

CHT North Forest Division earns Tk 3.5 cr revenue

RANGAMATI, July 18: Chittagong Hill Tracts North Forest Division (CHTNFD) has earned a revenue of about Tk 3.40 crore exceeding its target of Tk 3.25 crore in the fiscal 1998-99 against sale proceeds of forest products from different individuals and organisations, reports BSS.

During the 1997-98 fiscal it earned over Tk 2.25 crore.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of CHTNFD, Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury told BSS here on Thursday that a quantity of about 1,42,360 cubic feet of costly timbers of different species was supplied to the Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation from an area of 200 acres of forest in Baghaiahat forest range in 1998-99 on a subsidised rate to cater a number of forest-based industries in the country.

The process is still continuing to supply timbers to BFIDC from the area, DFO said.

CHTNFD has also supplied more than two crore bamboos to Karnaphuli Paper Mills and different individuals during the period.

KPM uses bamboo as raw material to manufacture paper while bamboos of CHTNFD are

being used across the country for domestic purposes.

Meanwhile, CHTNFD has completed planting about three lakh seedlings of teak on an area of 200 acres of denuded hills in Baghaiahat forest range.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said immediate repatriation of Myanmar refugees from Bangladesh is necessary in the mutual interests of the two countries, reports UNB.

His observation came when visiting Myanmar Foreign Minister U Win Aung paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

"In the mutual interest of the two countries it is necessary to resolve the irritant issue at the earliest," President told Myanmar Foreign Minister.

Police sources here said today that the arrested was identified as Abdul Kasem, son of Abdul Hakim of the village Alucia whose mother Hajera Khutun, 58, and wife Nuresa Khutun, 27, were found slaughtered in his house at the early hours yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, Barhatta thana police recovered the two bodies and sent them to Netrakona sadar hospital morgue for postmortem yesterday.

A murder case was filed with Barhatta police station in this connection.

President for repatriation of Rohingyas immediately

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said immediate repatriation of Myanmar refugees from Bangladesh is necessary in the mutual interests of the two countries, reports UNB.

His observation came when visiting Myanmar Foreign Minister U Win Aung paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

"In the mutual interest of the two countries it is necessary to resolve the irritant issue at the earliest," President told Myanmar Foreign Minister.

Police sources here said today that the arrested was identified as Abdul Kasem, son of Abdul Hakim of the village Alucia whose mother Hajera Khutun, 58, and wife Nuresa Khutun, 27, were found slaughtered in his house at the early hours yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, Barhatta thana police recovered the two bodies and sent them to Netrakona sadar hospital morgue for postmortem yesterday.

A murder case was filed with Barhatta police station in this connection.

The Myanmar Minister thanked President for receiving him and the members of his delegation.

He said as a neighbouring country, Myanmar is always eager to maintain friendly relations with Bangladesh.

Secretary to the President Ismail Hossain, Foreign Secretary C M Shafi Sami, Myanmar Ambassador U Tint Win in Dhaka and Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Jahangir Sadat were present.

Aung calls on Kalparanjan

Meanwhile, Myanmar being Bangladesh's neighbouring state is keen to see peace and development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, said visiting Foreign Minister U Win Aung.

The Myanmar Foreign Minister stated this during a meeting with CHT Affairs Minister Kalparanjan Chakma at the latter's office in the city yesterday, officials said.

BCL rally at DU welcoming freshers

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of ruling Awami League, brought out a procession and held a rally on the Dhaka University campus yesterday to welcome the freshers at the university.

Held at the main gate of Arts Faculty, the rally was addressed, among others, by BCL president Bahadur Bepari, general secretary Ajay Kar Khorakan, Ansul Rahman, Sujit Ray Nandi, Sajjad Hossain and AKM Ajim.

At the rally, the BCL leaders expressed satisfaction over the present peaceful campus situation and urged the freshers not to get involved in the armed politics. They also urged the freshers to work for the greater welfare of the student community.

Presiding over the function, president of DU BCL unit Sajjad Hossain urged the university authorities to allocate more money for the education sector in the budget. Terming the allocation for education support sector very poor, he said that the standard of education could not be ensured if we failed to increase allocation for this sector.

He urged the university authorities to arrest the outsiders and terrorists responsible for various untoward incidents on the campus. "None will be allowed to create anarchy on the campus and the BCL will do everything to ensure a peaceful campus situation," warned Sajjad.

Classes of the first year honours courses of the university began yesterday.

Ershad visits Comilla today

Prof M Rafiqul Haque, 62, former director general of the Directorate of Technical Education and Chairman of BIT Council died of a heart failure yesterday after Fazr prayers at his residence in Uttara Model Town, says a press release.

Prof Haque also works as the Director of Research of the Dhaka Ahsan Mission for some years.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives, friends and colleagues to mourn his death.

