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Two Ctg fertiliser units limp for faulty design

Produce only one-third their capacity

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

At a time when the government halved fertiliser prices to boost agricultural production, the two factories of Diammonium Phosphate Fertiliser Company Ltd (Dap) in Chittagong are falling short by almost two-thirds their capacity due to faulty factory design and not having their own power plant operational.

The Dap-1 and Dap-2 factories were launched on September 12, 2006 to produce the composite fertiliser for the first

time in Bangladesh.

Located near Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) Complex at Laldiarchar of Anwara on the Karnaphuli, each of the two factories were built to have a daily production capacity of 800 tonnes. Together they are supposed to produce around 5.28 lakh tonnes of the fertiliser annually.

The use of diammonium phosphate, which meets requirements of triple superphosphate (TSP) and urea in soil—is supposed to ensure a balanced use of chemical fertiliser as farmers tend to use

urea excessively. The two factories were expected to reduce the import of TSP and urea by five lakh tonnes and two lakh tonnes and save a huge amount of foreign currencies of the government, sources in the factories and Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) said.

None of the factories ever reached full production capacity due to technical problems and the factories not having their own power generation source.

According to sources, Dap-1 and Dap-2 require 5 megawatt (MW) of power a day

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Khatib leads prayers amid tight security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Recently appointed khatib of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, Principal Salauddin Ahmed, yesterday led the Juma prayers amid tight security with the presence of a huge contingent of law enforcers and intelligence agency members.

Devotees yesterday were barred from entering the mosque with shoes for the first time as authorities imposed ban on entry along with shoes to avert recurrence of hurling shoes that had vitiated the sanctity of the holy mosque.

Witnesses said most of the devotees entered the mosque keeping their shoes in shoeboxes outside the mosque.

Apart from this, law enforcers had frisked each of the

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PHOTO: STAR

People had to leave their shoes in front of Baitul Mukarram before entering the mosque for Juma prayers as three consecutive Fridays saw devotees fight with shoes over the appointment of a new khatib.

High-powered body soon to tackle fallout of recession

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the proposed high-powered committee would be in place anytime to work out strategy to face the possible effects of global recession on the country's economy.

"It will be there anytime. It is awaiting cabinet's approval," he told reporters on the sidelines of a three-day Bangladesh Chemical Congress that began in the morning at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) Auditorium of Dhaka University.

Muhith on January 21 said the government would announce the committee within 15 days.

As per the proposal, the

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PHOTO: STAR

Chittagong City Corporation plans to bulldoze these two schools aged over 80 years and erect a 16-storey building, which will house the schools along with commercial establishments.

3 illegal arms traders held in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel yesterday arrested a gang of three arms dealers from Nimpara of Charghat upazila.

Acting on a tip off, a Rab team from Binodpur camp took position at different points in Charghat and caught the dealers at Nimpara when they gathered to meet a client form Dhaka.

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Prayer Timing		
January 31		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-35	6-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-46	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

CCC plans to house 2 girls' schools in commercial complex

Move sparks protests

DWAIPAYAN BARUA and ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

Students and guardians of city's two reputed girls schools and civil society members expressed resentment at Chittagong City Corporation's (CCC) plan to demolish the schools and construct a 16-storey multi-purpose building to house the schools along with other commercial establishments.

The schools --Aparna Charan City Corporation Girls' High School and Krishna Kumari City Corporation Girls' High School -- are over 80 years old and have over 2,000 students at present.

They say that the proposed construction of the building would destroy the academic environment of the schools that produced person-

alities like anti-British revolutionary Pritilata Waddedar (first headmistress of Aparna Charan School) and former Indian Congress president Neli Sen Gupta.

The buildings of the aging schools are in poor condition and they lack proper ventilation systems, which caused many students to faint inside classrooms in recent years.

Responding to an appeal of the school authorities, the caretaker government last year took the initiative to construct two six-storey buildings for the schools. Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) also prepared a project outline for this. The Education Engineering Department (EED) was supposed to implement the project.

Everything was going smoothly as Executive

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Rohingya not recognised as ethnic group

Says Myanmar on boat people

AP, Yangon

Myanmar said the Rohingya boat people found adrift in the Andaman Sea last week could not have come from its shores because they are not among its recognised ethnic groups, state media reported yesterday.

Myanmar's response could complicate efforts to repatriate the Rohingyas, 66 of whom were convicted this week by a court in Thailand of illegally entering the country.

The Myanmar Ahlin, a state-controlled newspaper in Myanmar, said that foreign media had suggested that the hundreds of Rohingyas found off Thailand's coast came from Myanmar. That was not

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BANDARBAN BORDER 2 Myanmar intruders held after gunfight with security forces

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Two intruders from Myanmar were arrested after a one-hour-long gunfight between the security forces and the intruders on Bangladesh-India-Myanmar border in Ruma upazila of the district yesterday.

Security officials suspect the arrested to be leaders of so-called Democratic Party of Arakans (DPA) that allegedly kidnapped eight indigenous people on January 24 last. Four of the victims were later released.

Sources said the law enforcers have launched commando operations to rescue the kidnapped victims in a vast area adjacent to the borders.

A squad of 30 commandos and over 200 members of the army, BDR and police are taking part in the operations that started in Thursday afternoon.

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Extortionists kill Rajshahi BNP leader

Family accuses AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A local BNP leader was murdered reportedly for not paying toll to extortionists at Biraladaha village in Puthia upazila early yesterday.

Family members of the deceased blamed local Awami League (AL) cadres for the killing of Abu Daud Hossain Mollah, 43, BNP vice-president of ward No 5 under Baneswar union.

Police said Daud was hacked by terrorists in front of Biraladaha Primary School just 150 yards from his house while

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Truck crash kills 2 traders

UNB, Narsingdi

Two cattle traders were killed and six others injured as a truck turned turtle at Shahe Protob on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Fatik Mia, 35, and Khoka Mia, 38, of Kacharikandi village of Raipura upazila.

The traders were returning home in Raipura upazila after buying cattle from Tangail.

Police said the cattle-laden truck overturned as its driver lost control over steering at about 9am, killing Fatik and Khoka on the spot.

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Call to save Hoolock Gibbon

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a ceremony marking the release of a documentary on gibbons sought coordinated efforts to save Hoolock Gibbon (locally known as ulluk) from extinction to conserve biodiversity.

The Wildlife Trust Bangladesh (WTB), Global Science Productions (GSP), Channel i and US Fish and Wildlife Service jointly produced the documentary titled 'Gibbons: The Forgotten Apes in Peril,' and screened to the viewers yesterday at the WTB auditorium at Cosmos Centre in Malibagh, Dhaka.

Speakers said awareness should be created among people on the importance of Hoolock's existence. They also emphasized on formulation of strict laws for its conservation apart from formulating a

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TRAGIC DEATH OF A DOLPHIN



Caught in fishermen's net in the Padma yesterday, this Gangetic dolphin weighing over 110kg was brutally killed in Charghat upazila of Rajshahi. The photo was taken at Panchabati in the city as it was being taken to Shaheb Bazar for sale.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

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