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Artists performing at a Cultural Evening for Terry Fox Run 1997 at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday, organised to raise funds for cancer research.

—Star photo

UK consortium to build container depot in Ctg

Some leading UK-based companies have formed a consortium recently to construct a new container terminal near the Chittagong seaport with private investment, sources concerned said.

Port Ventures Limited (PVL), the company set up by the consortium, has already selected a suitable site at the mouth of river Karnaphuli to build the terminal with an estimated cost of 300 to 350 million US dollars.

Talking to UNB in Dhaka, Tim Steel, Chairman of Britain's TCM group, which is coordinating the consortium, said: This is a highly viable project and we have already begun the technical study.

Announcing the start of work on Build-Own-Operate basis, he said the private terminal at Patenga would require both road and rail links to integrate into the infrastructure system of Bangladesh.

He said the British consulting engineers, and Sir William Halcrow and Partners Ltd, one of the world's leading port engineering companies, will carry out a technical study.

The consultancy firm, apart from its other recent works in Bangladesh, is participating in the Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge project, said the TCM group chairman.

He said the feasibility study is expected to be completed by

the end of December. PVL will then be in a position to make a cost evaluation of the project in order to confirm the private sector finance and relevant concession from Bangladesh government for proposal.

The detailed engineering design and development would be completed in 1998 and the construction is expected to commence early 1999. Steel informed.

He hoped that the construction of the project would be completed by the year 2002. The container port will be able to handle about 500,000 TEUs of container annually by 2010.

By the year 2005, the new port's capacity will stand at 200,000 to 250,000 TEUs.

Steel said the consortium comprise Halcrow, RPT, TCM Group, Portia (Mersey Docks and Harbour Company), and Carmille, a UK-based venture capital company.

The project has been actively supported by the British government's Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the British High Commission in Dhaka, he claimed.

The TCM chairman said the fund is ready and they have already submitted a draft proposal to the government, seeking 300 acres of land at the project site. "We'll invest the money if the government gives the go ahead signal."

Reopening of CU uncertain

CHITTAGONG, Oct 15: The reopening of Chittagong University became uncertain as the rival student organisations threatened each other over the move to resume classes, reports UNB.

The reopening of the university on Saturday is at stake as the newly formed Anti-Communal Student Unity and the pro-Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir positioned at the opposite poles on authorities' move.

On Tuesday, the CU authorities decided to reopen its residential halls tomorrow and resume classes on Saturday.

The University was closed since die following a bloody clash between pro-Awami League Chhatra League and Pro-Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir on September 3. Aminul Haque Bakul was killed in the fight. Both claimed Bakul as their activist.

The Anti-Communal Student Unity, a conglomerate of pro-Awami League Chhatra League, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Chhatra Union announced today a three-day siege programme on the campus from tomorrow.

The activists of the alliance held a rally in front of the gate No 1 of the university this morning and announced the programme.

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Revenue collection

From Page 1

t's coffers keeping the collection sluggish, which financial analysts say, may strain the beleaguered NBR to achieve its target.

The tax on imports was targeted at Tk 5010 crore for the fiscal 1997-98. While the VAT was set at Tk 3230 crore and the supplementary duty at Tk 620 crore for the financial year, but the quarter's collection out of a target of Tk 1151.33 crore was Tk 1094.76 crore, which is Tk 112 crore short.

The VAT collection on imports in September slipped by Tk 8.35 crore out of a target of Tk 268.43 crore. But the supplementary duty was higher out of targeted Tk 41.09 crore the collection was Tk 51.01 crore, pushing the quarter's collection to Tk 123.45 crore out of the targeted Tk 116.86 crore.

On the Excise duty head, the target for the year was Tk 230 crore. During the first quarter, the achievement was Tk 35.96 crore against a target of Tk 40.77 crore. September collection was Tk 12.55 crore out of targeted Tk 13.45 crore.

VAT at local sources was targeted for the year at Tk 1820 crore, of which the first quarter

terly target was Tk 397.85 crore against which the collection was Tk 360.68 crore. September collection exceeded the target of Tk 133.92 by Tk 1.04 crore.

Supplementary duty at local sources was targeted for the year at Tk 1890 crore, the quarter's goal was Tk 446.22 crore against which the collection was Tk 372.34 crore and the September's achievement was Tk 126.76 crore against the target of Tk 157.41 crore.

