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DU TEACHERS' CASE
Flower shop staff, tea vendor give depositions

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A flower-shop employee and a tea vendor gave their statements yesterday in one of the two cases filed against four Dhaka University teachers and 15 students for allegedly breaking the emergency power rules in August last year. Metropolitan Magistrate Habibur Rahman Siddiqui recorded their depositions and fixed January 6 for next hearing. The two prosecution witnesses are Sabuj Miah, the flower-shop

Two globally endangered birds found in Hakaluki

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Two globally endangered species of waterfowl have been spotted in the Hakaluki Haor in Sylhet this year by a survey team that went there to conduct a census on water birds. Two Baer's Pochards, a globally threatened species, and 3,923 near threatened Ferruginous Pochards were found in the Hakaluki Haor, one of the largest wetlands in Asia, during the annual survey. The survey report on waterfowls in four ecologically critical areas of

Dignified legal process on for detained DU teachers

CLAIMS VC
DU CORRESPONDENT
The cases against the detained teachers and students of Dhaka University may not be withdrawn, but they will be freed through legal procedures, said Vice-chancellor Prof. SMA Faiz. He said everyone concerned is working together to complete the legal procedure as soon as possible. There has been continual cooperation from the families of the

Govt to import 2 lakh tonnes of fertiliser

Advisers hold talks with 6 countries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday held discussions with six countries on procuring 2 lakh tonnes of fertiliser from overseas to tackle a possible shortage during the Boro season that could lead to a severe food crisis this year. Foreign adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury and Agriculture Adviser CS Karim met the envoys from China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Qatar and the UAE at the foreign ministry to discuss the possibility of procuring fertiliser from those countries. "My understanding is that while we have sufficient stock as of now,

we should be prepared for any eventuality, as we cannot afford to take any chance with the forthcoming Boro crop," Iftekhar told reporters after the meeting. The envoys assured the advisers of assistance if it is required, he said. "We invited the envoys of potential source countries and explained to them our needs," he said, adding that Belarus and Tunisia are two other countries that might be tapped for fertiliser import. The foreign ministry is trying to contact the relevant officials from the two countries. Agriculture adviser CS Karim told reporters that 1 lakh tonnes of both TSP and MOP would be

required if there is a shortage. There are widespread reports of a countrywide fertiliser crisis. Asked why the government is looking into importing more fertiliser if there is no crisis, Karim said, "The government feels that this step is necessary to prevent a shortage in the future after suffering three natural disasters in 2007." "But, currently there is no shortage," he said, adding that the government does not have plan to give any subsidy to farmers for fertiliser. Currently, Karim said, the government has 4 lakh tonnes of Urea, 50 thousand tonnes of MOP and 50 thousand tonnes of TSP.

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FF KILLING CASE
IO asked to submit report by Jan 30

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the investigation officer of a murder case against Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid and seven of their party men for killing two freedom fighters during the liberation war to submit probe report by January 30. Judicial Magistrate Ashiqul Kabir gave the order after accepting the first information report (FIR) of the case, which officer-in-charge at Keraniganj Police Station, Mallick Ruhul Islam, is investigating.

Sources said the IO has already started investigation into the case. Keraniganj police on Monday recorded the case as a FIR even

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Four lakh MT Aman shortfall in North

Low production due to fertiliser dearth, floods

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

The harvest of Aman saw a shortfall of four lakh tonnes against the target of 13.21 lakh tonnes this season in 16 northern districts under Rajshahi division, according to Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE). Local farmers and DAE officials blamed it on the unavailability of different fertilisers including urea and the recent floods throughout the season of Aman cultivation. Farmer Abu Bakker Siddique from Khottapara village in Shahjahanpur upazila, Bogra said though his cultivable land is above the floodplains, per hectare yield of Aman this season was 2.4 tonnes lower than the previous season as

sufficient fertiliser was not available in the area this season. As opposed to a harvest of 4.5 tonnes of Aman using 225 kg of urea on each hectare of land the previous season, he wound up harvesting only 2.1 tonnes this season as he managed to apply only 135 kg of urea on each hectare of the cultivated land, said Siddique. Fazlur Rahman, another farmer from Buroil village in Nandigram upazila of Bogra, said fertiliser scarcity caused him suffer a shortage of 0.48 tonne of Aman per hectare of land compared to the harvest he reaped from the same land the previous season. Last season Rahman applied 440 kg urea per hectare to cultivate Khato

