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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 from April. Besides, discussions were 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 thousand 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

**DSE urges SEC**

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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 lull 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 kerb 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 councillors at the meeting, sources said.

SEC 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.

Meanwhile, the report on circuit breaker prepared by a four-member committee was yet to be announced.

**Ahmed Humayun**

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the persons at a time when The Dainik 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 newsprint 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 Dainik 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 Dainik Bangla in Dhaka, raised a complaint against the senior retainer, Abkar 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 Dainik Bangla, the source added.

## Police action unprovoked, alleges BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdur 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 Jessor 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, Joynal 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, Reazuddin Nasu, Shirin Sultan, Parul, Aysha, Rashed Akhtar, Razi Alam, Kazi Asad, Abdul Aziz, Mahbub Alam and Md Suman.

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 Habibur Nabi Sohel, JASAS president Rezabuddowla and secretary general Wasimul Karim Rajeb and joint secretary Abdul Hy Sikkdar, 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.

He also thanked the Prime Minister for his 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 Karanfar, 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.

**UNFPA**

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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**

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

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

## 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 fraudulence, the press release added.

**Indian air force plane with 20 on board crashes**

NEW DELHI, Dec 24: An Indian Air Force transport aircraft crashed in southern India Tuesday, killing all 20 people on board, a local news agency reported quoting a defence ministry statement, reports AP.

Apart from the crew, all those on the aircraft were members of an air force band, United News of India said.

## BNP-police clash

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do, an NSI field officer and Shahidullah, a pedestrian.

Besides, Amir Hossain Khan, Juba League leader, and Abdul Khaleque, a freedom fighter, both wearing Mujib coat came under attack by the processionists in Purana Paltan area. They were man-handled and their money and other belongings were allegedly snatched.

According to witnesses, a section of the processionists were pelting stones at running vehicles near Dainik Bangla crossing. Police batoncharged them. Angered by the police action, the processionists continued damaging vehicles in different areas.

The BNP activists and police clashed near the Press Club at about 5 pm. Police lobbed tear-gas shells and batoncharged 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 teargas shells as BNP

workers exploded fire crackers and threw brickbats at them. Chase and counter-chase between the two sides made the protesters run helter-skelter for safety.

Meanwhile, five cases were also lodged with the Ramma and Motijheel thanas against an unspecified number of BNP activists for allegedly damaging vehicles, assaulting on-duty policemen and using explosives, police said. One Faruk Ahmed was arrested in this connection, police said.

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## Nepali PM survives no-confidence

KATHMANDU, Dec 24:

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's 15-month-old government today survived a no-confidence motion sponsored by communists and a rebellious faction of the ruling coalition, reports AP.

Of the 185 lawmakers present in the 205-seat house, 101 voted against the Deuba's government and only 84 voted against the no-confidence motion.

## 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 Hasnaj under Biswanath thana this afternoon.

Six of the injured were admitted to the Sylhet M G Osmani 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 on the auspicious occasion.

Members of the Christian community will celebrate the Day by entertaining one another with Christmas Cake and various special dishes.

Illuminated Christmas trees have been seen installed at the city's important hotels, which also arranged for special dishes on the occasion.

The PM congratulated the Christian community on the auspicious occasion.

In separate messages on the occasion, the President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanged greetings on the eve of Christmas Day and exchanged greetings with members of the Christian community.

In his message, President Shahabuddin Ahmed said Bangladeshi is an abode of communal harmony and people have been observing their respective religious freely.

The Constitution safeguards the right of the people to adhere to their own religions, she noted.

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