Judicial training institute in Sylhet soon

SYLHET, Mar 28: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman Thursday said that the government would set up a judicial training institute in the country in July next for speedy disposal of cases towards the establishment of rule of law and strengthening the democratic process, reports BSS.

Addressing a grand function organised by Sylhet District Bar marking inauguration of the newly constructed bar building, the Finance Minister stressed the need for training at all levels to keep pace with the fast changing society.

Referring to the slow and complicated process of disposal of cases and other judicial matters, Rahman said judicial training was of dire requirement, both for the members of the bench and the bar. "We must harmonise the judicial process with the new and undated laws and provisions suiting the need of modern and computer age," he ob-

The Finance Minister also referred to the constitution of law reform committee and administrative reform committee by the BNP government for reviewing the existing laws and update them keeping harmony with amendments and

Completion of irrigation project may be delayed

PATUAKHALI, Mar 28: The work on Bhola irrigation project may not be completed within its stipulated time in 1997 as the work slowed down due to lack of technical experts. reports UNB.

Water Development Board (WDB) undertook the project with the financial help of ADB involving Taka 1.5 crore in 1992-93 fiscal year, official sources said.

The main objective of the project is to save about 58,008 hectares of land from flood and salinity of Meghna and extend irrigation facilities to about 38,750 hectares of land in Daulatkhan, Tajeemuddin and Charfesson thanas of the dis-

A total of Taka five crore has been spent since the start of the project work.

But the project has suffered a setback and its work is on the verge of closure due to lack of experts.

Three bodies recovered in B'Baria

NARAYANGANJ. Mar Police today recovered three bodies from the river Meghna near Baherchar of Banchharampur thana in Brahmanbaria district, reports UNB.

Two of the bodies were identified as Motalib, 32 and Hasan Ali 22. Another beheaded body could not be identified

Police said a group of people of Baherchar area raided the Kadmirchhar of Araihazar thana following a dispute over a newly emerged chhar on March 19.

The attackers chopped to death four people - Beter Ali, 22. Motalib. 32. Hasan Ali. 22. and Mohammad Ali, 40, and left the scene by a trawler with bodies of the victims. Later, the bodies wrapped in a gunny bag were thrown in the

Local fishermen today found the bodies in the river. A squad of police from Narayanganj went to the spot and recovered three bodies. Police. however, is yet to trace the body of the fourth victim. All the three bodies were sent to Narayanganj morgue.

Gas found in Chandpur village

CHANDPUR, Mar 28: Gas has been found at a village in Himchar thana of the district last month, officials said here on Friday, reports UNB.

District administration sources said, one sort of gas has been identified while installing a tubewell at the compound of Uttar Algi Union Parishad office building in the thana on February 20.

The gas was leaking out of the pipe along with gushing water and burned into a big flame when lit with a match stick, workers and witnesses

The liquid matter spilled all over the place, they added.

Meanwhile, both the TNO and Deputy Commissioner visited the spot and sent a report on the incident to the concerned authorities to look into the discovery.

Everyday people from faraway places are visiting the place to see it.



MYMENSINGH: Prof Dr Shah Mohammad Farouk VC of BAU speaking as chief guest at a seminar on 'Removal of session jam' held recently at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Auditorium of the varsity. — Star photo

Independence, National From Our Correspondent Day celebrated in dists tered a sharp rise causing suf-

MOULVIBAZAR, Mar 28: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman on Saturday called for working unitedly to achieve economic emancipation of the people through consolidating the hard earned democracy, reports BSS.

He was speaking at a colourful rally in celebration of the 23rd anniversary of Independence and National Day

The day was heralded with 21-gun salute.

The Finance Minister ceremonially hoisted the national flag at Moulvibazar Government High School Ground. Saifur Rahman took salute from the contingents of the police, Ansars, VDP, Scouts, Girls Guide, school students and juvenile organisations.

He also witnessed physical fitness of children and juvenile organisations. People from all walks of life attended the colourful function. Among others, Khaleda Rabbani, MP, Ebadur Rahman, MP and chairman of Moulvibazar pourashava were present on the occasion.

Paying glowing tributes to the memory of martyrs of the

CHITTAGONG, Mar 28;

Chittagong City Corporation

accorded a civic reception to

the visiting Calcutta City Cor-

poration Mayor Prasanta Cha-

tterjee and Calcutta Corpo-

ration Chairman Prasanta Das-

gupta and the members of

their entourage at a local hotel

on Wednesday night, reports

over by Chittagong City Corpo-

ration Mayor A B M Mohiuddin

Chowdhury was attended by

political leaders, business

magnets, elite of the city and

Calcutta City Mayor Prasanta

Chatterjee called for better co-

Speaking on the occasion

journalists

The reception presided

Liberation War in 1971. Rahman said all irrespective of party affiliation should work together for the economic emancipation of people to show respect to those who had made supreme sacrifice.