Bhada and Shil Koral, two varieties of Aman, and obtained a harvest of 2.20 tonnes a hectare. Whereas this season the yield of the same crop was only 1.72 tonnes per hectare as he could not apply more than 220 kg of urea on each hectare of land due to acute fertiliser crisis, said Rahman. DAE sources in Kurigram said fertiliser crisis and the floods resulted in a deficit of 71 thousand tonnes in the harvest of Aman in the district against the estimated target of 2.71 lakh tonnes. The district of Bogra, known for its food surplus, also felt the pinch as the target harvest of Aman was 99 thousand tonnes short of the targeted 4.89 lakh tonnes.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



PHOTO: SHAFIQ ALAM

Imported Indian rice being unloaded from vessels at Badamtoli Ghat on the Buriganga yesterday. BDR is to sell the rice at their fair price outlets.

EXTORTION, ARMS, NARCOTICS CASES
Charges framed against Rajshahi, Khulna mayors

STAR REPORT

Charges were framed yesterday against Rajshahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu in an extortion case and Khulna Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Raman in two cases filed under the Arms Act and the Narcotics Control Act. Rajshahi Additional District and Sessions Judge's court framed charges against four persons including the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) mayor and former BNP lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Minu in the Tk 1 crore extortion case. The other accused are district BNP vice president and former president of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI) Lutfar Rahman, and his brothers Fazlur Rahman and Bazlur Rahman. The court acquitted three other accused of extortion charges following a petition of the investiga-

tion officer (IO). Minu and Lutfar were produced before court while the other two accused are on the run. Judge Lutfa Begum fixed January 7 for trial. Businessman Nurunnabi of Durgapur upazila filed the case against six persons on August 6 for extorting Tk 1 crore from him. Sub-inspector (SI) Saiful Islam, also the IO of the case, pressed charges against Minu on September 27 dropping the names of former RCCI president Lutfar's personal aide Kundu Babu, manager Jahir Uddin, and business partner Mosharrif Hossain from the chargesheet. The plaintiff said his business partner Lutfar, also former director of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, took Tk 18 lakh from him as bribe for releasing a loan of Tk 10 crore. After Nurunnabi invested Tk 1.25 crore in the business, Lutfar

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Humayun R Chy's son held for cheating

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammadpur police yesterday arrested Noman Rashid Chowdhury, son of former speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, in the city in a Tk 30 lakh cheating case filed in 2002 with a police

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Quarishi holds meet in N'ganj despite ban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Although the caretaker government has not relaxed restrictions on political activities outside the

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Prayer Timing		
January 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-35
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

স্বদেশী শিক্ষার হেঁচকি

এমন যদি হতো!...

এবার পেয়েছি তাদের ভাবনাটি যারা এঁকেছে ইচ্ছে মতো

বিশেষ পুরস্কার প্রাপ্ত ১২জন

প্রথম পুরস্কার প্রাপ্ত ৬জন



শিশু কিশোরদের সৃষ্টি প্রতিভা বিকাশে আমরা তৃতীয়বারের মতো আয়োজন করেছিলাম 'স্বদেশী শিক্ষার হেঁচকি'। দেশব্যাপী এই চিত্রাঙ্কন প্রতিযোগিতায় এবারের বিষয় ছিলো 'এমন যদি হতো'। এতে প্রথম পুরস্কার প্রাপ্ত ৬জনের প্রত্যেককে পাবে ১২,০০০ টাকা এবং পরবর্তী ১২জন পাবে বিশেষ পুরস্কার। অভিজ্ঞ বিচারকমণ্ডলীর দ্বারা নির্বাচিত এই ১৮জন স্বদেশী শিক্ষার পেইন্টিং দিয়ে সাজানো হয়েছে আমাদের ২০০৮ সালের কর্পোরেট ক্যালেন্ডার। প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণকারী সকলের জন্যই প্রাইম ব্যাংকের অনেক-অনেক অভিনন্দন।

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