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Imported urea to be marketed soon

CHITTAGONG, Dec 24: Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed said today that 3 lakh and 50 thousand tons of urea fertiliser imported by the government to meet the production deficit would be brought under marketing process within a few days, reports BSS.

Addressing a gathering of workers, officials, employees and local elite at the premises of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL), the minister said it has not been possible to maintain supply of gas to different industrial enterprises in Chittagong due to lack of steps during the past years in removing technical faults at Bakharabad gas field. The government has been making all-out efforts to supply gas to CUFL, he added.

He said the construction work of Ashuganj-Bakharabad gas line was scheduled to be completed in June. But due to indecision of the past government the work was not completed. The government has taken up the work on an emergency basis, he said, adding the work was expected to be completed by March.

Tofael Ahmed said with the operation of Ashuganj-Bakharabad line, it would be possible to supply gas to CUFL again as per its requirement. Besides, discussion is now on with different corporations and authorities to start production in the factory very soon through other means, he said.

Production in the CUFL stopped on December 9 due to suspension in the supply of gas. The stock of 33 thousands metric tons of fertiliser produced in this factory was now being distributed to 24 districts as per demand.

Tofael Ahmed said production cost of one ton of fertiliser

laxed to some extent, said a DSE councillor who attended the meeting.

During the talks, the SEC was told that trading of at least 15 major issues was in a logjam because no body was buying those at current prices.

The prices of these issues had gone so high during the recent boom that the prices could not be brought down due to five per cent circuit breaker, preventing the rise in volume of turnover on the floor.

SEC officials accused the DSE of allowing a big kerf market in front of its building. The DSE authorities said, the market developed because no legal action was taken by the SEC. The government body empowered to regulate the country's capital market.

Although the SEC does not recognise the street trading of shares, the government does not want to disturb it at this moment for different reasons, observed SEC officials at the meeting, sources said.

DSE councillors, including its chairman Imtiaz Hussain, vice chairman Ahmed Iqbal Hasan, honorary secretary Shahid Khan, former honorary secretary Abdul Huq Hawlader and the government-nominated representative to the DSE, were present on behalf of the DSE while SEC chairman Dr Harunor Rashid led the SEC team at the meeting.

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DSE urges SEC

From Page 1

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Ahmed Humayun

From Page 1

the persons at a time when The Daily Bangla was incurring losses and the newspaper was carrying out a golden handshake scheme as austerity measures.

According to the source, he also caused the government a loss of about Tk one crore on account of newspaper allotted for the paper.

The source further said, the former editor had submitted a false statement on circulation of the paper as 69,550 copies on February 8 this year. But in an investigation, the authorities found the real circulation to be 13,516 copies.

The source said, the government had to suffer a loss of over Tk 47.15.853 by bringing out an international edition of The Daily Bangla for circulation in London. Two retainers were appointed in London for the purpose for whom 8000 Pounds Sterling and Tk 2.51 lakh was spent in one year.

Besides, over Tk five lakh was spent for distribution in London and 4.54 lakh as overtime to journalists and employees for bringing out the edition in Dhaka.

A high official of the Bangladesh High Commission in London, who attended the 37th meeting of the Board of Trustees of Daily Bangla in Dhaka, raised a complaint against the senior retainer, Akbar Amin Babul for not working properly and handling the monetary affairs as directed.

Some 21,405 Pounds Sterling still remain as outstanding bill against the international edition of the Daily Bangla, the source added.

UNFPA

From Page 1

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the government has identified the problems of family welfare and population, and is taking steps accordingly for a proper solution.

For an effective population control programme, she said, reproductive health education is necessary and the males should be provided with more education along with the females.

Hasina said the government will take further effective programmes on malnutrition, poverty alleviation and basic healthcare. "The government has attached priority to the female education to ensure overall development," she added.

The Prime Minister sought more cooperation from the UN bodies and international organisations for population and family welfare programmes in the country.

JSD, JP

From Page 1

Quoting Rob, his political secretary Shahidullah Faraz said that he (Rob) expressed difference of opinion with his cabinet colleagues to uphold the position of the JSD on the November 7 issue.

