Batiaghata upazila Saturday on confession of one Mujibur who was caught red handed on the spot by the members of the public.

Rly West Zone earns Tk 102,730 by spl checking

RAJSHAHI, Mar 10: Bangladesh Railway (West Zone) authorities by a special checking in important railway stations realised Taka 1,02,730 as fair and Taka 56,360 as fine from 7,094 ticketless passengers during February 12 to 20, an official handout said, reports BSS.

As a result of the intensive checking to stop the travelling of the ticketless passengers, 70 thousand more passengers travelled in the second ten days of February in comparison to the first ten days and Taka 6 lakh 11 thousand more were earned during the period.

The West Zone authorities have also undertaken a programme of intensive checking from March 14 with a view to increasing the income of the railway.

Seven to contest Kushtia-2 poll

With the withdrawal of candidature of Mrs Arjumand Banu from the race, the total number of candidates for the election of Kushtia-2 constituency scheduled for March 28 now stand at 7, reports BSS.

Election Commission sources said on Sunday that a total of eight candidates filed nominations till the last date on March 4. Mrs Banu is the wife of Md Marfat Ali, a JSD (Rob) nominee who was killed by unknown miscreants last month.

The election symbols will be distributed today, the sources added.

The candidates are Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, Abdul Wahed, Shaiful Islam, Md Ahsan Habib (Lincoln), M Saïdur Rahman (Shant), Shawkhat Hbc Main Chowdhury and Hasanul Haq Inu.

Chehlum

The Chehlum of Mrs. Tahrin Nessa Khanam Choudhury, wife of a noted educationist and a former education officer of the greater Sylhet, late Shaif Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, will be held on March 14, at her residence at 27, Kashinath Road, Moulvibazar town, reports BSS.

A Milad Mahfil and Quran khwani will be held after zohr prayer on the occasion. All relatives and well-wishers of the deceased have been requested to attend the Chehlum.

Mrs. Choudhury died of heart failure on Feb 6 at a clinic at Sylhet. She was 60.



WILL THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT HAVE A LOOK AT THEM: The destitutes on the Tk 44 crore Syedabad-Malibagh Highway should prick the conscience of those who live in homes having all amenities. They too have their 'homes' on the highway — pieces of cloth overhead only to remain hidden from civilisation outside. But an onlooker never misses them—hears the parody of life that they sing daily. — Photo by Mohsin.



The Zonta Club presenting at a city function recently a souvenir to Mrs Sandra Chindawongse of Thailand for her outstanding social work.

Recruiting agencies asked to explore new avenues

A detailed discussion was held in the Ministry of Labour and Manpower with Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) regarding post-war situation in Kuwait and sending back the Bangladeshi returnees to their previous jobs or employment to new vacancies, an official handout said, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by the Labour and Manpower Adviser Chaudhury A K M Aminul Haque.

The meeting was apprised of the steps taken by the Bangladesh government, the departure of Bangladesh Ambassador for Kuwait and his Labour Attache to resume their duties, discussions held by the Secretary of Labour and Manpower with ILO and IOM officials of Bangladesh.

The Manpower Adviser requested the recruiting agencies and construction firms of Bangladesh to establish immediate contacts with the employees, probable new employers and the firms which have been awarded big contracts in Kuwait to obtain manpower demand, management for construction sub-contracts and send Bangladeshi including the returnees migrants.

The Adviser assured them of extending all possible Government assistance to their endeavours.

The meeting was attended among others by Labour and Manpower Secretary Mr. Nooruddin Al-Masud and BAIRA President, Mr. Akram Hossain.

Plea to solve Indo-Bangladesh issue

Water-level in Jamuna, Padma falls alarmingly

The rivers Dhaleshwari, Isamoti, Kaliganga and a portion of Jamuna and Padma, flowing through the district, are being alarmingly silted up posing threat to irrigation, pisciculture and navigation, reports UNB.

