

Majid tells engineers

Plans underway to separate irrigation wing from BADC

Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister Major General (Retd) M Majid-ul-Haq yesterday said the government has planned to entrust BADC with the all-out responsibilities of seed management in the country, reports BSS.

Addressing the annual conference of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) engineers association here, he said plans are also underway to separate the irrigation wing from BADC and establish a new irrigation set-up to rearrange the country's agriculture management system in view of the present day demand.

State Minister for Irrigation Mosharrif Hossain Shahjahan, Agriculture Secretary M Akhtar Ali, Vice Chancellor of Agricultural University Prof Shah Mohammad Faruq attended the function as the special guests.

Held at the Engineers Institution here, BADC Chairman Mohammad Shahidul Islam, Member (Irrigation) of the corporation engineer M A Kalam and General Secretary of the Association Mohammad

Phoenix earns Tk 1.95 cr as pre-tax profit

The 8th annual general meeting (AGM) of Phoenix Insurance Company Limited was held at head office of the company with its Chairman Maj General Abdul Mannan Siddiqui (retd) in the chair, says a press release.

The annual report and the audit accounts for the year 1993 were approved in the meeting. The company earned a pre-tax profit of Tk 1.95 crore, during its operational year in 1993. The company also declared 20 per cent dividend to the share-holders for the year 1993.

During the year, an amount of Tk 7.02 crore was paid as claim and provision for income tax amounting to Tk 78 lakh was made by the company.

2 Japanese ministers suspected of pressuring central bank for loan

TOKYO, May 15: Two Japanese ministers are suspected of pressuring the Bank of Japan, the central bank, to lend huge sums to financial institution of farmers, it was reported today, reports AFP.

The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries exchanged a secret memorandum in February last year urging the Bank of Japan loans to the Central Cooperative Bank for Agriculture and Forestry, the Asahi Shimbun said.

WASHINGON, May 15: US Secretary of the Treasury Lloyd Bentsen has asked the nation's top business leaders for their support in getting congressional approval of the Uruguay Round global trade accord, according to USIS press release.

"There is a great deal at stake here. Think about what you stand to gain, what you stand to lose," Bentsen said to the Business Council, a small group of the nation's leading business leaders that meets twice annually. "If we don't close this deal by ratifying the

country.

Haq, himself an engineer, also drew attention of the agriculture engineers towards the issue of agricultural mechanisation in the country.

"Today no more we can depend on draught power for cultivation and therefore you must put in your efforts to develop the ploughing technology consistent with our socio-economic backdrop side by side the irrigation technology," he said.

Haq said barring some exceptions, the contribution of BADC for attaining self sufficiency in food has been lauded at home and abroad.

But to keep pace with the changing world order we have to reform our infrastructures too, he said and added, no government particularly in a country like Bangladesh can go against the world course and neither it is desired to take stand against the progress.

Mosharrif Hossain Shahjahan called upon the BADC engineers not to be frustrated in view of the reform activities.

"Your contribution in attain-

ing self-sufficiency in food is well recognised by all and avenues will be opened up to utilise your expertise for further agricultural development in the country", he said.

Agriculture Secretary Akhtar Ali observed that the government should have an important role in agricultural management even after the privatisation of the sector.

He observed that the private sector is yet to develop its efficiency to manage the whole sector.

BAU Vice-Chancellor Prof Faruq stressed the need for ensuring the standard of agri-products for exporting abroad to make the open market policy beneficial to the country.

He said we must decide how the open market policy should be implemented in agricultural sector in view of the country's own socio-economic backdrop. In this connection, he cited the example of the USA and said that even in that country, the private sector alone is not enough to deal with the whole sector and government has much jobs to do there in this regard.

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