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Govt loses but they gain

Nexus of unscrupulous traders, BJMC staff sends Golden Fibre in the red

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Influential quarters in collaboration with a section of dishonest officials have been eating up the cream of the state-owned Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) for years.

As a result, the BJMC suffered losses every year for the last one decade except for once, in fiscal year 2010-11, when a small profit of Tk 14 crore was made. From fiscal year 2006-07, they made losses of Tk 66 crore to Tk 700 crore every year.

In fiscal year 2014-15, the BJMC incurred a loss of Tk 640 crore and in 2015-16 around Tk 500 crore,

BJMC IS BECOMING A BURDEN!

BJMC lost money in all but one year in the last one decade

BJMC lost between Tk 66 crore and Tk 700 crore in each of those years

The government has given BJMC over Tk 6,000 crore since 2009

BJMC owes state-owned banks over Tk 1,200 crore

Bureaucrats at the top failed to run BJMC

Corruption is rampant among some officials

BJMC makes traditional products, no diversification



108 more recognised as freedom fighters

Honour for Swadhin Bangla Betar artistes

They did not fight on battlefields during the Liberation War in 1971, but they did fight the war by taking part in cultural activities like music and film.

There had been no official recognition for their contributions until the liberation war affairs ministry yesterday issued a gazette notification, recognising 108 more people as freedom fighters.

However, the honour came too late for many as they could not see for themselves they have been honoured.

Take for example Zahir Raihan. He made several films and documentaries during the Liberation War and went missing around a

Turn decisions into actions

PM urges global leaders at UN climate conference in Marrakech



BSS, Marrakech, Morocco

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called on the international community to turn the decisions on climate change into actions.

"Now this is the time to move forward to implement decisions into actions," she said in her statement at the high-level segments of the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP-22) here on Tuesday night.

The PM said the Marrakech climate conference held a special significance as the historic Paris Agreement signed last year is expected to be in force this year.

The agreement successfully created a solid ground for a meaningful cooperation in combating climate change, she added.

The three-day programme of the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change is being held in Morocco's former imperial city of Marrakech.

Heads of state and government from 80 countries and senior ministers

Convicted MP Bodi gets 6 months' bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to convicted Awami League lawmaker Abdur Rahman Bodi for six months in a corruption case, clearing the way for his walking out of jail.

In response to a petition filed by Bodi yesterday, the HC stayed the trial court order that had fined him Tk 10 lakh in the case lodged by the Anti-Corruption Commission in March 2014.

It also agreed to hear Bodi's appeal challenging the lower court verdict that had jailed him for three years in the same case.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ruhul Qudus passed the order after hearing Bodi's petition seeking bail in the case and stay on the lower court fine order.



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Outrage over teacher killing

The 65-year-old, also a freedom fighter, 'tortured to death by Jhalakathi Jubo League men'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Local freedom fighters and teachers erupted in protests after a teacher was found dead Tuesday morning, a day after he was beaten up by a local Jubo League leader and his men at Saturaia of Rajapur in Jhalakathi.

Locals and family members of the victim, who was a freedom fighter, said Tk 92,000 was taken from the 65-year-old when he was beaten up twice on Monday.

Deceased Abdus Salam Khan, of Uttar Shialkathi in Bhandaria of Pirojpur, was a retired primary school teacher and had been running a preschool in his village.

Salam's son Samsul Alam Khan said his father was going to the house of a teacher of his school in the neighbouring Saturaia village in Jhalakathi around 2:00pm on Monday to



TOP! QUOTE

"When we see people, global elites, wealthy corporations seemingly living by a different set of rules, avoiding taxes, manipulating loopholes... this feeds a profound sense of injustice"

BARACK OBAMA SAYS IN GREECE AS HE TRAVELS EUROPE FOR THE LAST TIME AS US PRESIDENT



Rangpur Sugar Mills in Gobindaganj upazila of Gaibandha. It has been incurring losses almost every year. The factory has leased out its land meant for sugarcane cultivation. PHOTO: KM REZAUL HAQUE

Their hard time not over

Gaibandha Santals receive relief from district admin; govt to build home for them, assures home minister

STAR REPORTS

Pressed against dire poverty, indigenous families at Madarpur village in Gobindaganj of Gaibandha yesterday received relief from the district administration though they had initially refused to accept aid without having their demands met.

Gobindaganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abdul Hannan distributed 150 packages of relief materials including rice, edible oil, salt and potato. Thirty sets of books were also given to children who had lost their study materials along with other

belongings when their houses on a disputed land of Rangpur Sugar Mills in Shahebganj were set ablaze on November 6.

Upon discussions with Roads, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Adivasi leaders of the Shahebganj-Bagdafarm land recovery movement committee agreed to receive relief, said Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha Abdus Samad.

Earlier, the Santal community said they would not accept any help from the administration until they were given back the land of their forefathers. Meanwhile, at a programme at his

ministry, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said the government would build homes for the indigenous people in Gaibandha, who had become homeless after the eviction drive.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given an order to build houses for them," he said, adding that homeless Santals would be rehabilitated under a government project of providing shelter to the homeless.

Describing the eviction as an unlawful act, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, also special envoy to the

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Gaibandha sugar mill a losing concern

PINAKI ROY and K M REZAUL HOQUE

For each kg of sugar, Rangpur Sugar Mills in Gaibandha incurs a loss of at least Tk 100.

The production cost of per kg of sugar at the state-run mill is around Tk 160. Sometimes, the cost becomes higher but the selling price is fixed at Tk 60, said Abdul Awal, its managing director.

So, the government has to give a huge amount of subsidy every year to run the mill at Mohimaganj in Gobindaganj upazila.

In the face of losses, the government temporarily shut down the mill 2004.

The same year, the mill authorities leased out most of the land of its sugarcane farm in Shahebganj for cultivation of crops like rice, wheat, mustard, tobacco and maize in violation of the 1962 agreement between the deputy commissioner's office and the then Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation.

The DC office signed the deal on behalf of the land owners -- the local Santals.

The deal stated that the land was acquired for cultivation of sugarcane by the mill authorities. If the land was used for farming any other crop, the corporation will surrender the land to the government (the DC office).

After learning about the cultivation of other crops, the indigenous people protested the move by the

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Star WEDDINGS 2016

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