

Seven acres of forestland recovered in Gazipur

60 families evicted

A CORRESPONDENT, *Gazipur*

Monipur forest department in Gazipur recovered seven acres of land and evicted 60 families from the forestland, who were illegally living here building tin-shed houses for more than nine years.

In the drive in demarcation no. 424 and 428 led by magistrate Kazi Abed Hossain, the forest department also demolished two rooms of Sultana Yearn Dyeing Industries.

The evicted people claimed that they bought position of the land bribing thousands of Taka to the forest officials.

Kalpana, one of the evicted people, said she had built her

home here bribing Tk 18,000 to one of the forest officials of Monipur bit.

Shamsu who had built four houses for his four sons said he bribed Tk 80000 for these.

The other evicted families claimed the same.

They told the reporters that they had to pay Tk 2,000 for building each kitchen, Tk 5,000 for tube well and Tk 1500 for toilet to the forest officials.

However, the forest officials denied the allegation.

When contacted, forest officer Faqrul Alam Khan said he joined the office only five months ago and cannot make any comment on this at this moment.



PHOTO: PID
Army Chief Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed and Air Force Chief Air Vice-Marshal Fakhru Azam decorate Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam with the Aiguillette of Navy Chief at the Armed Forces Division office yesterday in presence of President Iajuddin Ahmed.

Noodles factory fined in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday fined a noodles factory in the city for manufacturing noodles in an unhygienic environment.

The court found that the Royal Food Products at Purba Kazipara was manufacturing noodles in a rickshaw garage just beside a toilet.

Although the name of Wang Fu was written on the label of the packet indicating that the noodles are manufactured in an automatic machine and packed in China, the court did not find any such machine in the factory.

The manufacturer was also cheat-

ing the customers claiming their product as 'egg noodles' without using a single egg, sources said.

Mohammad Shahabdin, owner of the factory, failed to show any license or approval of BSTI.

The court led by Magistrate Rokon-ud Doula fined four people including the owner Tk 1 lakh each or one-year imprisonment.

The three others who were fined are ABM Manjur, Mukhesur Rahman and Delwar Hoassin.

The court also issued a warrant against one Hasina Begum in this connection.

Later the court fined Sheikh Sadi,

owner of One Plastic Arts at Joynag Road in Lalbagh, Tk 30 thousand or six months imprisonment for manufacturing plastic accessories without any approval.

The factory had the license only to manufacture plastic hangers but the court found them manufacturing plastic mug, jar and other kitchen accessories.

The court also fined the same factory Tk 10 thousand for polluting environment.

In another drive, the court fined the owner of Ismaat Ara Warehouse in the same area Tk 10 thousand for not having any trade license.

Sarwar Jahan decorated with Aiguillette of Navy Chief

UNB, *Dhaka*

Army Chief Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed and Air Force Chief Air Vice-Marshal Fakhru Azam yesterday jointly decorated Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam with the Aiguillette of Navy Chief a day after he took over charge.

The chiefs of the two other forces decorated the new chief of the naval force at the Armed Forces Division office in presence of President Iajuddin Ahmed.

Also present among others were Defence Secretary Quamrul Hasan, Principal Staff Officer (PSO) of the Armed Forces Division Maj Gen M Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, DG of DGFI Maj Gen Sadiq Hasan Rumi,

Later, the Navy Chief made a courtesy call on the President.

President wished him "overall welfare and advances".

He also called upon the Bangladesh naval force to "contribute more for the welfare of the country and people."

Saarc food security meet on March 1-2

BSS, *Dhaka*

A two-day Saarc food security meeting will begin in the Indian capital of New Delhi on March 1, official sources said here yesterday.

A group of inter-governmental experts are expected to finalise a draft agreement on the basis of agreed concept paper before the 14th Saarc Summit scheduled to be held in early April in New Delhi.

Once the text of the agreement is finalised, it is expected to be endorsed by the leaders at the 14th SAARC Summit in New Delhi.

The sources said an agreement was signed to establish a Saarc food security reserve at the 3rd Saarc Summit in Kathmandu, 1987, aiming at making reserve of food grains including wheat and rice to meet emergencies of member states of the regional grouping.

The 12th Saarc Summit in Islamabad (January, 2004) and the 13th Saarc Summit emphasised that a Regional Food Bank should be set up, addressing all practical difficulties.

Road crash kills child

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

One child was killed and another injured in a road accident on Patuakhali-Baufal road in Patuakhali yesterday.

The dead was identified as Rubel, 8, son of Shahjahan Hawlader of Boga Bazar area under Baufal upazila. He was taken to Baufal Upazila Health

Complex where on-duty doctor declared him dead at 1:30pm.

The incident occurred at about 10:30am when a Patuakhali-bound motorcycle from Kaliya Bazar hit the boy when he was crossing the road at Boga Bazar area.

Abul Kashem, 35, owner of motorcycle, fell into the roadside ditch. He was admitted to Upazila Health Complex where he is fighting for life.