Explaining the party's stand on the issue, Faraz said: "The November 7 sepoys' people's uprising, led by Colonel Abu Taher Bir Uttam, was an attempt to resist the coup and counter coup stage by some anti-state conspirators for controlling state power."

"Besides, the uprising was aimed at protecting the country's sovereignty and ensuring people's active participation in running the affairs of the state," Faraz said adding, "The JSD will continue to observe the day with due solemnity."

Faraz, however, noted that it was not necessary for the component parties of a government to have agreements on all issues.

Police action unprovoked, alleges BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan strongly condemned yesterday's "unprovoked police action on a peaceful procession" of the party workers, protesting the filing of 'conspiratorial case' against party chief Begum Khaleda Zia and killings at the Jessore jail.

In a statement issued last night, Mannan Bhuiyan alleged that police opened fire and lobbed tear gas shells and resorted to baton charge, leaving many activists of the BNP and its front organisations injured.

Police also attacked the BNP central office, the Jatiya Press Club and the Daily Dinkal newspaper office, he alleged.

According to the BNP secretary general, the injured party workers included Ali Akbar Babul, Joynt Abedin Faruk, MP, Ilias Ali, Abdul Malek, Abdul Khaleq, Md Chan, Mohammad Ali, Hassan Sarwar Sumon, Salahuddin Bhuiyan Shishir, Afzal Hossain, Mithu, Nazmul Haq Nannu, Abdul Malek, Razuddin Nasu, Shirin Sultana Parul, Ayesha, Rashid Akhtar, Razi Alam, Kazi Asad, Abdul Aziz, Mahbub Alam and Md Sumon.

He warned that "appropriate reply" would be given if such incident is repeated in future.

Besides, Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal president Mahbubul Alam Tara and general secretary Shamsuzzaman Dudu, MP, Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal president Mirza Abbas and secretary general Goyeshwar Roy, Chhatra Dal president Shahiduddin Choudhury Anny and secretary general Habib-un-Nabi Sohel, JASAS president Rezabuddin and secretary general Wasimul Bari Rajeeb and joint secretary Abdul Hye Sikdar, assistant secretary Mosharraf Ahmed Thakur, Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal president Khurshid Jahan Haq, MP, Jatiyatabadi Mukti-joddha Dal president Redwan Ahmed in separate statement also condemned the police action.

Emeka Anyaoku greets Hasina

Commonwealth Secretary General Emeka Anyaoku has felicitated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the occasion of Silver Jubilee of the Victory Day, reports UNB.

In a message to the Prime Minister, Emeka said, "The 25th anniversary of Victory Day is a major landmark in the history of your country," said an official handout yesterday.

Bangladesh is a much valued member of the Commonwealth and the international community at large, he said adding, "I look forward to building on the strong relations that already exist between the government of Bangladesh and the Commonwealth Secretariat in the years ahead."

He also thanked the Prime Minister for her letter of December 9 inviting him to join the Victory Day celebration which he failed due to his pre-occupations.

"I am sure the Victory Day celebration will be a resounding success," Emeka hoped.

Hebron

From Page 1

described the general atmosphere of the talks as good, and even called the relationship between Netanyahu and Arafat as "warm."

"I think it's fair to say that the meeting enhanced the level of trust on both sides," Ross said.

After an intensive mediation effort by Ross, who arrived in the region over the weekend, negotiators had predicted that a deal could be reached by today. But Marwan Kanafari, a spokesman for Arafat, said after the meeting that the gap between the two sides was "narrowing, but it still exists."

Arafat left Gaza by helicopter a few minutes after the meeting to take part in Bethlehem's annual Christmas Eve festivities. He said nothing to reporters when he arrived in Bethlehem.

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A Christmas Tree in the city yesterday on the eve of Christmas Day today. — Star photo

Christmas today

From Page 1

About 2000 years ago, he was born to Mother Mary in Bethlehem near Jerusalem.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday cut a Christmas Cake at the Bangabhaban on the eve of Christmas Day and exchanged greetings with members of the Christian community.

In separate messages on the occasion, the President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina felicitated the Christian community.

In his message, President Shahabuddin Ahmed said Christian community has been playing a significant role in the country's march towards progress and hoped that their endeavour would continue for the welfare of the people.

He said the followers of all religions were working together for the socio-economic development of Bangladesh which he termed a land of peace and harmony.

The President said Jesus had sacrificed his life for the cause of distressed humanity and for peace. His ideals of selfless services had inspired mankind in different ages, Shahabuddin added.

He wished a happy and auspicious Christmas Day.

In her message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hoped that members of the Christian community would continue to play their due role in the country's development efforts.

The inner message of the religion of great Jesus Christ is human welfare. Jesus Christ had sacrificed his life in spreading



Preparations for the Biswa Ijtema at Tongi are almost complete. — Star photo

City dwellers urged to check ID of DB police

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday advised the city dwellers to check the identity cards of the Detective police as some cheats are harassing people marauding themselves as detectives.

In a press release last night the DMP requested the city dwellers to contact the DB office over phone no. 9337362 and 413317 if there was any doubt about any person identifying himself as detective.

The image of the DB of the DMP was being tarnished because of this kind of fraudulent, the press release added.

The BNP activists and police clashed near the Press Club at about 5 pm. Police lobbed tear gas shells and baton-charged the activists. At one stage, a section of BNP activists took shelter inside the Press Club. The clash also spread to Topkhana Road and Bijoy Nagar areas.

Later, BNP activists clashed with police on the Inner Circular Road adjacent to the BNP central office. Police cordoned the area and stopped movement of vehicles as those were coming under attacks. During the clash there, police lobbed tear gas shells as BNP

Sonargaon Hotel management, union sign agreement

Sonargaon Hotel management and the Sonargaon Hotel Workers and Employees Union yesterday signed an agreement on a charter of demands placed by the union, reports BSS.

General Manager of the Hotel Scott Swank and president of the union M M A Razzak signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

After the signing of the agreement Swank and Razzak spoke of extreme goodwill demonstrated towards the creation of congenial atmosphere in the interest of the Hotel. They also hoped that the understanding would further promote mutual cooperation and joint efforts in advancing the business of the hotel.

2 shot dead in clash over land in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 24: Two brothers were shot dead and at least 15 others injured in a clash over a land dispute at village Hanauli under Biswanath thana this afternoon.

Six of the injured were admitted to the Sylhet M A G Omani Medical College Hospital while four others to a private clinic.

The deceased were identified as Nurul Islam, 35, a retired army official and his brother Saiful Islam, 40.

Alleged terrorist, two muggers held in city

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested an alleged terrorist and two muggers in the city yesterday.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police took into custody one Khorshed Alam alias Rashu at Siddheswari under Ramna thana for his alleged involvement in terrorism and extortion, police said.

Meanwhile, Tejgaon police arrested two suspected muggers in Shahinbagh area early yesterday morning three daggers and four bombs were also recovered from their possession. The arrested were identified as Kamal and Ripon.

Seven passport brokers held

Seven passport brokers were arrested in front of the Passport Office at Eskaton Road on charge of harassing the innocent people, reports UNB.

In a surprise raid, police picked up M Harun, Kamal, Solesman, Monir Hossain, Abdul Awal, Nazrul Islam and Kabiruddin Ahmed from the area.

Police said a section of brokers lure the people saying that they would manage passports for them within the shortest possible time and at reasonable rate, but they later snatch money from the innocent people by terrorist act.

Deve Gowda

From Page 1

including boundary demarcation, the problem of Chakma refugees, security issues and other regional and international issues of common concern will also be discussed. The talks are also likely to touch on the subject of sharing the waters of the 54 common rivers.

Deve Gowda, who is the current chairman of SAARC, is likely to discuss the agenda for the forthcoming summit of the regional organisation due to begin in Maldives on May 12.

The Indian Prime Minister's entourage is likely to include External Affairs Minister I K Gujral, at least two other ministers and several top officials. Chamber leaders and a number of businessmen will also accompany him. At least three dozen journalists are also expected to accompany him to cover the visit.

