

## Govt to set up another EPZ in Ctg

BSS, Chittagong

The government has taken an initiative to set up another Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in the port city of Chittagong soon.

The new EPZ is likely to be set up on some 57.5 acres of land that belongs to Halishahar Central Storage Depot (CSD) -- the largest CSD in the country, under the Department of Food, Chittagong region, sources said.

Department of Food took the decision to sell out the silo along with all its 94 installations spreading over 57.5 acres of land at the city fringe area of Halishahar because of its poor utility. The silo, built in 1965 with a total storage capacity of 84 thousand metric tons of foodgrains, remained closed since 2002, they said.

The Ministry of Food has formed a four-member committee headed by Amzad Hossain, joint-secretary. The committee conducted a survey that sug-

gested selling out the silo at an estimated cost of Tk 330 crore. Following the decision, the process is underway to sell out the silo land and installations to Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority, said Rafiqul Islam Majumdar, Chittagong Regional Controller of Food, who is also one of the members of the survey committee.

Majumdar said the silos and depots were indispensable when the country had to import and store remarkable quantity of foodgrains for different food work programmes and for meeting the shortfall in local production. But at present the scenario is quite different with the country procuring all its rice locally and importing only some 2 lakh mts of wheat to be stored in these silos and depots.

He further said that the absence of the Halishahar CSD would not hamper storage of foodgrains as the department had around two hundred silos

and Local Supply Depots (LSDs) including one lakh metric tons capacity Chittagong Silo and 54 metric tons capacity Dewanhat CSD under its Chittagong-Sylhet region. Brigadier General (Retd) M Zahid Hossain, Chairman of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones (BEPZA) also confirmed that the process of handing over Halishahar Silo to BEPZA was underway. While talking to BSS the BEPZA chairman said that a decision was made in principle for setting up the third EPZ in Chittagong on the Halishahar CSD land.

He said that on receipt of an evaluation report on the CSD from the department of food, BEPZA itself conducted a survey making assessment of the property. BEPZA executive body prepared a proposal and sent it to the Prime Minister's Office.

Brigadier Zahid expressed the hope that a final decision on setting up of the proposed EPZ and approval to handing over the

Halishahar CSD property might be made in the next meeting of BEPZA Board of Governors with the Prime Minister in the chair.

A lot of investors are keen to set up industrial units here if building structures are available. Keeping this in mind BEPZA plans to renovate the existing installations of the CSD to make them usable, the chairman said.

However, only 35 of these installations out of 94 might be usable while the rest 59 have to be demolished for developing industrial plots on them, he observed.

The BEPZA chairman said that 100 industrial plots were being developed on CEPZ adjoining 74 acres of land handed over to BEPZA from closed Chittagong Steel Mill (CSM) Limited involving Tk 37.47 crore. It aimed at setting up a new EPZ considering the huge demand of EPZ in Chittagong having easy access to both the sea-port and air-port facilities.

