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Chunati forest to be regenerated

First public sector CDM project okayed

BSS, Dhaka

The government has approved the first public sector project under Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) to regenerate degraded reserve forest in Chunati under Cox's Bazar district.

About 7,764-hectare area of degraded forest would be reforested under the Chunati Reforestation Programme, State Minister for Environment and Forests Hasan Mahmud told a seminar here yesterday.

It will be the second CDM project in the country to tap opportunities of global carbon market as the government is looking for promoting the system for country's development as well as making its economy more green and carbon neutral.

The first project under CDM was a

compost plant jointly established by Waste Concern and World Wide Recycling BV, a Dutch company, at Bhulta, Narayanganj last year.

Under CDM, the rich countries outsource their obligation to cut carbon emissions by sponsoring carbon-cutting schemes in poor countries.

Bangladesh POUISH, a non-government organisation, arranged the seminar titled Community Based Conservation and Regeneration of Mangrove for Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction at WVA auditorium at Dhanmondi.

The state minister said Bangladesh could not properly tap opportunities given under CDM due to lack of initiative, although the country, as one of the worst victims of climate change, is supposed to have a good share in the CDM market.

The government has taken some positive steps to utilise the CDM for conservation and regeneration of its degraded forests, Hasan said adding Chunati Reforestation Programme is the first step in this respect.

He said the Department of Forests is implementing the Community Based Coastal Forestation Programme under Least Developed Country Fund of the UNFCCC as part of implementation of first National Adaptation Programme of Action.

The forest department has been instructed to develop a monitoring project based on aerial photography to enhance vigilance on forest resources in the Sundarbans to stop illegal logging, he said.

He also referred to the newly manoeuvred Reduced Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday at her office consoles one of the bereaved family members of an army officer killed in Pilkhana Carnage last year. PHOTO: PID

PILKHANA CARNAGE PM pledges justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would bring culprits to justice for killing 57 army officers and others during last year's BDR mutiny.

"I have brought the killers of my father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to justice. Insh-Allah my government will bring the culprits including those who patronised the BDR mutiny to book," she said at a programme at International Conference Centre of the Prime Minister's Office.

The prime minister was handing over the cheque for Tk 4.80 lakh to each family of 57 army officers who were killed in the February 2009 carnage at BDR headquarters.

Earlier President of Bangladesh Association of Bankers (BAB) Nazrul Islam Majumder handed over all the cheques to the premier. BAB

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England coast home despite Tamim heroics

ATIQUÉ ANAM

A tailor-made wicket for spin bowling, an inexperienced captain making a bewildering decision on winning the toss and even an exceptional 125-run knock from Tamim Iqbal - all failed to induce the Bangladesh to manage their

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Inflation on rise

Urban food inflation reaches double digits after 14 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The overall inflation rate on a point-to-point basis in December last year reached 8.51 percent, and in the urban area food inflation reached double digit after 14 months mainly due to increasing price of rice.

The inflation rate was 7.24 percent in November last year.

According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics data, both food and non-food inflation was on the rise.

Food inflation stood at 9.50 percent in December compared to 7.84 percent in November.

Non-food inflation rose to 7.04 percent in December, which was 6.44 percent in November.

After the Awami League-led alliance came to power in January last year, overall inflation rate fell every month till June when it came down to two percent on a point-to-point basis.

But from July, inflation continued to increase every month.

A Bangladesh Bank official said inflation has been going up in the recent times primarily due to price hike of rice.

In the urban area, food inflation reached 11.08 percent in December last year. In September 2008, the inflation rate was 11.93 percent, which fell down to 8.59 percent in October.

According to a report of the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh, rice price registered a rise of 17 to 20 percent in last one year. In February last year, coarse rice used to be sold at Tk 22 - 24 a kg, and it was selling at Tk 26 - 28 yesterday.

According to the agriculture ministry, production of Aman rice this season crossed its target. The ministry's target was 1.27 crore tonnes, and it now estimates that production was 1.31 crore tonnes.

In this situation, the government thinks rice price is soaring due to market manipulation by traders' syndicate.

But rice millers say Aman production this

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6 Hizbut Tawhid men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police arrested six operatives of Islamist outfit Hizbut Tawhid including a female one Saturday night after they beat up at least 20 locals of Kushtia town.

The arrestees are Siddik Ali, 32, Hossain Ali, 25, Alyea Begum, 19, Ruhul Amin, 22, Abul Hasan, 20, and Shafiqul Islam, 23.

They were taken to Kushtia Police Station for interrogation while the injured locals were admitted to a clinic in the town.

According to police, a group of Hizbut Tawhid men gathered in its district office in the town to hold a secret meeting.

They started a fight with some locals who challenged

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ESSENTIALS PRICES Commerce, food ministries see opposite trends

RASHIDUL HASAN

Two parliamentary standing committees yesterday gave different opinions about the continual spurt in the prices of essentials including rice and oil.

The parliamentary body on commerce ministry at its meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban said they are satisfied because of the downward trend in the prices of essentials.

The House watchdog body on food ministry, on the contrary, expressed dissatisfaction over the high prices of essentials especially rice and asked the ministry concerned to find out the reason behind the price spiral.

