

JUST A HOOK TO SOME LOVED ONES' SAFETY TO US



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FLOOD AFTERMATH

Free fertiliser, seeds for 7.76 lakh farmers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will distribute seeds and fertilisers free of cost to over 7.76 lakh flood affected small and marginal farmers in haor areas and mid-northern districts of the country under an agriculture rehabilitation programme.

The farmers will be given seeds of different crops along with non-urea fertilisers in compensation for crop loss due to prolonged floods, said Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury in a written statement.

The programme will cost the government Tk 137 crore, she said at a press conference at her office yesterday.

Under the programme, some 6 lakh farmers of six haor districts - Sylhet, Sunamganj, Hobiganj, Moulvibazar, Netrokona and Kishoreganj - will get seeds, Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MoP) fertilizers worth Tk 117 crore and Tk 1,000 in cash each for cultivating crops on a bigha of land.

Each one of them will receive 5kg boro rice seeds along with 20 kg DAP and 10 kg MoP fertilisers, Matia said, adding that the programme was aimed at bringing six lakh bighas for 80,162 hectares of land under cultivation and producing nearly 3.25 lakh tonnes of rice.

Apart from farmers in the haor region, 1.76,202 small and marginal farmers in 18 flood affected mid-northern districts will be given free wheat, maize, mustard, peanuts, khesari, vegetable, boro rice seeds and DAP and MoP fertilisers at the cost of Tk 20 crore during the Robi season.

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Some fishermen continue fishing in the Bishkhali River in Barguna on Monday, a day after the fisheries department imposed a 22-day ban on netting, transporting, selling and hoarding of hilsa to facilitate safe spawning of the fish.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Hilsa netting on despite ban

Fishermen yet to get rice from authorities in compensation

STAR REPORT

Many fishermen are netting hilsa despite the ongoing ban.

They are catching the fish, particularly during the night, in the Meghna, Kirtankhola, Bishkhali, Kalabadar and Atrial Khars rivers in Bartsal division, the Padma in Munshiganj and the Meghna in Narayanganj.

On October 1, the Department of Fisheries enforced the 22-day ban on netting, selling and transporting hilsa to protect the mother fish till spawning.

During the period, no fisherman is allowed to throw nets in the waters where there is movement of hilsa, say fisheries officials.

So far, at least 39 fishermen have been jailed for different terms for netting hilsa amid the ban in Barisal, Pataukhali and Munshiganj.

The punishment was handed down during drives by joint teams of officials.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

GRAVITATIONAL WAVES US trio wins Nobel Prize in physics



Barry Barish Kip S Thorne Rainer Weiss

AFP, Stockholm

US astrophysicists Barry Barish, Kip Thorne and Rainer Weiss were awarded the Nobel Physics Prize yesterday for the discovery of gravitational waves - a phenomenon that opens a door on the extreme Universe.

Predicted by Albert Einstein a century ago as part of his theory of general relativity, but only detected in 2015, gravitational waves are "ripples" in space-time, as the theoretical fabric of the cosmos is called.

They are caused by ultra-violent processes, such as colliding black holes or the collapse of stellar cores.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Rebels storm BSF camp in Kashmir

Four killed in gun battle

AFP, Srinagar

Three militants who yesterday stormed a paramilitary base near the main airport in Indian-administered Kashmir have been killed, police said, ending an hour-long gun battle that also left a soldier dead.

Three paramilitary troopers and a police officer were injured when the attackers hurled grenades and fired automatic weapons at the Border Security Force (BSF) base next to the high-security Srinagar airport before dawn, said director-general of police S P Vaid.

"All the three militants have been killed. An assistant sub-inspector of BSF also died in the initial assault," Vaid told AFP.

Flights at the airport, which shares a compound wall with the base, resumed after being suspended briefly with at least one flight from New Delhi cancelled, authorities said.

Kashmir's inspector-general of police, Muneer Ahmed Khan, blamed Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed for the attack but denied some media reports that the fortified airport was the target.

He told reporters the Islamist group was a threat "because they believe in surprise suicide attacks".

In August the group claimed responsibility after three militants stormed a police base at Pulwama in Kashmir, killing eight government personnel. The three attackers were also killed in a two-day battle.

Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since the end of British colonial rule in 1947 but both claim the territory in full.

For decades rebel groups have fought Indian soldiers deployed in the territory, demanding independence or a merger of the former Himalayan

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RICE PRICE Qamrulr faces the music

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday came down heavily on Food Minister Qamrul Islam for his ministry's failure in taking proper measures to control the soaring price of rice.

The parliamentary standing committee on food remained unconvinced by the minister's arguments but the price hike placed before the committee members.

The parliamentary

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Guinness record for teddy bear collection

NDTV ONLINE

A 68-year-old woman in the US has set a new Guinness record for the world's largest collection of teddy bears - owning 8,026 stuffed bears.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Bangladeshi youth wins Forbes award

STAR REPORT

Bangladeshi youth icon and social entrepreneur Minhaj Chowdhury has won the first-ever 'Under 30 Impact Challenge' at the Forbes Under 30 Summit in Boston in the US.

Minhaj, cofounder and CEO of Drinkwell, aspires to bring positive changes to the world and is doing just that, as his firm offers a lifeline to a quarter million people by providing them with more than a million litres of safe drinking water in Bangladesh and India, a region where drinking

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Advertisement for Bangladesh Sarbisese Limited (BSL) featuring art and craft exhibitions. Includes text about the company, art exhibitions, and contact information.

Advertisement for United Hospital, featuring a 24/7 appointment desk and emergency services. Includes phone numbers 10666 and 9852466.

Advertisement for SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center, featuring prayer timing for October 4. Includes contact information and a list of services.

Large advertisement for BERGER Home Decor featuring a stylized logo, a 25% discount offer, and contact information for various branches across Bangladesh.