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**SHAH CEMENT**

## Fake millers selling rice to govt

Real ones say a third of the registered are fake

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Talukder Rice Mill is registered with the local food office and eligible to sell rice to the government. According to papers, it is located in Jummapara village of Lalmonirhat sadar upazila. But when this correspondent went to visit the mill recently, all he found at the location is an abandoned concrete surface, two tin-roof houses, and a poultry farm. In fact, there is no rice mill in the entire village.

When asked, the mill owner, Pasan Talukder, said he closed down the mill and sold its land four years ago. But what is puzzling is he has supplied 20 tonnes of rice to the government as a listed miller, under the ongoing food procurement programme.

This is one of the dozens of rice mills which are non-existent but took the benefit of the procurement programme, depriving many genuine millers.

There are 480 registered rice mills in Lalmonirhat, from which the district food office was supposed to buy 10,731 tonnes of rice this boro season. Of the amount, 7,200 tonnes were already procured, till July 4. Allotment varies according to the capacity of the mills.

The aggrieved millers said that about one third of the listed mills are fake, and the claim is corroborated by some of the fake millers themselves and this correspondent's visits to several locations.

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Cylinders of cooking gas are placed on the pavement near Fulbaria Bus Stand in the capital's Gulistan yesterday. The gas is used by the illegal restaurants, inset, on the pavement. The practice not only obstructs pedestrians but also puts lives at risk.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Man killed in 'gunfight' in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A suspected drug peddler was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Kushtia's Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The dead, Rafiqul Islam, 40, of Haripur village in the upazila, was accused in at least six drug related cases filed with Kushtia Model Police Station and Islamic University Police Station, said police.

Nasir Uddin, officer-in-charge of Kushtia Model Police Station, claimed they raided Harora field on information that two groups of drug peddlers were holding a secret meeting there.

As soon as the police team reached the area, the criminals opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate, the OC added.

At one stage of the "gunfight", police found the body of Rafiqul lying on the spot. Rest of the criminals managed to flee, he further added.

Later, police recovered the body, sent it to Kushtia

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## 10 to 15 AL leaders under ACC scanner

Says anti-graft body boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission was dealing with graft allegations against some 10 to 15 ruling party men, its Chairman Iqbal Mahmood said yesterday.

"Some 10 to 15 ruling party men are under prosecution, investigation and inquiry," he said at a seminar at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

He, however, did not give any further details on them.

The seminar, titled "The Role of Lawyers and the Judiciary in Curbing Corruption", was organised by the Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

The ACC chairman made the comments after the anti-graft watchdog was criticised earlier and at the seminar for hardly playing a strong role when allegations were raised against ruling party men and not being able to take action against "big fish".

He, however, did not disclose what level the ruling party men belong to.

Iqbal, who was the chief guest of the seminar, said besides the ruling party men, they had also been probing into

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## Iran on 'dangerous path', warns UK

Iran says it seized British tanker after collision; France, Germany express concern

REUTERS, Geneva/London

British foreign minister Jeremy Hunt yesterday said that he was worried that Iran had taken a "dangerous path" after it seized a British-flagged tanker on Friday in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's Fars news agency said elite Revolutionary Guards had taken control of the Stena Impero in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday after it collided with an Iranian fishing boat whose distress call it ignored.

The action by Iranian Revolutionary Guards in the global oil trade's most important waterway came two weeks after Britain seized an Iranian tanker accused of violating sanctions on Syria. It is certain to be viewed in the West as a military escalation after three months of confrontation which has already taken Iran and the United States to the brink of war.

The vessel, carrying no cargo, was taken to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas. It would remain there with its 23 crew -- 18 of them Indians -- while the accident was investigated, Iranian news agencies quoted the head of Ports and Maritime Organisation in southern Hormozgan province, Allahmorad Afifpour, as saying.

Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency posted a video of the ship anchored at sea, its name clearly visible.

The strait, between Iran and the Arabian peninsula, is the sole outlet for exports of the vast majority of Middle Eastern oil, and the seizure sent oil prices sharply higher. The United States, which tightened sanctions against Iran in May with the aim of halting its oil exports altogether, has been warning for months of an Iranian threat to shipping in the strait.

In London, British Defence Secretary Penny Mordaunt called the incident a "hostile act". The Foreign Office summoned Iran's Charge d'Affaires for an urgent meeting.

