

Send mobile clinics to hard-to-reach CHT areas

Pre-budget discussion urges govt
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to remoteness, many areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) remain beyond the reach of healthcare and education, speakers told a discussion yesterday.

Until the communication infrastructure is improved, the authorities should arrange for mobile clinics and distant teaching services in those places, they added. Lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha said, "The region has immense potential for agriculture, but farming will not develop without adequate cold storages with electricity supply."

However, industrialisation is not desirable, he said. "Land grabbing and eviction of the residents will multiply, if industrialisation sets in."

The discussion, "National Budget 2015-16: Imperatives for CHT", was organised by Unnayan Shamannay at The Daily Star Centre in the capital. Commenting on the national budget of 2014-15, he said there should be a review of how Tk 735 crore allocated for the region was spent.

In his keynote paper, Mahfuz Kabir, senior research fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), said although the National Agriculture Policy 2013 stressed introduction of "appropriate technology for the region", there was no project aimed at developing that technology.

Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the CHT affairs ministry, Obaidul Mukhtar Chowdhury, said a Tk 380 crore project had been taken for development of communication infrastructure there.

SEE PHOTO ONLINE



Protest over the recent gang rape of a Garo woman under the banner "Indigenous Communities Residing in Dhaka" in the capital's Bhatara yesterday. The perpetrators committed the crime inside a running microbus in Kuril area after abducting the victim on the night of May 21.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Death Anniversary CITY DESK

Today is the 44th martyrdom anniversary of Captain RAM



Khairul Bashar.

Captain Bashar, the then officer commanding of Station Supply Depot (SSD), Chittagong Cantonment, left his cantonment residence along with his pregnant spouse and a one year old daughter to take part in the liberation war on March 25 night in 1971.

He was bayoneted to death at a torture cell in Dhaka by the Pakistani army.

NEWSIN brief

15,000 smuggled mobiles seized at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Customs House officials yesterday seized around 15,000 smuggled mobile phones worth around Tk 30 crore at the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The mobiles stashed in at least 18 cartons were brought by a flight of Hong Kong Airways on Wednesday, Shahiduzzaman Sarkar, assistant commissioner of Dhaka Customs House, told The Daily Star.

The seizure was made while those phones were under process to be released from the cargo section, the official said, adding that efforts were going on to arrest the smugglers.

Two teachers of DU, Buet made full-time members of UGC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Md Yousuf Ali Mollah of the chemistry department of Dhaka University, and Dr Dil Afroza Begum of the chemical engineering department of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology joined the University Grants Commission as full-time members, said a press release of UGC yesterday. With the two professors, UGC now has five full-time members.

Prior to their new positions, Dr Yousuf was the dean of science faculty at DU, while Dr Afroza was the head of chemical engineering at Buet. She also served the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh as its vice chairman.

New area caves in

FROM PAGE 3

engineering department, one of two Buet experts called in to watch the filling.

Annusil instructed for an immediate joint coordination committee comprising all relevant authorities to lead and oversee the filling.

He was said to have requested Sayeed Khokon, mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation, to form a three-member probe committee headed by Syed Fakrul Ameen, civil engineering professor of Buet, to find the actual negligence and violation.

Abdur Rahman, acting chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk), said, "The building owner did not make the mandatory declaration prior to embarking on the construction." "...we are looking into what legal action should be taken against such failure and negligence," he said.

However, the two mayors and local lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh blamed Rajuk for the negligence and failure in ensuring safe building construction.

In Nakhla para on May 21, 2011, shore protection walls and iron bracing of the under-construction Impulse Hospital had similarly failed, resulting in collapse of three tin-roof houses and part of an internal road, and development of cracks on adjoining structures, including two five-storey residential buildings. A 60-member army engineering corps team was mobilised to fill the pit and restore stability of the surrounding structures.

In another incident, a portion of the Circuit House road had collapsed into a 33-foot foundation ditch of an under-construction building.

Rajuk officials then too had blamed the building owner, saying Monzurur Rahman did not make the declaration though he was required by the building law to do so 15 days before work commenced.

