SUB-STANDARD HYBRID SEEDS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY APRIL 7, 2010

Matia warns importers of legal action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday warned the seed companies of taking legal action against them if they import sub-standard hybrid rice seeds and sell those to farmers.

"Those doing hybrid seed business must be disciplined. If they try to do unethical business, they will have to come under legal action.'

The minister said this at a workshop on 'Hybrid rice for food security: Research and development and farmers' experiences in South and Southeast Asia' organised by Bangladesh Rice Foundation and Brac at Spectra Convention Centre in the city.

The productivity of hybrid is sixseven metric tons a hectare against fourfive metric tons of high-yielding varieties. The government favours hybrid rice production to feed the increasing population, but wants short duration and quality varieties.

The previous Awami League government allowed import of hybrid seeds and made rules that imported seeds must undergo trials for three years locally before cultivation, but gradually many of the seed companies violated the rules, she added.

"Bad seeds were sold to the farmers. Besides, there was not good crop man-

agement that ultimately resulted in bad yield and slow growth of hybrid rice here."

Stating that serious depletion of underground water in the northern parts of the country are posing threats to Boro cultivation, she said developing short duration hybrid rice and salinity-tolerant variety, especially meant for the southern region, could greatly reduce the challenges.

Dr SS Virmani, a former IRRI scientist, BRF Vice Chairman Dr Z Karim, Brac Executive Director Dr Mahabub Hossain and Bangladesh Agricultural University Vice Chancellor Dr MA Sattar Mandal also spoke while M Sayeduzzaman, former chairman of Bangladesh Rice Foundation, chaired the session.

PM apprises president of China visit

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban yesterday evening and apprised him of the outcome of her state visit to China.

The prime minister said three agreements and one MoU were signed during the March 17-21 visit.

Zillur expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the visit.

He hoped that the visit would strengthen bilateral ties and cooperation in the most potent sectors of the two economies.

Hasina handed over a Bengali New Year's card to Zillur and felicitated him in advance.

Thimphu to get facelift ahead of Saarc summit

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Thimphu will be made cleaner and greener later this month with the Bhutanese authorities have already launched a mass cleaning campaign for the upcoming 16th Saarc summit scheduled for April 28-29.

About 3,000 volunteers, equipped with masks, gloves and sticks, cleaned the main part of the city and vegetable market area in the third phase of the campaign, which will be conducted on every Saturday until April 17.

Quoting officials, Bhutan's national newspaper Kuensel said on April 17, there will be a mega mass cleaning campaign, which will cover almost all corners of the city. For better coverage,

Thimphu City Corporation (TCC) has divided the city into several zones.

From Dechenchholing in the north to Babesa in the south, all the settlement areas were divided into six zones, which will be cleaned by the end of the month.

The Bhutan chamber of commerce and industries has enthusiastically backed the cleaning campaign, by involving all the business people, which made the work a lot lighter.

Sources in Bhutan said unemployed Thimphu youths have found a way to participate in the next Saarc summit. The youths, mostly class 12 and 10 dropouts, have registered with TCC to clean the city and paint over the ugly retaining walls around the city.

The volunteers have also started planting flowers along the streets after they had finished painting the walls.

Ways to bring back fugitive killers discussed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government task force formed to carry out all the procedures to bring back the convicted killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other convicts held its maiden meeting at the law ministry yesterday.

The nine-member highpowered task force headed by Law Minister Shafique Ahmed discussed ways to bring the absconding killers and convicts back to the country.

The task force would sit again to finalise the work plan, the law minister told reporters. The government the task force, which was formed on

March 28, would function until further notification. If a convict got the nationality of the country where he has

been hiding, then the task force would also took measures to bring him back. The members of the task

force are law minister, home minister, foreign minister and the secretaries of the three ministries, attorney general, inspector general of police and director general of National Security Intelligence.

O D A

International Finance Corporation

will hold a discussion on

environmental risk management

for banks. Venue: Radisson Water

Grameenphone Ltd organises a

workshop for capital market

journalists. Venue: Hotel Lake

Founding anniversary

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

organises a programme to mark its

40th founding anniversary. Venue:

Birshrestha Captain Mahiuddin

Jahangir Memorial Council

organises a children's art contest to

mark the martyr's 61st birth

anniversary. Venue: Liberation War

Bangladesh Institute of

International and Strategic Studies

(BIISS) will hold a discussion on the 16th Saarc Summit. Venue:

BIISS auditorium. Time: 10:30am.