Obituary

Prof M Rafiqul Haque, 62, former director general of the Directorate of Technical Education and Chairman of BIT Council died of a heart failure yesterday after Fazr prayers at his residence in Uttara Model Town, says a press release.

Prof Haque also works as the Director of Research of the Dhaka Ahsan Mission for some years.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives, friends and colleagues to mourn his death.

108 UP complexes built at a cost of Tk 28cr

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday said that the present government has so far constructed 108 new model union parishad complexes at a cost of Taka 28 crore for the betterment of socio-economic condition of the rural people, reports BSS.

"Four hundred and forty-six more such complexes will be built by the year 2001 at an estimated cost of Taka 50 crore," he said.

He was inaugurating the newly-constructed Gazaria Union Parishad model complex under the district.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) constructed the Gazaria Union Complex at a cost of Taka 30 lakh.

Chief Engineer of LGED

Chairman Hussain Chowdhury attended the inaugural function as the special guest.

Rains have rendered the already damaged roads of Postgola in Old Dhaka almost unusable

— Star photo

News



U Aung Win, Myanmar Foreign Minister, called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

No signs of JFK

From Page 1
shore on Saturday, making it seem improbable that the 38-year-old Kennedy, his wife, Carolyn Bessette, 33, and her sister, Lauren Bessette, 35, could be found alive.

But US Coast Guard Rear Admiral Richard Larabee, who was directing the search, said late on Saturday, "We are not ready to give up this yet and we are going to continue to focus on search and rescue."

The plane crash stunned Americans and revived heart-rending memories of a fabled family cursed by early tragic deaths, including the assassinations of John Jr's father, President John F Kennedy, and his uncle, Sen Robert Kennedy.

The New York Air National Guard, which had planned to search through the night using an infrared-equipped helicopter, abandoned its search in the early hours due to excessive haze.

Many Americans feared the worst when the news of the plane's disappearance broke on Saturday morning. And as with the assassination of John Jr's father, they dropped everything on a balmy summer day to stay glued to their TV sets for news. TV networks dumped their regular shows to offer wall-to-wall coverage.

The Kennedy family is considered by many to be the US version of royalty and John F Kennedy Jr, its crown prince.

Tall, handsome, charming and courteous, the young Kennedy avoided scandal that struck other members of his family. People magazine once labeled him "the sexiest man alive."

His wife, Carolyn, is famed

Rajshahi dam

From Page 1
The groins were built at Shrirampur and Ahmednagar in the city inside the river in 1970s to protect the embankment. Barring some emergency work at times, there was no major repair work in the main embankment.

WDB officials said they had submitted a Tk 56 crore project for "complete renovation" of the groins and the embankment after a joint study by a team of Bangladeshi and Australian experts in December last year.

The government approved Tk 43 crore for the project. The World Bank agreed to give Tk 24 crore over three years if the government arranged the rest Tk 19 crore. The WB informed the WDB in mid-February that it would not be able to release the first installment of the assistance before July. The government allocated Tk 10 crore in late March.

But floating of tenders was delayed due to alleged terrorism by some local ruling party activists for getting the contracts.

"We started work when the rainy season began," said a WDB official.

"Talking to this correspondent today, the Chief Engineer of WDB, Rajshahi, acknowledged that rains, erosion and rapid rise in the water level in Padma hampered repair work at the beginning. But the weather is favourable now and the work is going on in full swing," he said. About 40 per cent of the work has been completed, he claimed.

Tk 12 crore will be spent for renovation of the groins and the rest Tk nine crore for repairing the most vulnerable points of the embankment, sources in the WDB said. Another Tk one crore is being spent to check erosion by dumping sand bags, brick-cages, big stones and cement blocks.

When contacted, city Mayor Mianur Rahman Minu alleged that the repair work was delayed due to government's negligence.

Non-BJP camp

From page 12
ter groups of Janata Dal which suffered a number of splits in the past few years. Samata Party and Lok Shakti are at present constituents of the BJP-PDS alliance.

The process of polarisation in non-BJP camp was also noticed in the another southern state of Tamilnadu following a tie-up between Congress and AIADMK-led by Jayalalitha, reviving the friendship between the two parties after three years.

Ironically, it was the decision to align with Jayalalitha that had forced a split in Congress in Tamilnadu in 1996 which saw the birth of splinter Congress group Tamil Maanilai Congress (TMC).

The TMC had tried to woo the Congress for a tie-up in Tamilnadu without AIADMK. But spurned by the Congress, TMC yesterday decided to put up a third front with small regional outfits, a development observers say will ensure further division of votes in the non-BJP camp in Tamilnadu where the main players are DMK-BJP front on one hand and AIADMK-Congress combine on the other.

Vice President of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Nurul Haq Sikder welcomed the move saying the devaluation process should be continued till what he said "a realistic exchange rate is established." Speaking for the booming ready-made garments sector that last year netted over three billion dollars in import earnings, he said, "Devaluation of the taka was necessary for the survival of Bangladeshi exporters competing with the neighbouring countries in many neighbouring countries."

