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MOGHBAZAR-MOUCHAK FLYOVER

SHAH CEMENT

Principal Cement in the Flyover Project

School for farmers

Kushtia farmers getting training, technical knowledge on farming to increase productivity

Twice a week, they go to these schools and learn about farming. Once they graduate, they do the same task -- toiling in fields -- but in a smarter way.

The agricultural extension department in Kushtia has been running six farmers' schools in the district's farm-rich Mirpur upazila since early last year.

The schools are providing rural growers with training and other technical knowledge on farming that is eventually translating into better productivity.

So far, 600 students have passed out from the schools and 300 more will be graduating at the end of this month.

Three facilitators have been employed and agriculture officers are also routinely sent to the schools to hold classes on every Thursday and Saturday.

The education module includes, among others, lessons on field crops, homestead gardening, cattle and poultry rearing, fishery, nutrition, and other social issues, said the agricultural extension department.

Prem Kumar, a farmer of Baruipara in Mirpur upazila, said he has immensely benefited from the knowledge he got at a school.

"Now I know how to fight pests in rice fields and in my orchard using organic methods," he said.

Another farmer, Mahfuza Khatun who is from Bibhag village in the upazila, said she learnt about homestead gardening, including pollinating pumpkin flowers, from her school.

According to the AED office in Mirpur, the schools were set up at six places with an intention to "cover" all farming households in the upazila.

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Farmers and their family members take lessons on farming at a school for them in Kushtia's Mirpur upazila. *Bottom left*, a woman shows farming tools to visitors. An official of the Department of Agricultural Extension conducts a class, *bottom right*. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: AMANUR AMAN



More suspects to be arrested SOON

Says home minister about Mitu murder

STAR REPORT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said more suspects in the killing of police superintendent Babul Akter's wife would be arrested soon.

"We have already arrested two of them and will certainly be able to nab one or two more," he told reporters at his secretariat office in the capital.

"We have identified those who killed and were involved in the murder," he added.

The minister came up with the remarks a day after the Chittagong Metropolitan Police, showing two people arrested in a case, claimed that seven to eight criminals took part in the murder in exchange for money they received through a middleman.

According to CMP, the arrestees -- Wasim and Anwar -- were from Chittagong's Rangunia upazila.

Wasim was one of the three who attacked Babul's wife Mahmuda Khanam Mitu on her way to put her son on a school bus. He shot her with a gun while Anwar was in the area as a member

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ITALIAN CITIZEN KILLING Cops file charge sheet against 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police last night submitted charge sheet to a Dhaka court against seven people, including BNP leader MA Quayum, in the murder case of Italian national Cesare Tavella.

"The Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police submitted the charge sheet against Quayum, his brother Matin and five others," Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of DMP, told The Daily Star.

This newspaper could not verify the development with the court.

Tavella, an aid worker, was killed in the capital's Gulshan Diplomatic Zone on September 28 last year. Barely a week after, Japanese national Kunio Hoshi, a farmer, was shot to death at Alutari village of Kaunia upazila in Rangpur on October 3.

Quayum is a joint convener of the BNP's Dhaka city unit and also a former ward commissioner of the erstwhile Dhaka City Corporation.



Cesare Tavella

Cameron rules out second referendum

No informal negotiations, says German chancellor

AGENCIES

David Cameron has ruled out a second referendum on Britain's EU membership.

The UK prime minister's spokesperson said holding another vote was "not remotely on the cards". The clarification comes amid a petition calling for a re-run in the event of a close result and following speculation that the government may go to the country again once the terms of Britain's new relationship have been agreed.

Cameron chaired the first Cabinet meeting since the Brexit vote at midday yesterday, where ministers confirmed plans for a special government unit to draw up options for Britain's renegotiation with the EU.

However, formal negotiations cannot start until Britain activates Article 50 -- initiating the formal two-year procedure for



withdrawing from the EU.

Cameron has said this will be a task for the next prime minister, who will not be in place until a Conservative leadership election has concluded by October, writes Independent.co.uk.

Also yesterday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said it was understandable that Britain needs time before triggering its exit from the European Union, but warned against dragging out the process.

"We cannot afford to have a long period of uncertainty. I think that would not be good for either the EU's 27 member states or Britain. But I also understand that Britain needs a certain period of time to analyse the situation," she said.

But while Britain considers its options, the leader of Europe's biggest economy also insisted that no back-room deals would be

GROUNDWATER DEPLETION Beijing sinking by 11cm a year



CNN ONLINE

Beijing residents have put up with choking smog, trash-filled rivers and toxic running tracks. Now they have another concern -- sinking.

An international study led by Beijing-based researchers has discovered that the city is dropping by as much as 11 centimetres (4 inches) in some districts per year.

The thirsty city has depleted its groundwater, which the study identified as the cause of the sinking.

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ROOPPUR NUKE PLANT Cabinet okays credit deal with Russia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved the draft of the inter-state credit agreement between the governments of Bangladesh and the Russian Federation for construction of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna.

As per the agreement, a \$12.65 billion deal would be signed between the two countries in July or August this year, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiq Alam told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting.

He however could not say if the deal would be inked in Bangladesh or Russia.

Of the amount, the Russian government would provide \$11.39 billion as

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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	June	Sehri	Iftar
22	28		6-53
23	29	3-42	6-53
24	30	3-42	6-53

PRAYER TIMING JUNE 28

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	3-47	12-45	5-00	6-53	8-17
JAMAAT	3-52	1-15	5-15	7-03	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 28

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
3-47 12-45 5-00 6-53 8-17
AZAN 3-52 1-15 5-15 7-03 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Drenched in sweat, a man struggles to pull a goods-laden rickshaw-van on Topkhana Road in the capital. Scorching heat has been taking a toll on labourers, rickshaw pullers and people from low-income groups over the last few days. The photo was taken three days ago.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

AIRPORT SECURITY AUDIT German team due today

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

A German team of aviation experts is coming to Bangladesh today to audit the security standards at the international airport in Dhaka, two days after German national carrier Lufthansa stopped carrying direct cargoes from Bangladesh on security grounds, sources have said.

Like the UK experts, the German team will also conduct the validation under the regulations of the European Union (EU), said a source at the Biman Bangladesh Airlines. Germany's civil aviation authority has already sent a letter to the Biman in this regard.

The German ban took effect on Sunday. It comes only three months after the UK imposed a similar ban on direct cargo flights from Bangladesh on security reasons. Earlier in December last year, Australia did the same.

Both the bans are still in place, even months after a British security company took charge of the cargo screening at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

On Sunday, the Federal Aviation Authority of Germany said in a notice that "because of information provided by our law enforcement authority and intelligence services" all cargoes and mail consignments originating from Bangladesh "pose a risk to aviation security".

This means all cargo flights from Bangladesh bound for Germany must be rescreened at a third-country airport.

The latest ban will have serious consequences as Bangladesh exports nearly \$5 billion worth of goods to Germany a year -- 95 percent of them garment items. A significant quantity of goods from Bangladesh is carried to Germany by air.

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