

2 students killed by lightning

UNB, Pirojpur

Two school students were killed when struck by lightning at Amragasia village in Mathbaria upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Nayon Khan, class X student of Satleza Model High School and son of Sultan Khan, and Sweetly, class VII student of the same school and daughter of Narendra Nath of Amragasia village.

Local sources said thunderbolt struck during rain leaving them dead.

UNB from Khulna adds: A farmer was killed as thunderbolt struck him during storm at Harintana village in Dakop upazila yesterday.

Koilashganj UP chairman Mihir Mondal said nor'wester accompanied by rain lashed his union in the morning.

Thunderbolt struck Niranjan Biswas leaving him dead on the spot when he went to bring back his cow at a nearby field at about 7am.



Performers of Pallavi Dance Centre stage the Tagore dance-drama "Shapmochon" at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy last night. Noted dancer Minu Haque, founder director of Pallavi, is the costume designer and choreographer of "Shapmochon". The production was staged in New Delhi last month and won much accolade.

PHOTO: STAR

Farmer chopped to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A farmer was killed by his rivals at Char Anandipur village in the sadar upazila yesterday afternoon.

The victim was Ibrahim Khalil Khan, 35, son of Abdur Rashid Khan of the village.

Police and locals said there has been a long standing dispute between Khalil and his uncle Momin Khar overland.

When Khalil was going to Joy Bangla Bazar from his house, a gang of miscreants allegedly led by Momin attacked him with sharp weapons at around 6:30pm, killing him instantly, said Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Golam Sarwar.

SE Asia still lacks in maternal care

Experts tell regional meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though the South East Asian region made remarkable progress in cutting maternal deaths, there is a huge lack in quality care for mothers in pre- and post-delivery periods, opined international experts on maternal and newborn care yesterday.

The opinion came at a three-day, "Asia Regional Meeting on Interventions for Impact in Essential Obstetric and Newborn Care", in the capital's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

USAID's Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program, with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's support, is organising the conference, themed "Make every mother and baby count".

The experts, on the first day, focused their discussions on early detection, prevention and management of post-delivery bleeding, a leading cause of maternal deaths in the region, says a press release.

They shared their country experiences and best practices and suggested steps to reach a well-recognised drug, which arti-

cially helps the uterus contract, to all pregnant mothers at community level to prevent heavy bleeding after birth.

Presenting the global progress in reducing maternal mortality, World Health Organisation Health System Development Director Dr Monir Islam said developing countries are not rich enough to invest in "cheap" ideas.

Dr Sadia Fayeque Ayoubi of Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health said they were able to drastically reduce maternal deaths by strengthening community based care and spreading basic and essential care packages.

USAID's EngenderHealth Country Director Dr AJ Faisel said the Bangladesh government also took up strategies to reach services at community levels but the service providers still find it a challenge to reach all mothers.

Nepal's Ministry of Health and Population Logistics Management Division Director Dr Naresh Pratap KC said heavy bleeding after delivery is also a leading cause of maternal deaths in Nepal.

Challenged man tries entry to PM house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Special Security Force (SSF) detained a youth as he was trying to enter the prime minister's official residence of Gono Bhaban at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday.

The youth, Atiqul Haque, 30, hailing from Sathya upazila of Pabna, was heading to "meet the prime minister". Police said Atiq was mentally challenged.

The SSF caught him as he stepped into Gono Bhaban compound through Mirpur road gate around 4:00pm. He was handed over to Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police.

Officer-in-Charge Zakir Hossain Mollah said Atiq entered the compound without permission. While caught, he said he was going to meet the prime minister, he said.

The OC said Sathya police confirmed his mental illness after visiting his village home. Police were interrogating him.

Stop India's river-linking project

Environmentalists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists yesterday demanded the government's immediate and firm steps to stop India's National River Linking Project for the sake of Bangladesh's existence.

They were addressing a rally organised by Green Voice, an organisation of young environmentalists, marking its seventh anniversary and Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee's visit to Bangladesh from May 5 to 6, before the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

The Indian Supreme Court, on February 27, gave the go ahead to the

project that aims to link 30 major rivers and divert the Ganges and the Brahmaputra rivers, which pass through Bangladesh.

Neighbouring countries and environmentalists opposed the project considering its environments impacts.

Poribesh Bachao Andolon Joint Secretary Zakir Hossain said, "We demand the government to boldly tell him (Pranab) that they (India) have no moral and legal right to prevent water from coming downstream."

The proposed Teesta water-sharing deal would be of no use if India implements the project, he said.

