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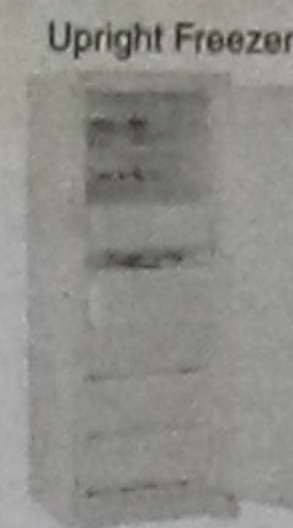
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Indian water minister in city

Bijoya Chakraborty, the Indian State Minister for Water Resources, arrived in city yesterday evening on a five-day official visit, reports BSS.

Bijoya came here at the invitation of Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq. She will visit some water development projects, official sources said. She is accompanied by four officials.

She will visit the National Mausoleum at Savar and arsenic affected areas in Manikganj today.

Intending Hajis asked to deposit house rent by Thursday

Pilgrims who intend to perform the coming Hajj under government arrangements have been asked to deposit house rent by Thursday, an official release said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Because of the devaluation of Taka and other reasons, this year the expenditure on Hajj will be higher.

The intending Hajis will have to pay Tk 16,800 (equivalent to 1200 Saudi riyal) as advance house rent.

The money deposited in advance as house rent will be adjusted with the overall expenditures. The house rent could be deposited with any branch of Sonali Bank, Rupali Bank, Agrani Bank, Pubali Bank, Islami Bank, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, City Bank, Janata Bank, Uttara Bank, Al-Baraka Bank, Al-Arafa Islami Bank, Prime Bank Limited, Social Investment Bank Limited and National Credit and Commerce Bank Limited.

Ctg port to have green channel for garments exporters from Oct 5

By Rafiq Hasan

A green channel will be opened at Chittagong port on October 5 to accelerate garments export from the country.

Imports of garments exporters with no bad record in last five years will be released through the green channel virtually without any customs checking and there will be no checking on way to warehouses.

The custom officials at the port will however check five per cent of the goods at random so that the facility can not be misused.

The decisions were taken at a high level meeting held at the shipping ministry yesterday. Shipping Secretary Sohel Ahmed Chowdhury presided over the meeting, attended by Com-

merce Secretary Golam Rahman, NBR Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan, Chittagong Port Authority Chairman Golam Rabbani and other high officials concerned.

BGMEA President Anisur Rahman Sinha, BKMEA President Monjurul Haq, BSTMPA President Mohammad Shahjahan Mian and representatives of some other export organisations also attended the meeting.

The meeting also discussed various problems faced by exporters at the port and some demands placed by them.

The exporters said that port services were being affected by frequent hartals, strikes and work abstention by workers and employees and demanded that

the services be declared essential.

There are as many as 16 trade union organisations at Chittagong port, which often make it hostage to their programmes, they said.

Anisur Rahman Sinha said that the sailing date of feeder vessels should be fixed during anchorage because many vessels take long time to leave the port which makes export delayed.

The government can impose surcharge on the vessel which do not leave the port within the scheduled time, he said at the meeting.

Their other demands include keeping port sheds and port banks open up to 8 pm, sun-

plying clearing procedures to reduce congestion, expediting container discharge process, allowing private ICD and door to door delivery of containers.

The meeting assured the exporters of taking measures to solve the problems and expedite loading and unloading of goods at the port.

The meeting also decided that the shipping secretary and the commerce secretary would visit Chittagong port on October 5 and try to resolve the problems through discussion with officials and others.

During their visit, they will also hold another meeting of officials and exporters' representatives.



Police put up barricades in front of Shishu Park to stop the agitating non-government primary school teachers from advancing towards the prime minister's office after holding a rally at Osmani Udyan. The teachers had planned to lay a siege to the Prime Minister's office to press their demand. One of the teachers fainted in the scorching heat of the sun. — Star photo

Two girls raped in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two girls were raped by miscreants in the city over the last two days.