Saifur Rahman said a political party which now vocal for democracy had gagged it in 1974 and another party had proclaimed martial law by dismissing an elected government in 1982. It was Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman who introduced multi-party democracy in the country, he said.

Another report from Narayanganj says: The 24th Independence and National Day was celebrated here with great enthusiasm.

The highlight of the day's programme included hoisting of National Flag atop public and private buildings, placing of floral wreaths, youth rally, supply of improved diet, discussions, cultural functions, special prayer and illumination of important buildings.

The day's programme began with the booming of 21-gun salute in the morning. it was followed by the play-

city corporations stressed

operation between Calcutta

and Chittagong cities and ex-

change of delegations for fur-

ther cementing the already ex-

isting friendship between

The CCC Mayor A B M

Mohiuddin Chowdhury said

that the civic reception re-

flected the deep friendship be-

tween Calcutta and Chittagong

better cooperating and coordi-

nation among the cities of

need for solution to water

sharing problem of Bangladesh

and India to the satisfaction of

He called for promoting

Mohiuddin also stressed the

Bangladesh and India.

SAARC countries.

ing of siren in motor launches and steamers in the river.

Different political parties and cultural organisations placed wreaths at Chashara Shaheed Minar at one minute past midnight on Friday night and held cultural functions in memory of the martyrs of the Liberation War by igniting hundreds of candle at the alter of shaheed minar. Prayers were offered for the peace of the souls of the martyrs.

A juvenile rally was held at Osmany Stadium at 8 am under the auspices of the district administration. Boys Scout Girls Guide, rovers, blue birds, cadets, fire brigade personnel and ansars participated in the rally and demonstrated various physical exercises.

The Deputy Commissioner. Narayanganj Habibur Rahman took the salute of the passing out parade and gave away the trophies among the winners.

A discussion on the significance of Independence Day was held at Ali Ahmed Chunka Library with the Deputy Commissioner, Narayanganj in the chair.

The two mayors exchanged

The Calcutta City Corpo-

presentations at the end of the

ration Mayor Prasanta Cha-

tterjee and his entourage came

here to attend the birth cen-

tenary celebration of Masterda

Surya Sen, a hero of anti-

British movement in this part

Another report says: Bang

ladesh Navy ship Shaheed Ru-

hul Amin returned home or

Monday on completion o

goodwill visits to Algeria

Egypt, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia

Sri Lanka, UK and Yemen, an

both the countries.

of the then India.

Prices of rice, paddy up

JAMALPUR, Mar 28: The prices of rice and paddy have gone up in the local markets during last week.

According to dealers, rice is now being sold at Taka 14 to Taka 17 per kilogram while per mound of paddy is now being sold at Taka 340 to Taka 360. Earlier a kilogram of rice was sold between Taka nine and Taka 12 while per mound paddy was sold between Taka 260 and Taka 280 in local hats and bazars.

The poor people of the district including villages of char areas have been suffering for this price hike.

The poor farmers are compelled to sell their crops in advance to the money lenders at a nominal price due to their economic hardship.

Taking advantage of the situation, the money lenders are doing brisk business by giving credit at higher interest rates against security of standing crops. The farmers are becoming debt-ridden as they are unable to repay the loan, after selling their products.

At the same time prices of essentials have also shown abnormal rise in the markets. Prices of pulses, fish, meat,

milk and edible oil have regis-

Old woman

commits

suicide

togenarian woman of Shech-

ukandi village in Sadar thana

allegedly committed suicide by

taking poison Tuesday, reports

80, wife of late Sonaullah, was

admitted to Sirajganj General

Hospital after she allegedly

poured poison into her mouth

following a family feud in the

morning. She died at the hos-

rushed to the hospital but did

not find the body there. Later

at about 3 pm, they recovered

it from a house at Dhanbandi

On information, police

pital at about 10 am.

area of the town.

