

Shipping ministry profits Tk 275cr last fiscal

Akbar tells press confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The shipping ministry earned a net profit of over Tk 275 crore in last fiscal year. This represents an increase of Tk 65 crore over the earning of FY 2002-03.

This was stated by Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain at a press conference in the secretariat yesterday.

Of the total profit, Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) earned Tk 239.20 crore while Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) earned Tk 25 crore, he added.

The minister said improved management, decrease of idle time of the ships and maintenance of labour discipline have played a significant role in making the profit.

He said construction of a truck-terminal with the parking capacity of 300 trucks at Chittagong Port has reduced the traffic congestion and goods handling time to a great extent.

The handling capacity of the port

will increase significantly when the Newmooring Container Terminal will be completed at the end of 2006, he added.

The minister said earning from the land ports has also registered significant rise in last fiscal year.

Sonamasjid land port customs earned Tk 131 crore while Teknaf earned Tk 55 crore, he said.

"The earning of the ministry will increase manifold if we can construct the proposed inland container terminals at Pangaon, Khanpur and Gazipur, and amend various acts related to shipping and waterways," Akbar said.

He said his ministry has already reduced tariff and waived various charges at Mongla Port to help increase the volume of export and import through the port for western part of the country and Nepal.

The minister said Bangladesh Shipping Corporation plans to buy two containers from its own resources.

Besides, BIWTA has taken a project to modernise the ships, set up ship model testing laboratory and weather units at important waterway points at a cost of Tk 45 crore to stop river accidents, he added.

Rab nabs criminal at Fatikchhari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), arrested an alleged criminal with some arms-manufacturing materials at Nazirhat under Fatikchhari upazila on Saturday night.

The arrested was identified as Belal Uddin, 28, son of Mahbul Alam, of village Mandakini under Hathazari upazila.

Rab raided Esham Engineering Workshop at Nazirhat at around 11.35pm and arrested Belal from the spot.

Nine pipes to be used as gun-barrel, 45 dices and one 'sophisticated' spring were recovered from his possession, a Rab press release said yesterday.



US Ambassador in Dhaka Harry K Thomas called on Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman at secretariat yesterday.

Cuet closed, students asked to vacate halls

50 rooms of JCD activists ransacked

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) has been closed down till October 10 following ransacking of three residential halls on Saturday night.

After a meeting yesterday, CUET authorities announced the closure of the university and asked the resident students to vacate the halls by sunset.

However, the resident students refused to leave the halls and took out procession on the campus protesting the order, sources said.

They also demanded punishment to the JCD leaders who beat up three general students on Thursday.

When contacted, Cuet vice-chancellor did not receive the phone call.

Rafiqul Haq, assistant superintendent of police, told this correspondent that the students have started leaving their halls.

He also informed that additional police have been deployed on the campus to avert any untoward incident.

Earlier, angry students ransacked around 50 rooms protesting

the attack on three students by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres for not participating in a procession.

A few hundred general students stormed into the rooms of JCD cadres and ransacked them.

MURDER OF RAHELA Arrest of culprits demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) Saturday demanded immediate arrest of those responsible for rape and murder of Rahela, a garment worker.

The 19-year-old rape victim died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) on Friday after fighting for her life for 33 days. She was left with her throat slit on the leafy Jahangirnagar University campus on August 22.

Condemning the brutal torture of Rahela, the association also criticised the government for its failure to bring the culprits to book even after 33 days of the incident.

World Tourism Day today

BSS, Dhaka

"The World Tourism Day" will be observed today in the country as elsewhere across the globe.

The theme of the day this year is "Sport and Tourism: Living Forces for Mutual Understanding, Culture and Development of Society."

President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin gave separate messages on the eve of the day.

President in his message said the tourism industry plays an important role in protecting the social and cultural heritage in the world, and building brotherhood and solidarity among the countries.

The prime minister in her message said there is a great prospects for flourishing the tourism industry in the country due to its natural beauty, architectural resources, bio-diversity, and rich and glorious history and heritage of the nation.

To observe the day, the government has chalked out several programmes.

The national dailies will bring out special supplements while radio and television will air special programmes highlighting the significance of the day.

The Bangladesh Tourism Corporation in cooperation with the Youth Tourism Limited will hold a roundtable discussion on hindrance to the way of tourism development in the country and its solution on October 2 at 3 pm at Hotel Abakash.

Govt to purchase cars for Saarc Summit

BSS, Dhaka

The government will procure new cars for use during the upcoming summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) scheduled to be held in January next year.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, at the secretariat here yesterday. Earlier, a discussion on a proposal prepared by the Establishment Ministry was held before taking the decision in this regard, officials said.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman presided over the meeting. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, Textile and Jute Minister Shajahan Siraj and Commerce Minister Air-Vice Marshal (Retd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury attended the meeting.

Chairman of the Privatisation Commission Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Cabinet Secretary Dr Sada't Hussain and concerned secretaries were also present at the meeting.

The committee also approved two proposals placed by the Ministry of Industries and the Privatisation

Commission for privatising three state-owned enterprises (SOES) including the Amin Agency.

BANSHKHALI CARNAGE Another accused arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police on Saturday night arrested another accused in the sensational Banshkhali carnage that left eleven people of a family burnt alive on November 18 night last year.

The arrestee was identified as Shahjahan alias Dulu Mia, son of Madan Mia of Kadam Rasul under Banshkhali upazila in the district.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided a house at Eidgah area at 11.00am and arrested Shahjahan.

The arrestee was taken to Banshkhali police station and produced before the court with a remand prayer yesterday.

With this seven, out of 12 accused, in the case were arrested so far.