The Indian government is going to implement the project and construct dams over the rivers by ignoring international laws, said Green Peace Dhaka University unit President Md Hiraq Sardar.

"So the government should take firm initiatives to stop such initiatives for the country's existence," he added.

The environmentalists also emphasised on creating national and international opinion against the project.

Green Voice coordinator Alamgir Kabir was in the chair while its co-ordinator Humayun Kabir Sumon moderated the programme.



Agitators shout anti-US slogans during a procession brought out by left-leaning activists in the capital yesterday in protest of the visit of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who arrives in Dhaka today.

Left-leaning orgs protest Hillary's visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protesting the arrival of US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, several left-leaning political organisations yesterday urged the masses to strengthen the ongoing movement against "the imperialistic aggression of United States".

Leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and its youth front Bangladesh Jubo Union, Gonosanghati Andolon and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal made the call during an agitation programme before Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan said Hillary's visit to Bangladesh is part of the US's plan to establish supremacy over the South Asian countries.

US intervention in Bangladesh's internal affairs is clearly understandable and this is a threat to the country's independence and sovereignty, he said.

Terming Hillary's presence as a "negative signal", Manjurul urged the masses to generate mass protests against the visit and "US imperialism".

Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri, a left-leaning student organisation, will burn Hillary's effigy today as part of their demonstration programme protesting the visit.

As part of her three-nation tour of Bangladesh, India and China, Hillary is expected to arrive in Dhaka today and hold meetings with government high-ups, opposition leaders and civil society representatives.

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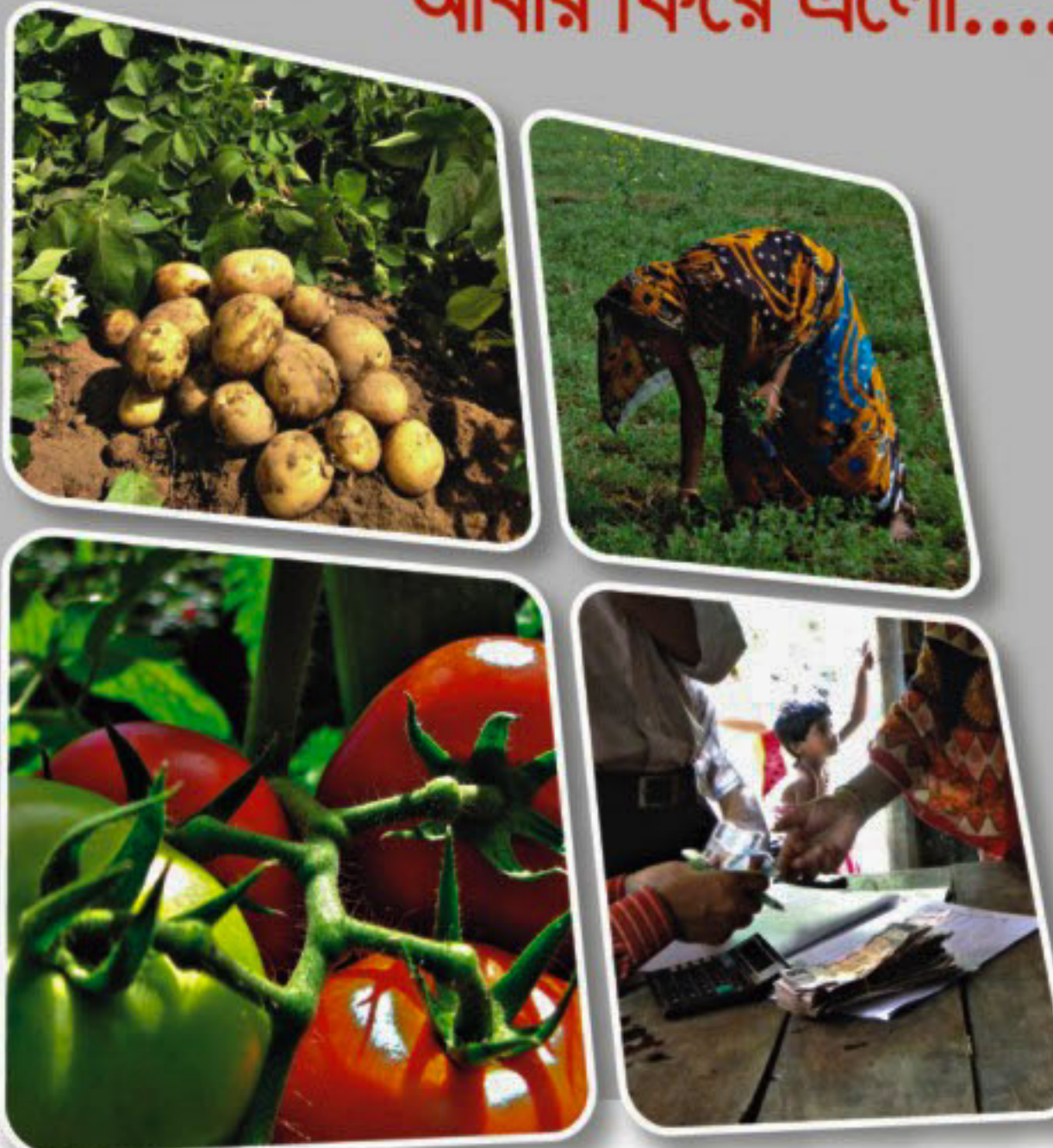
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আবার ফিরে এলো....