Shafiqur president, Quamrul gen secy of Jatiya Press Club

BSS, Dhaka

Senior journalist Muhammad Shafiqur Rahman and News Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Quamrul Islam Chowdhury were elected president and general secretary respectively of the 17-member management committee of Jatiya Press Club yesterday on the basis of general consensus.

Other office bearers are Senior Vice-President Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Vice-President Amirul Islam Kagoji, Treasurer Kartik Chatterjee, and Joint Secretaries Ashraf Ali and Elias Khan. The 10 members are Amanullah Kabir, Khondoker Monirul Alam, Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, Saiful Alam, Shyamal Dutta, Shamsuddin Ahmed Charu, Mollah Jalal, Sardar Farid

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Shafiqur

Quamrul

RAPE OF 12-YEAR-OLD RANGUNIA GIRL

Alleged rapist held, remanded

Court throws away allegations against cops of destroying evidence, filing of false case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday rejected a case filed against two cops allegedly for destroying evidence of a rape of a 12-year-old girl in Rangunia of Chittagong and for making her mother sign a false FIR accusing the victim's brother.

Officer-in-Charge of Rangunia Police Station Humayun Kabir and Sub-Inspector Majibur Rahman were the accused in the case.

Judge Mir Saiful Alam of Chittagong Women and Children Prevention Tribunal-2 passed the order, said court sources.

The court rejected the case as investigation in two other cases -- one filed by the

mother against alleged rapist Shah Alam and another one against the victim's brother -- is not yet complete, said the plaintiff's lawyer Md Ershadur Rahman Ritu.

Meanwhile, police arrested Md Shah Alam in Anderkilla area of the port city on Wednesday night following an order of the High Court.

The court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Khudrat-e-Elahi granted a three-day remand for Shah Alam, after police produced him before it paying for a five-day remand, said Court Inspector Unu Mong.

The victim worked as a domestic help at the residence of Shah Alam, 55, an

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Modernisation of army to continue

FROM PAGE 3

two FM-90 and surface-to-air missile regiments will be inducted by 2016.

"This will also help enhance the own battle strength of the Bangladesh Army apart from discharg-

ing their duties in the UN peacekeeping missions with more efficiency," she said.

Mentioning that the organogram of the Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory and Bangladesh Ordnance Factories has been reorganised

to make the army self-reliant, Hasina said works were underway to set up plants for missile assembly and manufacturing of bullet-proof jackets and APCs, and explosive testing labs.

She said the Bangladesh Ordnance Factories had

undertaken a plan to manufacture FN-16 missiles for destroying planes.

Hasina said the army had gained people's confidence through various development works like widening of Joydevpur-Mymensingh road into four lanes, 24km Cox's Bazar-Teknaf marine drive road project, and runway development of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

She said establishment of five more dental colleges and five nursing institutes under

Bangladesh Army was underway, while Army Dental Corps would soon become an independent corps.

Citing the formation of the Pay and Services Commission 2013 for public servants, she said the Pay Commission for the Armed Forces had also submitted recommendations, and it would be implemented considering the limitations. Army Chief General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan received the premier at the Army Headquarters.

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Request for Proposal
A Request for Proposal (RFP) for Final Evaluation of "Rural Enterprise for Alleviating Poverty II (REAP II) Project" has been published in www.bdjjobs.com hot page on May 19, 2015. REAP II is a USDA funded project, which is executed by Winrock International. The deadline for submission of proposal is June 3, 2015. Interested firms are requested to visit the website www.bdjjobs.com in this regard.

Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA)

Annual General Meeting & Executive Body Election, 2015
www.belta-bd.org

Notice is hereby given that the BELTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2015 & Election of the Executive Body (2015-2016) will be held on Friday 5 June 2015 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm at the RC Majumdar Hall, Lecture Theatre (behind Arts Faculty building), Dhaka University. All members are requested to attend.

Md. Imrez Chowdhury
Organizing Secretary-BELTA

C-339

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