

# Hospitals get equipment before staff

**NAIMUL HAQ**

The health ministry is furnishing two hospitals with expensive equipment without recruiting adequate number of physicians and technicians for three years under the constituencies of the prime minister and health minister in Bogra and Comilla.

An investigation by The Daily Star has found the ministry has procured and sent equipment worth over Tk 3 crore to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Hospital and Daudkandi Upazila Health Complex.

The pieces of equipment were sent without a plan to create posts for physicians and technicians to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

# 24 Iraqi children killed in blast

**AFP, Baghdad**

Twenty four Iraqi children and one US soldier were killed Wednesday morning in a suicide car bomb attack in southeastern Baghdad, hospital sources and US forces said.

Some 20 more children were wounded, along with three US soldiers.

"A driver approached one of the US humvees and then detonated his car," said Sergeant David Abrams.

One eyewitness, Mohammed Ali Hamza, 25, said US forces turned up in the Al-Jedidah district to warn residents to stay indoors because of reports of a car bomb in the area.

"Children gathered round the Americans who were handing out sweets. Suddenly a suicide car bomber drove round from a side street and blew himself up," he added.

"I was at home. I heard the explosion. I rushed outside to find my son. I only found his bicycle," said Abu Hamed, whose 12-year-old son Mohammed was killed in the attack.

He was speaking at Kindi hospital where hundreds of distraught

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

# Jubo League leader killed

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Criminals yesterday gunned down a local Jubo League leader at Pallabi in the capital.

The victim Hamidur Rahman Khokon alias Pagla Khokon, 40, Joint convenor of ward No 2 unit of main opposition Awami League's youth wing Jubo League, was going to Madhumita Matsa Khamar, a fish firm near their house in Section-12, at around 9:00am when he came under attack.

Khokon and four others used to run the fishery.

"As he reached beside Sagufta Matsa Khamar near Madhumita Matsa Khamar, unknown criminals opened fire on him, killing him on the spot," Khokon's brother Bazlur Rahman Babu told reporters.

With two bullets in the chest and one in the face, Khokon was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

On completion of autopsy, Khokon's brother received the body.

Pallabi police said he might have been killed as sequel of conflict between the shareholders of the fishery.

# Rajuk's dilemma over illegal buildings

**MORSHED ALI KHAN**

Rajuk is facing a dilemma over 17 illegally constructed buildings in the city which need to be demolished immediately for safety reasons, Rajuk officials said.

Rajuk Chairman Shahid Alam admitted these three to six-storey buildings are posing a serious threat to public safety, and said they are preparing to demolish the structures soon. Most of the buildings are in Nikunja area, he added.

Official sources pointed out that owners of at least four of the 17 buildings have obtained court injunction on Rajuk's demolition move.

Rajuk (Rajdhani Unnayan

Kartipakkha) has listed 111 buildings for demolition partially or fully. Of the listed buildings, 17 were built without any approval or design. Rajuk inspection teams checked these structures and confirmed they could collapse.

Rajuk's demolition squad however remained inactive for months as the organisation had no magistrate to accompany it, a mandatory provision. Now that a magistrate has just joined Rajuk, the demolition team will go for a drive. About Tk 5 lakh has also been allocated to meet the cost of demolishing these 17 structures, said Shahid.

Sources mentioned that Rajuk is to demolish three categories of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

# Ex-Shibir man confesses to killing Belal

**BDNEWS, Khulna**

Ex-Islami Chhatra Shibir leader Ekhlaur Rahman Ekhlaur, an accused of the killing of Khulna Metropolitan Journalists' Union president Sheikh Belaluddin, gave a confessional statement yesterday at the Khulna Metropolitan Magistrate's court.

Police arrested Ekhlaur, 31, from Rupsha ferry terminal area on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
July 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-57	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

# PM shocked at Pak train disaster

**UNB, Dhaka**

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has expressed her deep shock at the loss of lives in yesterday's train accident in Pakistan.

In a condolence message to her Pakistani counterpart Shaukat Aziz, the prime minister prayed for the salvation of the departed souls and for the early recovery of those injured in the accident.

She also conveyed her deep condolences to the bereaved families.

# JS RESERVED SEATS Hearing on stay petition begins

**BDNEWS, Dhaka**

The hearing on the leave to appeal and stay petitions filed against a High Court (HC) order, which had discharged the writ petitions over holding election to 45 reserved seats for women in the Jatiya Sangsad, began in the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday.

After hearing the petitions, the full bench of the Appellate Division comprising Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain and five other judges fixed July 17 for next hearing.

The parliament passed a law on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

# Foreign vessel to pay \$2.7 lakh for hitting naval ship

**RAFIQ HASAN**

The owners of foreign container carrier MV Copenhagen that hit a naval ship on Karnaphuli channel on June 27 have agreed to pay \$2.70 lakh (equivalent to around Tk 1.50 crore) as compensation to the Bangladesh Navy.

A meeting at Chittagong naval base attended by the representatives of the ship owners, Bangladesh Navy and Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) yesterday settled the case with agreement of paying the amount by the foreign ship owners, sources said.

The Bahamian flag carrier ship

with around 487 TEUs containers had failed to control the steering and hit a naval ship, causing damage to it and some naval pontoons at the jetty.

The Bangladesh Navy had estimated over Tk 3.50 crore loss by the accident but finally agreed to receive

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

Poor maintenance has left Doyel Chattar in a shabby condition only a few months after Dhaka city got a facelift for the Saarc summit.

# TENGRATILA Drilling rig arrives

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**

The rig for drilling a second relief well reached Tengratila from Unocal's Moulvibazar gas field yesterday.

Installation of the rig will take about five days and drilling of the relief well is likely to start on July 25 as scheduled, a Niko official said.

A logistic appliances supplier firm took nine days to bring the Century drilling company's rig to Tengratila gas field.

Land development at the drilling site is going on.

Meanwhile, intensity of the fire at the first relief well at the gas field further decreases yesterday with the flames coming down to less than 10 feet. The blaze at about 30 other points is also subsiding gradually.

Leakage of gas through innumerable points in nearby marshy lands however continued.

