

DECREPIT PRE-HEATER UNIT

Zia Fertiliser counts production loss of Tk 15 lakh a day

SHEIKH MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM, B'baria

Zia Fertiliser Company Limited (ZFCL) at Ashuganj incurs a daily loss of at least Tk 15 lakh in terms of production due to its decrepit BFW pre-heater unit.

The factory now produces 1,150 to 1,450 tonnes of urea fertiliser daily against its normal capacity of 1,600 tonnes as the BFW pre-heater unit is unable to cope with the full capacity, said officials.

BFW pre-heater unit (comprising boiler feed water pre-heater and its related end connection etc), a vital unit of the factory, went out of order three times from 2005 to 2007 and it caused suspension of production at the factory for a total of 16 days, ZFCL sources said.

As several leakages have developed in the BFW pre-heater unit, water and other ingredients are leaked out, affecting other parts of the factory, said a ZFCL engineer seeking anonymity.

If the BFW pre-heater unit is changed, all the components will have longer durability and production of the factory will get acceleration, he said.

A local expert committee that worked in this regard in 2008 found the BFW pre-heater unit vulnerable and risky and suggested replacing it immediately but the ZFCL authorities are yet to replace it, official sources said.

The factory was commissioned in 1981 and the BFW pre-heater unit was set up by its German manufacturer M/s Babcock Borsig Service GmbH.

M/s Babcock Borsig Service GmbH did not give the diagram and other documents of the BFW pre-heater unit to ZFCL.

According to the terms and conditions, the ZFCL authorities were supposed to purchase the unit from the manufacturer. For this reason, it takes a long time to purchase the unit from its manufacturer.

The ZFCL authorities have continued the process and paper work since October 2007 to purchase the unit from the manufacturer on priority basis but the process is yet to be completed.

When contacted, ZFCL Managing Director Md Osman Gani said they are going to purchase the BFW pre-heater unit at a cost of about Tk 44.43 crore and it will be replaced by November 2010.



A buyer looks at Chinese 'mini' oranges at a market in Kishoreganj. The 'cheaper and sweeter' variety of the winter fruit floods markets in the district, as in other areas of the country.

TANGLE OVER RENTED OUT GODOWN

BADC now keeps fertiliser under open sky in Barisal

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A good amount of fertiliser is kept in the open space under tarpaulin cover as Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) has failed to get back a godown from a private firm that rented the warehouse 15 years ago.

BADC has three godowns for keeping its fertiliser on the bank of Kirtankhola River but a godown became almost useless as provision was made for drawing fertiliser from the mill gate several years ago.

The BADC authorities

rented the godown to Khan and Sons in 1995 for storing their fertiliser.

As per conditions, the godown was to be rented through fresh tenders every three years but it has not been followed.

BADC officials said Khan and Sons, a big fertiliser dealer in the area, was using the warehouse through time extension on payment of satisfactory rent.

Besides storing fertiliser, the godown is used for keeping rods and cement as well allegedly through to a secret understanding.

As the government last

year decided to distribute fertiliser to the dealers from buffer godowns instead of mill gates to ensure its easy and transparent marketing, BADC required the godown and in November last year, BADC issued a notice to vacate the warehouse.

But instead of vacating the godown, Khan and Sons filed a writ petition with the High Court.

Administrative officer of Khan and Sons, Raisul Islam said the High Court has ordered a six-month extension of the agreement with the firm.

BADC Joint director

Harun-or-Rashid, on the other hand, said hearing on the writ by Khan and Sons is scheduled for next month.

Following decision of the ministries of agriculture and industries, BCIC stored urea fertiliser in a 3,000 tonne-capacity godown of BADC.

As additional fertiliser is coming to them in this peak season of boro cultivation, a large amount of fertiliser is being kept on the open spaces under tarpaulin cover.

Five to seven fertiliser carrying ships will arrive in Barisal next month.



