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VOL. VII NO. 146 REGD. NO. DA 781

The Daily Star

ASHAR 6 1404 BS.

DHAKA FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 1997

SAFAR 13 1418 HIJRI

12 PAGES REGULAR PLUS MAGAZINE : PRICE TAKA 9.00

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Tk 200000 cr draft fifth 5-year plan submitted

A Tk 200,000 crore preliminary draft of the Fifth Five-Year Plan for 1997-2001 was submitted to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Sadsad Bhaban office yesterday evening, reports BSS.

Minister of State for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir handed over the draft plan comprising 28 chapters in four volumes to the prime minister.

According to the draft plan, of the total investment for the period, 57 per cent would be invested in the private sector and 43 per cent for the public sector.

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Shibir enforces strike at CU

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, June 19: Tension gripped the Chittagong University campus today as the Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) enforced a half day strike to protest the naming of a women's hall as 'Pritilata hall', campus sources said.

The newly built hall at the university has been named after Pritilata who had fought against the British rule before the partition of the sub-continent in 1947.

No classes were held and offices could not function due to the strike, campus sources said.

The ICS activists locked the gates of the administrative building and blocked the transport movement inside the campus, police said.

They also held demonstrations.

BCL activists assault PP in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, June 19: The Public Prosecutor (PP) of Rajshahi, M Monsur Rahman, was assaulted, allegedly by a group of activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-P), at his district court chamber yesterday.

According to witnesses, some BCL activists went to the PP at noon to request him to appear before the court in a murder case filed against them. When the Public Prosecutor re-

JS snippets

By Nazmul Ashraf
Awami League lawmaker ASM Feroz yesterday quoted Deputy Leader of the Opposition Dr. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury as having said during the BNP rule "Banning alcohol and gambling will deprive the government of revenue."

At this, Dr Chowdhury started saying, "My younger brother Feroz has quoted me..."

Interrupting him, Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid commented, "You should not take into consideration the words by your younger brother."

"Time has changed. Younger brothers of today are not of that kind," retorted Dr Chowdhury.

Refuting the ruling AL legislator's claim, the physician-lawmaker from the opposition BNP remarked, "His (Feroz's) brain might have been out of order after he was elected with a

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Bangladesh-India Relationships: How Much Do We Care?

by Dr Khandakar Quadrat-I Elahi
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Equipment reach Magurchhara Dousing of fire may start by Sunday

The dousing of fire at the Magurchhara drilling site in Moulvibazar is likely to begin by Sunday, according to official sources.

An explosion led to the fire in the early hours of Saturday. The first consignment of fire-fighting equipment had already reached Moulvibazar yesterday.

The equipment were flown to Dhaka from Singapore by a Russian made Ilyushin-76 special purpose cargo aircraft Wednesday night. These were sent to the spot by a trailer and two trucks.

Another consignment of equipment will reach the city early this morning and will be immediately despatched to the site, the sources said.

Asked about the present po-

sition of the fire-fighting work, they said that it was in the planning, preparation and mobilisation stage.

The experts who had already reached the spot were taking stock of the situation and working out the strategy for installing the fire-fighting equipment. These included certain specialised pumps. Besides, there are certain chemicals.

The pumps have a capacity of spraying 24,000 litres of water per minute from a distance of 500 metres.

Meanwhile, the height of the Magurchhara drilling site fire has reduced further but the flame has expanded at the base, creating an adverse impact on the environment, according to reports received here last night.

Our correspondent reported

from Moulvibazar that the fire was still out of control. Two more fire experts of Occidental visited the spot yesterday.