"The committee members at 4:00 pm, enquired about the prices of essentials at different district, upazila and union level markets over mobile phone," Lutful Hai, chairman of the standing committee on commerce ministry, told reporters.

Coarse rice is selling at Tk 23 to 24 a kg at upazila level of Brahmanbaria while the price is Tk 20-21 at union level," he added.

Hai, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker, pointed out to the reporters the recent downward trend in the prices of sugar,

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Food rationing introduced for war heroes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 38 years into the country's independence, the government has introduced food rationing for war-maimed freedom fighters and the family members of martyrs in the Liberation War.

State Minister for liberation war affairs ABM Tajul Islam inaugurated the rationing through distribution of foods among war-maimed freedom fighters at Rajarbagh

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Faruk faces contempt petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A contempt of court petition against Commerce Minister Faruk Khan was filed with the High Court yesterday on charge of obstructing implementation of its order for demolishing jetties set up by City Group of Industries on the bank of the Shitalakha.

The petition sought issuance of a contempt of court rule on the commerce minister as he had written a letter to

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RAID AT RU 5,000 'jihadi' books, BCL hit list found in Shibir room

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Police seized over 5,000 'jihadi' (pro-Islamist uprising) books from a Shibir-controlled room at Shaheed Shamsuzzoha Hall of the university yesterday.

During the raid, the law enforcers also recovered a hit list of seven leaders and workers of the hall unit Bangladesh Chhatra League along with its action plan including attack on BCL men, one photo album, CD disks on campus violence and huge leaflets.

The hall sources said

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PHOTO ON PAGE 13



Parbatya Bhikkhu Sangha, an organisation of Buddhist monks from Chittagong Hill Tracts, stages a sit-in yesterday at the city's Central Shaheed Minar protesting against the recent arson attacks on prayer houses in Rangamati and Khagrachhari. PHOTO: STAR

Normalcy back in Khagrachhari

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Those displaced during last Tuesday's clashes between Bangalee settlers and indigenous people have come out of hiding and have begun reconstructing their homes in the hill town of Khagrachhari in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

A Bangalee settler was killed and 50 others were injured during the clashes over land, and authorities were forced to send in the army to control the situation.

As normalcy has now returned to the area, the district administration yesterday withdrew the section 144 order that prohibits the assembly of five or more persons, the holding of public meetings, and the carrying of firearms.

The affected people in Shantiniketon area, south Mohazonpara, Satbaiyapara and Narankhaiya claim they have not received adequate assistance from the government for rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Raton Chakma, an inhabitant from south Mohazonpara said that he has begun reconstructing his home with his own money.

He said, "We can't leave the land unoccupied because it is very valuable in Khagrachhari."

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Fire at Bihari camp: 65 houses gutted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire gutted at least 65 shanties and 12 shops at a camp of Urdu-speaking people in the city's Pallabi area on Saturday.

After around an hour's effort, 15 firefighting units put out the blaze at the Taltola Bihari camp at around 8:45pm, Abdur Rashid, deputy director of Fire Service and Civil Defence, told The Daily Star.

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OnlinePoll

Do you support Sajeeb Wazed Joy's joining politics?

Yes (65.6%)
No (32.4%)
No Comments (2.0%)

Total votes: 3162

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the arrest of Jaish-e-Mohammad operatives in the country is an ominous sign of regrouping effort by Islamist militants?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

March 1

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

ISPR clarifies media reports on CHT violence

UNB, Dhaka

The Inter Services Public Relations has dismissed the report by a section of the media, including TV channels, that Sergeant Rezaul Karim of the Army was without uniform when he received injuries at Baghaichhari on February 20 terming it false and baseless.

Clarifying the actual situation ISPR release yesterday said during the incident Sergeant Karim was posted there in proper military uniform and performing his assigned duties.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Quake kills 300 in Chile, triggers Pacific tsunami

1.5m affected, 500,000 homes damaged

APP, AP, Santiago

Rescue teams hunted for survivors yesterday after one of the largest earthquakes on record killed at least 300 people in Chile and sent giant waves roaring across the Pacific Ocean.

In an address to the nation Saturday, President Michelle Bachelet said two million Chileans had been affected but, after touring the worst-hit areas by plane, she found it hard to spell out the magnitude of the disaster.

"The power of nature has again struck our country," Bachelet said, declaring six of Chile's 15 regions "catastrophe zones" in the aftermath of the 8.8-magnitude quake.

Highways in the South American nation of 16 million were sliced to pieces, bridges imploded and buildings collapsed as the earthquake struck at pre-dawn hours Saturday some 325km southwest of the capital Santiago.

"This is a catastrophe of immense proportions, so it will be very difficult to give precise figures," Interior Minister Edmundo Perez Yoma said. Officials later said at least 300 people had been killed.

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DISPUTE OVER SWAMP BDR, BSF trade fire on Sylhet border

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Bangladesh Rifles and Border Security Force (BSF) of India again traded gunshots along the troubled Jaintapur border in Sylhet yesterday following a dispute over ownership of a swamp near the border.

The BSF men from the Muktapur and Hawaitala camps, located opposite to the Bangladesh's Jaintapur

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