যে ৪টি বিভাগে এবং যেসব বিবেচনায় এ পুরস্কার দেয়া হবে তা নিম্নে উল্লেখ করা হলো :



১। 'বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ উদ্যোক্তা'

কৃষি খাতে দৃষ্টান্ত স্থাপনকারী উদ্যোগ, ক্ষুদ্রঋণ ব্যবহারের অভিজ্ঞতা, স্বজনশীলতা/উজ্জ্বলী কৌশল, উৎপাদিত পণ্য বা উদ্যোগের ধরণ, পণ্যের রপ্তানীর সম্ভাবনা।

৩। 'বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ মহিলা ক্ষুদ্র উদ্যোক্তা'

দৃষ্টান্ত স্থাপনকারী কোন উদ্যোগ, ক্ষুদ্রঋণ ব্যবহারের অভিজ্ঞতা, উদ্যোগের সম্ভাব্য সম্প্রসারণ ও প্রসৃষ্টি, উৎপাদনশীলতা, নিয়োজিত কর্মীর সংখ্যা।

২। 'বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ ক্ষুদ্র উদ্যোক্তা'

দৃষ্টান্ত স্থাপনকারী কোন উদ্যোগ, ক্ষুদ্রঋণ ব্যবহারের অভিজ্ঞতা, উদ্যোগের সম্ভাব্য সম্প্রসারণ ও প্রসৃষ্টি, উৎপাদনশীলতা, নিয়োজিত কর্মীর সংখ্যা।

৪। 'বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ ক্ষুদ্র ঋণ প্রদানকারী সংস্থা'

ক্ষুদ্রঋণ গ্রাহকের সংখ্যা, ঋণ আদায়ের হার, প্রতিষ্ঠানের অভিজ্ঞতা, প্রতিষ্ঠানের লক্ষ্য, ক্ষুদ্র উদ্যোক্তার স্বাবলম্বীতা অর্জনে প্রতিষ্ঠানের অবদান।

আগ্রহী ক্ষুদ্র উদ্যোক্তাগণকে তাদের নিজ নিজ এলাকার জেলা প্রশাসক অথবা সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্ষুদ্রঋণ প্রদানকারী সংস্থা / গ্রামীণ ব্যাংকের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করতে এবং ক্ষুদ্রঋণ প্রদানকারী সংস্থাতোকে সরাসরি আবেদন করতে পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে। সকল ক্ষুদ্রঋণ প্রদানকারী সংস্থাকে তাদের এবং তাদের অওতাধীন ক্ষুদ্র উদ্যোক্তাদের আবেদন / মনোনয়ন নিম্নলিখিত ঠিকানায় (আবেদন পত্রের মাধ্যমে) প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

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প্রত্যেক ক্ষুদ্রঋণ প্রদানকারী সংস্থা সর্বোচ্চ ৪টি (নিজ ক্ষুদ্রঋণ প্রদানকারী সংস্থার জন্য ১টি এবং অন্য ৩টি শ্রেণীতে ১টি করে মোট ৪টি) মনোনয়ন করতে পারেন। প্রত্যেক জেলা প্রশাসক ক্ষুদ্রঋণ প্রদানকারী সংস্থা ছাড়া অন্য ৩টি শ্রেণীতে ২টি করে মোট ৬টি মনোনয়ন প্রদান করতে পারেন। আবেদনপত্রের জন্য নিম্নলিখিত ওয়েবসাইট দেখুন অথবা উপরে উল্লেখিত ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করুন।

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