

# Pineapple production poor

From Rajat K Goswami

MOULVIBAZAR, July 6: A prolonged hot spell followed by floods badly hit pineapple production in Moulvibazar and Sylhet districts this season.

Moulvibazar district is well-known for pineapple cultivation, providing employment to over 35 thousand people including farmers, traders and labourers.

Pineapples harvesting is now at its peak. The markets of the main pineapple producing areas of the country — Moulvibazar and Sylhet — have already become crowded with the sellers and buyers from different parts of the country.

The prices of pineapples have increased this season due to fall of production and comparatively high demand at home and abroad. Three best species of pineapples are now selling between Taka 500 and 1050 per 100 in the whole-sale market at Srimangal under Moulvibazar district.

In Moulvibazar district alone, over 22 crore pineapples are produced year on 21 thousand acres of land. Of this, 19 crore pineapples are produced on 20 thousand acres of land under Srimangal and Kamalganj thanas. The rest three crore are produced on 2000 acres under Sadar, Kulaura, Baralekha and Rajnagar thanas.

'Bilati' or 'honey-queen' pineapples are known for their taste. 'Kolanga' or 'jainti-que' are big in size weighing to 3 to 4 kg each.

But due to hot spell and dry weather in the district between March and May this year, pineapples have grown smaller in size and have ripen earlier than the usual time.

Pineapples are cultivated in Moulvibazar on commercial basis.



A pineapple market in Moulvibazar. — Star photo

# Illegal manpower export: Govt to take stern action

Government has decided to take stern action against those involved in illegal manpower export and assisting job seekers to travel to foreign countries without valid travel or employment documents, reports UNB.

The decision came at a high-powered inter-ministerial meeting held at Secretariat yesterday with Home Secretary Azimuddin Ahmed in the chair. The meeting decided to safeguard the interest of the poor job seekers and to uphold the image of Bangladesh abroad and explore possible avenues to bring the culprits to book.

Labour and Manpower Secretary Dr Harunur Rashid, Additional Secretary, Home Affairs, Faizur Rahman Chowdhury and senior officials attended the meeting.

# Floods

From Page 1

Direct road links of Kanaighat, Gowainghat and Companyganj thanas with the district headquarters remained cutoff for the third day due to a number of breaches on Sari-Gowainghat road and inundation of Companyganj road. Four villages in Gowainghat thana were inundated today following new breach in Gowain embankment.

UNB adds: Most rivers in the Brahmaputra, Ganges, Meghna and South Eastern Hill basins recorded further rise yesterday, according to a Flood Information Centre bulletin.

The Brahmaputra at Chilmari and Bahadurabad, the Ganges at Bhagyakul, the Surma at Kanaighat and Sunamganj, the Someswari at Durgapur and Gumti at Comilla were flowing above their respective danger levels.

The Brahmaputra is now flowing 12 cm above the danger level at Bahadurabad and 30 cm above at Chilmari while the Ganges 5 cm above at Bhagyakul.

The Surma in the Meghna basin is flowing 58 cm above danger level at Kanaighat and 30 cm at Sunamganj while the Someswari at Durgapur 1.04m and the Gumti at Comilla 26 cm above.

The bulletin forecast that flood situation between Bahadurabad and Bhagyakul is likely to deteriorate in the next 24 hours as the Brahmaputra may rise further and flow above danger levels at all points.

The Surma and Kushiara may rise further at downstream points. Other rivers in the Meghna basin are likely to rise further and cross or approach their respective danger levels. As a result, concerned areas may continue to experience flash flood of medium magnitude during the period.

# Move to remove illegal shops from pavements

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police and the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority have jointly taken a move to remove the illegal shops from the pavements of some important commercial areas in the capital, IGRD Minister Abdus Salam Tahkur informed Parliament yesterday.

Before the eviction, he said, the shopkeepers and hawkers would be rehabilitated by the City Corporation which was looking for a suitable place for the purpose.

Attempts were being made to use government khass land and the DCC's abandoned land for this, the minister said in reply to a question by KJ Hamida Khanam.

The minister also told the House that the government has no plan at present to turn the Dhaka New Market into a multi-storied shopping complex.

# JU students put barricade on Aricha road

SAVAR, July 6: A group of students of the Jahangirnagar University today halted 10 buses and confined 40 drivers and helpers on the campus to protest frequent accidents on the Dhaka-Aricha highway, reports UNB. Campus sources said, a student of the university was critically injured on the highway on Wednesday.

Witnesses said the angry students put barricade on the Dhaka-Aricha highway this afternoon and took the buses to the campus along with the passengers.

