

BCIC gives compensation to gas cylinder blast victims

FENI, Feb 26: Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) has compensated the families of six people who were killed in gas cylinder explosion at Lemua on February 9, reports UNB.

Each of the six family received Taka 10,000 as financial help.

Acting Chief Whip Mahbul Alam Tara handed over the amount to the affected families at a simple ceremony at the Lemua guest house this (Friday) morning.

BCIC officials and the Deputy Commissioner of Feni were present in the function.

The explosion in the Dhaka-bound truck from Chittagong, carrying chemical gas, occurred while passing Lemua village on the Feni bypass. Six people were killed in the blast.

More than 3,000 villagers and bus passengers who were affected by the toxic gas received treatment at temporary medical centre set up at Lemua by the district Civil Surgeon.

Eight of the affected are still receiving treatment at their homes in Lemua, South Monua, Tangirpar and Terobarua village of Sadar thana. They are suffering from chest pain and breathing problems.

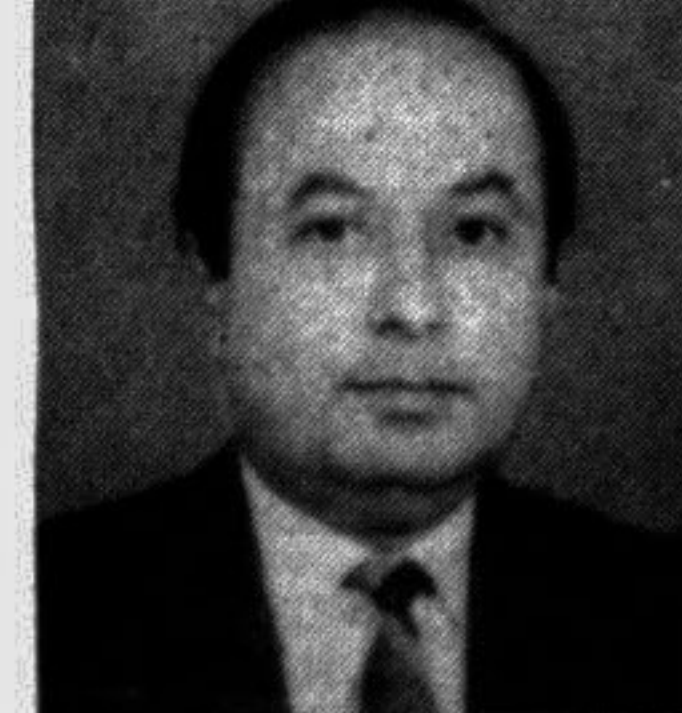
BCIC as part of its programme to provide financial help to the affected people will distribute Taka 2,000 per person from today (Saturday).

New Addl MD, Dy MD of BGIC

A K A H Chaudhuri presently the Adviser and Mosleh Uddin Ahmad, presently the General Manager of Bangladesh General Insurance Co Ltd have been promoted to the position of Additional Managing Director and Deputy



A K A H Chaudhuri



Mosleh Uddin Ahmad

Managing Director, respectively of the company, says a Press release.

Chaudhuri, a fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute of London with distinction and an internationally reputed insurance expert had been holding the positions of Managing Director, Sadharan Bima Corporation and Director, Bangladesh Insurance Academy prior to joining this company in 1989.

Prior to joining BGIC in 1985, Ahmad had been holding the position of Secretary, Jiban Bima Corporation, An M A from Dhaka University. Ahmad has at his credit long experience in insurance profession for over three decades.

Business centre plagued with problems

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Feb 26: Bathala Hat, one of the biggest business centre in the Pourashava area, is plagued with multifarious problems, reports UNB.

Lack of proper drainage system, scarcity of drinking water and electricity are the main problems in the market. The roads inside the market are not wide enough for easy movement of pedestrians as well as vehicles.

Dhaka, Beijing will bring Ctg, Sanghai ports closer

CHITTAGONG, Feb 26: Bangladesh and China on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for establishing a closer relationship between Chittagong and Sanghai at a simple ceremony here today, reports BSS.

Held at the city corporation's conference room with Syed Mahmudul Haq, Vice-President of Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association in the chair, the signing ceremony was addressed among others by Forest, Fisheries, Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman, City Mayor Mir Mohammad Nasruddin, Zhao Yunjun, President of Sanghai People's Association for Friendship with foreign countries, Amcer Khasru

Mahmood Chowdhury MP and Coordinator Zahidul Kurim. Environment Minister said the twinning of these two port cities will mark a new era in the annals of friendship between two countries, interaction among business entrepreneur of two cities will result in more joint ventures in different fields of economy and bring the people of two countries closer, he said.

Referring to the leading role of China in environmental negotiations, the Environment Minister said the second ministerial meeting of the developing countries held in Beijing provided very valuable inputs to the whole process of negotiations and made the world community aware that

all environmental issues have dimensions of development. The minister underlined the importance of solving the issues which impede development for achieving significant improvement of environment.

