

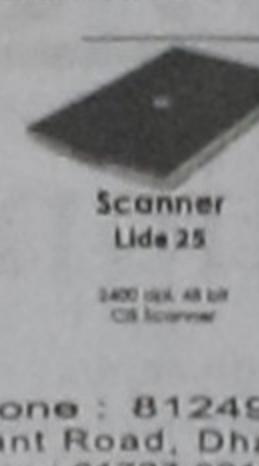
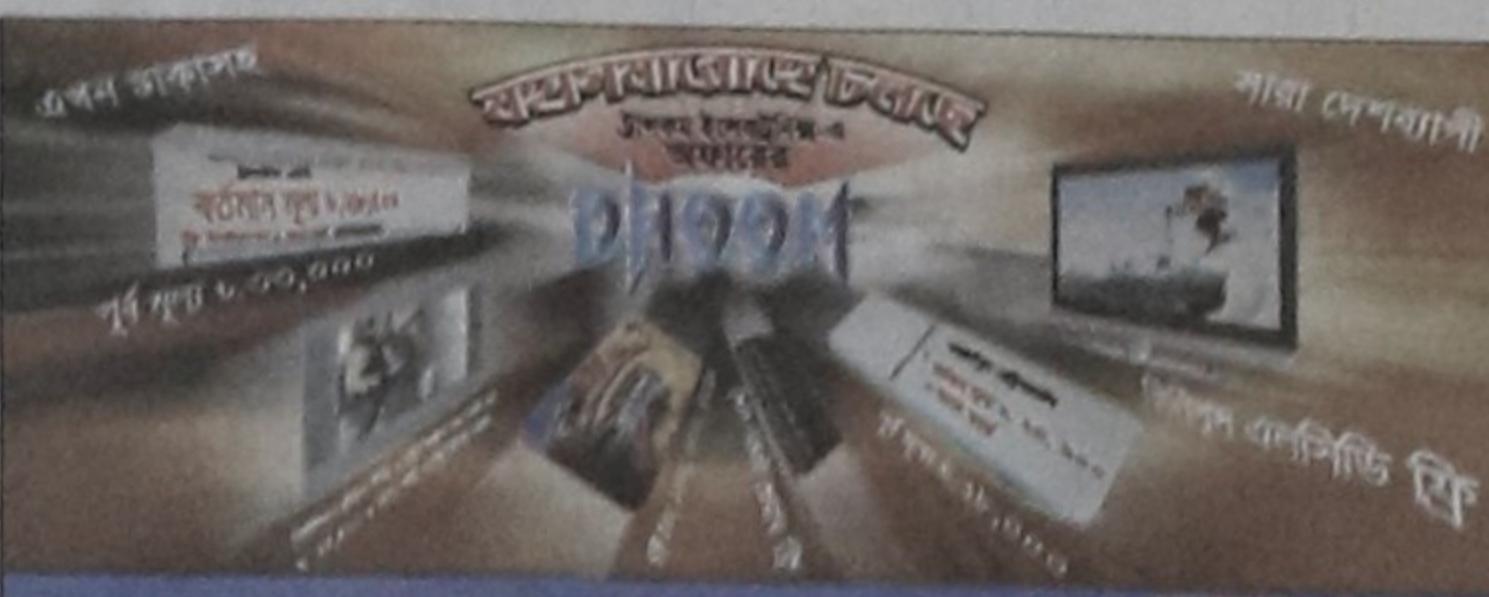
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13/1 Fatema Arcade (2nd floor), Road No-5, Dharmcondi R.D.A., Dhaka-1205

Tel: 8664101, 866001, 861444 Fax: 880-2-8810410 E-mail: jan-ekit@global-bd.net;

Branch: SR-120, BCS Computer City, IDB Bhaban, Dhaka. Phone: 8124041
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ফ্রেশক ইলেক্ট্রনিক্সের যে কোন ক্রাউনের পণ্টের সাথে পার্শ্বে ক্ষেত্রে কার্য যাতে ধোকায়ে অভিন্ন সব অফের...