The collection of Income Tax marked a rise. The fiscal target was Tk 1950 crore, the quarterly goal was Tk 316.68 crore against which the collection was Tk 326.68 crore and the September's collection was Tk 149.41 against the target of Tk 146.44 crore.

On other taxes and duties, the performance was nearly good. The target for the year was Tk 250 crore. The quarterly target was set at Tk 59.85 crore and the collection was Tk 57.47 crore, the last month's collection, exceeding the target by Tk 35 lakh. The target for September was Tk 20.50 crore.

Swiss officials block \$13.7m bank account of Benazir

BERNE, Oct 15: Swiss authorities said today they had blocked around 20 million Swiss francs (\$13.7 million US dollars) in bank accounts in the name of Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, reports Reuters.

Switzerland's federal police office (BAP) also said in a statement that it had passed on Pakistan's formal request for legal assistance to the canton (region) of Geneva.

LPG plant

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years of delay. While the plant remains inoperative due to lack of the metering valve, a scheme for setting up of a component of it in which 14 tons of LPG would be extracted from 65 tons of natural gas liquid (NGL) per day remained shelved for unknown reasons.

Meanwhile, no progress has been made as regards signing of final agreements with six multinational oil giants including Shell, Mobil and Exxon for investment in LPG bottling and production of lubricating oil, the sources added.

These companies will go into joint venture with BPC and invest around 120 million US dollars in total for importing, bottling and marketing of around three lakh tons of LPG annually against the projected demand for five 5 lakh tons, according to BPC sources.

President's initiative

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parleys with different opposition groups to launch a united movement, he said. "We are continuing discussions... there is a possibility of simultaneous movement in future."

About the formation of a possible front, the BNP leader said: "Initially, we are planning for simultaneous movement and in course of time, the movement can be directed by the proposed front."

About BNP's joining the parliament session beginning on November 2, he said, "We have always said we want to make parliament effective and the centre of politics. But the government is deliberately making the parliament ineffective."

"We have already put forward certain demands (14-point and previous 4-point). We will go to parliament if the demands are met."

The BNP secretary general said there has not been any initiative from the government to meet those demands.

Bhuiyan said since then, many new development have taken place and many new issues have been raised. All these need to be resolved.

Asked if he feels the present political scenario would lead them to resign from parliament, the BNP leader said, "We don't have any such thinking... We'll not resign unless we're compelled to do so. We want to make the parliament effective, but it depends on the behaviour of the government."

About the next action programme, he said new programmes would be declared on

3 share Nobel Physics Prize

STOCKHOLM, Oct 15: Two Americans, Steven Chu of Stanford University and William Phillips of Maryland's National Institute of Standards and Technology and Frenchman Claude Cohen-Tannoudji won the 1997 Nobel Physics Prize, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said today, reports Reuters.

The BNP leader said the issue can be solved, if the government first cancels its decision on the ban and select the venues in consultation with all political parties.

3 share Nobel Chemistry Prize

STOCKHOLM, Oct 15: Paul Boyer of the University of California, John Walker of Britain's Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology and Dane Jens Skou of Aarhus University won the 1997 Nobel Chemistry Prize, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said today, reports Reuters.

3 share Nobel Chemistry Prize

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The Academy took the unusual step of splitting the award, with one half going to Boyer and Walker and the other half to Skou. The three won for their pioneering work on enzymes.

Aricha ferry service

From Page 1

tions in the northern districts via Sirajganj.

According to a high official of BIWTC, ferry services in Aricha-Daulatdia and Aricha-Natakholra routes have been disrupted as the ferries were frequently hitting the river bed due to lack of required depth of water. "Twelve ferries ran aground in the last seven days. Ferries could not be operated until the impaired ferries were salvaged from the single route or one-way channel linking Daulatdia and Aricha," the official said.

Another official said, "The waiting loaded ferries ready at the ghats, in the meantime, have to wait further as salvage operation is in progress. The 120 metre wide one-way ferry channel is facing the same problem almost everyday. Ferries can no longer maintain the schedule of arrival and departure. A loaded ferry may have to wait as long as two hours, depending on the clearance from engineering division of BIWTA which is responsible for keeping the ferry channels navigable by way of dredging."