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## POST-ERSHAD JP Raushan lends support to Quader

Party chairman claims

RASHIDUL HASAN

In their first meeting over party affairs since the death of HM Ershad, new JP Chairman GM Quader yesterday sought the support of Raushan Ershad.

Emerging from the meeting, Quader claimed Raushan, Ershad's widow and also senior co-chairman of the party, had lent him her support at the meeting, where they also discussed JP's ongoing activities and the next course of action, according to insiders.

"Raushan Ershad is our guardian. We will take the party forward through taking her advice and blessings," the party chairman said.

The meeting, held at Raushan's Gulshan residence, comes against the backdrop of some JP

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## Precious than gold

Thai farmers on cash trail with snail slime



AFP, Nakhon Nayok

Giant snails inch across a plate of pumpkin and cucumber in central Thailand, an "organic" diet to tease the prized collagen-rich mucus from the molluscs, which to some cosmetic firms are now more valuable than gold.

The snails at Phatinisiri Thangkeaw's farm were once the scourge of rice farmers, loathed for eating the buds of new crops.

"Farmers used to throw them on the road or in the rivers," Phatinisiri told AFP. "But now they sell them to me to earn extra money."

With her 1,000 snails, the teacher makes an extra \$320 to \$650 a month.

It is one of more than 80 farms in Nakhon Nayok province, two hours from the capital Bangkok, cashing in on the global snail beauty

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## Ex-convict held for rape in Madaripur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man who served 18-year jail sentence for murder was arrested yesterday on charges of raping and killing a 15-year-old in Madaripur.

According to Rapid Action Battalion, the arrestee -- Sajjad Hossain Khan, 40, of the district town -- forcibly took the girl to his home when she was going to her relative's house by his battery-run auto-rickshaw on July 11.

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### PRAYER TIMING JULY 21

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15  
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A fisherman prepares and repairs his nets at the Fishery Ghat on the Karnaphuli in Chattogram city as the ban on fishing at sea would be lifted on July 23.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
পরিচালকের কার্যালয়  
জাতীয় নাক কান গলা ইনস্টিটিউট ও হাসপাতাল  
তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৮।  
ফোনঃ +৮৮-০২-৮৮৭৮১৫৫, ফ্যাক্সঃ +৮৮-০২-৮৮৭৮১৫০  
Web: www.nationalinstituteofent.webs.com  
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সূত্র: এনআইইএনটি/প্রশাসন/২০১৯/৭৪৮ তারিখ: ২০/০৭/২০১৯ইং

**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

**বিষয়ঃ- সম্পূর্ণ শ্রবণ প্রতিবন্ধীদের কক্রিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট ডিভাইস প্রাপ্তি আবেদন।**

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশে ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইএনটি-তে গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অর্থায়নে এবং স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের সার্বিক সহযোগিতায় শ্রবণ প্রতিবন্ধীদের কল্যাণে "কক্রিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট কার্যক্রম" চালু করা হয়েছে। এই কর্মসূচির মাধ্যমে শ্রবণ প্রতিবন্ধীদেরকে সার্জারীর মাধ্যমে সরকারী অর্থে কক্রিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট ডিভাইস (যন্ত্র) প্রদান করা হবে। সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অনুমোদিত কক্রিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট বরাদ্দ নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদেরকে ডিভাইসটি বিনামূল্যে/আংশিক মূল্যে প্রদান করা হবে।

কক্রিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট ডিভাইসটি বরাদ্দ পাওয়ার ও সার্জারীর মাধ্যমে কানে স্থাপনের জন্য আহ্বানী শ্রবণ প্রতিবন্ধী শিশু রোগীর অভিভাবকগণের পক্ষ থেকে আবেদন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। উল্লেখ্য ০৫ বৎসরের নীচের শিশুদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে। আবেদনপত্র ও বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন- সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (বন্ধের দিন ব্যতিত) রুম নং- ৩২২ (৩য় তলা), পরিচালকের কক্ষ, ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইএনটি, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা। আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ করার শেষ তারিখ ৩১ আগস্ট ২০১৯ এবং আবেদনপত্র জমা দেওয়ার শেষ তারিখ ১৫ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৯।

(অধ্যাপক ডাঃ মোঃ আবু হানিফ)  
পরিচালক কাম অধ্যাপক  
ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইএনটি  
তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা।