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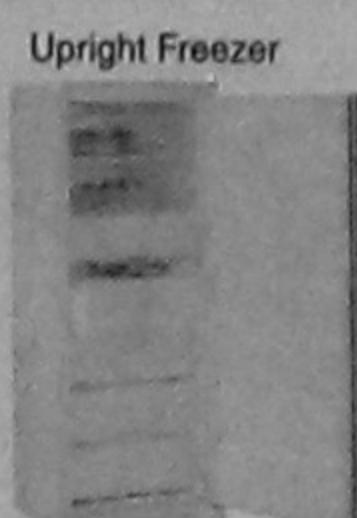
Hotel Hawaii Building
39, Agrabad C.A., Chittagong
Tel # 712127 Fax# 710106

CEPZ

Ctg. Export Processing Zone
Old Admin Building
Halishahar, Chittagong
Tel # 740108 Fax# 710106

KHULNA

K.D.A Building
Khan A. Sabur Road, Khulna
Tel # 725008 Fax# 731932



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Indians kidnap Bangladeshi in Naogaon

NAOGAON, June 21: A gang of Indian miscreants on Sunday kidnapped a Bangladeshi youth and demanded Tk 50,000 as ransom, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the armed Indians entered Bangladesh territory in the afternoon and abducted Mostafa, 25, at gunpoint from Khayer Bari Ghat in Dhamraihat upazila.

Later, the kidnappers in a message sent here demanded the amount for the release of Mostafa, son of Muslim Uddin of the same upazila.

When contacted, the In-charge of the Chakela border outpost admitted the incident.

Interrogation of Shimul: Report likely by Sunday

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 21: Senior Superintendent of Police (SB), Dhaka Golam Mostafa and Sakhawat Hossain, additional SP of CID, Dhaka left Khulna on Tuesday evening for Dhaka.

They were among the three-member high-level team assigned by the police headquarters to interrogate leader of the outlawed PBCP Mahmud Hasan Shimul. The other senior officer of the team was Mazharul Huq, deputy commissioner of Sylhet KMP.

Chairman of the three-member team Golam Mostafa is likely to submit a report to the government by Sunday on the outcome of the five-day interrogation of Shimul, who named his godfathers in political arena and business circles in Khulna city and in the district.

Medicine worth Tk 4 lakh looted in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 21: Five youths snatched two cartons of life saving drugs worth over Tk 4 lakh from near Society Cinema Hall on Tuesday night.

The medicines belonging to 'Khulna City Clinic' at Heraj Market were being carried in a van for booking in the Sundarban Courier Service for a certain customer in Dhaka. Bladu Bhownick, proprietor of the medicine shop was severely injured in the attack by alleged muggers who are residents of south Tootpara under Khulna thana.

Police today arrested one of the muggers named Pintoo from Mohammadan Club.

Ctg mass killing Court summons 12 police officers to testify

CHITTAGONG, June 21: A court today summoned 12 police officers as witness to the mass killing in the port city to appear before it July 3-6 to testify, reports UNB.

First Additional Sessions Judge AMM Sayeed issued the order following an appeal of government pleader Advocate Samjhoo Prasad Biswas.

The officers include then Kotwala thana OC Kazi Shahabuddin and its Inspector Avijit Chakma and then Chanda thana OC Dukhu Mia.

Earlier, the court had recorded statements of three high police officials from June 5 to 7.

Depositions from 69 witnesses will be taken in the sensational Mass Killing Case, officials said.

The killings took place on January 24, 1988 when police opened fire on a rally of the then opposition Awami League at Lalidhara Maidan.

SKOP leaders condemn 'police action' on workers during strike

Leaders of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) yesterday condemned the police action on the processions of the workers in various industrial belts of the country, reports UNB.

A day-long countrywide strike called by SKOP to press home its demands, including announcement of minimum national wage and enactment of labour act, ended at 6 am yesterday.

In a statement the SKOP leaders threatened to announce fresh agitation programmes if the government does not implement the agreement signed with them soon.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Minister, experts tell workshop USG tech saves urea, raises food output

By Staff Correspondent

Agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury said yesterday the government will continue supporting the urea super granule (USG) technology that can contribute up to 20 per cent rise in food production in the country.

"USG can save 30-40 per cent of urea while giving 15-20 per cent higher yields of food grain. This results is a great increase in profit for farmers and grain yields as well as savings of urea," said the minister while addressing a national workshop on USG technology at IDB Bhaban.