On the other hand, a top BIWTC official said, "Dredging was not being done properly. If the channels are kept operational, there should be no delay in ferry operation. But the ferries were occasionally hitting the river bed, causing severe dislocation in road communication between the capital and the 32 northern and southern districts. Besides, due to such kind of risk, ferries cannot move at the speed. These are supposed to further delaying loading and unloading of vehicles at the ghats."

When contacted an engineer of dredging unit of BIWTA said, "The 4000 metre by 120 metre

one-way channel, was opened to ferries on Friday. Siltation was seriously disrupting ferry services, but during this pre-dry season, difficulties in navigation are likely.

Explaining the dredging operation, he said, "We have ve out of seven dredgers in the country, working in Aricha route alone. Dredging is not always possible whenever we wish. A dredger can operate with a maximum river current of 1.6 knots, while in most cases we have to risk dredging with more than the limit. The river current, as recorded on October 5 and 8, was 2.56 and 3.3 knots respectively."

He further said the river bed levels of Padma and Jamuna, which the ferries have to cross, are not stable. You cannot predict where would siltation take place. Sedimentation changes from day to day. During this dry season, sedimentation would greatly affect ferry services. We have cautioned the ferry operators about the dangers. Despite that, we have received a few allegations that ferries moved away from the 120 metre wide channel, specially at night, avoiding warnings."

Meanwhile, BIWTC control room sources said at 6 pm yesterday that 972 vehicles were waiting at Aricha to be ferried to Natakholra and Daulatdia. Besides, 435 and 473 vehicles, mostly trucks carrying perishables, were waiting at Natakholra and Daulatdia respectively to be ferried to Aricha.

BIWTC Aricha office when contacted over telephone last night said that situation at the ghats so far was under control could worsen if vehicles continued to arrive at the present rate.

PM distributes Cooperative Award '95

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for intensifying the cooperative movement, saying that the role of cooperatives is important in the united struggle for improving the lot of people, reports UNB.

Addressing the National Cooperative Award '95 distribution ceremony at Osmany Memorial Hall in the morning, she said Bangladesh is now recognised as a "land of prospect" in the present world.

The Prime Minister said, "This possibility has been created because of the massive integrated programmes of the government for economic development through poverty alleviation."

She assured the Cooperative members of all possible help in financial, administrative and infrastructural sectors of the cooperatives movement.

The government, she said, has taken steps for strengthening the cooperative-based agriculture system and employment generation projects.

She also mentioned other cooperative projects of the government for housing, dairy, family welfare and cooperative institution development.

Later, the Prime Minister distributed awards, including gold medal, to 12 cooperatives and 13 cooperative societies for their contribution in the cooperatives sector.

IFC

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Under the deal, IFC will make an equity investment of about 750,000 US dollars for 15 per cent of the share capital of DBH, a pioneer in private-sector housing finance with technical assistance from HDPC. It will provide home mortgage loans for up to 15 years for owners-occupied houses and apartments and plans to launch a deposit scheme shortly, particularly for future prospective home owners.

IFC, which shows keen interest in some Bangladesh private-sector projects, is the world's largest multilateral source of equity and loan financing for private initiatives in developing countries.

Rashad Kaldany, Director of IFC's Asia II Department, said: Housing and the attendant urban infrastructure required to support adequate living conditions are amongst the urgent problems facing the Asian cities today.

"This initiative will help address the pressing housing challenge in Bangladesh. We are also pleased to be associated with strong partners in this project," he added.

HDPC, the leading housing finance company in India, has been very successful in pioneering housing finance, having assisted over one million homeowners in its 20 years of existence.

Delta Life and Green Delta each constitutes one of the leading private-sector companies in the insurance sector. BRAC, a non-governmental organisation, is well-known in the area of rural development.

JMB

From Page 1

velop due to difference of temperature between the surface and inside of concrete and those cannot affect or weaken the structure.

"But remedial measures are needed only to prevent moisture, which might go inside and reach the steel reinforcement," said the JMB Secretary.

K M Mannan, project coordinator of the co-financier, the World Bank, said the panel of experts did not find any reason for worrying as the bridge structure is quite safe.

He said the cracks are minor, almost like a hair (quarter of a millimetre in width), and are not detrimental to the structure of the bridge.

Fall in water level

Pakshey-Bheramara ferry service disrupted

From M A Ali

NATORE, Oct 15: Hundreds of buses and trucks have lined up at Pakshey and Bheramara ghats following disruption in ferry service caused by abnormal fall in the water level of Padma.

The ferry service may be snapped any moment, delinking road communication between the northern and southern region of the country, according to officials of the Water Development Board (WDB) and the Roads and Highways Department (R&H) here today.

The depth of water under the Harding Bridge is now only four feet, a R&H official told the correspondent.

The water levels of the Padma and the Jamuna are falling rapidly, threatening ferry service. Their tributaries may dry up within a couple of weeks, they said. Innumerable submerged chairs have made navigation risky, they said.

However, dredging is going on but the dredging machine of WDB goes out of order very often, they said.

Reports from Pabna and Sirajganj said that ferry service between Nagarbari and Aricha, Aricha and Daulatdia and between Sirajganj and Bhuapur are also facing closure due to fall in the water level of the

Jamuna.

When contacted over telephone, a high official of BIWTC told The Daily Star that the ferries were passing through a narrow channel under a one-way system as to avoid hidden chors.

The official also informed that three ferries Khan Zahan Ali, 'Shaheed Barkat Ali' and 'Enayetpur' were stuck in submerged chors on Saturday.

Arms seized in Rangunia: 2 held

CHITTAGONG, Oct 15: Police seized huge arms and ammunition from a house at West Pomra village in Rangunia thana on Tuesday and arrested two people, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of one Saleh Ahmed at about 1.45 pm and recovered one gun, one LG, one pipe gun, five bullets, three knives and two torch lights.

The arrested Rafique, 29, and Selim, 32, of the same village were sent to jail hjat. A case was filed with the police.

Power plant

From Page 1

plemented within 10 months of its signing on BOO basis. Efforts are underway to advance the commissioning of the plant by April 1998.

Smith Cogeneration will sell electricity to PDB at the rate of Taka 2.23 (5.10 US cents) per kilowatt hour, using liquid fuel at the initial stage.

The tariff will be reduced to Tk 1.77 KWH (4.16 US cents) when natural gas will be used as fuel for generation of electricity.

The PPA was initiated on May 25 this year by PDB and the implementation agreement was signed on September 11 by Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

PDB Chairman Nuruddin M Kamal, and George B Jongeling and Nauman Ahmad of Smith Cogeneration initialled the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.

Border confce

From Page 1

Border Security Forces (BSF) AK Tandon is leading his country's eight-member delegation to the talks. BDR Director General Major General Muhammad Azizur Rahman is leading the home team.

The talks, held at the BDR headquarters in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, are working out an effective measure to combat smuggling and other cross-border crimes, according to an official handout.

Bangladesh has nearly 2,000 km border with India.

Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh Land and Record Survey and Joint River Commission are attending the meeting.

The talks will resume today.

Bangabandhu Murder Case

From Page 1

'night training' on August 14, 1975. In the afternoon, the troops had assembled at the Unit line under the instruction of the Havildar Major.

"In the evening we started our 'road march' towards the new airport under instructions from Maj Khandaker Abdul Rashid, Commanding Officer (CO) of the Unit. We also took our personal weapons before the road march began. Havildar Major also checked out weapons on arrival at the new airport area and ordered a recess at about 10:00 pm or 10:30 pm."

"At about 3:00 am or 3:30 am on that night, the Havildar Major ordered us for 'fall-in'. During the fall-in there, our battery commander Capt Mustafa was also present. Maj Khandaker Abdul Rashid, CO of the Unit accompanied by some other officers also came there afterwards."

The Commanding Officer told us, "An important task is lying ahead of us and for that we have to move and the next instruction will be passed over there."

"Our battery commander Capt Mustafa then took us to the Lancer Unit where we found that the troops of the unit had already assembled there. Maj Syed Farooq Rahman, CO of the First Bengal Lancer Unit, mixed us with the Lancer soldiers and also gave a briefing."

"Maj Khandaker Abdul Rashid, CO of the Second Field Artillery, Capt Mustafa and some other officers including some dismissed army officers

were also present there.

"Maj Khandaker Abdul Rashid and Maj Syed Farooq Rahman also introduced us to some dismissed army officers. I remember Maj Dalim, Maj Rashid Chowdhury, Maj Shahriar and Capt Majed among those introduced to us that night."

