

No sign in sight to reopen Khulna Hardboard Mills

QUAZI AMANULLAH,
Khulna

Five months into suspension of operation due to severe fund crisis, state-owned Khulna Hardboard Mills still faces uncertainty about resumption of its production as mill authorities' letters for allocation of required fund are reportedly gathering dust at the ministries concerned.

As many as 239 workers and employees became jobless as fund problem compelled authorities of the hardboard mill to suspend its production on July 16 this year.

Now Tk 54 crore including Tk 10 crore as running capital is needed for resuming production and conducting maintenance works, mill sources said.

Seeking allocation of required fund, management of the hardboard mill on several occasions wrote to industries and finance ministries but no concrete decision is still in sight.

Established in 1965 at Khalishpur industrial belt at the initiative of Canadian Commercial Corporation, the hardboard mill went into commercial production in 1966.

On December 15 in 2002, the then BNP-led



PHOTO: STAR

Khulna Hardboard Mills with its huge infrastructure is gathering dust as the state-owned factory, closed due to financial constraints six months ago, hardly sees any hope for early reopening.

government closed the mill on pay-off basis on the grounds that it became a losing concern.

But it had to be reopened on September 14 in 2005 in the face of tough movement launched by Greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee.

According to a highly placed source of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), the mill

management will have to wait till next financial year for getting allocation of the fund as per demand.

"I have received a green signal from BCIC for allo-

cation of Tk 10 crore as running capital to resume production of the mill. I hope to get it shortly," said Kazi Ruhul Amin, managing director of the mill.

Asked about the matter, State Minister for Labour and Employment

Begum Mannujan Sufian could not say when the mill would be able to resume production as allocation of the fund is being delayed.

"The BCIC has imported some important modern machinery that has already been unloaded from Mongla Port. It will be installed at the mill only after receiving allocation of fund," she said.

SNIPPETS

Sugar mill workers agitate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

The workers of North Bengal Sugar Mill in Lalpur upazila staged a protest rally in front of the mill gate on Tuesday noon demanding declaration of a separate wage board. The workers started demonstration at about 12:00pm. Saidur Rahman, president of the workers union, said they have been demanding the wage board for the mill workers after the government declared a new pay-scale for its workers and employees, he added. Anowar Kamal, secretary of the union, said they will continue the demonstration until the demand is met. Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of the mill, said he has already informed the higher authorities about the demand and added the matter would be resolved soon.

Youth's body recovered

UNB, Rajshahi

Police recovered the body of a young man from Padmar Char (shoal) in Charchhat upazila on Tuesday. The deceased, Ratan Ali, 27, son of Enamul Haque of Meramatpur village of the upazila, was involved in drug peddling for long, alleged police. On information, police rushed to the spot on Tuesday morning and recovered the body that bore several stab injury marks. Ratan might have been killed by his rivals. The law enforcers detained one Sumon in this connection.

Man electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A man was electrocuted at Ganeshpur village in Manda upazila of Naogaon district on Tuesday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Afsar Ali, 38, son of late Pabon Pramanik of the village. Abdullah Baki, officer in-charge of Manda Police Station, said Afsar came in contact with a live wire while he was cutting the branch of a blackberry tree at around 2:00pm. The victim fell onto the ground and died on the spot.

'Outlaw' held with pistol

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested an operative of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML), Lal Pataka faction from Ullapara upazila yesterday noon and recovered a foreign made pistol and one bullet from his possession. The arrestee, Abu Sayeed, 35, son of Azahar Ali of Pangkharua village in the upazila, is an accused of several cases, said Rab. On secret information, a team of Rab-12 raided the area and arrested Abu with the arm and ammunition from the spot while a gang of criminals were holding a clandestine meeting.

Two drug peddlers arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two alleged drug peddlers along with 710 bottles of Phensidyl from a truck in Hatikumir area of the district town on Tuesday. The arrestees are trucker Abdur Rahman Rubel, 20, son of Raju Ali of Monigram village under Bagha upazila in Rajshahi, and his helper Shabirul Islam, 30, son of Nur Mohammad Sarkar of Hairhat village, said Rab. On secret information, a team of Rab-12 raided a potato-laden truck in the area and arrested the duo with the Phensidyl yesterday morning.

JSC EXAM RESULTS UNDER DINAJPUR BOARD

Pass rate up by 22.17 pc, 3645 get GPA-5

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Pass rate of this year's Junior School Certificate (JSC) examinations under Dinajpur Education Board went up by 22.17 percent compared to last year's.

