



The World On Time

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## Textbook trouble takes new twist

Beximco trio fail to meet NCTB deadline

By Mustak Hossain

The textbook crisis has deepened as the three concerns of Beximco Group which were to print 8.12 crore textbooks for primary and secondary levels did not deposit those with the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) although the deadline expired yesterday.

The coordination committee of Publishers, Printers and Distributors Association at a press conference on Tuesday offered to complete printing of the textbooks by January 10 next.

Meanwhile, printers and distributors apprehended that if the Beximco concerns fail to distribute books by the first week of January, then the prices of books would rise.

The NCTB in a surprise move had awarded the gigantic task of printing such a large number of textbooks to three concerns of Beximco GroupSuktara, Free Press and Pustaka which allegedly had no trade licence when they participated in bidding.

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C&F firm looted in Ctg: Night guard killed

CHITTAGONG, Dec 21: Miscreants looted about Tk 20 thousand from a C and F firm killing its night guard at Enayer Bazar under Kotwali thana here last night, reports BSS.

Miscreants entered the office of Ruma Trading Company on the first floor of the two storied building by breaking open the collapsible gate, police said.

They strangulated night guard Ramzan Ali, 60, and decamped with the said money.

Police recovered the body of Ramzan Ali today and sent it to hospital for autopsy. Ramzan had been serving as a night guard in the firm for the last 30 years, sources said.

## Govt to launch US\$52m AIDS project in Jan

Focus on prevention through behavioural change

By Staff Correspondent

A group of Bangladeshi workers who recently returned from Bahrain alleged yesterday that they were not paid as per their contract and were tortured by their employer there.

Addressing a press conference at the DRU office, some of the returnees alleged that Kimia Garments Industries in Bahrain, owned by a Bangladeshi, recruited around 80 workers from Bangladesh in May. As per

the contract, each worker was supposed to be paid an amount equivalent to Tk 8000 per month. But it paid only Tk 6,400 after three months' hard work, they said.

Each worker had to spend Tk 70,000 for the job, they said.

They also alleged that they were forced to 15/16 hours a day without overtime and any extra benefit, which was violation of the contract.

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