



## HIGHEST SELLING CEMENT

in Bangladesh pow for years

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# Bad days for good farmers

Chemically grown pineapples see higher demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Consumers are falling for chemically grown eye-candy pineapples that look bigger and brighter than the naturally farmed ones but actually taste bland and have less nutrient

This trend is hurting the farmers who are not using excessive chemicals while growing the fruit.

To get a firsthand experience of the market trend, this correspondent visited Jalchhatra Bazar in Tangail's Madhupur on Monday. Over 1.25 lakh tonnes of pineapple are produced in Madhupur a year, making it one of the country's biggest pineapple producing areas, according to Upazila Agriculture Officer Hazrat Ali.

There, he found one Nazimuddin who had bought a pair of big-sized pineapple for Tk 70.

On request, when he cut one, he's utterly disappointed to find that the otherwise delicious fruit tasted like water. It didn't even have the usual aroma of a naturally grown pineapple.

"Why did you buy these pineapples?" asked the reporter. "Because these looked bigger and better," answered Nazimuddin.

The same is the case with most buyers.

"Actually consumers everywhere like to buy big and bright pineapples," said Rintu Miah, a wholesaler who had come to Jalchhatra from Pabna to buy the fruit.

This tendency among the consumers is encouraging farmers to go for using more chemicals in farming the fruit.

"I had to sale my chemical-free pineapple at Tk 10 apiece while a neighbour of mine sold his chemically grown fruits at Tk 20 to Tk 25," said a pineapple grower.

"They are making more money than I am. I might just have to follow their path now. What else can I do?" he said





OYASIQUR MURDER Charge sheet

### in a week, say detectives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid criticism over the failure to identify and arrest those behind the recent killing of blogger Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy, detectives yesterday said they would submit a charge sheet in blogger Oyasiqur murder case in a week.

The investigation in Oyasiqur killing case is about to be completed, said Monirul Islam, spokesperson of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

Suspected members of banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team hacked to death Oyasiqur Rahman in broad daylight near his home in the capital's Tejgaon on March 30.

Locals caught two suspected killers while they were fleeing after the incident and handed them over to the police. A third suspect

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#### Khaleda calls 20-party meet after 9 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After over nine months, chiefs of the BNP-led 20party alliance's components sit in a meeting this evening to discuss its next course of action.

**BNP** Chairperson Khaleda Zia, also the combine chief, yesterday called the meeting at her Gulshan political office. She last held the meeting of the opposition alliance on Nov 7 last year.

In the meeting, the alliance is likely to discuss a number of issues, including causes of failure of its blockade programme and its next course of action, said sources in the opposition alliance.

Facing police obstacles to coming out of her Gulshan office to attend a mass gathering in front of the BNP's Nayapaltan central office, Khaleda on January 5 announced a SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## China bans 120 'harmful' songs

AFP, Beijing

China has ordered 120 songs to be pulled from the Internet, including tracks titled "Don't Want to Go to School" and "All Must Die" because they promoted sex, violence or "incited law-breaking", authorities said.

No individual or organisation is allowed to provide the songs, which "trumpeted obscenity, violence, crime or harmed social morality", the Ministry of Culture said in a statement on Monday. Most of the blacklisted tunes were by unknown singers or bands but had striking titles, including

attached to the statement showed. The list provided "specific targets for Internet SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

"No Money No Friend" and "Suicide Diary", a list



# 20 dredgers

Tk 2,048cr project okayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to procure 20 dredgers for dredging rivers to keep the waterways navigable.

Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) yesterday approved a Tk 2,048 crore project to buy the dredgers and other related equipment with the aim of making the rivers lifeline for economy in future.

Of the 20 dredgers, some would be purchased from the local market, and the rest would be imported, said a high official of the planning ministry.

Apart from the dredgers, 20 crane boats, eight tugboats, 20 crew houseboats, eight officers' houseboats, five survey vessels, 3,200 shore pipes and 12 pipe-carrying barges will be bought under the project, according to the proposal.

At present, there are 18 dredgers, and three more will be collected by this year.

The existing government and private dredgers can only dredge 250 lakh cubic metres of waterways each year, while around 632 lakh cubic metres of waterways remain undredged, as per the planning ministry proposal.

The proposal also added that when the SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## Govt to buy No manipulation in hiring process

Assures expat welfare minister about fresh recruitment for Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas: management system for the Employment Nurul Islam yesterday said no one could exert any influence : 1.5 million Bangladeshi on him over the process of hiring Bangladeshi workers for Malaysia.

"Nobody can buy me," he said when reporters sought his reaction to an · recruit through private allegation that some Malaysian IT companies and their lobbies within : sector, reported Malaysian Bangladesh's recruitment industry were manipulating him into using their : news portal, Malaysiakini, respective online system for the recruitment.