The number of GPA-5 achievers also saw a tremen-

1,584 female.

As many as 1,65,898 students appeared at the examinations this year, of them 1,39,983 students or 84.35 per cent passed while 62.18 per cent of 1,21,582 students passed in 2010 under the board.

According to the official data, 1,72,139 students were registered from the eight northern districts under Dinajpur board to appear at the JSC examinations.

The number of dropout

(6,241 students) this year is much lower than last year's (12,455).

Nineteen students were expelled for adopting unfair means in the examinations this year.

"We are happy as both pass rate and number of GPA-5 achievers have risen greatly compared to last year's. Besides, the dropout rate has gone down by half," said Abdul Mojid, secretary of Dinajpur Education Board.

Rajshahi Cadet College first among top 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

Rajshahi Cadet College secured first place among 20 top institutions in JSC examinations under Rajshahi Education Board this year as all its 53 examinees got GPA-5.

Bogra has the highest number of seven institutions in this category while Rajshahi five, Pabna four, Natore two and Naogaon and Sirajganj one institution each.

No institution in Chapainawabganj and Joypurhat districts secured any position this year.

Pabna Cadet College

with all its 52 students achieved GPA-5.

Bogra Government Girls' High School is in third position with 241 out of 243 students passed while 161 of them secured GPA-5.

Rajshahi Government Laboratory High School secured fourth position with all its 108 students passed and 76 of them secured GPA-5. Bogra Cantonment Public School and College obtained fifth place with 230 out of 231 passed and 143 of them secured GPA-5.

This was followed by Bogra Zilla School, Bogra SOS Hermann Gmeiner College, Rajshahi Government P.N. Girls' High

School, Bogra Biam Model School and College and Pabna Ikkhu Gabeshona High School, Rajshahi Government Girls' High School, Rajshahi Collegiate School, Bogra Armed Police Battalion Public High School, Pabna Zilla School, Polli Unnayan Academy Laboratory School and College, Naogaon Government KD High School, Natore Qadirabad Cantonment Public School, Pabna Government Girls' High School, Sirajganj Momena Ali Biggan School and Natore Government Boys' High School.

24 rescued from human traffickers

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Benapole

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) rescued 24 people, including women and children, while they were being trafficked to India through Sadipur border yesterday afternoon.

BGB Commander Joinal Hossain at Benapole check post camp said on secret information, they rescued 12 men, eight women and four children from the border area at about 3:30pm.

Later, the rescued were handed over to Benapole police, Joinal added.

Wheelchairs for physically challenged students

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmonirhat

Nine physically challenged students of different education institutions in the district received wheelchairs yesterday noon.

Motiar Rahman, administrator of Lalmonirhat district council, handed over the chairs to the students at a function.

The recipients are Hazrat Ali of class five, Mithu Khatun of class three, Keramat Ali of class nine, Mahbubur Rahman of class eight, Mahbub Sarker Babu of class six, Biplob Sarker of class four, Rubana Khatun of class eight, Habiba Khatun of ten and Halima Khatun of class eleven.

JOY OF SUCCESS



FROM TOP: GPA-5 achievers of Dinajpur Government Girls' High School, Rajshahi Collegiate School, Barisal Zila School, Bluebird School and College in Sylhet and Bidyamoyee Government Girls' High School in Mymensingh jubilate over their glorious success in this year's Junior School Certificate Examinations.

Shun personal ambition, serve greater interest of hill people

Santu Larma urges CHT headmen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma yesterday urged the headmen (traditional leaders) to play their due role to protect own culture, tradition and customs and take part in development activities in their areas.

The headmen should rise above personal interests and be competent and educated enough to serve the people, he said while addressing as chief guest at the CHT Headmen's Conference held at the auditorium of Khudro Nriegosthi Institute in Rangamati town.

"The traditional leaders cannot

perform their job properly as the Chittagong Hill Tracts peace deal is yet to see proper implementation," said the CHT ethnic people's leader, popularly known as Santu Larma.

He urged the headmen to be united for greater interest of hill people and refrain from involving in the political parties that do not

believe in the existence of indigenous people.

Santu Larma demanded that the government implement the peace accord fully and hand over the land management system to the hill district councils immediately.

CHT Headmen's Network and Khagrachhari Headmen's

Association organised the conference under the auspices of CHT Regional Council and International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Three hundred and sixty-nine headmen under Chakma Circle, Mong Circle and Bomang Circle attended the conference.