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PHILIPS

TRANSTEC

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CHANGHONG

Use firearms to
tackle mugging

DMP orders cops

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) armed its cops with strict orders to use their firearms to forestall mugging in the capital.

This is one of 29 guidelines issued for the 33 police stations under DMP to prevent mugging and protect people's life and property.

For an on-duty than a police, the guideline says the police will have to use firearms lawfully, if necessary, during a snatching incident.

DMP sources said 430 spots have been identified as vulnerable for mugging. At least 500 muggers are active everyday at those points to commit this crime as an alternative source of income.

Among the 33 police stations, the highest number of mugging points has been identified in Sutrapur area where 39 such crime zones are marked as blackspots.

INCREASED DIESEL, FERTILISER PRICES Aman farming to cost Tk 965cr more in North

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

Farmers in the 16 northern districts have to bear additional cost of around Tk 965 crore for cultivating Aman rice this season compared to last season due to increased prices of diesel and fertilisers, according to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) officials.

Bogra DAE office roughly calculated that cost of Aman cultivation has risen to Tk 12,775 per hectare from Tk 7,160 only due to raising of diesel and fertiliser prices. And total cost of Aman production per hectare this season may be double the cost last season.

Over 17.18 lakh hectares of land

have been brought under Aman cultivation in the northern region with a production target of over 43.30 tonnes. Last season Aman was cultivated on 16.64 lakh hectares for producing 42.71 lakh tonnes.

Diesel price has been raised to Tk 53.43 per litre from Tk 38.81 at Baghabari river port depot in Sirajganj from where it is supplied in the northern districts, DAE officials in Bogra mentioned.

And price of urea fertiliser has been increased to Tk 11.70 per kg from Tk 6.4 kg and that of triple superphosphate (TSP) to Tk 68 a kg from Tk 34. Price of murate of potash (MoP), an essential input

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for Aman cultivation, has been raised to Tk 45.48 per kg from Tk 30.

Use of TSP cost Tk 3,060 per hectare on an average last season but this time it cost Tk 6,120 a hectare.

And cost of urea per hectare was about Tk 900 last season while it has risen to Tk 1,755 this time, the officials said.

Farmer Chand Miah of village Shujabad in Shahajahanpur upazila of Bogra said he had to spend an additional amount of Tk 487 per hectare for ploughing his Aman cultivable land this season.

"I spent Tk 160 per hectare for diesel last season but this time I had to spend Tk 225 a hectare for

potash (MoP), an essential input

No backtracking
on indigenous
peoples' rights
Adviser says govt
working on ensuring it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government is trying to ensure that future political governments do not backtrack on establishing the rights of the country's indigenous peoples, Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff yesterday said.

He said bringing the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) under mobile-phone network and establishing judge courts there are instances of the progress the government has already made in resolving problems in the three hill districts.

Ariff was speaking at a discussion to mark the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, organised by Bangladesh

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The stage was set for the launch of impeachment proceedings against President Pervez Musharraf with the summoning of the National Assembly tomorrow even as he ruled out dissolving the House to overcome the crisis facing him.

In a new twist Pakistan's Army is

ask to the country's embattled

President to relinquish office in a

week's time as its top brass would

not want him to be impeached, a

news report said yesterday.

Quoting a senior official from the ruling government coalition

partner, the Pakistan's People's Party, 'The Daily Telegraph' said that Army Chief Gen Ashfaq Kiyani has already "whispered" in Musharraf's ear that it is time to leave.

"Over the next few days they will make it clear to him (Musharraf) that a protracted battle (against impeachment) is not in Pakistan's interests," the unnamed official claimed.

One of the main arbiters of power in Pakistan, the Army has already publicly declared that the military would take a "neutral" stand on the country's domestic

politics.

"The Army is neutral but is expecting him to resign. It will then influence his honourable safe passage as the Army's senior leadership would not want him to be punished," a former military aide to the President told the British daily.

