

## SUBSTANDARD JUICE Cab sticks to its claim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Consumers Association of Bangladesh (Cab) authorities and experts again claimed yesterday that eight out of 12 brands of juice available in the market are substandard and challenged the companies concerned to test their juices through a neutral international agency.

At a press conference, Cab authorities said if the juice companies want to contradict with the results released on July 26, they can

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## FARIDPUR BY-POLLS BNP picks Sirajul

UNB, Dhaka

The ruling BNP has nominated Kazi Sirajul Islam to contest as coalition candidate the by-election to Faridpur-1 parliamentary seat that he lost for floor crossing.

A meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Board, chaired by Prime Minister and BNP

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## Mamata 'quits' Lok Sabha

PTI, New Delhi

Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee yesterday submitted her resignation to Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee after creating a commotion in the House by throwing a bunch of papers at the Speaker's podium.

"I have submitted my resignation", she told reporters.

"There is no point in my being a member of the House if I am not allowed to raise people's issues", Banerjee said.

An angry Banerjee had kept a paper in front of Deputy Speaker Charanjit Singh Atwal and left the House in a huff, triggering speculation that she has quit Lok Sabha.

However, there was no word on the fate of her resignation letter.

Banerjee's action comes a few months ahead of the assembly elections in West Bengal where her party is a traditional opponent of the ruling Left Front.

## BSF kills 1

UNB, Nilphamari

A villager was shot dead by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at Dangapara village near Tilahati border under the district yesterday.

Villagers said the Indian border guards opened fire when the villager, Idris Ali, 45, was fishing in a canal at about 5:30pm.

BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) confirmed the incident, but could not give details. Senior BDR officials rushed to the spot.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia presides over a meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Board at her office yesterday to nominate party candidate for Faridpur-1 by-polls.

# No control on medical consultation fees

*Law becomes outdated, patients suffer  
as doctors charge fees at will*

ASHIQUH RAHMAN

The outdated law on doctors' consultation fees, which is inconsistent with the present market situation, has been practically hindering for long the government control on the private medical practitioners who charge much higher fees from patients, the Directorate of Health Services (DHS) sources said.

According to the exiting Private Clinic and Medical Practitioners Ordinance 1982, a doctor cannot take more than Tk 40 per private consultation and Tk 20 for each

follow-up from a patient.

A visit to a number of chambers of the private medical practitioners in city's Dhanmondi and Green Road areas revealed that a patient, regardless of his financial status, has to pay a specialist physician Tk 400-500 on an average.

"The law has become obsolete as its provision for Tk 40 per patient as private consultation fee does not match the present market situation," said Dr Md Abdur Rashid, director of hospital at the DHS.

"Realising the ineffectiveness of the law in the present context, even

the government does not want to investigate whether the private practitioners are really obeying it or not," a DHS officer said requesting anonymity.

The law will be updated soon possibly fixing afresh the fees of private practitioners in consistence with general people's capability, Dr Rashid said adding that the process is at the final stage. He, however, could not specify when it would be implemented.

On why the government is not taking action against doctors charging

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## Govt not addressing media-exposed grafts

*TIB laments, hands over awards  
to 2 for investigative reporting*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday praised the role of the media in exposing and fighting corruption in the country and blamed the government for not taking any action against these unveiled cases of corruption.

They observed that the situation would have been worse, had there not been reports on corruption in the media. They criticised the government for often blasting the media for

exposing corruption in the name of tarnishing the image of the country.

It is the ruling party that is spreading corruption and harvesting the result for its own interest, which is tarnishing the image of the country, the speakers said.

The extent of corruption in our society is at an alarming level, as a result, the country has been named the most corrupt four consecutive times, the speakers said at the

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## UNSC US, China join hands to block expansion

AGENCIES, United Nations

The United States and China have agreed to work together to block a plan to expand the powerful UN Security Council backed by Brazil, Germany, India and Japan, China's UN ambassador has said.

Wang Guangya said on Wednesday he reached the agreement with John Bolton during a meeting on Tuesday, which was the new US ambassador's first full day in his new post, because both believe the proposal by the so-called Group of Four would divide the UN's 191 member states.

Washington and Beijing are already on record as opposing the

G-4 resolution for different reasons, but the agreement would mark a new joint effort to prevent its approval by the UN General Assembly, which requires a two-thirds "yes" vote.