Amin also identified Maj Farooq and Maj Shahriar in the dock.

"At one stage, the troops were also addressed by Maj Khandaker Abdul Rashid and Maj Dalim."

"Picking our lives, we have liberated the country. The government has failed to safeguard the honour and dignity of our women folk. People are dying of starvation. The government has to be toppled," the troops were told during the address.

"Following the address, our battery collected ammunition for personal weapons from Lancer Unit under instructions from Maj Farooq and Maj Rashid. COs of the First Bengal Lancer and the Second Field Artillery respectively."

"While collecting ammunition from the Lancer Unit, Capt Mustafa was also with us. I took 10 rounds of ammunition for my weapon."

"Then Captain Mustafa ordered us to board a vehicle which moved towards the city. The vehicle stopped at a place and Capt Mustafa then ordered us to get down. We got down and found two other officers, Maj Shahriar and Capt Majed."

"Capt Mustafa then posted some of the soldiers including myself to guard the road while he along with the rest of the

troops and the two officers went to a nearby house. We heard the noise of heavy gun fire from that house afterwards."

"After about ten minutes, Maj Rashid Chowdhury also came out of that house along with the officers and troops who had gone there earlier."

"Maj Rashid Chowdhury who was carrying a sten gun in his hand ordered troops to board a vehicle that took us near the Radio Station."

"Troops were posted around the Radio Station. I along with some others were deployed at the gate on the western side of the Radio Station."

"Maj Dalim, Maj Noor, Maj Shahriar, Maj Khandaker A Rashid, Maj Rashid Chowdhury, Capt Majed, Capt Mustafa and some other officers entered the Radio Station at about 6:00 am or 6:30 am."

"At one stage Maj Khandaker Abdul Rashid and Maj Farooq along with others went out of the Radio Station. Later Maj Dalim also left the radio centre."

"Khandaker Mushtaque accompanied by Maj Khandaker Abdul Rashid came to the radio centre later. They were also accompanied by a civilian whom I did not recognise."

"The Chief of Army Staff also came there afterwards. He was followed by Maj Dalim who was also carrying weapon in an open jeep."

"The Deputy Chief of Army Staff Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman, the Chiefs of Air Force and the Naval Force also came there subsequently. Officers belonging to various other army units also came there afterwards."

জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি

জাদুঘরের মানমন্দিরে

টেলিকোপের সাহায্যে আকাশ পর্যবেক্ষণ আগ্রহী সৌখিন জ্যোতির্বিদ ও বিজ্ঞানামোদী ব্যক্তিবর্গ লক্ষ্য করুন

- আকাশে বর্তমানে বৃহস্পতি, শুক্র ও শনি গ্রহ দৃশ্যমান।
- প্রতি শনি ও রবিবার সূর্যাস্তের পর থেকে সন্ধ্যা ৭-৩০ মিঃ পর্যন্ত জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘরের মানমন্দির উৎসাহী দর্শকদের আকাশ পর্যবেক্ষণের জন্য উন্মুক্ত থাকবে।
- আকাশ পর্যবেক্ষণের প্রতিটি টিকিটের মূল্য পাঁচ টাকা।
- আগে আসলে আগে পাবেন ভিত্তিতে বিকাল ৫-০০ টা থেকে সীমিত সংখ্যক টিকিট বিক্রি করা হবে।
- স্কুল-কলেজের ছাত্র-ছাত্রী, বিজ্ঞান ক্লাবের সদস্যবৃন্দ এবং আগ্রহী ব্যক্তিবর্গ দলগতভাবে যে কোন দিন (বৃহস্পতি, শুক্র ও সরকারী ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) আকাশ পর্যবেক্ষণ করতে পারবেন। সেক্ষেত্রে জাদুঘর কর্তৃপক্ষের সাথে পূর্বে যোগাযোগ করতে হবে।

আম আজিজুর রহমান খান
পরিচালক
ফোনঃ ৯১১১০০৮, ৯১১৪১২৮

বিজ্ঞান মনস্ক হউন, বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তির চর্চা করুন
সমৃদ্ধ বাংলাদেশ গড়ে তুলুন

ডিজিটাল-২২৪৭-১৩০/১০

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