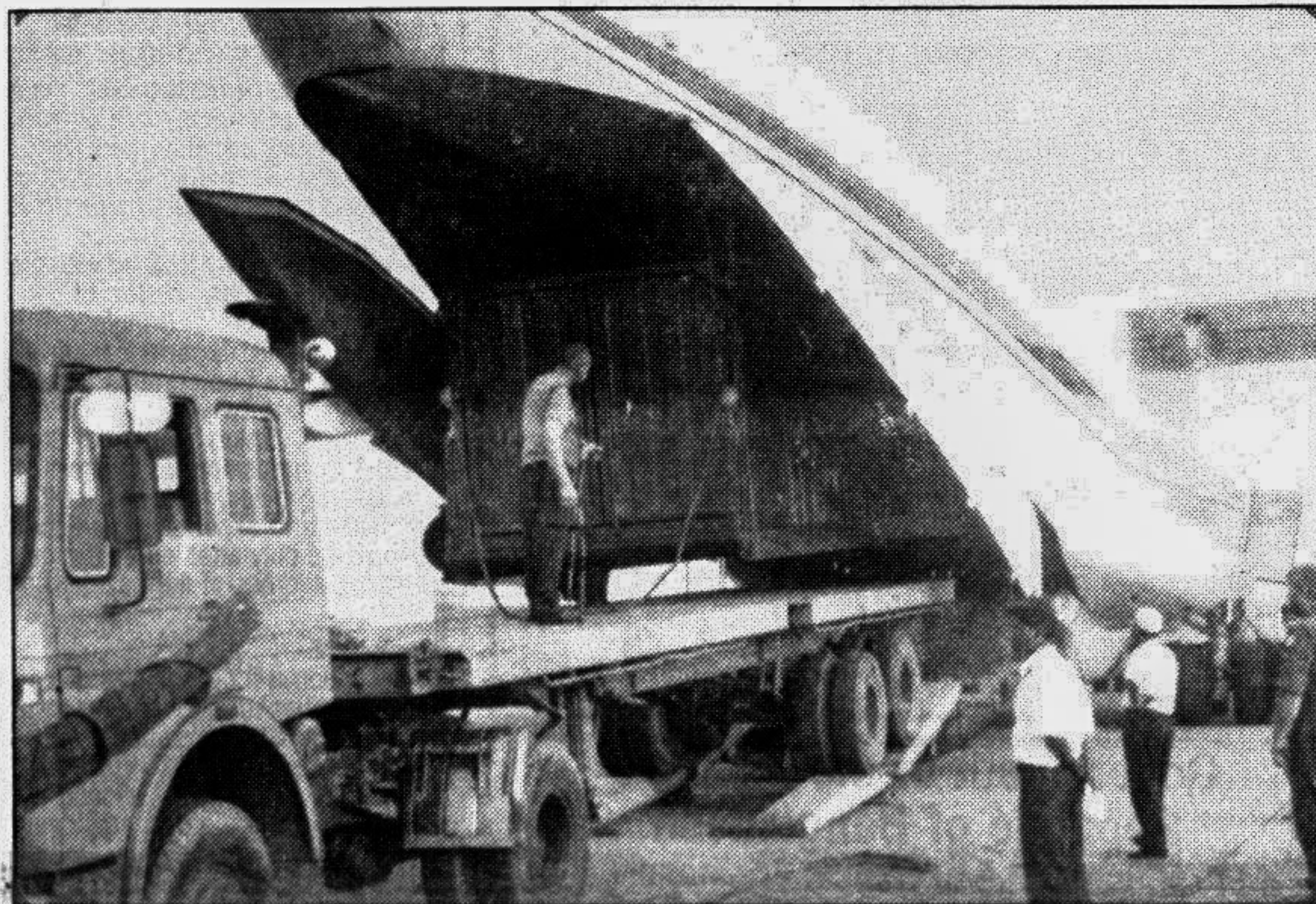
During his visit to the affected area, Our Correspondent noticed that water from all tubewells in Magurchhara area was coming out automatically.

He also reported that hills adjacent to the area were shaking mildly. The natural habitats of birds and other animals within two kilometers of the fire have been seriously affected.

According to a hydrocarbon exploration expert in Dhaka, automatic pumping out of water from tubewells in Magurchhara area could have been caused by the explosion.

The expert said that as the

See Page 12 Col 3.



Fire-fighting equipment flown to Dhaka from Singapore being unloaded from a special cargo aircraft Wednesday night. —Star photo

JC for study to identify reasons for Ganges flow shortfall

By Staff Correspondent
The Bangladesh-India Joint Committee, set up to monitor implementation of the Ganges water sharing agreement, has recommended immediate commissioning of a scientific study to identify the causes of the shortfall in the flow of Ganges water, according to sources concerned.

The shortfall in the flow during the last dry season from January 1 to May 30 had generally hindered the implementation of the stipulated flow, the sources pointed out.

The recommendation was contained in the draft annual report of the first year of water sharing under the treaty prepared at the two-day Joint Committee (JC) meeting which commenced in Dhaka yesterday.

Officials of the Joint Committee and experts finalised the annual water sharing report for the first year (1997) ending with

See Page 12 Col 2

Autopsy report says Nuruzzaman was tortured to death

The autopsy report said that the death of Biman crew Nuruzzaman Sharif was a case of homicide, reports UNB.