Wang and Bolton, who have known each other for about 15 years, met again on Wednesday outside the office of General Assembly President Jean Ping, part of a round of courtesy calls the US envoy is making to Security Council members and senior UN officials. "There's a lot of important work," Bolton said. "It's a very busy schedule in the first couple of days, and I think it's been productive and I'm certainly enjoying myself."

## Qaeda video warns US, UK of more attacks

AFP, Dubai

al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden's right-hand man Ayman al-Zawahiri warned Britain and the United States of more horror and destruction in a new videotape shown on Al-Jazeera television yesterday.

He said the two top Western allies risked losing thousands of lives if they did not pull out of Iraq or end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Muslim lands.

"These policies (of British Prime Minister Tony Blair) will bring them more destruction after the explosions of London," Zawahiri said.

His statement came as thousands

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## Sust reopens on Aug 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST) reopens on August 14 after being closed for a month.

The syndicate decided in a meeting yesterday to reopen the student's residential halls on August 11.

SUST had been closed since July 14 following the killing of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) unit Vice President (VP) Rafiqul Islam Patwary Liton.

The syndicate expelled 13 JCD members on different terms involved in the attack on Liton.

The syndicate also imposed a ban on all political rallies and meetings in the campus for a period of 6 months.

## India's airspace violation concerns JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling BNP lawmakers yesterday at a parliamentary body meeting expressed concern over "repeated" violation of Bangladesh airspace by Indian airforce's jet planes and called for effective steps to stop it.

Participating in the discussion, main opposition Awami League (AL) lawmakers Kazi Zafarullah and S y e d

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Prayer Timing		
August 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-47	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

## Two killed in Ctg landslide

BDNEWS, Ctg

Two construction workers were killed and two others injured in a landslide at OR Nizam Road Housing Society in the port city's Panchlaish area on Wednesday, police and witnesses said yesterday.

The dead were identified as Yunus Hawlader, 35, and Saju Mia, 45, of Goainagar under Brahmanbaria district. The identity of the injured could not be known.

Sources said the incident occurred in the afternoon when a big chunk of earth from a nearby hill suddenly collapsed on a hut beside an under construction building, leaving two construction workers dead and two others injured. The construction workers were forced to stay at the hut due to heavy rain.

The injured were unable to break through the wreckage and remained under the debris.

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PHOTO: STAR

Workers of an under-construction building search for the bodies of two co-workers killed in a landslide near the site in OR Nizam Road Housing Society in Chittagong yesterday.

## Strike in Ctg, Mongla ports threatened

*Trades stay stopped at Benapole*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

The Clearing and Forwarding (C&F) Agents' Association has threatened to impose a strike on other ports including Chittagong and Mongla from Monday if their demands are not fulfilled.

Custom sources said they have realised eight out of 12 demands of the C&F Agents' Association in the third meeting that took place on Wednesday. They have also partially agreed to the remaining four demands, insisting that those four proposals stays under observation

for a month. If those new proposals cause problems in operating the port they would be withdrawn and in the case of good results they would be kept in service, the source added.

The C&F Agents' Association said the eight fulfilled demands are not important and they would keep going with their indefinite strike unless their four key demands are met.

The key demands that the C&F agents made included cancellation of the present valuation and classification committees, fixing the duty of

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## Withdraw Iraq troops to protect Britain

*Urges London mayor*

AGENCIES, London

Britain must withdraw its troops from Iraq in order to prevent further terrorist attacks, London Mayor Ken Livingstone wrote in a British newspaper yesterday as thousands of police took to the streets.

Britons need to support the police, treat Muslims with respect and pull out from Iraq to "make us all safer"; "All are inter-related", Livingstone wrote in The Guardian daily.

"Acceptance that the invasion of Iraq increased the likelihood of a

terrorist attack on London now extends far beyond the usual suspects," the anti-war left-winger wrote.

London was hit by two waves of terrorist attacks last month. On July 7, 56 people were killed, four suicide bombers included, in blasts on three Underground trains and a bus. A repeat attack on July 21 failed when the bombs did not detonate fully.

"If the invasion of Iraq had been justified, it would be possible to argue that we must bear the sacrifices necessary to achieve an outcome,"

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