# JP march

From Page 1

to attend a public meeting of Raushan Ershad, wife of deposed president HM Ershad, at Mymensingh, according to witnesses. Mizan Chowdhury said JP workers were going there to attend a meeting, not to wage a war. "If the government wants trouble then they should keep the police away from the scene and see what happens."

"A young man was hacked to death in broad daylight... What kind of barbarism was that?" he questioned. JP Presidium member Moudud Ahmed asked: How an election would be possible under this government which did not allow the opposition parties to hold a public meeting?

JP Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju, who also could not attend the meeting for the attack, said, it was the new strategy of the government not to allow the other parties to hold public meeting.

# JP infighting

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spectively as president and general secretary and are awaiting approval and support from the central presidium. Naser, also a senior vice-president of the existing city committee, said "Our party politics here has been crippled only due to presence of some self-seeking and opportunist type of people inside the party".

When contacted over telephone, Mahmudul Islam, however, claimed that there was no feud and no disunity in his party at the Chittagong level. He said, a little trouble that may remain in his party at Chittagong was all too common inside other political parties in the city.

Islam was confident that "so far greater Chittagong is concerned, I am still holding the steering". Mention may be made here that Mahmudul Islam was once elected MP from Banskhal constituency with a BNP ticket during the Zia regime.

# PROs asked to project real picture of country

From Page 1

The Prime Minister yesterday asked the public relations officers (PROs) to use their profession in awakening the people for mobilising resources and making their best utilisation for rapid development in the country, reports UNB.

Public relations is a dependable process to create consciousness among the people to integrate them in nation building activities. This is essential for a developing country like Bangladesh, she said.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was inaugurating the 8th biennial national conference of the Bangladesh Public Relations Officers' Association (BPROA) at a local hotel in the morning.

She said public relations can play an important role in building social infrastructure and for proper coordination among political, economic and administrative activities.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for improved training to acquire skills for PROs to face the challenge of the twenty-first century.

The importance of the public relations profession has increased due to the flourishing of democracy in the world and unprecedented advancement of communication technology, she said.

Begum Zia said the PROs have a vital role in administrative transparency in a democratic society and they can contribute a lot to mass communication.

She further said that the PROs can contribute to development by projecting the image of their concerned institutions and real picture of the country before the countrymen and



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the 8th biennial national conference of the Bangladesh Public Relations Association in the city yesterday. —PID photo

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# The Midnight File

## Fierce fighting in eastern Bosnia

SARAJEVO, July 6: A fierce tank, mortar and artillery battle broke out Thursday between besieging Serbs and Muslims defending the UN-protected enclave of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia. At least five people were reported wounded in the fighting, which forced hundreds of UN peacekeepers and civilians to take shelter, reports AP.

## Dollar snatching: Two accused remanded again

By Court Correspondent  
Two persons, accused of snatching some dollars from a man returning from Malaysia last week, were taken on another days police remand yesterday.

Zakir and Shahid were brought to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court after a five-day remand. The investigation officer prayed for another five-day police remand of Zakir and Shahid but the court granted one day.

Meanwhile, at the test identification parade (TIP), a constable, Bazul Gani, was identified as an accomplice of the two accused.

Bazul Gani was brought to the court premises for the TIP along with 11 others.

## Housewife commits suicide in city

By Staff Correspondent  
A housewife reportedly committed suicide at Mirpur in the city early yesterday.

Taslima, 28, hanged herself with a scarf from the ceiling fan in her bedroom.

Her husband, Ashrafuddin Ahmed, a contractor, was not in the house at that night, police said.

Mirpur police rushed to the spot at about 9 am and recovered the body which was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

## SC to hear

From Page 1  
headed by the Chief Justice. The four other members of the bench are: Justice Mostafa Kamal, Justice Latifur Rahman, Justice Muhammad Abdur Rouf and Justice Ismailuddin Sarker.

The four points referred by the President are: 1) "Can the walkout and the consequent period of non-return by all the opposition parties taking exception to a remark of a ruling party minister be construed as 'absent' from Parliament without leave of Parliament occurring in Article 67 (1) (b) of the Constitution resulting in vacation of their seats in parliament?"

2) "Does boycott of the Parliament by all members of the opposition parties mean 'absent' from Parliament within the meaning of Article 67 (1) (b) of the Constitution resulting in vacation of their seats in Parliament?"

3) "Whether ninety consecutive sitting days be computed excluding or including the period between two sessions intervened by prorogation of the Parliament within the meaning of Article 67 (1) (b) read with the definition of 'sessions' and 'sitting' defined under Article 152 (1) of the Constitution?"

