

12 DHAKA SUNDAY JUNE 2, 2019, JAISHTHA 19, 1426 BS

The Daily Star

"MY HOME IS AS GREAT AS THE PADMA BRIDGE TO ME"

Whether for your home or the Pillars of Padma Bridge We forge steels with the same expertise

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT
BSRM
building a safer nation

PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE
SHAH CEMENT

All they wanted was fair price for paddy

14 students of Bangabandhu Tech University asked to show cause for demo on campus

STAR REPORT

The students had only demanded fair prices of paddy for farmers, but the university authorities think it was anti-government activities.

In an unprecedented move, authorities of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman Science and Technology University in Gopalganj have issued show-cause notices to 14 students for "carrying anti-government and anti-administration placards and festoons" during a protest.

Rathindranath Bappi, who studies international relations, is one of them.

He said they were shocked to see the low prices of paddy this Boro season. So they formed a human chain in front of the university gate on May 16 to demand better prices for farmers.

"We didn't carry any anti-government placards. We just urged the government to ensure fair prices for paddy. Still, we will send our replies within the deadline because we respect our authorities."

The notice, signed by Registrar Prof Nuruddin Ahmed, was issued on May 30.

"Your involvement has been found in carrying anti-government and anti-

administration placards and festoons ... without permission of the administration to destabilise the academic atmosphere of the university, which is a heinous act and it goes against the discipline of the university.

"You are therefore asked to reply in writing in seven working days upon receiving the notice as to why punitive actions shall not be taken against you," it said.

Contacted, Dhaka University's Mass Communication and Journalism department's Associate Professor Fahmidul Haq said students and teachers of all the public universities should be able to exercise their right to be vocal for just demands.

"I don't find anything anti-government here. The students only demanded fair prices for paddy. We often see authorities of some public universities do things overenthusiastically to prove their loyalty to certain political parties. This is one such example."

SM Abdullah Kafi, a third-year law student, said they formed the human chain because it was a national issue.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

A platform at Kamalapur Railway Station is overcrowded by holiday-makers yesterday as at least half a dozen trains are behind schedule by one to three-and-a-half-hours. The situation was similar on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR

US GUN VIOLENCE

Disgruntled worker kills 12 in Virginia

AGENCIES

The gunman who killed 12 people at a Virginia Beach municipal building before dying in a gun battle with police was identified yesterday as a disgruntled city engineer and co-worker of most of the victims.

All but one of the victims from the mass shooting in the coastal resort community were employed by the city, officials said at a news conference, while the other was a contractor seeking a permit. Four people were wounded.

The gunman, DeWayne Craddock, had worked for the city's public utilities department for about 15 years, Virginia Beach Police Chief James Cervera said at a news conference.

Police said he used a .45 caliber handgun equipped with a "sound suppressor" device and extended ammunition magazines that he used to reload during the attack. They said more weapons were found at the scene and at Craddock's home.

Two police supervisors from a building across the street

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

PRAYER TIMING JUNE 2

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 3-45 12-45 5-00 6-46 8-00
JAMAAT 3-55 1-15 5-15 6-56 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

BERGER
Trusted Worldwide

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN JUNE SEHRI IFTAR

27 2 6:46
28 3 3:39 6:47
29 4 3:39 6:47

GOVT PROCUREMENT
Most farmers denied chance to sell paddy

S DILIP ROY, *Salmonirhat*

By the time Saminul Islam reached the government buying centre with 500kg of paddy on Thursday, the officials had already wrapped up the procurement activities there. No more buying, he was told, because the procurement limit was reached.

With a sullen face, the farmer returned home to Dhairkata village in Salmonirhat sadar upazila, and all the Tk 400 he spent on carrying the grain from his home and back went to waste. The government buying centre, known as the local supply depot (LSD), is located on Kalibari Road in the upazila headquarters, 3.5km from his home.

"I got 55 maunds of paddy (2.2 tonnes) from three and a half bighas of land this season. I sold two maunds for Tk 900 in the local market due to family necessity," he said. "I thought I would get Tk 13,000 from selling the 500kg, and do the Eid shopping for my family."

Saminul is a listed farmer and can sell up to 500kg of paddy against the agriculture card he has. But the number of listed farmers far exceeds the number of farmers

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Dejected farmer Saminul Islam holds his ID at a government warehouse on Kalibari road in Salmonirhat, where he was told yesterday that the procurement was done before he got there. Below, political activists and rice mill owners sell paddy at the facility. A happy Awami League activist after being able to sell his paddy.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Top yaba dealer's luxury homes confiscated

Policemen taking over the mansion of a yaba dealer in Cox's Bazar yesterday after a court ordered the confiscation of three such houses.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF PROTHOM ALO

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police, for the first time, seized two luxurious houses and land properties owned by a top-listed yaba trader and his family members in Cox's Bazar's Teknaf upazila yesterday following a court order.

The houses were owned by Nurul Haque Vutto, 33, his brother Nur Mohammad Mongri, 35, and their father Ezahar Mia, 70, police said.

Of them, Vutto is currently on the run while Mongri was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Gopalganj six months ago, said Prodip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf police station.

Ezahar is currently living in his house in Nazirpara village, the OC added.

Police seized these houses and the land properties in separate drives conducted between 10:00am and 3:00pm yesterday, Prodip said.

These properties would remain under police custody until receiving any further notice from the court, he said.

The owners of the houses used to be rickshaw-pullers in the past and suddenly became millionaires by trading yaba pills, he further said.

Earlier on May 23, a court of Justice Khondker Hasan

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

EDITOR & PUBLISHER: MAHFUZ ANAM. Printed by him from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Tel: 0961022222, 9144330 & 9117796, Fax: 58156306, GPO Box No: 3257, for Advertisement: 01711623910, e-mail: editor@thedailystar.net, reporting@thedailystar.net, advertisement@thedailystar.net