Zhao Yunjun in his speech said Shanghai is a renowned city of China known for its industrial activities and as such Chittagong the beauty queen of east occupies a similar place in the context of Bangladesh. Therefore the citizens of both the cities can expect a meaningful relationship in the future.

Later Syed Mahmudul Haq, and Zhao Yunjun signed the memorandum on behalf of their respective associations.



CHANGE IN PATTERN OF TRADING: Some hawkers now-a-days use microphone to attract buyers as there is a stiff competition among the traders. — Star photo

Fishermen facing tough days

SATKHIRA, Feb 26: Thousands of fishermen in vast beel and haors areas of the district have been facing manifold problems in carrying on their age old profession due to lack of fund, scarcity of fishing materials and above all, exploitation of fishermen by non-fishermen.

The district has a long history of fish production. Assasuni, Shymnagar, Kaliganj, Debnata, Tala, Kalaroa are some of the names which are still well known for fish production.

Drastic fall in water levels in rivers, beels, haors canals and ponds have forced fishermen to face difficulties.

Bank loans in another major

From Our Correspondent

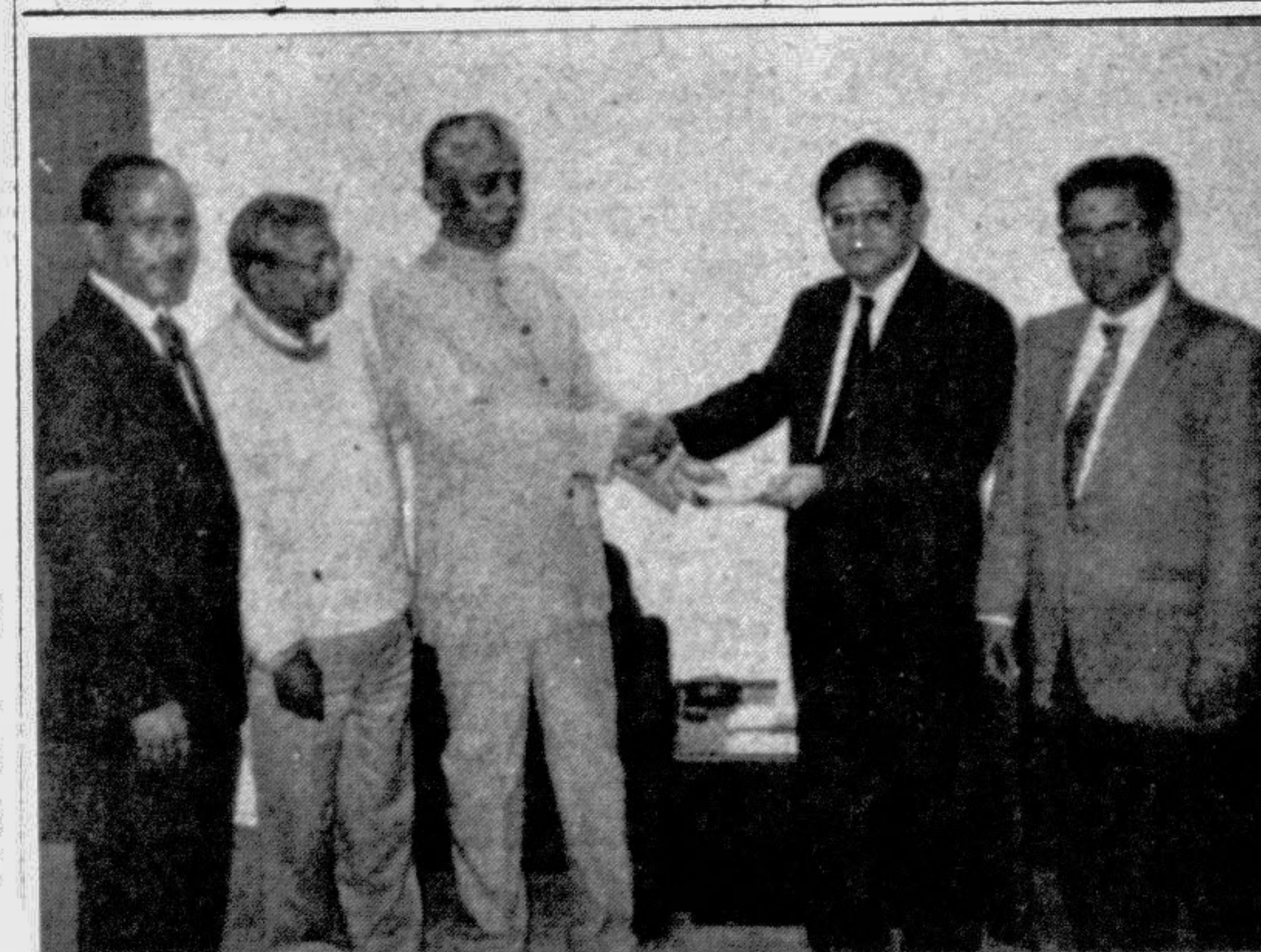
problem these fishermen are facing. Fishermen apply for small loans to purchase fishing appliances and maintain fishing areas but some alleged that bank loans are scarce. "Those who were supposed to receive loans got nothing," said one fisherman.