PHOTO: STAR

Boro paddy seedlings on three bigha of land at Gangoi village under Neyamatpur upazila in Naogaon district lie dead as criminals on January 17 poisoned the filed prepared by Tabibur Rahman. Villagers suspect that a group of local youths did the barbaric act out of vengeance as Tabibur declined to give them money for picnic. Boro cultivation on over 50 acres of land by neighbouring farmers has become uncertain due to damage of the seedbed ahead of the planting period.

All about top Khulna city criminals on website soon

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) will release photos of wanted criminals with their criminal background on the website soon.

This will be done with a view to creating ground for peace loving people to launch social movement against criminals, said Abu Sayem, assistant police commissioner of the Detective Branch (DB) of Khulna Metropolitan Police.

As per the updated list, the total number of criminals under five police stations of Khulna city stands at 1,345. Of them, 280 are under Sadar Police Station, 274 under Sonadanga police Station, 278 under Khalishpur Police Station, 218 under Daulatpur Police Station and 295 under Khanjahan Ali Police Station.

AC Abu Sayem is monitoring the job for collecting bio-data of the listed criminals. He will also head special drives to arrest them.

He said file has been opened with 20 information about each of the listed criminals. Files will be maintained properly as official records to go ahead with firm determination to arrest the criminals, he added.

The latest list does not have names of those who have died, grown old and returned to normal life. The list does not also include the names of any godfather of criminals.

Sources in the city special branch of KMP said the updated list has included the names of six criminals from different areas under Sonadanga Police Station

and 32 from different areas under Khanjahan Ali Police Station.

There are two more separate lists of Islamist militants and extremists. The total number of militants and extremists in the city now stands at 192 and all of them are moving in different guises not identifiable at the first sight without long intelligence work, AC of DB said.

The latest list includes names of arms traders, hired killers, muggers, extortionists, holders of illegal arms, smugglers, women traffickers, robbers, pirates and drug traders.

Political influence will no longer be tolerated in booking the listed criminals, said Police Commissioner Helaluddin Badri. But he refused to comment why a separate list of godfathers of criminals has not yet been made.

18 sued on charge of killing FF, arson, looting during '71 war

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Eighteen alleged collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces were yesterday sued on charges of killing a freedom fighter, looting his house and setting fire to it at Teligati village under Morelganj upazila of Bagerhat in 1971.

Mujibur Rahman Khan, son of martyred freedom fighter Abdul Jabbar Khan, filed the case with Morelganj-3 Judicial Magistrate's Court.

The accused are Akram Khan, 55, Sultan Khan, 65, Shahid Khan, 60, Rashid Khan, 65, Kader Chowdhury, 75, Nura Shikder, 76, Rustam Sheikh, 60, Mobarak Khan, 75, Ashraf Khan, 70, Ukil Sheikh, 60, Akbar Khan, 65, Moksed

Didar, 75, Afsar Didar, 70, Afsu Khan, 65, Bellal Didar, 68, Ensan Didar, 70, Delwar Sheikh, 60 and Rafiqul Islam Babul. The accused are from different villages of Morelganj, Kachua and Sadar upazilas under the district.

In the case statement, the complainant said the accused attacked their house at Teligati village on December 3, 1971 and picked up his father Abdul Jabbar Khan at gunpoint.

"The collaborators took my father to Teligati High School, shot him dead and hid the body," the complainant stated.

He further said the accused also looted valuables from their house and set it afire.

Robbers loot two jewellery shops in Chittagong

UNB, Chittagong

Robbers looted cash and gold ornaments from two jewellery shops at Charia Nayahat Bazaar in Hathazari upazila early yesterday.

Quoting locals police said 20/22 armed robbers, coming in a truck, first stormed into a bank branch at the bazaar at about 2:30am and took the night guard Abu Zafar Ahmed hostage at gun point and beat him mercilessly.

Later, they entered into the bank by breaking open the door but failed to unlock the vault.

Later, the masked robbers swooped on the nearby Purnima Jewellery and Oeishy Jewellery and took away 35 tolas of gold ornaments and Tk 1.42 lakh in cash.

In Naogaon, police arrested four members of an inter-district gang of robbers from different parts of Sadar

upazila on Wednesday.

Acting on secret information, police raided Harsi village in the upazila in the afternoon and arrested robber Abdul Jalil.