4) "Whether the Speaker or Parliament will compute and determine the period of absence?"

## Karachi

From Page 1  
said in a telephone interview as gunfire raged in the background. He said water and electricity supplies had been cut off and that people had been unable to buy food because all shops had been closed.

Mohammed Iqbal, a police officer, said "at least 200 armed men are holed up in the area. They have occupied 50 houses and are shooting from the rooftops."

Many of those on the periphery of the district left their homes and streamed into other parts of the city.

# Regional EPR centre Concern over low level of implementation

By Rashed Mahmud Titumir

A World Health Organisation (WHO) technical mission has expressed its concern that low level implementation of the National Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) programme might not be 'acceptable' to the donors resulting in a decreased inflow of assistance.

After the devastating cyclone in the south-eastern region of the country on April 29, 1991, WHO proposed to establish a regional centre for EPR in Asia and the Pacific and Bangladesh government expressed its interest in hosting the centre. Subsequently, the matter was finalised at the 11th meeting of ministers of health, organised by WHO South East Asia region and held in Dhaka on November 1-3, 1993.

To finance the EPR centre, which in future is likely to be designated as Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, WHO convinced the Italian Embassy in Dhaka to reallocate the

remaining fund of the now abandoned bilateral project on disaster preparedness and response to the ongoing EPR programme, said sources in the Dhaka office of WHO.

According to sources in the Health Directorate, the Italian side stopped further flow of assistance after spending 2300 US dollars out of the 1.5 million dollars committed due to 'poor' management of the bilateral project by the Health Directorate.

Meanwhile, the Italian Embassy, which is closely monitoring the project, had drawn the attention of the regional advisor on EPR for WHO South East Asia Region of 'unsatisfactory level of implementation of the project' at a recent meeting, the sources said.

"If the Italians retreat, as happened with the bilateral pilot project (disaster preparedness and response), other donors would not feel comfortable to support the EPR centre", a WHO official said.

# Floods to match '88's?

From Page 1

here in Bangladesh," said Md Sajedur Rahman, Deputy Director of the Storm Warning Centre in Dhaka.

Rahman said an worse flood situation developed in 1988 as both the Brahmaputra and Ganges basins experienced severe rainfall at a time in the middle of August.

A meteorological expert said the country might be vulnerable to a flood of that level if both the basins are subjected to heavy rainfall at the same time as a result of recurring monsoon depression.

The flood situation could further deteriorate following the shift of rainfall towards the northern districts, officials at the Meteorological department and flood forecasting wing of the Water Development Board said. The downpour in the northern belt could overflow rivers and adjoining plain lands on its way towards the Bay, they said.

In June, the country experienced a surplus rainfall of 10,287 mm as against the normal 10,000mm, according to Met office data.

# 20 mid-level towns

From Page 1  
convert the Barisal divisional town into a metropolitan city at this moment, he said, adding, huge grants had, however, been sanctioned for the development of the town.

Responding to Major (ret'd) Akhteruzzaman, who regretted "the lack of government initiative" to make the Barisal divisional headquarters a metropolitan city despite its recognition as an administrative division, the minister clarified, "I've not ruled out the possibility of upgrading Barisal to a metropolis. The BNP government will definitely do it in future provided adequate funds are mobilised".

# CU officials

From Page 1  
their tampering with the results of honours final year examinations of Philosophy Department has been proved.

Punitive actions against the four teachers — Abdul Khaleq, Afzar Ali, Muzaffar Ahmed and Mozammel Hossain — were taken for their involvement in the scandal.

Abdul Khaleq and Afzar Ali have been suspended from taking part in the examination activities of the university for the next one year while Muzaffar Ahmed and Mozammel Hossain will not get annual increment for a year.

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# Abducted tourists still untraced in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, July 6: The fate of the four abducted foreign tourists was still not known even as security forces launched a massive combing operation in the Kashmir Valley to trace them out and the militants responsible for their abduction, reports PTI.

Elsewhere in the valley, 22 persons, including 15 militants, were killed, 32 militants arrested and a woman teacher was abducted since last evening, an official spokesman said here today.

He said the security forces sealed a vast area of Pahalgam, including Ladder and surrounding forests, last night immediately on receipt of the information about the abduction of eight foreign nationals from Ladder-Pahalgam, some 98 km from here in South Kashmir.

No breakthrough had been achieved so far, he said.

Eight foreign tourists were abducted on Tuesday evening by a group of 15 armed militants, some of them mercenaries, belonging to the newly floated "Al-Narayan" militant outfit from Bakh-liddar near Aroo, ten km away from Pahalgam health resort, he said.