The minister had emerged from a meeting with a Malaysian delegation, : which is visiting Dhaka to discuss the possible mode of labour recruitment, . Sdn Bhd, in which Zahid's at his ministry.

On August 9, the four-member Malaysian team, led by the country's · Immigration Department Secretary-general Mustafa Ibrahim, came to: Bangladesh. It is scheduled to leave today. Yesterday, a ministry official told The Daily Star that business delegations

of Bestinet and Real Times Networking -- two Malaysian IT companies -- · also met the minister and some ministry officials this week to show them . their online systems for the purpose.

According to Malaysiakini, a Malaysian online news portal, Abdul Hakim Hamidi, executive chairperson of Real Time Networking Sdn Bhd, is . a brother of the country's Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

On the other hand, Bestinet is owned by Malaysia's former home minister Azmi Khalid. Bestinet's agreement with the Malaysian government was suspended earlier this year following an outcry by recruitment agents of . Indonesia and Nepal over the company's high service fees, the portal: AZAN reported yesterday.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5 .

#### : ONLINE SYSTEM : Malaysia DPM's : brother owns : the company

STAR REPORT

A Malaysian firm owned by · Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's : brother is in talks with Dhaka and Putrajaya to provide a workers Malaysia wants to · yesterday.

Real Time Networking brother Abdul Hakim

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



**PRAYER** 

**AUGUST 12** Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha 4-25 12-45 4-45 JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-44 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

TIMING

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)

১০৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ কাওরান বাজার বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২১৫

কোম্পানির নতুন সিস্টেমে গ্রাহকদের SMS এর মাধ্যমে তথ্য জানানোর জন্য তাদের মোবাইল নম্বর/ই-মেইল ঠিকানা সংগ্রহকরণ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা তিতাস গ্যাস টি এন্ড ডি কোং লিঃ এর মিটারযুক্ত সকল আবাসিক, শিল্প, বাণিজ্য, ক্যাপটিভ পাওয়ার, সিএনজি এর সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, কোম্পানির গ্রাহক সেবার মান উন্নয়ন ও ডিজিটাল সেবা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে ওয়েব বেইজড ইন্টিগ্রেটেড কম্পিউটার সিস্টেম আপগ্রেডেশন ও স্থাপনের কাজ চলছে। প্রস্তাবিত নতুন সিস্টেমে SMS সার্ভিস চালু হলে কোম্পানির ডাটাবেইজে এন্ট্রিকৃত মোবাইল বা ই-মেইল ঠিকানায় সময় সময়ে গ্রাহকদেরকে তাদের মাসিক বিল, বকেয়া, বিল Notice ইত্যাদি তথ্যাদি জানানো হবে। SMS সার্ভিস সুষ্ঠভাবে চালুর লক্ষ্যে কোম্পানির ডাটাবেইজে সকল গ্রাহকের তার নিজের বা মনোনীত প্রতিনিধির সঠিক মোবাইল নম্বর বা ই-মেইল ঠিকানা অন্তর্ভুক্ত করা প্রয়োজন। এতদপ্রেক্ষিতে "এসএমএস-সার্ভিস এর জন্য নির্ধারিত রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফর্ম" নামক ফর্ম সংশ্লিষ্ট জোন/জোবিঅ অথবা কোম্পানির ওয়েবসাইট লিংক -"https://www.titasgas.org.bd/sms.htm" হতে সংগ্রহপূর্বক যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে সংশ্লিষ্ট জোন/জোবিঅ তে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। এমতাবস্থায় সকল গ্রাহকগণকে যথাসময়ে উক্ত ফর্ম সংগ্রহ ও পূরণপূর্বক সংশ্রিষ্ট জোন/জোবিঅ তে জমা প্রদানের অনুরোধ জানানো হল।

"আপনার রান্নার কাজ শেষ হয়ে থাকলে এখৃনি গ্যাসের চুলা নিভিয়ে ফেলুন"

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ-০৬/২০১৫-১৬ জিডি-২৬৪৩

-তিতাস গ্যাস কর্তৃপক্ষ

#### 6 progressive activists get threats OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Three days after the killing of blogger Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy, six more progressive people in Barisal were issued threats.

Terming them "enemy of Islam", a Facebook account named Ansar BD on Monday night posted in English: "There are three anti Islamic poet & three organizer of blogger ... We should do what will our aim."

The six are: Poet Henry Swapan, poet Syed Mehedi Hasan, poet Tuhin Das, local Ganojagoron Mancha organiser Nazrul Biswas, organising secretary Pritom Chowdhury of Bangladesh Chhatra Union's Barisal district chapter, and sculptor Charu Tuhin.

Nazrul is also the immediate past president of SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

