

History speaks at Jessore Collectorate

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, Sept 19: Jessore is the first district town in undivided Bengal.

It dates back to the nineties of 18th century and presents many a rare accounts of that period.

The process to organise the district and turn it into nerve-centre of administration, governed by the concept to invest plenary power to District Magistrate to act as pivot of administration began from here.

The first collectorate building in undivided Bengal nay British India was constructed at Jessore in 1801.

The local District Registration office, has been housed in this original collectorate building.

The construction of the one storied collectorate building at the present site was completed at a cost of Taka 2,63,679 only in 1885.

A long magnificent building in pink colour with latest artistic design with 360 doors made it superb and attracted visitors from different corners of Bengal, the neighbouring provinces to have a glimpse of its glamorous beauty. Indeed, during pre-partitioned days, Jessore collectorate building was a sight to be seen.

After expiry of 100 years, the construction to convert it into two-storied building was taken

up in 1981 and the work was completed by 1982. The then deputy commissioner of Jessore, Fazlur Rahman laid its foundation stone building.

It appears from the record that the office work of the first district officer started from June 7, 1781.

Records show that the first Judge and Magistrate here Tillman Harkel, established his office at Murali, near the district town. He was transferred in 1789. Richard Rock his assistant took over the charge as Second District Magistrate and District Judge.

Richard went on transfer in 1793. Before that he got the office shifted to a new sight near the Sahebganj area where the existing District Registration office stands.

That building was demolished in course of time. With the demolition of the building the name of Sahebganj, which still exists, was just beside Sahebganj.

A look at retrospect shows that all the office work of the District Magistrate was conducted from this building for long 85 years. Then the construction of the new story collectorate building was a sight to be seen.

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A total of 116 district magistrates served here right from the

inception till to date being Tillman Harkel the founder District Magistrate and Aminur Rosul the existing Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate.

Those who succeeded Tillman Harkel are Richard Rock, Arthur Heslergees, Samuel Hestobi, Cunningham Thomas Par, James Whinlly, F Belfore, W Parker, R Dick, W Armstrong, R Thackery, AL Ulok, HG Travers, E Parker, E Burnt, Thomas Pory, James Westland, among others.

Interestingly, Jessore Collectorate carefully preserves rare records and historical documents of British India including that of Indigo Revolt, Sepoy Mutiny and many others.

Researchers and anybody interested to know previous history may consult the record room of this collectorate building.

Tillman Harkel, who served here as the trusted man of the Governor-General Warren Hastings, initiated the step to modernise the public administration department to suit the changing outlook of the natives, fully accommodating them with the dynamic change in British rule in Bengal. All the fruits of his endeavour was applied elsewhere in later days.



A partial view of the historic two-story Jessore Collectorate building which is our national heritage

—Star photo

Kushtia flood improves

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 19: With the fall of water level in both the Padma and the Garai rivers flood situation in the district has improved.

The Padma and the Garai recorded ten centimetres and nine centimetres fall respectively on Sunday. During the day, the Padma was flowing 22 centimetres below the danger mark while the Garai 66 centimetre below the red mark.

People who took shelter on high land have started returning home. However, about one lakh people affected by flood have been passing hard days for want of food, drinking water and medicines. Meanwhile, prices of rice and essentials have shot up sharply during last five days in the district.

Rice is being sold at Taka 15 to Taka 16 per kg, which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the flood victims who have lost almost all their belongings.

Farmers are selling their cattle at throwaway prices mainly due to fodder crisis, which very com-



Noted freedom fighter Major General (Retd) M S A Bhuyian addressing a meeting organised by the Ziarkandi unit of General Bhuyian Supporters' Forum at Gopalpur Primary School ground under Daudkandi upazila in Comilla district on Saturday. He told there that the days are gone for seeking votes by false promises. People of Bangladesh have faith in honest, committed and active politicians. People must desert them who grabbed power by false promises previously. The meeting was presided over by Nazimuddin Akhund which was addressed, among others, by the central leader of Bhasani (NAP) freedom fighter Abdul Matin Master, Showkat Ali, Khorsed Alam, Shafiqul Islam Chairman, Alamgir Hossain, Azam Khan and Emdad Hossain.

Doctors don't like Bandarban

49 out of 72 posts vacant

BANDARBAN, Sept 19: Forty-nine out of 72 posts of doctors have been lying vacant in government hospitals and health complexes in the district for long as a result of which hundred of ailing people are deprived of medical treatment, reports UNB.

Doctor-peopple ratio in the district has come down to 1:10,000, estimated the Civil Surgeon's office.

Posts of five specialists were

created for the hospital. With posting order, they were given stand release on June 29, but none of them have come here to join.

Only one family planning doctor is now available out of seven in each of the upazilas in the district. The government plan for population control is seriously affected in the absence of doctors.

Officials in Civil Surgeon office said despite repeated reminders

Health Ministry could not implement its posting orders. Doctors unwilling to stay in the hill district got cancelled their transfer order by exerting undue influence.

Some doctors said in a circular issued from the Prime Minister's office in 1992 service period in the hill district was fixed 3 years and in special case one year. But this policy is no longer adhered to. That is why they are now unwilling to be posted here.

Health office sources said two experienced doctors have left resigning from government service as their transfer order was not implemented after three years as stipulated.

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Whereas, you are avoiding to receive summon in spite of issuing summon to you through court & registered post, and as such the trial is delayed.

Therefore, you are intimated by this notice that you should submit objection, if you have any, against the above claim of the decreeholder, by attending the court on 14.10.2000 at 10 AM. Otherwise hearing of the case will be accepted unilaterally.

Yours faithfully

Sheikh Mosharrif Hossain

Serestadar

Narayanganj Sub Judge's 1st Court

Narayanganj

Address:

Mirpur, Dhaka

WASA-PI-289, 2000

DFP-22206-13/9

G-1632

BJMC: 536 dt 10-9-2000

Resident Engineer (Executive)

Bhola Electric Supply, PDB

Bhola

G-1631

NOTICE

Learned Sub-Judge's 1st Court, Narayanganj
Money Decree Suit No 10/95
Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd, PO-Adamjeeenagar,
PS- Siddirganj, Dist-Narayanganj

----- Decreeholder

-----versus-----

Abdul Gafur, S/o Abdul Aziz, Vill-Moisar, PO-Talsavar, Dist-B'baria

----- Indebtor

Claimed Decreed amount Tk 3,45,764.08

Interest Tk 9,422.00

Total: Tk 3,55,186.08

Whereas the decreeholder Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd has filed this case against the debtor for its due amount Tk 3,55,186.08 including interest accrued over the time during proceedings of this case.

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