"He died following torture," said head of Dhaka Medical College Forensic Department Prof Shamsul Islam, who led a three-member team that performed autopsy of Sharif at DMCH morgue on June 17.

Nuruzzaman, along with another was arrested on June 13 for trying to enter Prime Minister's Secretariat illegally.

When contacted, Shah Kabir, OC of Sutrapur thana where an unnatural death case was filed on the matter, said they received the postmortem report from DMCH with the mention of homicidal reason for the death.

"Now the case will be turned into a murder case and a thorough enquiry will be conducted by appointing an investigation officer," said the officer-in-charge of the Sutrapur police station.

The assistant commissioner (AC) of Tejgaon thana, Shahidul Islam, however, said they were yet to get the autopsy report. He also denied the alleged torture on Sharif while he along with Monir was on two-day police remand.

The AC, in this regard, cited the National Hospital doctors' report that said he died of cardiac failure. "Magistrate Afzalur Rahman also in his surathal report did not find any assault mark on the body of Sharif," he said.

Krishna Bandhu Das, additional deputy commissioner (ADC) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (West) under which the Tejgaon thana runs, informed that he was not aware of the autopsy report.

Nuruzzaman Sharif and Sirajul Islam Monir were arrested for their bid to enter the Prime Minister's office at Tejgaon on June 13.

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Proceedings of Bangabandhu murder case stayed again
By Staff Correspondent
The Court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka has again stayed the proceedings of the Bangabandhu murder case till June 30.

Earlier on June 10, the proceedings were stayed till June 19.

The Judge, Kazi Golam Rasul, issued the fresh stay order yesterday as the hearing of the criminal revision petition challenging the charge framed against Zobaida Rashid, one of the 20 accused in the case, was continuing in the High Court.

Of the 20 accused in the case, the five in jail custody were

See Page 12 Col 1

Proceedings of Bangabandhu murder case stayed again

Judgement on criminal revision case filed by Zobaida June 24

The High Court will deliver the judgement on the criminal revision case filed by co-accused of the Bangabandhu murder case Zobaida Rashid on June 24, reports UNB.

A High Court division bench comprising Justice Badrul Islam Chowdhury and Mohammad Abdul Matin announced this yesterday after a four-day hearing upon the petition.

Attorney General Barrister KS Nabi completed his submission on the day saying the High Court should not interfere into the trial by the revision case as the trial court had framed charge against Zobaida after

See Page 12 Col 1

7 suspected child lifters killed in mob beating in 3 weeks

By Masud Arif
The mob fury against suspected child lifters in different areas of the country resulted in the killing of at least seven persons including two women during this month.

At least 30 others were injured in incidents of mob beating.

Police rescued 10 children and arrested at least 40 people on various charges including child lifting, kidnapping or trafficking from different parts of the country during this period.

Most of the incidents of such violence or arrest related to alleged child lifting were reported from Tangail, Gazipur, Manikganj, Sylhet, Rangamati, Akhaura and Bogra.

Such incidents of violence started increasing last week. In the last couple of days, five persons were beaten to death by mobs, three in Gazipur and two

in Tangail.

However, a senior official of the detective branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), talking to this correspondent, said that they did not have any information that any gang of child-lifters was active in the city. "It is very easy to kill someone intentionally and cover it up branding the person as child lifter," the official added.

Terminating the situation dangerous and alarming, police officials said that they had alerted their patrol teams and plainclothes men to keep vigilance in their respective areas.

The first such incident took place in Lalbagh area in the city on June 5 where a 30-year-old woman was beaten to death by a mob, suspecting her to be a child lifter. The unidentified woman died before police could rescue her.

Three school-going children who were kidnapped from Lalbagh area were rescued from a Sylhet-bound train. Police at the time had said that the kidnapers used chloroformed handkerchief and lured the children by offering mango.

Later, two men were beaten up near a sweeper's colony in Kotwali area, close to Lalbagh, while another woman was assaulted in Demra area in the city.

However, police officials could not find any reason for increase of such violence and killing on suspicion of child lifting. They suspected that many of the victims were attacked due to previous enmity or conflict.

Meanwhile, the DMP in a press release Monday urged the city dwellers to inform police if they catch any suspected child lifter.

See Page 12 Col 6

Resist misrule of govt: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called for greater unity of all nationalist forces to resist the "misrule" of the present government, reports UNB.

