

'Environment-friendly projects to be taken for CHT region'

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, *From Rangamati*

Foreign Affairs Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury has said environment-friendly development projects will be taken in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) for the betterment of its people. He was speaking at a review meeting on development activities at the local Circuit House on Wednesday evening.

Appreciating the natural resource and beauty of CHT region, the adviser said this must be preserved

while undertaking different development projects in the region.

Dr Chowdhury, who is also in-charge of Chittagong Hill Tract Affairs Ministry, said everything will be done keeping in mind the interests of both indigenous and Bangalee people to maintain communal harmony in the region.

Stressing the need for concerted efforts, he said an appropriate monitoring cell will be maintained in future to ensure proper implementation of development projects taken for the CHT.

The caretaker government (CG) has already undertaken a project to construct CHT Regional Council Complex at a cost of Tk 18.16 crore apart from allotting food grains to tackle various disasters in the region, he added.

The adviser said the CG will always try to maintain peace and stability in the CHT region and directed the government officials to discharge their duties with honesty and integrity for the prosperity of the region.

CHT Regional Council Chairman and Chief of Parbatya Chattagram

Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma attended the meeting as special guest while newly appointed Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Jagat Jyoti Chakma chaired the function.

Chakma Circle Chief Barrister Devashish Roy, Secretary to CHT Affairs Ministry Dr Abdus Sabur, Deputy Commissioner Md Nurul Amin, Police Super Md Abdul Baten, CHT Development Board Vice-chairman Md Ashraf Islam and UNDP-CHTDF Chief Robert Stoleman also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, the adviser laid the foundation stone of Rangamati Toron (Rangamati Gate), which is being constructing by the District Council on Chittagong-Rangamati Road at Rubber Garden areas to increase the beauty of the district.

After the meeting, a pompous cultural function was held at the Tribal Culture Institute auditorium.

Lightning kills 5 in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

Lightning killed five farmers at South Charpara village at Kalapara in the district on Thursday.

The victims were identified as Swapan, 20, Shahid, 19 and Zakir Farazee, 33.

The farmers were killed while working in the fields, sources said.



A group art exhibition titled 'Colour from hills' by the artists from Chittagong Hill Tracts led by Kanak Chanpa Chakma began at Drik Gallery in the city yesterday.

Charges pressed against Harun

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Mayor Majibor Rahman Sarwar in an arms case.

The corruption case against former home minister Mohammad Nasim and his wife was transferred to a special court while former lawmaker Naser Rahman was placed on a five-day fresh remand in a graft case.

CASE AGAINST BAPPI

ACC Assistant Director Monayem Hossain, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, yesterday submitted the charge sheet to the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka against Bappi and others.

The charge sheet was made under section 5(2) of the Anti-Corruption Act 1947, sections 420/406/109 of the Bangladesh Penal Code, section 156 of the Excise Act and section 15 of the Emergency Power Rules.

On March 7, police arrested Bappi, ex-MP Harunur Rashid of Chapainawabganj and owner of Sky Auto Istiaq Sadiq at their residences.

They were arrested for tax evasion in importing a luxurious vehicle by abusing duty-free car import privilege for members of parliament (MP).

Of them, Bappi and Harun are now in jail custody while Istiaq Sadiq was earlier granted bail from the High Court.

Following the incident, Tejgaon

police filed a cheating case against them. But the ACC found that it was a matter of corruption and it should be brought under the ACC. Later, the ACC started investigating it.

Harunur Rashid purchased the luxury vehicle, a Hummer H2, on April 25, 2005 using his duty-free privilege and sold it to Istiaq violating rules. Istiaq later sold the vehicle to Bappi.

CASE AGAINST BCC MAYOR

Sub-Inspector (SI) Mohammad Shahidullah of Gulshan Police Station, who is also the IO of the case, yesterday submitted the charge sheet against the Barisal mayor to the CMM's Court showing 23 people as prosecution witnesses.

Sarwar was picked up from his Gulshan residence on May 29. The joint forces also seized four bullets, Tk 4 lakh in cash, gold ornaments weighing 50 tola and some documents from the Gulshan residence.

Deputy Assistant Director Akheruzzaman of Rab-3 lodged the case against Sarwar with Gulshan Police Station. Sarwar was shown arrested on June 20 in the case filed for possessing illegal ammunition.

CASE AGAINST NASER

Detained former BNP lawmaker M Naser Rahman was placed on a five-day fresh remand in connection with a graft case filed against him and his wife.

Metropolitan Magistrate Jagannath Das Khokon passed the

remand order after the ACC produced Naser before the court yesterday.

On May 27, ACC Deputy Director Moniruzzaman Khan filed the case.

In the case statement, the complainant said Naser and his wife did not mention properties worth Tk 4.90 crore in their wealth statements.

NASIM CASE

The graft case against Nasim and his wife Laila Arjumand Banu was transferred to a special court for its quick disposal.

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka sent the case to the First Special Court set up at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar MP Hostel for its disposal.

Banyan tree falls on autorickshaw, two die

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*

Two passengers of an autorickshaw were killed and driver was injured critically when a century-old banyan tree fell on the vehicle in front of the Old Hospital on Tabaichhari road in the town yesterday.

Police and hospital sources said the tree was uprooted and fell on the auto-rickshaw at about 5.45 pm, leaving the passengers dead on the spot while it was going to Banarupa.

One of the dead was identified as Liton Shil, 18, and identity of another could not be known immediately. Driver Md Jasimuddin was sent to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Farewell at DU pharmaceutical chemistry deptt

Pharmaceutical Chemistry department of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday bade farewell to the students of Masters of Pharmacy (sessions 2000-2004), says a press release.

The programme was held at Pharmacy Lecture Theater with department Chairman Prof Mohammad Amjad Hossain in the chair.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz attended the programme as the chief guest while Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider and Dean of the Pharmacy Faculty Prof Mohammad Abdur Rashid were special guests.

Prof Faiz called on the students to make the best use of their knowledge at their workplaces so that the country and the countrymen could be benefited by their work.

He also asked them to maintain the reputation of Dhaka University by showing their skills and competency.

Dr Mohammad Abdul Majid presented a research paper in the programme that was attended by the teachers and students of the department.

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed speaks at a discussion titled "Reforms of political parties: Contemporary thoughts and debates" at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Dr Akbar Ali Khan and Firoz M Hasan and on his left are Mofazzel Karim and GM Quader. (Story on Page 1)

