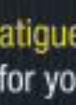


NOT ALL 500Ws ARE CREATED EQUAL!!

Only BSRM Xtreme, which is regularly  and  Fatigue tested at 5 million cyclic load reversals from a U.K. Lab, is SAFE for your family.BSRM Xtreme
Feel safe with Xtreme inside

www.bsrml.com

TRANSOM
DIGITALInverter
Technology
from Hitachi Refrigerator

INVERTER x Dual Fan Cooling



Up to 9 EMIs @ 0% Interest

For More Information:
09613700700STUDENT POLITICS
Hamid upset with lack of ideology

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid said he is saddened by the absence of ideology in today's student politics.

"Student politics, on many occasions, is now based on personal and group interests," he said while addressing the 49th convocation of Dhaka University at its central playground on the campus yesterday.

"I am not against student politics as it is necessary to create new leaderships. But the leaderships must focus on public welfare," he said.

At the convocation, DU conferred graduation degrees on 6,157 students while 36 were awarded gold medals for their academic feats.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique also spoke at the programme. Prof Francis Gurry of Australia was the convocation speaker.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

NONSTOP BLOCKADE
Milk producers face trouble

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, back from Baghabari, Sirajganj

The BNP-led 20-party's nonstop blockade takes a heavy toll on dairy farmers in Pabna and Sirajganj as dairy producers have cut back on buying and transporting milk.

Around 1,200 milk producing units of "Milk Vita Zone" at Shahjadpur in Sirajganj and Bera and Santhia in Pabna are counting loss every day since the milk processing companies reduced milk collection from them, according to the farmers.

The farmers are even selling milk at a throwaway price in their localities but cannot make up the loss, they add. Sirajganj and Pabna are the largest milk producing districts in the country.

Shakhawat Hossain, deputy general manager of the state-run cooperative dairy farm Milk Vita, said every day they bought around 2.5 lakh litres of milk from dairy farmers through 33 chilling plants across the country.

According to the farmers, Pabna and Sirajganj alone produce around 2 lakh litres of milk every day and Milk Vita buys the lion's share.

"But the collection came down to around 1 lakh litres a day due to the blockade," Shakhawat told The Daily Star.

Milk Vita, which markets pasteurised milk, butter, ghee and powdered milk, collected and processed 60 lakh litres of milk in December and had a target of collecting around 75 lakh litres in January, he added.

"However, we have so far collected and processed only 17.81 lakh litres as of Monday. The amount was more than 30 lakh litres this time last year," he said.

The deputy general manager of Milk Vita said they could

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

RIDING HIGH... All elated, some Dhaka University graduates throw their graduation caps into the air after the 49th convocation yesterday.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

CHITTAGONG PORT
Experts set to recover radioactive goods

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A 36-member joint team comprising of US, Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan experts will start working today for the recovery of radioactive goods of a cargo container at the Chittagong port.

After the recovery, the experts will also try to store the materials safely.

A panel of nine experts of the US Department of Energy arrived in Bangladesh on January 11 at the Chittagong Customs House's request, after the radioactive goods-laden container was detected in April last year.

Other members of the joint team include six experts of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and five of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority.

The team yesterday conducted a training programme near the detected cargo container at the port.

One Mabia Steel Company Chittagong in April last year exported a consignment of five containers carrying scrapped stainless steel which were loaded off at Sitakunda and shipped through Chittagong port for India via Colombo Port.

On April 29, Colombo port authorities identified one of the containers with radiation and later the Atomic Energy Authority of Sri Lanka found out that one or more items of a container were contaminated.

Chittagong Customs Assistant Commissioner Ahmedur Reza said since the country lacked logistic supports and previous experience to recover and store such radioactive goods safely, they sought the help from the foreign experts.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2