Police said, Amena Khatun,

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 28: An oc-

fering to the common people. Mosur pulse now sells at Taka 30 per kg. Meat and fish

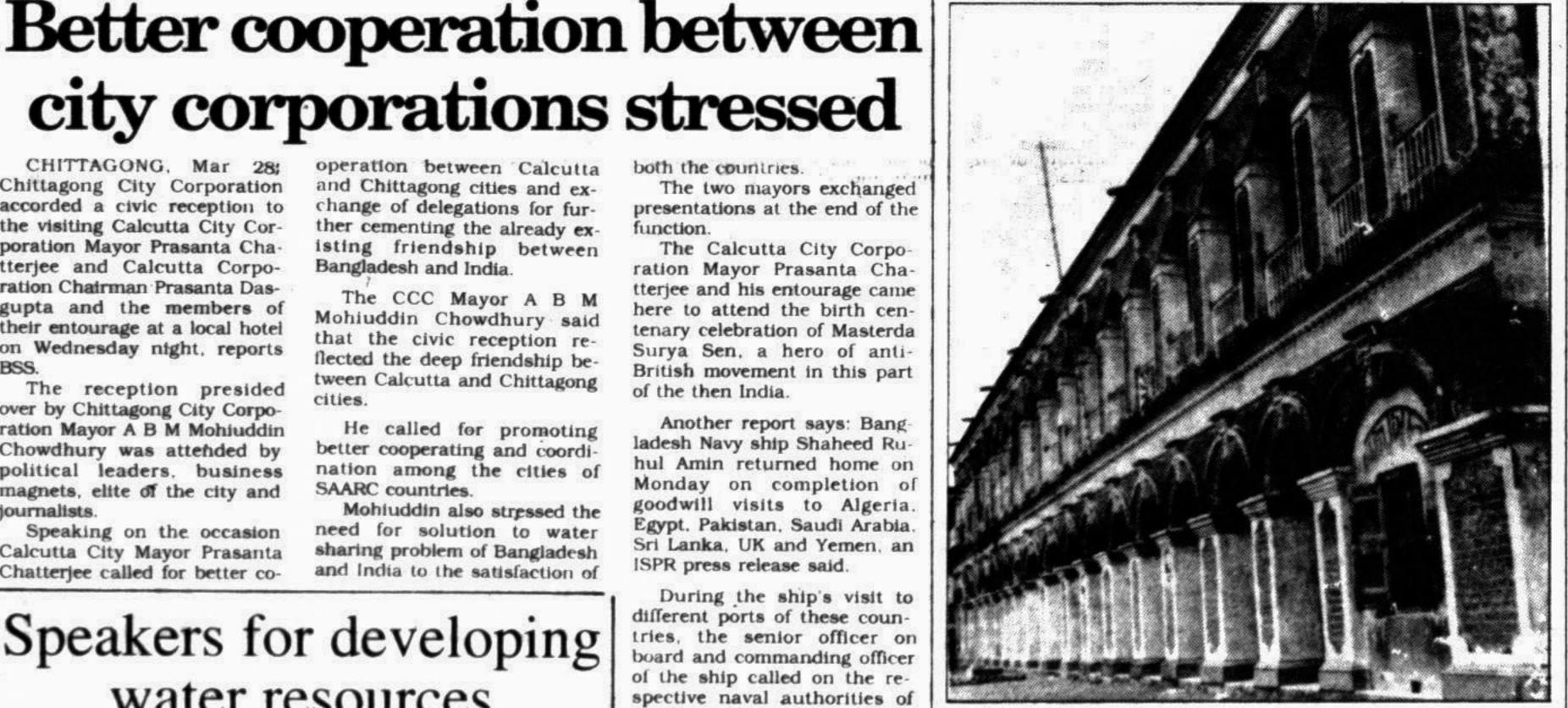
are in short supply in the mar-Pure mustard and soyabean oil are hardly available. Per kilogram of soyabean oil sells at Taka 48 to Taka 50. The prices at meat have also gone up. Beef is now sold at Taka 50 and Taka 65 per kg while mutton is sold at Taka 90 and Taka 110 per kg.

> According to sources, a section of unscrupulous traders are creating artificial crisis in local markets to make undue profit.

> > Local people have urged to the government to take necessary step in this regard.

Another report adds: The biannual conference of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Ghougora union unit of the district was held at Ghougora Girls' High School with Habibur Rahman in the chair recently.

Later, a 51-member executive committee of the unit (BNP) was elected of the conference with Habibur Rahman and Abul Hossain, as president and secretary respectively.



JHENIDAH: The Sailkupa High School building has been renovated recently. At present over 900 students are - Star photo studying in the school.

Speakers for developing water resources COMILLA, Mar 28: The Zhirul Haq Dulal and Khalilur

World Water Day was observed here on Tuesday in a belitting manner, reports UNB.

The programmes included holding assembly at the local Town Hall premises, bringing out procession and pasting posters and festoons at the

A discussion was also held at the Town Hall at 10:30 am on the occasion, which was presided over by President of Comilla World Water Day Observation Committee and Executive Director of SHEBA Manobik Kendra Salahuddin Ahmed.