"The people want to see BNP in power due to the failure of the government in running the country," she said speaking at a joint programme here.

Former Jatiya Party MP of Naogaon-5 AKM Morshed along

See Page 12 Col 2

Budget discussion continues Worst document: BNP Welfare-oriented: AL

Opposition lawmakers called the new budget the worst-ever financial document and said the finance minister himself had lost confidence in his own budget, reports UNB.

The treasury benchers, however, greeted the budget as a welfare-oriented one, saying it will encourage foreign investment and stimulate economic growth in the country.

The opposing views were expressed by the two sides when they joined general discussion on the national budget for 1997-98 fiscal year for the second day yesterday.

In all, 24 members took part in the discussion. The MPs from the opposition were Dr Dewan Salauddin, Mohammad Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lalu, Adv Ruhul Quddus Talukdar

Dulu, Adv Khairul Enam, Mosharraf Hossain Mangu, Rafiqul Islam Bakul, Mozammel Huq, Abdul Alim, Khalequzzaman and Abdul Mannan of BNP, Golam Hossain and Abdur Rashid Sarker of Jatiya Party and Kazi Shamsur Rahman of Jamaat-e-Islami.

From the government side Abdul Latif Mirza, Razia Matin Chowdhury, Sheikh Mohammad Nurul Huq, Qamrunnahr Putul, ASM Firoze, Nurul Islam Nahid, Srimati Bharati Nandi, ABM Abul Kashem, Whip Mustafa Rashidee Suja and Eng Mosharraf Hossain participated.

The opposition members alleged that fiscal measures proposed in the budget would only destroy domestic industries.

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AL to hold June 23 rally near Press Club

By Staff Correspondent
Awami League leaders yesterday discussed in details the preparations for holding a big rally in the city on June 23, marking the completion of its one-year rule.

A meeting held at party's central office yesterday shifted the venue of the planned rally from Panthapath to Topkhana Road in front of the Jatiya Press Club, party sources said.

Prime Minister and AL chief

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BCL leader chopped to death in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, June 19: A BCL leader was chopped to death by some unidentified assailants at Baluchhara area under Panchalash thana in the city last night, police said.

The dead was identified as Selim Reza, 27, president of BCL, Baluchhara unit.

Selim came under attack at around 2 in the night when he was returning home from his shop.

None was arrested in this connection.

ইতালীতে প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশীদের দেশে টাকা পাঠানো এখন অনেক সুবিধাজনক।

ইতালীতে প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের অর্জিত বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা নিরাপদে এবং কম সময়ে দেশে পাঠানোর জন্য 'ক্রেডিটো ইতালিয়ানো' এবং সোনালী ব্যাংকের মধ্যে রয়েছে দ্বিপাক্ষিক সমঝোতা চুক্তি। এই চুক্তি অনুযায়ী রোম মহানগরীতে অবস্থিত 'ক্রেডিটো ইতালিয়ানো'র নিম্নবর্ণিত শাখা সমূহের মাধ্যমে প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকগণ এখন সহজেই দেশে টাকা পাঠাতে পারেন।

1. CREDITO ITALIANO BRANCH PARIOLI, PIAZZA PITAGORA, 11, ROME, ITALY.

2. CREDITO ITALIANO BRANCH NO. 10, VIA DELLO STATUTO 40 ROME, ITALY.

সোনালী ব্যাংক থেকে সরবরাহকৃত রেমিটেন্সের দরখাস্ত করুন 'ক্রেডিটো ইতালিয়ানো'র উক্ত শাখা সমূহে পাওয়া যাবে, যা প্রবাসীরা যথায়খানে পূরণ ও স্বাক্ষর করে রেমিটেন্সের অর্থ ইতালীয় মুদ্রা লীরায় জমা দিতে পারবেন।

রেমিটেন্সের মাধ্যমে প্রেরিত অর্থ বাংলাদেশী টাকায় বাংলাদেশস্থ সোনালী ব্যাংকের যে কোনো শাখায় সঞ্চয়ী বা চলতি হিসাব খুলে তাতে অথবা ব্যাংক রক্ষিত রেমিটেন্সের (প্রেরকের) নিজের অথবা তাদের আত্মীয় স্বজনদের ব্যাংক হিসাবে বা সরাসরি প্রাপকের ঠিকানায় প্রেরণ করতে পারেন।