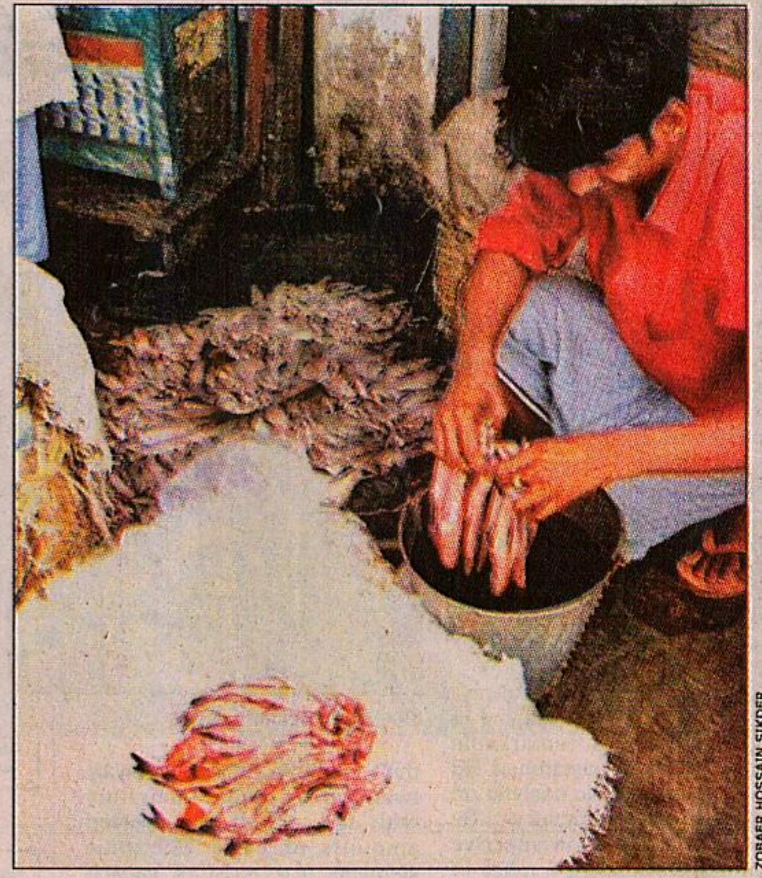
After having the CSM land

handing over in presence of the Prime Minister on February 22 this year, development of industrial plots on the land already marked a significant progress while a Project Concept Paper (PCP) for a new EPZ-proposed as Karnaphuli EPZ, was prepared and passed in the pre ECNEC meeting, said the BEPZA chairman.

With the passage of the PCP in the next ECNEC meeting plot allotment would start officially under a new and independent authority of Karnaphuli EPZ, he added.

Brigadier Zakir further said that the process was also underway to extend the area of the proposed Karnaphuli EPZ on the rest of the total 222 acres of CSM land to be handed over to BEPZA in phases. The installations -- mostly the residential buildings of closed CSM, would be renovated for renting them out to interested entrepreneurs for setting up industrial units, he said.

To make fish look fresh, a section of unscrupulous fish traders put red colour on them before sending them to different markets. Although the toxic chemical used to colour fish poses health hazards, such practice has continued unabated. This picture was taken from a private fish-landing centre at Fisheryghat Bazar.



ZOBIER HOSSAIN/STAFF

## ROAD IN A SHAMBLES



Most of the city streets developed potholes with the onset of rainy seasons, causing untold sufferings to the passers-by as well as passengers. Two female students, on way to school, cross a great hurdle of water-filled and muddy road linking Bahodderhat-Shah Amanat Bridge.

## Irregularities in CU appointments

Jamaat, Shibir and JCD are beneficiaries

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN/RIAD

Irregularities has been dominating the appointments of teachers and employees as well as their promotions at Chittagong University (CU) since the ruling BNP-backed administration took over the office in 2002, sources said. Moreover, the role of Vice-Chancellor Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury in this regard triggered resentment among the teachers, students and activists of BNP student front Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

Jamaat-backed teachers and employees have established their supremacy over all appointments and promotions.

The latest appointment of a 'controversial' teacher as head of finance department raised question about the neutrality of VC. Soon after the appoint-

ment, JCD at a rally termed the VC 'agent' of Jamaat and held a series of programmes demanding cancellation of the appointment.

Prof Nuruddin appointed pro-Jamaat teacher Professor Dr. Zahirul Haq as head of Finance Department on July 17. But, it was Dr. ANM Abdul Moktadir's turn to become the chairman on the basis of seniority.

Dr. Zahirul Haq, the then Finance Department chairman, was sacked from the university in 1995 for his alleged link to a question paper leakage incident. He got back his job on special consideration when Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was the chancellor of the university.

Dr Moktadir lodged a complaint with the Pro-Vice Chancellor seeking fair judgment.

General Students' Council against Corruption and Irregularities (GSCCI), a forum of general students, and Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) also demanded cancellation of Dr Zahirul Haq's appointment.

Dr Moktadir said, the VC deprived me of my lawful right. "I just want justice in this regard," he added.

However, VC Nuruddin told The Daily Star that the appointment was made after a legal decision came from the office of Attorney General of Bangladesh. He was appointed chairman of the department only to complete his tenure that he could not perform following an order to terminate him, the VC said.