The last such programme by ATDP, an USAID-supported Agriculture Ministry project, ATDP or Agrobased Industries and Technology Development Project completes its task by July 31 next.

The USG technology is a method of urea application where the fertilizer is used in granular form instead of dust form. While farmers traditionally used to apply urea on the surface, USG application requires deep placement in the lands. This technology was evolved to make fertilizer use more efficient and cost-effective.

With Agriculture Secretary Dr AMM Shawkat Ali in the chair, the inaugural session of the workshop was also addressed by Dr Zahirul Karim, executive chairman of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC); M Enamul Hoque, director general of

the Department of Agricultural Extension; M Anwarul Haque, chairman of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC); Dr Ronald P Black, chief of party of ATDP; and an USAID official Richard Rousseau.

Inaugurating the workshop the agriculture minister urged research organisations and extension departments to find out what other interesting and useful uses of USG could be made for fertilizing fruits and vegetables.

Referring to inundated tidal areas of the country, the minister said the areas which are lagging behind in the adoption of USG technology should be given special attention so that they may also catch up with others.

Other speakers also highlighted the success of the USG technology that expanded from a mere two hectares land in 1995-96 to three lakh hectares in 1999-2000.

The participants, however, underscored on the need for balanced application of different soil nutrient and avoid overuse of urea in the cultivable land.

Later on the day, seven papers were presented at the workshop, split into two working sessions. These papers dealt with wide range of subjects such as impact of USG, history and development of briquette machine that produces USG and role of NGOs in promotion of the USG technology.

Abducted Ctg BNP leader beaten up, released

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 21: BNP leader who was abducted from the premises of party office, was released by the gunmen at 1 am last night, police and party sources said.

Shah Alam, president of BNP Laikhan Bazar unit, was abducted by the gunmen from the premises of party office at Nasimon Building at Nur Ahmed Road at 7 pm yesterday, police and party sources said.

After his abduction, police raided different places in the city, but could not rescue the Alain.

Three mugged near Sonargaon Hotel

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers in the guise of passengers of an auto-tempo snatched Tk 4,000 and valuables including gold rings from three persons near Sonargaon Hotel yesterday evening, witnesses said.

The victims — Zahedur Rahman Iqbal, manager of a private company; Hasan Ahmed, and Khaja Ahmed, both officials of Phillips Bangladesh Limited, told The Daily Star that they boarded the tempo from Farm Gate area on their way back to Malibagh at 8 pm. When the vehicle arrived at Sonargaon crossing six mugs — one carrying a revolver and others brandishing razors and knives — asked them to hand over their valuables.

Then they were ordered to get down near the FDC where there were no street lights. The victims said the vehicle had no number plate.

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I blamed the overly ambitious revenue target, underestimation of the impact of reduced customs duties, lack of adjustment of petroleum prices and other SOE tariffs and 'strong expenditure pressure' for the higher-than-budgeted overall deficit, which is close to six per cent of GDP.

Hicks said some measures (which include tax holiday extension, restructuring of import duty to protect domestic industry) in the proposed budget undermine the medium-term objective of efficient revenue mobilisation.

IMF said the partial reversal of the overruled in current expenditure, as envisaged in the proposed budget, may be difficult to achieve with the continuing rapid increases in the government's domestic debt and deficit financing of SOEs.

The additional wage burden on the industrial SOEs expected from the recommendations of the Wage Commission could also significantly boost current spending," IMF said.

The budget proposal to issue Tk 18 billion bonds through Kuwait's government into two categories: those who registered in the first population census in 1965 and those who did not.

Parliament voted last month to ease the emirate's rigid nationality law to allow members of the first category

to apply for citizenship.

Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled al-Sabah said some 36,700 bidoum from a total 111,000 would qualify to apply under the amended law.

The remaining 75,000 whose

claims for nationality have

been ruled out must either pro-

duce their actual nationality or

pledge in writing before June 27

that they will do so within one month, Subaidi warned.

Those who comply will be

granted a normal residence visa

allowing them to live legally in

Kuwait, while those who do not

will be stripped of all civil

rights and documentation such

as a driver's licence.

Diplomats, however, doubted whether the government

would be able to execute

the oil-rich emirate.

Bidoum are classified by

Kuwait's government into two

categories: those who registered

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