এ ছাড়া তারা বাংলাদেশস্থ সোনালী ব্যাংকের যে কোনো শাখায় স্থায়ী আমানত হিসাব, ওয়েজ আর্নিস শাখা সমূহে বৈদেশিক মুদ্রায় ডলার/পাউন্ডের হিসাব (সুদবিহীন) ও অনাবাসিক বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা আমানত হিসাব (সুদযুক্ত) খুলতে পারবেন এবং ঢাকা/ওয়েজ আর্নিস শাখা থেকে ওয়েজ আর্নিস ডেভেলপমেন্ট বন্ড ক্রয় করতে পারবেন।

উপরে বর্ণিত হিসাব খোলা/ওয়েজ আর্নিস ডেভেলপমেন্ট বন্ড ক্রয়ের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় ফরম ইতালীর রোমে অবস্থিত বাংলাদেশ দূতাবাস থেকে প্রবাসীরা সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন।

রেমিটেন্স সম্পর্কিত আরও তথ্য/অনুসন্ধানের জন্য প্রয়োজন বোধে নিম্ন ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করতে পারেনঃ

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জাতীয় বৃক্ষ মেলা '৯৭

আগামী ১-৭-৯৭ইং মঙ্গলবার হইতে আগারগাঁওস্থ জাতীয় কোয়ারে পক্ষকালব্যাপী বৃক্ষ মেলা '৯৭ অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে। উক্ত বৃক্ষ মেলায় বিভিন্ন প্রকার চারার স্টল ছাড়াও বন ও বনজ সম্পদ ভিত্তিক শিল্প সামগ্রীর স্টল থাকিবে। উক্ত মেলায় অংশগ্রহণ করিতে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি ও সংহাকে স্টল বরাদ্দ পাওয়ার জন্য আগামী ২৩-৬-৯৭ইং তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নঠিকানায় লিখিতভাবে আবেদন করিতে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে। আবেদনপত্রে যে ধরনের বা সামগ্রীর স্টল করিতে ইচ্ছুক তাহাও সংক্ষেপে উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে।

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Pay scale likely to be finalised next week

By Staff Correspondent
The government is likely to finalise the national pay scale of about 750,000 public servants next week, official sources said.

The National Pay Commission submitted its report to the Prime Minister on Wednesday.

The new pay scale is due to be effective from July 1. However, there is a possibility that the new scale would be implemented in phases as recommended by the commission and hinted by the finance minister in his post-budget press conference.

The commission has recommended a minimum basic salary of Tk 1850 and Tk 18,000 as the maximum. But a basic salary of Tk 19,000 has been recommended for two top civil servants, the Cabinet Secretary and the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, sources concerned said.

The commission has proposed 20 new scales and a host of fringe benefits.

House rent at the rate of 60 per cent of the basic salary, in lieu of government accommodation, has been recommended for officials and employees living in Dhaka city.

Those living in Chittagong city will get 55 per cent, in other divisional headquarters 50 per cent, in district towns 40 per cent and those living at thana and union levels will get 30 per cent, as recommended.

Officials entitled to get gov-

See Page 12 Col 1

Trawler with fertiliser sinks in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, June 19: A trawler loaded with fertiliser sank in the Sreemanta river near Bakerganj Govt College hostel this morning.

The trawler was carrying 425 bags of urea fertiliser to Bakerganj.

BSS adds: The Detective Branch (DB) of Police recently submitted the chargesheet of the biggest-ever gold haul at ZIA to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court in the city.

Sources in the CMM court yesterday said the chargesheet was submitted on May 29 after eight months of investigation. A total of 13 persons including some business tycoons have been chargesheeted in the case. Of them, nine persons were arrested.

A team of the DB police went

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900 tolas of gold seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent
A customs surveillance team at Zia International Airport (ZIA) recovered gold bars worth about Tk 43.56 lakh from a passenger yesterday morning.

Airport sources said the customs men seized 900 gold bars, weighing 900 tolas, from a handbag and a suitcase of the passenger identified as Chowdhury Kader, 40, after he had arrived by a Bangladesh Biman flight from Dubai.

He was in transit from Dhaka to Chittagong.

Kader, who hails from Rupchandnagar in Raozan, was challenged by the customs men following his suspicious movement in the transit lounge. They took him to the customs hall and recovered 30 gold bars from his handbag.

Later, the customs men brought Kader's luggage from the Biman authorities.

Another 60 gold bars kept in some packets of perfume were found in his suitcase.

A case was filed with Cantonment thana and Kader was handed over to police.

Police said they were interrogating Kader.