

**Qatar minister due today**

*Manpower, air links deal to be signed*  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) for increasing manpower export and air links is likely to be signed between Bangladesh and Qatar.

**40 crocs arrive tonight from India**

Forty freshwater crocodiles of an endangered species arrive tonight in the capital from Madras Crocodile Bank Trust in India.

**JOINING AL**  
**Akhtaruzzaman tells press today about decision**

Former BNP lawmaker Major (retired) Akhtaruzzaman will hold a press conference today to make a formal announcement regarding his decision to join the Awami League.

Prayer Timing		
June 24		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-52	6-55
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

**Building research instt in limbo on fund crisis**

**ASHIQUR RAHMAN**  
The Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI) has fallen into stagnancy due to a lack of proper government support, resulting in a halt of research works in recent years.

as a vast area of its facility, located in Mirpur, has already been grabbed by locals.

perately required for better research works," Dr. Akhtar Uddin Ahmed, HBRI's Principal Research Officer, said. He emphasised the need to recruit qualified researchers to the HBRI.



A peahen brought from India keeps keen watch on her five chicks hatched out at the Chittagong Zoo yesterday.

**BB staff suspended for bond forgery**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
An assistant manager at Bangladesh Bank's (BB) Motijheel office, Abdus Salam Sikdar, has been suspended for alleged involvement in forgery of bonds worth Tk 3.95 crore.

registration last month. The remaining 50 bonds are still to be traced.

**15 die in Nepal violence**

**Maoists kidnap 12 troops**  
**AGENCIES, Kathmandu**  
At least eight Maoist rebels and seven security force members were killed in a gun battle in eastern Nepal while 12 soldiers were kidnapped by rebels, police said yesterday.

security men to an unknown destination," a police official said. "The rebels also fled with some communication equipment."

**3 die, 40 hurt as bus plunges into river**  
**BDNEWS, Savar**  
Three people died and 40 others were injured when a Dhaka-bound night coach from Naogaon plunged into a river, breaking the railing of a bridge at Aminbazar early yesterday.

**40 killed as Iraq reels from blasts**

**3 GIs, Saudi top terror killed in attacks**  
**AP, AFP, Baghdad**  
Nearly 40 people have died in a rash of car bombings in Iraq's capital over a 12-hour span, including two coordinated blasts early yesterday that killed 17 and wounded 28 more in a central Baghdad shopping district while three US troops were killed in Ramadi attacks, police said.

most-wanted suspected terrorists was killed by a US airstrike in northwestern Iraq, the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq said.

**Naser against scope for money whitening**  
**Also criticises tax on SIM card**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
A treasury bench lawmaker yesterday in parliament criticised the budgetary provision for whitening black money at 7.5 percent interest rate and the tax on mobile SIM card.