# Bomb threat

From Page 1

The pilot was informed about the threat only after the plane had made its normal landing at Delhi airport.

The passengers were then off-loaded, the luggage were taken out and the aircraft was thoroughly searched, sources said.

A Biman official confirmed the incident and regretted the inconvenience caused to passengers.

# PM: Constitutional vacuum

From Page 1

government, Begum Zia said then the Opposition would have to take the responsibility.

"If they at all believe in democracy and Constitution, they must join elections to maintain constitutional process in the country," she said.

In reply to a query, she said the BNP wanted to resolve the present problem politically, but the Opposition did not come up with their sincerity. "Now I don't see any solution rather than go by the Constitution."

Asked about her offer for resignation 30 days ahead of election, the Prime Minister said, "Whatever we do, it needs sanction of the Constitution."

Said she: "Things have become more complicated with the completion of 90-day absence by the Opposition MPs." Elaborating on the point, she said the BNP does not enjoy the two-thirds majority in Parliament to meet the demand of the Opposition by amending the Constitution.

Questioning the *en masse* boycott of Parliament by Opposition MPs, the Prime Minister said there is no precedent in any democracy of the world where the Opposition quits Parliament *en bloc*.

"How they could resign from Parliament? Are they government servants? They were elected to Parliament with people's mandate, the Prime Minister said.

"It is the usual practice to discuss and resolve various national problems sitting in Parliament. But it was not possible because of the Opposition's permanent boycott of Parliament."

The Prime Minister requested all the newspaper editors to write in favour of resolving the current crisis

# গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

কপিরাইট অফিস  
জাতীয় প্রাঙ্গণ (তহা তলা)  
আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭

# বিষয়ঃ কপিরাইট সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

প্রাপ্তি জানানো কি যে কপিরাইট আইনের আওতায় বই-পুস্তক/চাকরম/শিল্পকর্ম/চলচ্চিত্র/ভিডিও ফিল্ম/গান বাজনার রেকর্ড বা ক্যাসেট ইত্যাদির স্বত্ব (কপিরাইট) বক্ষার্থে উক্ত আইনানুযায়ী রেজিস্ট্রেশন ইচ্ছা থাকলে গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের কপিরাইট অফিসে এই সমস্ত কর্মের কপিরাইট রেজিস্ট্রেশনের জন্য নির্ধারিত ফর্ম আবেদনপত্র প্রাপ্তকর্তার পরামর্শ-নির্দেষ্কার পর সার্টিফিকেট ইস্যু করিয়া থাকে।

২। রেজিস্ট্রেশন সাহিত্য কর্মের মালিক তথা লেখক/রচয়িতার মৃত্যুর পর ৩০ বছর পর্যন্ত তাহার উত্তরাধিকারীরা কপিরাইট ভোগ করতে পারেন। অনুরূপভাবে শিল্পকর্ম/চাকরম/চলচ্চিত্র/গান বাজনার রেকর্ড/ভিডিও ফিল্ম বা ক্যাসেট ইত্যাদি কর্মের রচয়িতার বা সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্ম সৃষ্টির পর ৩০ বছর পর্যন্ত কপিরাইট ভোগ করিতে পারেন। তাহা ছাড়া নিম্নলিখিত প্রোগ্রাম ইত্যাদিও কপিরাইট আইনের আওতায় বিধায় আইনানুযায়ী ২৪ বছর পর্যন্ত এই অধিকার বলবৎ থাকে।

৩। হস্তস্বাক্ষরিত সূত্র প্রাপ্ত বা চুক্তিপত্রের মাধ্যমে লিখিত/প্রণীত বই-পুস্তক/শিল্পকর্ম/চাকরম/হস্তস্বাক্ষরিত/নিয়োগকর্তা/কপিরাইট রেজিস্ট্রেশন করিতে পারেন। কপিরাইট রেজিস্ট্রেশন নকল প্রতিরোধ কিংবা বৈ-আইনী ব্যবহার রোধকল্পে অধিকার প্রয়োগের একটি পূর্বশর্ত।

৪। কপিরাইট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় তথ্যের জন্য নিম্নোক্ত ঠিকানায় আগাই লেখক, প্রকাশক, চলচ্চিত্রকার, শিল্পী, সংগীতজ্ঞ, ক্যান্টিনে রেকর্ডকর্তা বাক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের সোপানোগ্রহণ করিতে অনুরোধ জানানো হইতেছে। কপিরাইট অফিস সর্বস্বত্ব সহযোগিতা প্রদানে সম্মত পড়ত।

মোহাম্মদ মনির উদ্দিন  
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