Museum. Time: 3:00pm.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League, passed away due to lever cirrhosis at United

Hospital in the city on

Jannatul Mawa graveyard after

Zohr prayers.

Wednesday at the age of 60.

Mosammat

Fayazunn-

esa, wife of

Haji Noor Mohammad, presi-

dent of Ward No 41 of city

Discussion

Biam auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Garden Hotel. Time: 6:30pm.

Discussion

Workshop

Shore. Time: 10:00am.

Art contest



PHOTO: STAR

Young students of a madrasa are engrossed in reading the holy Qur'an at the time when BIWTA and Dhaka District Administration attempted to dismantle the madrasa at Kamrangirchar, on the outskirts of the city, yesterday as part of a drive against illegal structures set up along both the banks of the river Buriganga.

BNP leaders urge Ctg party men to unite

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP leaders at a discussion in Chittagong yesterday emphasised greater unity among the grassroots level leaders and workers to wage a movement against 'the misrule of the government'.

They also called for resolving the prevailing disputes among the leaders in different areas. Chittagong divisional unit of the party organised the meeting titled 'Role of **Grassroots Level Conferences** of BNP'.

BNP standing committee member Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain was the chief guest at the discussion with Chittagong University Teachers' Association (Cuta) President Prof Abul Kashem in the chair.

Chief coordinator of the programme Mirza Abbas, Chittagong city unit President Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and Abdullah Al Noman spoke at the discussion.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hearing deferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday deferred the hearing on the petitions filed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina till today for quashing the proceedings of four corruption cases against

An HC bench of Justice Md Shamsul Huda and Justice Abu Bakar Siddiquee adjourned the hearing following a time prayer moved by Mehedi Hasan, a lawyer for the petitioner.

The bench was set to hold final hearing on the petitions yesterday.

Website for teachers' jobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers can now apply for jobs in government secondary schools online via a web page set up by Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE).

Aimed at reducing processing time of applications and ease suffering of applicants, the applications can now be submitted at DSHE's website 'dshe.teletalk.com.bd'.

Launched by Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday, the new system was introduced to recruit 1,968 new assistant teachers for secondary schools throughout the country.

Call to punish stalkers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Employees of non-governmental organisation Brac in a statement yesterday demanded punishment to all stalkers across the country.

They expressed concerns over the alarming rise of suicide incidents among young girls incited by stalking in

They also urged the parents of young boys to pay more attention to misconduct like this and make efforts to improve sense of morality of their children.

Mentioning the suicides of Elora and Pinki, the Brac employees termed these incidents as murders.

Attack on journos protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra Union Dhaka University unit in a statement yesterday condemned the attack on two journalists at Shahbagh in the city on Sunday night.

They also demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits, said a press release.

In a separate statement, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) President Mahmud Hasan Ripon termed the case filed against him in connection with the attack 'false and concocted'.

NSU admission test results

METRO DESK

The undergraduate admission test results of Summer 2010 semester of North South University (NSU) held on March 27 were published yesterday.

Test pass numbers of the successful candidates are on the NSU notice board and website www.northsouth.edu

retards power supply! OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Mentally retarded

The power authorities yesterday switched off 230KV electric line stretching from Meghnaghat to Hasnabad for three hours after a mentally disturbed young girl climbed a 200-feet high electric tower at Siddhirganj here. Police said Ayesha Akhter

Toma, 22, climbed the tower located in the Navana Bhuiyan City Housing Project area around 9:00am and started walking with ease. On information, police and firemen rushed to the scene

but they failed to rescue the girl, as they had no ladder. The power authorities cut off the electric line of the national grid around 10:30am. Later, a team of Ramna fire

service station was called in to the spot. The firefighters rescued Toma using a 151-feet ladder around 12:45pm without any injuries. The electric line was

switched on at 1:29pm. Mokhlesur Rahman, offi-

cer-in-charge of Siddhirganj Police Station, said Ayesha, daughter of Anis Mridha Mia of Kadamtoli in Siddhirganj, is mentally ill.

Refusal to Dalit students' participation condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Dalit Forum (BDF) yesterday condemned the refusal to let Dalit students participate in a programme of Bhojgati Govt School in Jessore on March 29.