As per Jalil's confessional statement, police held Abdul Majid, son of Akkas Ali and Reazul Karim, son of Sabed Ali of Pirojpur village and Abdul Aziz, son of Tajuddin of Bhimpur village.

Later, on the basis of their statement, police raided Monorama jewellery shop at Sonarpatti in the district town and seized 30 tolas of looted gold ornaments, a mobile phone set and Tk 18,000 in cash from the shop.

Earlier, on January 12, the robbers looted gold ornaments and other valuables worth Tk 50 lakh from expatriate Mubarak Hossain's house in the district town, taking the inmates hostage at gunpoint.

Boy rescued, two abductors held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-9) team on Saturday rescued an abducted school-boy and arrested two in connection with the abduction from Ishwarganj upazila headquarters.

The two arrestees are Mizanur Rahman Khokok, 30, son of Dr Md Chand Miah of Uttampur village and Babul Miah, 30, son of Wazed Ali of Harua village in Ishwarganj.

Mohammad Jishan, 7, son of Md Helal Mollah was abducted from Ashulia in Dhaka on his way to school in the morning of January 28.

Rab sources said, on the

day when Jishan, a student of class three did not return home till evening, his parents searched all possible places and later filed a general diary with the local police station.

Later a gang contacted Jishan's parents over cell phone and demanded Tk 50,000 as ransom. The victim's father informed Rab-9 immediately.

On secret information, a team led by Rab commander Major Md Javed Miah in an operation located the place where the boy was kept.

The Rab team then nabbed the culprits from the spot adjacent to a bridge of the upazila at around 10:30 yesterday morning and rescued the boy.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

7 hurt in Sylhet clash

UNB, Sylhet

At least seven people were injured in a factional clash of Jubo League at Chuta Khurma in Biswanath upazila on Friday night. Locals said an altercation ensued between supporters of local Jubo League leaders Shamsu Mia and Reaz Mia over formation of a committee of ward number 2 of Alangkari union at about 9:00pm. At one stage, the groups attacked each other and pelted brickbats, leaving seven people injured from both sides. The injured were identified as Wahab Ali, 19, Selim Mia, 25, Sadik Ahmed, 25, Ibrahim Ali, 30, Motin Mia, 32, Afroz Mia, 40, and Mahiuddin, 35.

Criminal held in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police arrested a 'criminal' and recovered arms from his possession at Jhhayamari village in Kaliganj upazila Saturday night. Arrestee Ohab Ali Piyada, 43, is son of Md Taleb Ali Piyada of village Jhhayamari. Upon his confession, police recovered a revolver and six bullets from a shrimp enclosure occupied by him last year, sources said. Quoting locals police said police arrested him from Satkhira town on January 30. Ohab is involved in different crimes including land grabbing, snatching and mugging in the area. Police said he is also an absconding accused.



PHOTO: STAR

Rapid Action Battalion seizes 38 unregistered motorcycles during separate drives in Patuakhali town, Lohalia Kheaghat and Pagla Bazar in Dumki upazila on Sunday.

Boro farming scheme

UNB, Jhenidah

A scheme has been taken up to bring 91,809 hectares of land under boro paddy cultivation in six upazilas of the district with a production target of 3,41,480 metric tonnes in the current season. According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources, of the total, 23,700 hectares have been brought under the scheme in Sadar, 17,000 hectares in Kaliganj, 9,650 hectares in Kotchandpur, 22,495 hectares in Maheshpur, 9,550 hectares in Shailakupa and 9,414 hectares in Harinakundu upazilas. DAE officials said they have already started supply of quality seeds, fertiliser and other necessary agri-inputs among the farmers at fair prices to make the scheme a success. They said the farmers produced 3,48,284 metric tonnes of rice in the district cultivating 93,515 hectares of land last season.

Arms seized, one held

UNB, Barisal

A team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a young man along with a single barrel gun and a bullet in Sagordi area of the city early Saturday. The arrested man was identified as Mir Shahidul Islam Rony, 35, a notorious criminal and extortionist of the area. Rab sources said Rony would be handed over to police after interrogation.

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