According to official sources, with the advent of dry season, the water level of these rivers fell sharply bringing riverine transportation to a standstill.

Most of the river beds are now being used for cultivation as they are completely dried up. A large number of shoals have also emerged in vast areas. Some areas of the rivers are filled with hyacinths.

According to IWTA and WDB sources, cultivation in large scale will be possible even on beds of these rivers in near future.

Beside, ferries and launches plying between Aricha-Nagarbari and Aricha-Daulatdia ghats are taking one and a half hours extra time to reach their destinations.

Another report from Sherpur adds: Massive siltation in the river Brahmaputra has caused great inconvenience to

riverine transportation as well as irrigation.

According to official sources, over 10,000 acres of irri-boro fields are drying up as irrigation suffered setback due to shortage of river water.

BSS adds: The Chairman of National Awami Party (Bhashani Nap) Prof. Nur Mohammad Quazi on Saturday demanded of the Government to take immediate steps for the solution of the water problems of the common rivers of Bangladesh and India, including Farakka issue, at the international level.

He said solution to the water problems arising out of the common rivers with India was deeply connected with our national existence and any neglect to its resolution was tantamount to treachery. He said the problem was hanging like Democle's Sword due to the week policy pursued by the past Governments.

Mr Quazi said the water level of the Padma fell to an all-time low near Hardinge Bridge. The mighty Padma now looks like a stream amidst the vast expanse to the sandy char," he said.

With the slowing down of the flow of the water of Padma, the ground water level has also fallen deep resulting in the non-availability of waters by tubewells. The tributaries to the Padma like Gorai, Atrai, and Chiknai had dried down and the peasants were casting vacant looks at their fields due to paucity of water.

Inspector General of Police A M Chowdhury on Sunday asked the metropolitan police to take special measures to stop frequent stealing of motor cars in the city, reports UNB.

Officer-in-charge of concerned police stations in the city would take immediate initiative to recover any stolen car, he said adding that punitive action would be taken against those officers who failed to recover it.

He was addressing a fortnightly meeting of senior police officers at the police headquarters on Sunday morning.

He instructed the officials to continue the arms recovery campaign which began prior to the parliament election. A total of 1400 illegal arms and 11,000 ammunition were recovered from different places across the country during the campaign from December 27.

The meeting reviewed the crime situation from February 16 to 28 and observed that overall rate of crime across the country declined considerably during the period.

Car stolen

A white Toyota Corolla car bearing registration number Dhaka Metro 5138 Bha of Mr Aynul Huq was stolen from his residence at Road Number 32 (old), House Number 680, Dhanmondi R/A on Saturday night, reports BSS.

A case has been registered with Dhanmondi police in this connection.

THE STAR SERVICE

Table listing various services including Hospitals, Airlines, Police, Railway, Bus Service, Hotels, and other public services with contact numbers.

CU Shibir for opening of varsity

CHITTAGONG, Mar 10: Chittagong University branch of Islami Chhatra Shibir on Saturday demanded reopening of the university without further delay, a Shibir press release said, reports BSS.

A meeting of the Shibir held at its city office with the branch President Hamidur Rahman Azad in the chair said, the university remained closed for over two months after the December 22 incident, but the concerned authority did not take any step to reopen it much to the inconvenience of the students. The meeting pointed out that the dates of some final and honours examinations were shifted several times creating more session jams and thus the students were losing valuable times.

It called upon the government to take immediate step for reopening of the university. Shibir leaders Mansur Ahmad and Mustafa Kamal Chowdhury addressed the meeting.

Dateline Chittagong

Khagrachhari DC's office burnt to ashes

CHITTAGONG, Mar 10: Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari was burnt totally in a devastating fire early yesterday, Khagrachhari district administration sources said, reports BSS.

The origin of the fire was not yet known. The entire 'U' shaped tin shed office was gutted completely.

As no fire services unit was yet established at the Khagrachhari district headquarters, the fire blazed unabated for over three hours, police said.