Deputy Commissioner Katebur Rahman was present as chief guest while District Engineer of PHE Akram Khan attended as special guest.

. It was also addressed among others by Abul Kashem.

Rahman.

The speakers underscored the need for promoting awareness to conserve and develop water resources properly.

A report from Madaripur says: A discussion on "Water -Life Day, organised by Socio-Economic Advancement Rural Programme (SARP) on Sunday

The World Water Day was observed here as elsewhere globally on March 22.

The discussion was presided over by SARP President Md Babul Islam Miah.

The key note paper was presented by Dr Sirajul Islam. The participants emphasized on the importance and proper utilization of water.

Among others, Md Julhasuddin, Md Imran Hossain and Abdul Kader Halder participated in the discussion.

During the ship's visit to different ports of these coun-

ISPR press release said.

tries, the senior officer on board and commanding officer of the ship called on the respective naval authorities of the host countries. Meanwhile, the ship's com

pany had the opportunity to meet their counterparts, share professional knowledge and to mix with the people of those friendly countries. They also performed 'umrah' during their visit to Saudi Arabia.

Eminent physician and former civil surgeon of Chittagong Dr M A Karim died of old age complications at his K B Fazlul Kader road residence here, family sources said. He was 80.

Dr Karim left behind his wife, three sons, seven daughters, relatives and will wishers to mourn his death.

His namaj-e-janaza was held at the premises of his residence and he was buried Muniray Shah (RA) Dargah Sharif graveyard at Halishahar.

Forest resources on wane for regular illegal cutting From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Mar The forest resources of the district are on the wane due to illegal felling of trees by some unscrupulous people. The forests of the district

were full of valuable trees like timber-wood, fire-wood, bamboos, cane and other old trees. According to a survey con-

ducted in the district reveals that trees on 20 lakh acres of forest land were cut down during last two decades. It was also learnt that total forest areas of the district was 55.44 lakh acres earlier. However the figure has come down to 35.50 lakh acres.

The official source of the district claimed that the total forests area now stands at 16.85 per cent of total land in the district, but according to the survey it is only nine per cent. The survey further says that the ratio of afforestation and deforestation is 1:3. Meaning one plant is being planted while three are cut down. The ecologists said that there must be at least 25 per cent forest land for healthy environment in the district.

Every year, local govern ment authorities take up afforestation programmes with great enthusiasm.

In 1993, different government, non-government and semi-government departments

the district planted 3.04.338 saplings across the district and it is claimed that, of the total 2,82,682 saplings is still maintained. But, according to the survey report 60 per cent of the said figure is absent on the field.

The authorities concerned should pay due attention to take preventive measures for protection of our forest resources and the trees planted in different road sides in the district, it is widely felt.

Tk 48 lakh for highway construction

PATUAKHALI, Mar 28 Roads and Highways Department (R&H) has taken up a programme to construct four roads in the southern region of the country at a cost of over Taka 48 lakh in the current fiscal year, reports UNB. Of the total amount Taka

8,25,717 will be spent for construction of Rajapur-Kathalia and Bamna-Patherghata roads, Taka 14,41,248 for Patherghata-Madhubaria and the rest of Taka 25,52,898 for the Madaripur-Shariatpur Bhedarganj road.

District roundup

PATUAKHALI

"BNP believes in politics of development"

Mar 28: Minister for Religious Affairs Muhammad Keramat Ali Thursday said, the present government believes in the politics of development and welfare of the common people and working ceaselessly for changing the lot of the masses, reports BSS.

He was addressing separate public meetings at Dunarki, Muradia, Aidaria and Lawkati in the district of Patuakhali while distributing relief materials to the destitute people of these areas.

The minister said, the aims

and objectives of real politics are to ensure welfare of the common people. For this he said, the present government has launched politics of production and development in place of the politics of slogans. He said, people have certainly realised the strategy of the government. In this context the minister said, people have already rejected the politics of hartal and disturbances which could only enhance the sufferings of the people. For this the minister said, the hartal called by the opposition parties Wednesday did not receive any support from the people.

The minister said, the people were more interested in the politics of development and production as the welfare of the people lies on it.

Underlining the need for consolidating the process of the democratic system of government in the country the minister said, problems of the people could only be mitigated by a stable democratic government.

GAZIPUR

Training course on sewing concludes

Mar 28: A three-month long training course on sewing concluded at the Ansar Academy here Wednesday, reports UNB. Director General of Ansar

and VDP, Major General Sayeed Bodruzzaman attended the concluding function and distributed certificates among the trainees.

Three sewing machines were also presented to three trainees for their outstanding performance.