An advance team comprising representatives of protocol, security and the media is due to arrive on December 26.

A special inter-ministerial meeting will be held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the same day to firm up the detailed itinerary of the Indian premier's visit. The meeting will be chaired by Foreign Secretary Farook Sobhan.

The Indian Prime Minister will stay at the state guest house Jamuna.

During the visit, Deve Gowda will pay a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed. Bangladesh Foreign Minister, Commerce Minister and Water Resources Minister will pay courtesy calls on the visiting Indian premier.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will host a state banquet in honour of the visiting Indian premier.

Deve Gowda will visit the Savar Memorial on January 7 to pay homage to the martyrs of the War of Liberation.

The Indian premier will leave Dhaka on the evening of January 7.

Govt to ensure equal rights for all: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is pledge-bound to ensure equal rights and privileges for all people, irrespective of religion, caste and creed, reports BSS.

Talking to the members of the Christian community, who called on her at Gonobhaban in the city yesterday on the eve of Christmas, the Prime Minister sought their all-out cooperation in her government's endeavours to establish a society free from hunger, poverty and deprivation.

The Prime Minister said her party, since its formation, has been an ardent believer of secular politics which was well demonstrated while deciding nominations for the parliamentary polls of 1991 and 1996.

She said her government has been pursuing a non-communal policy and principles in discharging all state activities. Rendering equal service to the people of all religions, ensuring practice of religious rituals by all and safeguarding fundamental rights of all citizens, irrespective of caste and creed, are the cardinal principles of her government, she added.

Modalities

From Page 1

the Navigation Lock. It will also send monitors to the Harding Bridge point. The Indian side will also send monitors to all the four points.

"They will observe and record the discharge of the Ganges water according to the terms of the treaty," a senior official of the Water Resources Ministry said.

The monitors will report to the Joint Committee. It was learnt.

The Indian side has agreed to provide accommodation and transport to the Bangladesh monitors and the same is going to be provided to the Indian officials at Harding Bridge point.

Bangladesh, the sources said, has automatic readers at Harding point. However, on the Indian side, they might use manual monitors which are already in place. Although the automatic readers have some instant advantages, the manual monitors may help "physical monitoring, to be doubly sure of the quantum of discharge," a water expert said.

The leader of the Indian Joint Committee is due to return home today. Earlier, before the beginning of yesterday's talks, he called on Secretary of the Water Resources Ministry, Dr Shamsul Huda.

AB Bank MD

From Page 1

M/s Martial Services and that he either deliberately concealed or failed to raise the actual condition of the borrower in the meeting of the Board of Directors. Even, he also helped the borrower in getting the huge amount of loan which may not be repaid as it was alleged in the directive.

Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed along with Dr M Zahir, Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud assisted by Advocate Faisal Mahmud Faizee and Mobina Asaf Rahman moved for the petitioner.

Opinion poll

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dwellers who included students, doctors, educationists, engineers, politicians, housewives, cultural workers and NGO activists.

Eighty-one per cent respondents viewed that the government should have discussed with the opposition before signing the agreement. Seventy-three per cent described the treaty as a 'diplomatic success' of the government.

Sixty-three per cent did not think that national interest had been sold through the accord and an equal number of respondents thought people's confidence in the government increased following the agreement.

Eighty per cent respondents thought the increased flow of Ganges water would have positive impact on the economy while 71 per cent thought the accord has Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's image.

75 shanties

From Page 1

blaze under control.

The extent of damage could not be known immediately.

Earlier in the morning, a fire broke out in a press at Arambagh under Motijheel thana. Fire fighters, after an hour-long operation, extinguished the blaze that originated at about 7:15 am at the Shahjalal binding press, fire brigade sources said.

The cause of the fire was not known.

Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board

Circuit Expansion with Australia and Canada

Forty two (42) circuits have been increased with Australia during last month in addition to existing 22 circuits & 30 circuits with Canada in addition to existing 10 circuits.

The overseas call charges on Fridays, all Government holidays and during 11.00 PM to 8.00 AM everyday at the reduced rate of 25% still continues. Valued subscribers are requested to avail this opportunity.

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