UNB adds: Security forces arrested three suspected members of the outlawed Shanti Bahini from Khagrachhari hill district and seized a huge quantity of sophisticated arms on Friday, police said yesterday.

They said the security forces interrogated the three Shanti Bahini men arrested in the morning, later raided their hideout in deep forest and recovered the arms and ammunition.

The seizure list included 43 rocket launchers, 43 mortar bombs, 28 mortars, 28 handgrenades, one land mine and a walkie talkie.

It is for the first time that such a huge quantity of highly sophisticated arms and ammunition has been captured from the Shanti Bahini.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner office of Khagrachhari was set on fire at 4 am today. It was totally gutted. The loss was estimated at Tk 2 crore.

A senior district official, however, said the fire might have been caused by electric short-circuit.

Polls held peacefully

Another report says: Fifty-six prominent persons of Fatickehari upazila Sunday said that February 27 Jatiya Sangsad election in their constituency (Chittagong-4) was held peacefully and impartially.

In a statement they said, allegations brought by some vested group to the effect that there were terrorism and malpractices during election were false and motivated. Election at Fatickehari was held in peaceful and orderly atmosphere, they added.

The signatories to the statement included Advocate M N Huda, Saïfuddin Ahmed, Bar-at-Law, Principal Ali Azam, Anil Baran Chowdhury, Headmaster of Fatickehari Girls High School and M Serajul Alam, Chairman of Rangamati Union Parishad.

Around the Court

Industrialist's detention held illegal

Supreme Court Correspondent

A Division Bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court comprising Justice Md. Abdul Jalil and Justice Quazi Shafiquddin in a judgement recently delivered found the detention of Mirza Ali Ashraf under the Special Powers Act, 1974 for 3 months extended by order dated 23/5/87 for a further period of 3 months have been passed without any lawful authority. Their lordships also found the detention order mala fide and for collateral purpose.

Ple was issued on August 2, 1987 calling upon the respondents, namely, the Government, represented by the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Md. Feruz, Senior Assistant Secretary of the said Ministry, Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Managing Director and M. Nurul Hoque, General Manager, Bangladesh Shilpa Bank to show cause why the order of detention of the petitioner dated 24/2/87 extended by the order dated 23/5/87 should not be declared to have been made without any lawful authority.

Mirza Ali Ashraf ex-detenu, filed the writ petition after his release from detention on 6/7/87. His case is that he was the Managing Director of Moon

Light Silk Mills Ltd. He took a foreign currency loan of DM 128425.36 equivalent to Tk. 15,28,466/- and a local currency loan of Tk. 6,50,000/- from the then Industrial Development Bank of Pakistan now Bangladesh Shilpa Bank. He repaid Taka 21,16,125/38 against foreign currency loan and Taka 11,60,024/85 towards the payment of local currency loan. Even thereafter by coercive methods the bank realised from the company a further sum of Taka 20,57,300/-.

The bank demanded further payment of Taka 82,07,438/- from the company. The company refused the claim and the bank filed case under Article 33 of the Shilpa Bank order, 1972 and obtained an ad-interim attachment. The company denied the claim of the bank and contended that the German loan having been converted into grant, no amount was due from the company. While the hearing of the case was continuing the bank took forcible possession of the mill and withdrew the miscellaneous case. Thereafter, the bank compelled the petitioner to write some letters and to sign an agreement dated 13/10/86 admitting liability of Tk. 1,42,97,000/- and obtained some post-dated cheques and a pay order by coercive method and undue influence for unlocking the mill.

The company filed a law suit for declaration of the agreement dated 13/10/86 as void and for refund of the money illegally realised from the company by the bank. This infuriated Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and at his instance, on 24/2/87, the petitioner was arrested and detained under Special Powers Act 1974. Abdul Wadud Khandaker appeared for the petitioner while, Abdul Wadud Bhyulan, Additional Attorney General appeared for the government.

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