The eight year-old girl was raped by an unidentified young man at Adabar in Shyamoli yesterday evening, hospital sources said. The man who offered to pay her for cleaning an abandoned house, took her there, raped her and then fled from the spot.

The girl returned to her shanty at Adabar and told her mother about the incident. She was taken to Suhrawardy Hospital at about 11 p.m. and was later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

In another incident, a teenage garment employee was

DSE asked to probe 'freak deals'

Star Report

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) directed the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday to "properly investigate" a trade that took place on Sunday concerning the stocks of Chittagong Cement Clinker and punish the possible wrongdoers.

The deal involving Tk 19.59 crore pushed prices of the issue up by over Tk 100 on the day, although it eased up later.

The SEC, market regulators, also asked the DSE to find out whether any broker has made quick bucks out of the transactions on the day and if so then realise the money and deposit it with the 'investors' protection fund' (IPF). It also directed DSE to transfer the charges it realised as a result of the deals to the same fund.

The IPF is raised by the bourse for settling claims of an investor against defaulting stockbrokers.

"It appears to us that the incidence has occurred at the serious cost to a disciplined capital market of the country affecting the confidence of the investors at large which need to be properly investigated and action taken against the wrongdoers, if there be any," said a SEC letter addressed to the chief executive officer of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

Truth behind coups 'Time to bring transparency in Armed Forces'

Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the government to instil transparency and accountability in the armed forces to help the truth behind different army coups come to light.

"Now is the time to bring transparency and accountability in the army," retired army general Ibrahim said while speaking at a discussion meeting in the memory of the 13 army officers who were summarily hanged to death on September 23, 1981.

The function was held at Begum Sufia Kamal auditorium of the National Museum with its Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan in the chair.

General Ibrahim raised question as to whether Bangladesh Army functions in accordance with the Army Act.

The government, he said, should consider bringing about changes in the Army Act, which came into force in 1911.

"The Army Act has been violated for ages and little could be done to check the army's wrongdoings," said Ibrahim.

who was the Defence Officer in the trial of the 13 officers in a martial law court.

"The sad incident of the 23rd September could have been averted had there been transparency in army," he observed said laws need to be formulated to make the army transparent.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, in his speech as chief guest, termed the September 23rd incident as a national tragedy and said only the unveiling of events of those months can bring some sort of consolation to the bereaved families of the hanged officers.

"It is never too late to right a wrong," he said and added that people have a right to know the truth.

Prof. Chowdhury suggested that the government form a committee to recommend changes in the Army Act, which he said is no holy book.

Prof. Anisuzzaman, Chairman of Bangla Academy, demanded fresh probe into the farcical military trial of the 13

See page 11 col 8

Non-govt pry teachers begin sit-in, continue boycott of class

Non-government primary school teachers began a sit-in at Osmani Udyan in the city yesterday demanding nationalisation of their services, reports UNB.

The teachers will continue its sit-in at Osmani Udyan till September 27 and announce its next programme on that day.

The teachers have been boycotting classes since September 2. They will continue the boycott until their demand is met.

The demonstrating teachers were stopped by police at Shahab crossing while proceeding towards the Prime Minister's office at about 1:45 pm from Osmani Udyan.

Several teachers were injured when they tried to push through the barbed wire fence near Shishu Park.

Being intercepted by police, the teachers sat on the street near Shishu Park and chanted slogans in support of their demand.

Later, DG Education Abul Kalam Azad received the memorandum on behalf of the Prime Minister from Primary Teachers.

Situation at Ulipur tense BDR, BSF reinforce troops along border

KURIGRAM, Sept 25: Tension gripped the frontier Ulipur upazila of the district as BDR and Indian BSF reinforced troops along the border following a gunfight this morning, reports UNB.

The BDR-BSF encounter took place at about 9:30 am as BDR resisted a BSF bid to kidnap three Bangladeshi nationals who were fishing in a tributary of the Brahmaputra.