Meanwhile, the Department of Geography has finalised the promotion of pro-Jamaat

teacher Dr Md Abu Tayeb Chowdhury on a suggestion of the syndicate in violation of the rules. The university act says an associate professor will have to discharge his/her duty at least five years to be a professor. But Dr Tayeb discharged his duty as an assistant professor for only two years, including one year on ad-hoc basis. But, the syndicate meeting on June 27 suggested Dr Tayeb's promotion. The next syndicate meeting is likely to approve his promotion, sources said.

Around 95 teachers and 90 class three and class four employees have so far been appointed in the university since 2002. Almost all of the appointees have political affiliation. Of 95 teachers, over 60 were appointed, defying the planning committee recommendation. Besides, 70 of them reportedly belong to Pro-

Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir and the rest to JCD. Besides, 90 of the employees were appointed on political considerations or locals as well as relations of the VC, sources said.

Over 25 of the appointees have close link with the ruling BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami. They are still directly or indirectly involved with the politics of ruling coalition government, it added.

Around 30 other appointees hail from village Madarsha under Hathazari upazila of VC Nuruddin. The VC has misused his power to recruit the persons having blood or family relationship with him, sources alleged.

CUTA General Secretary Professor Dr. Gazi Saleh Uddin demanded an end to all illegal and political appointments.

## the week that was

### Mayor threatens greater agitation

Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury at a view exchange meeting on Sunday criticised the government for not allocating in national budget for the developments of Chittagong.

"Unless the government stops its negligent attitude towards the port city we will go for greater agitation," he told the meeting of representatives from Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), BGMEA, trade bodies, decorators and community centres.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) central leader Fahim Uddin chaired the meeting at JM Sen Hall.

BGMEA director Helaluddin Chowdhury, Istiaque Rahman, CCI leader Shamsul Haq Chowdhury, Syed Sagor Ahmad, Bangladesh Shop Owners Association, Chittagong President SM Mahbulul Islam Tuku, Jewellers Association President Haje Shafique Ahmad, Chittagong Shop and Decoration Owners Association President Mohammad Shahabuddin, Chittagong Hardware Merchant Welfare Association President Kamal Hasan, political leaders Moslemuddin Ahmad, Abul Kalam Sowdagar, ABM Abul Kashem, MA Salam, Indu Nandan Dutta, Jabul Hossain, Haider Ali Chowdhury and Saifuddin Khan also spoke.

### Shahabuddin gets CPC life membership

Chittagong Press Club (CPC) at a function on Sunday gave honorary life membership to businessman

Mohammad Shahabuddin.

Club President Abu Sufian presided. CPC General Secretary Kalim Sarwar and Mohammad Shahabuddin spoke.

Shahabuddin said that he would stand beside the press club members and extend his cooperation.

### Field-level training for medical students

A two-week long field-level residential training for the fourth year (batch 43) MBBS students of Chittagong Medical College began at Mirsarai upazila on Monday.

Fourteen students were taking part in first batch in the training course being held under the technical assistance of World Health Organisation (WHO).

Dr Swapan Kumar Chowdhury and Dr Fatema Akhtar were leading the team.

The inaugural function was held at the college conference hall on Monday with principal Chowdhury Badruddin Mahmud in the chair. Director (Health) of Chittagong Division Dr Nurul Alam and deputy civil surgeon and general secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Chittagong Dr Khurshid Jamil Chowdhury were present as guests of honour.

Professor Prabhat Chandra Barua highlighted briefly the objective and importance of such courses. The speakers stressed the need for practical knowledge alongside theoretical lessons for medical students to become good physicians

in future.

### New Cuet VC takes over

Newly appointed Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) Professor Dr Mir Shahidul Islam took over the charge on Sunday.

Dr Islam, formerly a teacher of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, is the first VC of Cuet appointed by the government on July 19.

Cuet Teachers Association President Mohammad Abdul Wazed and General Secretary Mir Muhammad Saki Kausar received the new VC at the Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport on Sunday.