Forum members alleged that about 70 students of the school were forced to leave a programme that was being held to mark the Independence Day.

Head master of the school Abdul Aziz along with other teachers also misbehaved with the parents of Dalit students when they protested the incident.

The students have boycotted classes protesting the incident.

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issues in COP16 Says minister STAFF CORRESPONDENT end of this year."

Health Minister AFM Ruhal Haque yesterday said the government will discuss the ways of reducing health hazards caused by climate change in the upcoming conference of the parties (COP16).

"The environment has its immediate and strong impact on public health. The people are suffering from different kinds of diseases due to climate change. We will discuss the ways of reducing health hazards caused by climate change in detail in COP16

scheduled to be held at the

The minister said this at a seminar titled 'Climate change and its impact on health organised by Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) at its auditorium on the eve of World Health Day today.

BMA President Prof Mahmood Hasan presided over the seminar while State Minister for Health Mozibor Rahman Fakir, Prof Kazi Toriqul Islam of Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Convener of Climate Change and Rights Mizanur Rahman Bijoyalso spoke.

Women more vulnerable to climate change'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women become more vulnerable when a community faces the negative impacts of climate change, said speakers at a dialogue yesterday.

Centre for Global Change (CGC) and Gender CC jointly organised dialogue titled 'Addressing Gender Concerns in Adaptation Discourse: Leadership Awaits Bangladesh' was held at the National Press Club in the city.

While presenting the keynote, Prof Sharmind Neelormi of Jahangirnagar University said women's rights, justice regarding gender-related issues and climate justice need to be linked to

ensure the community's fundamental development. State minister to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, İawmaker Zunayed Ahmed Palak and CGC Executive Director Ahsan Uddin Ahmed also spoke.



percentage Morning Evening Max Min Dhaka 37.1 27.1 Chittagong 31.5 25.2 77 78 26 Rajshahi 26.7 76 40.6 59 Khulna 75 37.4 27.0 Barisal 26.3 80 70 36.2 Sylhet 31.8 21.2 75 73 Cox's Bazar 33.2 25.5 80 79

Dhaka to focus on health AG bins SC bar chief's allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General (AG) Mahbubey Alam and Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Khandaker Mahbub Hossain have accused each other of serving political purposes of 'particular' par-

ties through their activities. The attorney general at a press briefing at his office vesterday countered the statement of the SCBA president, who claimed that 11 assistant attorneys general (AAGs) have no enrolment certificates for practising law

in the High Court (HC). The attorney general claimed that all the 140 law officers under his office are practising lawyers having

necessary certificates. On Sunday, Mahbub at a function on the SCBA premises said he was informed that at least 11 AAGs have no enrolment certificates, and all the law officers were appointed on political

considerations.

The AG called on the SCBA chief to withdraw his statement through media, saying that all the law officers have become members of the SCBA after having necessary certifi-The chief law officer also

said that his office has never issued any letter to the jail authorities not to release the people, who were granted bail from the HC in the cases against them.

He made the comment as Mahbub said the AG office has issued letters to different jail authorities not to release the people of opposition political parties from jail. The SCBA president yester-

day told reporters at his office that he will examine the papers of the law officers who were appointed on political considerations. "After examining the

papers, I'll decide the with-

drawal of my statement," he

added.



She left behind her three UNB, Dhaka daughters, one son and a host of admirers to mourn her Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty death. or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over She was buried at Mirpur Sylhet division in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Martyred Intellectuals' Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. Graveyard. Severe heat wave sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Ishwardi and Chuadanga and mild to moderate heat wave Death anniversary over rest of Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Faridpur, Tangail, Barisal and Maijdee Court may METRO DESK Day temperature may rise slightly over the country. Today is the The sun sets in the capital at 6:17pm today and rises at 21st death 5:44am tomorrow. anniversary Country's highest temperature 41.0 degrees Celsius was of Moharecorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 21.2 degrees m m a d Celsius at Sylhet. Hussain, Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded former news in some major cities and towns yesterday were: editor of the Temperature in **Humidity** in City/Town Daily Azad, The Daily Celsius Gonokontho, The Daily Janapad and The Daily Sangram, says a press release. He was also the elected Vice President of BFUJ. On the occasion, a doa Please see page 4 for details mahfil will be held at Mirpur

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