Pakistan's civilian government is likely to launch impeachment proceedings against 64-year-old Musharraf on Monday, accusing the President of "eroding" trust of the nation through his policies and actions.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

New militant group on the block?

SHARIFUL ISLAM in Dhaka and
MONIRUL ISLAM MONU
in Bandarban

The ameer of Islami Samaj and six out of the eight of its members arrested in Bandarban on August 7 for propagating Islamist militancy said they have past history with Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Different intelligence agencies are currently working on to dig up details about the Islami Samaj and its activists, said sources.

On last Thursday, Islami Samaj Amee Syed Humayun Kabir was interrogated for several hours at the office of an intelligence agency, said the sources adding that the agency did not yet arrest Kabir.

However, when The Daily Star approached Prof Tasnim Alam, Jamaat-e-Islami's publicity secretary, regarding the matter, he could not confirm Kabir's claim.

Col Gulzar Uddin Ahmed, additional director general of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), told The Daily Star, "It draws our attention

before on charge of his ties with banned Islamist militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

During a conversation with The Daily Star over cell phone, Islami Samaj chief Kabir said he was the president of Jahangirnagar University (JU) unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir in 1983.

Earlier on August 7, law enforcers arrested eight Islami Samaj members in Bandarban and seven others in Jamalpur while the Islami Samaj members were distributing leaflets of the organisation.

Islami Samaj claims it is not into militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The leaders of Islami Samaj in a press conference yesterday protested the arrest of its 15 leaders and members and the media reported about their involvement with militancy.

Earlier on August 7, law enforcers arrested eight Islami Samaj members in Bandarban and seven others in Jamalpur while the Islami Samaj members were distributing leaflets of the organisation.

Islami Samaj was established on May 17, 1997 by Jamaat-e-Islami's founder ameer Mufti Abdul Zabbar

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



Every day 25-30 kg of dead fish is found floating in the Meghna at Kadamtali of Gajaria upazila in Munshiganj. Farmers, who set up fish farms in a portion of the river eight years ago, blame this to toxic wastes dumped into the river by textile factories near the farms. Sixty-five fish farmers invested around Tk 5.50 crore this year but now they are worried about getting their investment back let alone making profit. Agriculture Adviser CS Karim visited the spot Thursday.

450 tonnes 'date-expired' powdered milk seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Customs authorities seized 450 tonnes of suspected date-expired powdered milk at Chittagong Port on Thursday.

The powdered milk worth over Tk 12.58 crore imported by Abul Khaer Milk Products of Abul Khaer Group did not have any manufacturing or expiry dates. They did not have any radiation certificate either, sources said.

Customs officials of the Audit Investigation and Research (AIR) branch opened five of the 18 containers while they were being offloaded at the port. The officials carried out physical examination and found none of the 25-Kg sacks has manufacturing and expiry

dates.

The stickers believed to have the expiry date on them were seen as torn off, sources said.

The powdered milk imported against five Bill of Entries arrived at Chittagong Port by three ships from Malaysia on Wednesday.

The customs authorities will open the rest 13 containers of the consignment for physical examination in presence of the representatives of the taskforce, importer, C&F agent Shaikat Trading and the PSI company concerned.

However, the customs officials said even if the radiation test report comes in their favour, the importer and others like the PSI company can not escape action for violating import rules.

Sources said, the milk powder imported against five Bill of Entries had Australia as the country of origin. But its shipment was made

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Tac hopes to
start getting
mercy pleas
from today

UNB, Dhaka

Decision on the fate of the powdered milk will be taken following the test reports, said AIR Preventive Officer Habibur Rahman while talking to this correspondent yesterday.

But officials of Abul Khaer Group and C&F agent concerned claimed they received report of the radiation test in their favour.

However, the customs officials said even if the radiation test report comes in their favour, the importer and others like the PSI company can not escape action for violating import rules.

He also hoped that the commission would start receiving cases from the National Coordination Committee (NCC) on serious crimes and corruption, the TAC chairman told the news agency.

"I do hope people will start coming to the Tac from this week to take the advantage of clemency," the TAC chairman told the news agency.

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