Association members M Rafiqul Islam, Dr Mozammel Haq, Ashraf Uz Zaman, Jamal Uddin, SM Shahidul Islam, Shamsul Arefin and Quamrul Islam were also present.

### BSD collects relief for flood victims

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) Chittagong unit started collection of relief for the flood victims on Sunday.

BSD leaders and activists started it formally at city's New Market area. They also collected relief at Jubilee Road, Batali Road, Reazuddin Bazar and Station Road areas. People from all strata, commuters and pedestrians responded positively to the noble cause and donated spontaneously for the flood victims.

Party leaders Razekuzzaman



Two models wearing summer attires shshay down the catwalk during a fashion show organised on the occasion of 12th anniversary of Model Star, advertising firm at the Engineers' Institute auditorium on Thursday.

Ratan, Kazi Shahjahan and Manosh Nandi addressed the street rallies at different points to motivate the people to make donations.

BSD also opened a contact centre at its Dost Building office in this purpose.

### Thai hospital keen to set up hospital in Ctg

Top officials of Bangkok-based Piyavate Hospital showed keen interest to help and cooperate Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) in setting up hospital and housing projects in the port city.

The gesture came at a view exchange meeting with the Thai hospital officials on the possibility of investment in city's health and housing sectors at CCC auditorium on Sunday.

Chairman of Piyavate Hospital Dr Boon Bhanasin said that Chittagong is an ideal place with its unique geographical locations for foreign investment. He also commended the role and contribution of CCC in health and other sectors.

Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury thanked the Thai team for their interest and said the CCC would do everything to cater the need of the foreign investments. "We would give all necessary manpower and land in this regard," he said.

Piyavate Hospital vice chairman Arpathcharan Bunnag, specialist physician Dr Tanatip Chuppervit, local representative Dr Ragib Manzur, businessman Shah Alam Babul, CCC health advisor Dr Noorjahan Bhuiyan, chief executive

officer M Abul Bashar and chief health officer Dr Sarfaraj Khan Chowdhury attended the meeting.

### Distortion of history protested

Leaders of Omar Gani Muslim Education Society (MES) College unit BCL and Students Council at a rally protested 'distortion' of history and attempt to belittle father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The rally was held on the college campus on Thursday with college BCL President Abul Hossain Abu in the chair. Vice president of Students Council Wasim Uddin, General Secretary Arshedul Alam Bachchu, BCL general secretary Sanjoy Bhounik Konkan, BCL leaders Habibur Rahman Tarek, Osman Gani Alamgir and Nurul Islam Santoo addressed the rally.

Later, a procession was brought out in the campus.

### Tribute to FF Taher Mollah

Speakers at a discussion meeting paid rich tribute to freedom fighter Shah Sufi Abu Taher Mollah, also a former government servant and devotee of Sufism, on Wednesday.

Jilani Complex Bangladesh, an Islamic social organisation, arranged the meeting at its North Patenga office. Jilani Complex Chairman Principal ANM Delwar Hossain Al-Quaderi presided. Maulana Syed Moinuddin Ahmad Al-Hasani Wal Hossaini, secretary of

### Emergence of fake Rakhaine organisations alleged

Leaders of Rakhaine Buddhist Welfare Association, a Cox's Bazar-based non-political welfare organisation, alleged emergence of some fake organisations and their immoral economic activities for gaining vested interests.

The allegation came at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club on Friday.

The leaders called upon the government for a ban on all activities of the fake organisations known as Rakhaine Development Foundation (RDF), Rakhaine Women Union (RWU) and Society for Peace and Development (SPD).

"Besides, the organisations were launching anti-state and defamatory campaigns against Bangladesh while carrying out their evil activities," they said. "We cancelled the primary memberships of RDF Chairman Usit Mong and his brother-in-law Kau Thin Aung, also the RDF director (Finance) and Chairman of SPD, from the association on May 14." General secretary of the association Mang Hauia Ching read out the written statement. Association president Ung Mong Kau Maan, advisor Uh Mong Then Hen, Uh Mong Chen Hauia, Uh U Ba Chong, Uh Chha Jen, engineer Uh Bow Mong and Uh U Thung Yeai were present.