The present devaluation was hardly considered a surprise by economic observers as they were expecting it for sometime. This was particularly so in the context of the most recent depreciation of the currencies in many neighbouring countries.

Omar Haider Chowdhury, a Research Director of BIDS, said normally devaluation would mean that exports would become competitive and remittances would increase but unless government improved the efficiency of its delivery system, the idea of devaluation would be defeated. Efforts to net in remittances through official channels have to be stepped up, he said.

The present devaluation was hardly considered a surprise by economic observers as they were expecting it for sometime. This was particularly so in the context of the most recent depreciation of the currencies in many neighbouring countries.

Chowdhury however felt that there was nothing wrong with devaluation if it was aligned with the competing markets.

Another BIDS researcher, Dr Hussain Zillur Rahman, felt the recent devaluation alone may raise the inflation rate by one to two percentage points.

However, the devaluation move is likely to be greeted by exporters in the jute, frozen foods and leather sectors which are trying to enhance their foreign exchange earnings, as most sectors have generally suffered a decline in export volume recently. Only readymade garments have been able to in-

Faezul condoles AL leader's death

State Minister for Jute A K Faezul Huq on Saturday visited the residence of Swarupkathi thana Awami League leader Late Tarun Dev in Pirojpur district and expressed his sympathy for the members of the deceased family, reports BSS.

Earlier, at a condolence meeting, he recalled the political career of valiant freedom fighter Tarun Dev and described him as a dedicated and sincere political leader, an official press release said.

for her beauty and fashion sense — her high school class voted her "The Ultimate Beautiful Person" — and her sister is a successful investment banker.

The trio took off on Friday night from New Jersey for a two hour trip that was to take Lauren Bessette to a holiday on Martha's Vineyard and the Kennedys to the wedding of Robert Kennedy Jr's daughter Rory. The wedding was

A US Coast Guard official conceded Sunday that it was unlikely anyone could survive the cold temperatures in the water where Kennedy Jr's aircraft is believed to have crashed.

cancelled and instead 50 members of the Kennedy family held a mass at their Hynniscott compound in Cape Cod to pray for their safe return.

John Jr was a relative novice pilot having received his license only in April 1998. Flying became his passion, along with "George," the political magazine he founded and edits. But his mother, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, had for years opposed the idea of his taking up flying and he delayed doing so until after she died in 1994.

Kennedy took off from the Essex County Airport in Fairfield, New Jersey, at 8:38 pm on Friday night (0038 GMT on Saturday) and had been expected in Martha's Vineyard at about 10 pm (0200 GMT on Saturday), the Coast Guard said.

The Kennedy family alerted authorities at 2 am EDT Saturday (0600 GMT) that the plane had not arrived, officials said.

John F Kennedy Jr will always be remembered by Americans as a solemn three-year-old in a blue coat and short pants saluting the flag-draped coffin of his slain father. That photograph was shown repeatedly on Saturday as networks strove to report the story without raising false hope.

After many romances, Kennedy married Carolyn Bessette, a publicist for designer Calvin Klein, in September 1996.

New Yorkers left bouquets of flowers outside the Manhattan apartment where Kennedy and his wife live. At Yankee Stadium, a moment of silent prayer was observed at the game between the Yankees and the Atlanta Braves.

Kennedy's only sibling, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, was reportedly travelling to Massachusetts from a white water rafting trip in Idaho.

President Bill Clinton called members of the family, including Sen Ted Kennedy. "All our prayers and thoughts are with the family of those on board," a White House statement said.

Tree plantation programme held in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, July 18: A day-long tree plantation programme and distribution of seedlings among the students was held at New Town Government Primary School recently, reports BSS.

Organised by the Reporters Club, Kishoreganj, the function was attended by the Police Superintendent Benizir Ahmed as the chief guest.

President of Reporters Club M A Latif presided over the function.

The function was attended, among others, by general secretary Muhammad Nasim Bachchu, Advocate Abdul Aziz, journalists and the elite of the district.

5000 lay siege to Palash Pourasava

NARSINGDI, July 18: Nearly 5,000 people of Ghoras area in Palash thana laid a siege to the Palash Pourashava (municipality) for six hours today demanding change of its name, reports BSS.

The siege was to press for changing the name of Palash Pourasava to Ghorasava.

Earlier, the demonstrators in a procession paraded different roads of the Ghorasava area in Palash industrial area and halted movement of traffic there for two hours from 1 pm.

Three months back, the government declared Palash Union Parishad, 8 kilometres from the district town, as municipality and named it Palash Pourashava.

Petrobangla

From Page 1
South Sangu exploration well drilling was very competitive and rational.

The Daily Star last week reported that Petrobangla oddly approved this budget in February this year though Cairn late last year came up with a budget of 6.47 million dollars and then with another