



Army chief Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed and the principal staff officers of the Army Headquarters call on President Iajuddin Ahmed when he visited the Army Headquarters in the city yesterday.

CG urged to check illegal import of salt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Salt producers yesterday urged the caretaker government (CG) to take necessary steps to check illegal import of salt and take action against the persons responsible.

They also called for steps to make active the salt advisory board set up during the Awami League government.

They said some companies are importing salt illegally without paying 205 percent tax. As a result, the domestic salt producers are facing uneven competition and the government is losing revenue.

Although 16 lakh metric tonnes of salt was produced during 2005-06 fiscal against the annual demand for 11.50 lakh tonnes, some unscrupulous traders imported 2 lakh tonnes of salt, said Mostafa Kamal Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Laban Chashi Kalyan Parishad, an organisation of salt producers, at a press conference.

Salt can be imported only when there is a shortfall in supply compared to demand, said Shaful Alam, a salt producer.

Dr Ansarul Karim, an environmental scientist, Anwar Pasha Chowdhury, president of Upazila Laban Chashi Sangram Committee, Moheshkhali, and Md. Mohibullah, member-secretary of Cox's Bazar Development and Environment Preservation Council, were present at the press conference held at the National Press Club in the city.

Reneta meets Anwarul Iqbal

Bss, Dhaka

UNDP Resident Representative Reneta Lock-Dessallin yesterday called on LGRD and Cooperatives Adviser M Anwarul Iqbal at his secretariat office in the city.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the implementation of UNDP financed programmes, including arsenic mitigation projects.

The adviser sought her support for supplying arsenic kit box to test arsenic contaminated tubewells at the upazila level.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS HC rule against operation of 2 fertiliser factories

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule asking the respondents to explain why the operation of two urea fertiliser factories without having environmental clearance certificate

from the authorities concerned and without any effective waste disposal plants shall not be declared illegal, says a press release.

The factories are Urea Fertiliser Factory Limited, Ghorashal and Palash Urea Fertiliser Factory Limited, Narsingdi.

The HC bench comprising Justice Syed Mohammad Dastagir Hossain and Justice Mammon Rahman passed the order following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA).

The writ petition sought appropriate judicial intervention to adopt appropriate measures against the unlawful and hazardous operation of the factories and protect environment, lives, properties, health, safety and comfort of the villagers of Khanepur, Balia and Kathalapara threatened by such unlawful operation.

The operation of the factories without any effective waste disposal plants, including the legal binding Effluent Treatment Plants is violation of the provisions of Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995, the Environment Conservation Rules, 1997, the Factories Act, 1965 and the Factories Rules, 1979 and natural rights of the villagers of Khanepur, Balia and Kathalapara.

Advocates M Enayetur Rahim and Iqbal Kabir moved the petition on behalf of the petitioner.

DU 'Ka' unit admission test results published

Results of first year honours admission test of 'Ka' unit under Science Faculty for the sessions 2006-2007 have been published yesterday, says a press release.

A total of 6757 examinees have passed in the test among 17,611 candidates.

Details of the results are available at Science Faculty Dean Office and university website -- www.univdhaka.edu.

Candidates securing 1st to 1000th positions in the merit list will have to collect choice forms on February 6, 1001-2000 on February 7 and 2001-3000 on February 8.

Interested candidates are requested to contact the Dean Office of Science Faculty for further information.

Students will have to bring their admit cards while collecting choice forms.