Commandant of the Ansar Academy M Solaiman, Director (Admn) of Ansar and VDP Lt Col Haroon-or-Rashid, Deputy Director Khalilur Rahman and Deputy Director (Dev) Muzammel Haque were also present on the occasion.

KHULNA

Cement worth Tk 17 lakh recovered

Mar 28: A patrol squad of the Bangladesh Navy recovered eight thousand bags of cement worth about Taka 17 lakh stolen from a barge of the BIWTC at the Mongla Port on Monday, according to an ISPR press release here Thursday, report BSS.

The BN patrol squad arrested 20 persons in this connection and handed them over to the police. The recovered cement and the Barge were also handed over to the concerned authorities.

COMILLA

Efforts underway to boost agri production

Mar 28: Shipping Minister M K Anwar Thursday said, the government was making allout efforts for boosting agricultural output in the country, says

He was inaugurating a twoday agriculture exhibition at Homna thana complex premises as chief guest.

The shipping minister said. the present government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is committed to ensure all basic needs of the people including food, clothes, shelter, education and medicare. He said the country is now very close to achieve self-sufficiency in food production and this year for the first time. Bangladesh exported rice in the foreign market. This had been possible for correct an timely initiative of the government, he added.

He went round different stalls of the exhibition and showed keen interest in the agricultural products on display in the exhibition.

About 200 varieties of modern and High Yielding Variety of agricultural products including potato, chilli, bean, cucumber. brinzal, rice, wheat, maize, aram (kachu), tomato, sunflower, soyabean, reddish, banana etc were on display in different stalls of the exhibition.

KUSHTIA

Hartal protesting rape observed

Mar 28: A half day hartal was observed in Bharamara thana headquarters Thursday protesting police failure to arrest a local businessman accused of raping a minor girl, reports UNB.

Champa, 11 a street urchin, was allegedly raped by Shamsul Alam when she came to Bheramara bazar to collect vegetable waste on March 22.

The little girl, injured critically is now undergoing treatment at the Kushtia general hospital.

Champa hailing from Khemerdia village is the daughter of late Khedar Ali

The protestors demanded exemplary punishment to the culprit.

A case has been filed with Bherama police in this connec-

SYLHET

Animal husbandry hospital, livestock college to be set up

Mar 28: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman Thursday said that the government would set up one animal husbandary hospital and one livestock college in each district in phases to further promote and popularise cattle and poultry farming, reports BSS.

Speaking as chief guest at the inaugural function of a daylong exhibition of cattleheads and poultry birds at the local Alia Madrasa, the minister announced that the government would fully subsidise the transportation cost in importing improved variety of cattles. Presently, the government had been giving 50 per cent subsidy as transportation cost to import improved variety of cat-

The finance minister appreciated the ministry of fishery and livestock in promoting the farming of cattle, poultry and fishery and expressed his optimism that as a result, the country would soon attain selfreliance in animal protein and milk production.

KISHOREGANJ

Out break of influenza Mar 28; Influenza has been

spreading in all 13 thanas of the district affecting 45 to 50 per cent people so far, medical sources said, reports UNB. Worst affected thanas are

Karimgani, Kuliarchar, Bhairab, Bajitpur, sadar, Itna, Mitamain, Hossainpur and Katiadi. Almost every family of these

thanas have one or more patients, doctors said. Doctors and health teams who visited the areas said bad sanitation, change of weather

and consumption of adulter-

ated foodstuffs were the main

reasons for the outbreak of the

viral infection. GAIBANDHA

One killed, 25 wounded in cyclonic storm

Mar 28: A man was killed and 25 others were wounded when a cyclonic storm swept over 15 unions of Sundargani thana on Sunday night, reports

Moreover, 15 livestocks five cows and 10 goats - were also killed while 4,000 houses including 20 educational institutions and crops on 10,000 acres of land were damaged in the storm.

Meanwhile, the ADC and TNO visited the spot but the victims did not receive any relief materials. The affected people have

urged the authorities to sanction grants for their early rehabilitation.

MANIKGANJ

Huge quantities of Phensidyl syrup bottles seized

Mar 28: Police recovered 100 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup worth about Taka 12,000 from a bus at Aricha ferry ghat on Monday, reports UNB. Acting on a tip, Shibalaya

police rushed to the ferryghat, raided a Dhaka-bound night coach coming from Chapainawabganj and recovered the contraband. Meanwhile, in a similar raid, police recovered a huge

band from a Dhaka-bound night coach on Friday. The contrabands were

quantity of the same contra-

handed over to the local customs. None was however arrested.



tornado-hit people of the Devidwar thana recently.