



New tender for food import this month

REAZ AHMAD

In a belated move to replenish the poor food stock, the government is finally going to float fresh international tenders this month for import of one lakh tonnes of rice and an equal quantity of wheat.

Official sources said the food reserve declined to only two lakh tonnes two months ago while the record fixed 'critical food security level' is 8.5 lakh tonnes.

After recording the deposition, Judge Kazi Rahamat Ullah adjourned the hearing till May 27.

In his deposition, Shamsul Haque told the court that he was a Sub-Inspector at Gulshan police station in the city in April, 1998.

"After filing of the First Information Report (FIR) in connection with the killing of Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, on April 24, 1998, I have been given the charge of investigating the matter by the then Officer-in-Charge (OC). After scrutinising the FIR, I went to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

(PMO) to float fresh tenders only three days ago, almost a month after cancellation of the previous ones.

On April 21, the Cabinet Committee on Public Purchase at a meeting chaired by Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman cancelled the previous tenders in view of poor response from bidders and high price quotations.

Talking to The Daily Star on Tuesday, Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman however said there is

nothing to get panicky about the food reserve as the government has already converted many of the food-aided programmes into cash-aided ones.

The fresh tenders for import of rice and wheat would be floated soon, allowing a 45-day shipment period, he added.

Meanwhile, production of aman paddy fell far short of the target last season. The government then went for an OMS drive (open market sale)

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Two shot dead in Fatikchhari

Woman's body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

but investigators are yet to confirm any leads to the killing of the two.

Preliminary finds by police show that Jamaluddin and Bhanjan were innocent of political rivalry, said Hasib Aziz, additional superintendent of police (north) of Chittagong.

Police said an armed gang abducted Jamaluddin, 24, and Bhanjan Nath, 32, from Taltali in Fatikchhari at about 9.00pm Tuesday and killed them sometime in the early hours of yesterday.

Police recovered the bodies with chest and eye injuries from Chittagong-Khagrachhari Road at Paindong at about 7.00am. Four cartridges and ropes were also seized.

Sources said the killers have links to the Islami Chhatra Shibir,

Anti-smoking treaty adopted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has unanimously adopted an anti-smoking treaty - the first global public health measure ever approved.

The aim of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control is to reduce an estimated five million smoking-related deaths each year.

All 192 member states are now committed to strict curbs on the advertising, marketing and sale of tobacco products within five years, says a press release from Geneva yesterday.

At least one third of the space on cigarette packets will have to be devoted to health warnings, including pictures of diseased lungs.

DETAILS ON PAGE 10

15th prosecution witness gives deposition

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Shamsul Haque, the 15th prosecution witness in the Shazneen case and the first Investigation Officer of the Shazneen murder case, gave his deposition before court yesterday.

The Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression Dhaka recorded the deposition of the witness.

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SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

SEE PAGE 11 COL