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## Fish market raids reveal formalin horror

6.5 tonnes medicine-mixed fish destroyed; 10 traders jailed

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

Metropolitan Magistrate Rokon Ud-Doula never discloses early which place his mobile court is going to raid, not even to his team. When he started at 4:00am yesterday, with 23 journalists from both print and electronic media, nobody knew where they were going.

The drive eventually proved to be a huge one in its history as the mobile court jailed 10 wholesale fish traders and destroyed 172 maunds or six and a half tonnes (a maund=37.5kg approx) formalin-treated fishes and seized five maunds jatka (small Hilsha) from the wholesale fish markets at Sawarighat, Kaptan Bazar and Waizghat in the city.

The court comprising a large group of the joint forces seized and destroyed 164 maunds Ruchi fish, five maunds Cheo fish and about a maund shrimp for presence of toxic formalin in them.

After an instant trial it awarded five traders 11 months' imprisonment and fined them Tk 50,000 each under the Fish Protection and Conservation Act.

The court also sold five maunds jatka seized from Kaptan Bazar and Waizghat fish markets for Tk 19,800 at auction. It sentenced five traders to 11 months' imprisonment and

fined them Tk 5,000 each.

The joint forces arrested all the ten fish traders and the mobile court sent them to jail.

Officials from the Department

of Fisheries were also present during the drive.

Sawarighat is one of the biggest wholesale fish markets on the bank of the Buriganga where fishes come

from different parts of the country as well as Myanmar.

More than 800 wholesalers and stockists operate in the market for

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Pile of formalin-treated fish that a mobile court seized at Sawarighat in the capital yesterday.

## AL focuses on party reforms

*Moves for internal democracy, transparency in accounts, EC registration*

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Awami League (AL) is making a move to reform itself by strengthening internal democracy, bringing transparency to the party's accounts, and modernising the system of induction of members.

It will also register with the Election Commission (EC), take collective decisions, hold councils on time, establish accountability at all levels, and take actions against corrupt and criminal members.

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among other things, according to party sources.

AL President Sheikh Hasina held a closed door meeting with some of the party's top leaders and all joint and organising secretaries in her Dhanmondi office on Friday night as part of her initiative to reform the party with a long tradition, the sources said.

The meeting candidly debated about many problems prevailing in the party and reached a consensus

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Shopping in the dark from today

UNB, Dhaka

Shopping malls all over the country will shut at 7:00pm daily from today under load management plan aimed at tackling a chronic power crisis.

Kitchen markets and medicine stores are exempted from the measure taken last week in a meeting between Power and Energy Advisor Tapan Chowdhury and representatives of the Shop Owners Association at Bangladesh Secretariat.

To enforce the decision, about 100 mobile teams of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) will move and monitor the compliance in the capital.

Member (Engineering & Commercial) Ataul Masud told the news agency that his organisation

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## ACC deadline ends today

Only 5 out of 50 submit wealth statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 72-hour deadline for submissions of wealth statements by 50 corruption suspects to the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) expires at 5:00pm today with only five of them so far complying with the order.

If any listed suspect fails to submit his or her wealth statement to the anti-graft commission within the deadline, movable and immovable properties of that person will be confiscated, accord-

ing to the summons signed by ACC Secretary Delwar Hossain.

Delwar Hossain on Thursday told newsmen that some of the listed suspects received the summons late, so the commission might extend the deadline for them till 12 noon or 1:00pm Monday.

Former BNP lawmaker Rashiduzzaman Millar and former Jamaat lawmaker Shajahan Chowdhury submitted their wealth statements on Tuesday. Awami League Presidium Member and

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BNP, AL pledge to act against corrupt leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP and Awami League (AL) will take stern actions against the partymen who will be found guilty of graft and crimes, said two leaders of the parties yesterday.

Joint Secretary General of BNP Nazrul Islam Khan said his party will take punitive measures against those who had plundered the government relief materials.

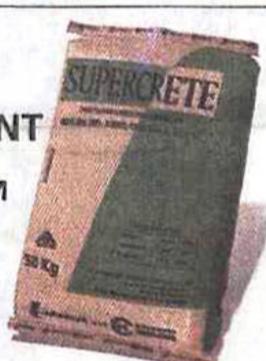
He was speaking at "Bangladesh Sanglap" at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital last night. The discussion was organised by the BBC Bangla Service.

He said the party high command has already sought explanations

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## Sonadia forestland freed from grabbers

MAUZZEM HOSSAIN SHAKIL,  
Cox's Bazar

The joint forces and local administration yesterday recovered 1,486 acres of forestland from 15 land grabbers and demolished

many illegal structures in Sonadia island in the district.

They made the recovery during a five-hour drive that began at 10:00am.

The illegal occupants were

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Mir Nasir taken ill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Former state minister for civil aviation and tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin fell ill at Bogra jail on Friday, hearing the news of arrest of his son Barrister Halaluddin.

Local sources said Nasir was given first aid for chest pain and high blood pressure and then shifted to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital. He is now at the intensive care unit (ICU) of the hospital.

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Reckitt's illegal unit sealed off

OUR CORRESPONDENT, CG

A mobile court in an anti-pollution drive here yesterday unearthed an illegal factory of Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh and sealed it off.

While raiding a building at Nasirabad Industrial Area, the court discovered that raw materials of mosquito coils were being processed in the factory located on the ground floor causing serious air

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Poppy fields destroyed in CHT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The joint forces of army and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested three Myanmar citizens with arms and opium in the bordering area of Alikadam upazila in Bandarban on Friday night.

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Announcement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains the proceedings of a roundtable on "The state of power sector and the way forward" organised by the newspaper on February 17 on pages 12 and 13.

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