Locals said intruding into Bangladesh territory, the BSF tried to kidnap Ruhul Amin, Santos Ali and Shahid of Eyelmiri village from Shaheer Alga, 40 kms off Ulipur upazila

and 50 kms off the district headquarters, near international border pillar No 1033.

"As BDR jawans of Deokhawoa BOP rushed to the spot to help Amin and others hearing their hue and cry, BSF opened fire on them. BDR retaliated with counter fire," said a spot account.

Soon after the incident, BSF reinforced its troops and massed heavy arms and ammunition pushing some 4,000 people of four bordering villages into tension.

"BDR also strengthened its troops to counter any attack from BSF," said a witness.

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Project to enrich flour with vit-A early next year

By Mustak Hossain

A pilot project to enrich brown flour and flour with vitamin A and minerals during grinding to supply balanced diet to people will be launched in the country early next year.

If successful, it will be expanded under a "wheat-flour fortification programme", outgoing Resident Representative of WFP Dr Werner Kiene told The Daily Star. Kiene leaves this week.

The enriched brown flour and flour will be distributed under VGF, VGD and Food for Education (FFE) and Food for Work (FFW) programmes.

The programme will be introduced under the National Nutrition Programme (NNP), initiated jointly by WFP, World Bank and UNICEF.

It will be like the salt iodisation programme initiated by UNICEF, he said.

Initially, private sector flour mills will grind and enrich the flour and wheat made available by the donors. The fortification process will be made mandatory in phases as has been done in case of salt iodisation, he said.

A strong monitoring cell will be formed to check any wrongdoing by the mills, he said.

Dr Kiene also stressed the need for change in the food habit of the people.

2 get 10 yrs' RI under PSA in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sept 25: District and Public Safety Act Tribunal Judge ANM Bashir Ullah today sentenced to persons to ten years rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 50,000 each, in default to suffer one year more RI, on charge of terrorism, reports BSS.

The convicts were M Badsha Mia and Rasul Amin of Chandpur and Mirsaral respectively.

The prosecution stated that on March 3, 2000, the convicts fired gunshots and exploded crackers at Bisha Colony under Pahartali thana creating panic among the residents.

Pahartali police rushed to the spot and arrested the two terrorists along with gun and cartridges.

After examining several witnesses, the judge found them guilty.

The diet of most Bangladeshis consists of a large quantity of rice, which is strong in calories but lacks protein, iron, minerals and vitamins, he said.

On an average, Bangladeshis take 1/10th of legumes daily compared to Indians.

Legume and other types of beans are full of protein and vitamins, but those are in less supply in the country, he said.

Most of the Bangladesh children suffer from iron defi-

ciency due to lack of iron in their daily food intake, Dr Kiene said.

Children need different types of cereals enriched with protein, minerals and vitamins.

Around 66.8 million or 53.08 per cent people of the country are below poverty line, 35.3 million or 28 per cent are below "food poverty line" and 11.58 million or 61.95 per cent are undernourished, according to available statistics.

প্রিয় মা ও বাবা -

আপনারা নিত্যই লক্ষ্য করেছেন আপনার ছোট সোনামণির মধ্যে চমৎকার সব পরিবর্তন। নিজে নিজে সব কিছু করবার আনন্দ সে এরই মাঝে আবিষ্কার করেছে। সেই সাথে ওর চোখে ভেসে উঠছে এই পৃথিবীর অপরূপ সৌন্দর্য। আপনার দুই এখন উন্মোচন করছে পৃথিবীর রহস্য। আর এই সময়ে ভালোবাসা এবং চমৎকার বোঝাপড়ার মধ্য দিয়ে ওকে পথ দেখাতে হবে। তাই দিতে হবে নিজে'র পুষ্টি, যা সারা পৃথিবীর অসংখ্য মা ও তার সন্তানের পছন্দ।

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