In addition to the bank loans problems fishermen are facing hardship repaying high interest rates to their 'mahajans' who often play mercy on these poor fishermen demanding high interest rates.

Security is another problem faced by the fishermen. It is alleged that 'mastans' who are refused taxes forcefully take away fishing equipment like

nets, boats, fishing rods etc. Sometimes these men take away fish gun point. Despite repeated calls by locals as well as the fishermen the law enforcing agencies failed to bring any successful result. Some alleged that local police cooperate with these mastans to get their share of money from the mastans.

The count of fishermen in the district have fallen to a disappointing low figure. Most, said one fisherman, left profession to seek something new. Few of those who are professional fishermen are at stake. Their survival is very thin and could turn grievous if such situation is allowed to continue any longer.



Abdul Monem, Chairman of Pragati Insurance handing over a claim cheque to Mohammed A Awwal, Managing Director of Bangladesh Bulk Carriers Limited.

1.11 lakh water bodies lying uncultivated

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Feb 26: At least one lakh and eleven thousand ponds, tanks and canals have been lying uncultivated as these remain unexcavated and uncleaned condition in all over the 16 districts of northern region. This situation adversely hampers pisciculture in the region. Forty per cent of these ponds, tanks and canals have joint ownership, 30 per cent owned by individuals and the rest 20 per cent are vested property.

It is informed that every year, huge quantities of wheat are being spent by the government for re-excavation and cleaning of jungles and water-hyacinth of beels, tanks, ponds, canals and other water sources, but a little steps have so far been done to make these fit for pisciculture.

IMF review of Manila's economic plan delayed

From Our Correspondent

MANILA, Feb 26: Discrepancies in figures on the Philippine Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) has delayed completion of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) review of the Philippine economic stabilisation programme, reports Reuter.

Preliminary estimates by the Philippine finance and budget departments showed that the PSBR by the end of 1992 stood at 20.8 billion peso, below the target ceiling of 21.9 billion peso set by the IMF under the programme.

But figures prepared by the central bank showed that the PSBR ranged from 24.28 billion peso, prompting the fund to await computation of the final figures.

Target ceilings of the PSBR are important for the IMF because the fund believes high levels of fiscal deficit can easily push up prices and interest rates in the Philippines.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Table with columns: Berth No, Name of Vessels, Cargo, L/Port, Local Agent, Date of Leaving, Date of Arrival

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Date of Arrival, Last Port, Local Agent, Cargo, Loading Port

TANKER DUE

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Date of Arrival, Last Port, Local Agent, Cargo, Loading Port

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

READY ON

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival

VESSELS NOT READY

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival

VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 25/02/93

Table with columns: OUTGOING, INCOMING, SHIFTING

The above were the Wednesday's shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Price Index

Table with columns: Essentials, Mutton, CHICKEN, NA

Exchange Rates

Table with columns: Currency, Selling, B.C., T.T. (C), Buying, OD Transfers

Dhaka Stock Prices

Weekly comparison: At the close of tradings on February 18 and February 25, 1993

Table with columns: Company, February 18, February 25, High, Low

INVESTMENT (08)

Table with columns: Company, February 18, February 25, High, Low

INSURANCE (04)

Table with columns: Company, February 18, February 25, High, Low

ENGINEERING (19)

Table with columns: Company, February 18, February 25, High, Low

FOOD & ALLIED (23)

Table with columns: Company, February 18, February 25, High, Low

FUEL & POWER (04)

Table with columns: Company, February 18, February 25, High, Low

JUTE (12)

Table with columns: Company, February 18, February 25, High, Low

PHARMACEUTICALS & CHEM (19)

Table with columns: Company, February 18, February 25, High, Low

PAPER & PRINTING (08)

Table with columns: Company, February 18, February 25, High, Low

SERVICE (02)

Table with columns: Company, February 18, February 25, High, Low

TEXTILE (20)

Table with columns: Company, February 18, February 25, High, Low

MISCELLANEOUS (17)

Table with columns: Company, February 18, February 25, High, Low

DEBITURES (04)

Table with columns: Company, February 18, February 25, High, Low

★ FV = Face Value ML = Market Lot NT = Not Traded, AL = Allotment, TV = Ex-Dividend, XD = Ex-Dividend