

Farmers to get 1.52 lakh tonnes of urea in July

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) has allocated 1,52,630 tonnes of urea fertiliser for distribution among the farmers for the month of July.

"An urgent message on the allocation was yesterday sent to the deputy commissioners, upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) and the management of fertiliser factories," said an official announcement.

BCIC allocated the farming input against the demand placed by the agriculture ministry, it said.

The government directed the UNOs to take necessary steps for withdrawing and distributing the fertilisers among the farmers through the approved dealers in the upazilas from July 1.

District Fertiliser and
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Baghdad hotel bombed as 45 killed in Iraq

Shia lawmaker, two more US soldiers die

AFP, Baghdad

Suicide bombers struck a Baghdad hotel and police targets yesterday in a wave of insurgent bombings in Iraq that killed at least 45 people, including a lawmaker, policemen and tribal leaders.

The three attacks came a day after an Iraqi court sentenced to death Ali Hassan al-Majid, widely known as "Chemical Ali," for the slaughter of 182,000 Kurds in 1988.

A suicide bomber blew himself up in the crowded lobby of Baghdad's Al-Mansour Melia hotel, killing at least 12 people, including a Shia lawmaker and some Sunni tribal sheikhs, staff and security officials said.

They said the explosion, which also wounded 21 people, occurred during an informal gathering of local tribal sheikhs at the hotel located on the west bank of the Tigris river.

Security officials confirmed that the meeting was the target of the attack in the hotel, which houses diplomats and some foreign media organisations.

An AFP correspondent said charred bodies of the victims and many of the wounded were lying near the reception desk in the rubble-strewn lobby, and that the ceiling had collapsed on the bodies.

The blast also damaged the stairway and the elevators. Clusters of white ceiling tiles hung from wires over a floor littered with broken

glass and chunks of wall.

Patches of blood stained the marble floor while bits of human flesh were left stuck to the concrete pillars. The main stairway of the lobby was pockmarked from shrapnel and ball bearings while the ceiling on the first floor was also damaged.

A group of US and Iraqi troops searched for clues amid the debris as hotel employees watched on.

One employee said a group of five or six tribal sheikhs had come into the lobby and ordered tea. As the employee headed back to the kitchen the explosion went off behind him.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Doctors at Birdem go on strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Contractual doctors at Birdem hospital yesterday went on an indefinite strike demanding regularisation of their jobs.

Sources said indoor patients were suffered immensely due to the strike that also stopped all the scheduled operations. However, the outdoor service did not hamper.

The strike began soon after the doctors received a letter saying their contracts would not be renewed.

Consultant doctors, registrar and assistant registrar have supported the strike, the striking doctors said.

According to them, around 300 doctors are currently working in the hospital.

When contacted Birdem
SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



PHOTO: STAR

Nazir Ahmed, an 85-year-old patient, left, falls asleep at the pre-operation room of Birdem Hospital yesterday as doctors abstain from their duties.

Felling trees continues on DU campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) authorities chopped down several trees for the construction of the 12-storey Social Science Faculty Building much to the discontent of students who claim greenery is disappearing from the campus thick and fast.

A number of students alleged that the authorities are cutting down trees and turning the university into a concrete jungle and they are taking advantage of the state of emergency in the country when the students cannot protest of hold demonstrations against this.

DU authorities yesterday felled a number of trees including two large ones at Selim Chatter, an open space next to Modhu's Canteen. Sources said at least 20 trees would have to be chopped down to build the new faculty building.

Earlier this month, DU authorities felled six to 10 trees at Central Shaheed Minar next to Science-annex Building where the construction of Mathematics Department Building is supposed to start.

Proctor Prof AKA Firoz Ahmed said a building for social science faculty is most needed, as the Arts Faculty Building (Kala Bhaban) cannot accommodate all departments of arts and social science faculties.

"For the construction of the building, it is natural that trees will have to be cut down and more trees will be planted around the building after the construction work is completed," he said.

The construction work of the Social Science Faculty Building is to begin this month, Prof Harun-Or-Rashid, dean of Social Science Faculty, said.

The construction will be completed in two phases. In the first phase, only two floors will be completed so that the departments under the faculty could start having classes there. In the second
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

Large trees are being chopped down near Madhu's Canteen on Dhaka University campus yesterday for the construction of a 12-storey Social Science Faculty building.

Biman's PLC plan delayed by 3 weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will be turned into a public limited company (PLC) by July and not June 30 as was scheduled earlier, Civil Aviation Adviser MA Matin said yesterday.

"Government needs more time to amend some of the related laws for the changeover," he told reporters after the annual meeting of Biman board held at the civil aviation and tourism ministry.

Changes have to be made in the draft ordinance for making the national airlines a PLC, he said without giving details.

Sources in the ministry however said the process is being delayed as
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

ATTACK ON UK ENVOY Court to decide on charge sheet today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Hearing on the acceptance of charge sheet in the case filed in connection with the grenade attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury will be held today at a Sylhet court.

Magistrate Devjit Sinha of Cognisance Court-1, Sylhet on June 10 passed the order.

On June 9, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Senior Assistant Police Superintendent (ASP) Munshi Atiqur Rahman submitted the charge sheets of the case accusing four people—outlawed Harkatul
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

LDP on verge of split

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is on the verge of a split due to the conflicts between its president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and executive president Col (retd) Oli Ahmed over establishing supremacy within the party, party insiders said.

Many of its leaders observed that the eight-month old party, formed mostly with renegade BNP leaders, is going to face existence crisis shortly.

The party vice president Feroz M Hassan quit the party yesterday protesting undemocratic practices within the party.

"Unfortunately, those who stood for the unity of the party, raised voice about democracy and reforms in the party, and did not side with any one

of you, were either show caused or unilaterally expelled," Firoz said in his resignation letter to Badruddoza.

Severely criticising Badruddoza, Mahi, Oli and Mannan for their undemocratic attitudes and practices within the party, Firoz in his letter said that these leaders have betrayed the party and the nation.

The party organising secretary Mahi B Chowdhury, also son of Badruddoza, resigned from the party on June 12.

Although LDP Secretary General Maj (retd) Abdul Mannan had recently taken initiatives to minimise the disagreement between Badruddoza and Oli, all efforts went in vain, party insiders said.

The distance between the two leaders grew further when recently Oli accused Badruddoza of not

signing the constitution. Oli told reporters that although the party constitution had been prepared on majority consensus, Badruddoza did not sign it.

Talking to The Daily Star, many LDP leaders said that conflict between the two feuding factions has reached the grass-roots level.

The supporters of the two leaders have been engaged in the battle of comments and issuing statements and counter statements to the media, demanding punishment and expulsion of their rivals. The Badruddoza group is using the party's Baridhara office while the
SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

INSIDER TRADING SEC fines 7 Jamuna Bank directors

SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday fined seven sponsor directors of Jamuna Bank Ltd Tk 13 lakh for involvement in insider trading of shares.

Of the seven, Nur Mohammed was fined Tk 2 lakh, Nasrin Akhter Chowdhury Tk 5 lakh, Tasmin Akhter Chowdhury Tk 2 lakh, and Standard Stitches Ltd, Standard Group Ltd, Amotex Ltd and Dhaka Insurance each Tk 1 lakh.

According to a notice issued yesterday, the fines will have to be paid to the SEC by bank draft or pay order within the next 15 days.

In the order, the stock market regulator also suspended till August 31 next year the transactions of 719,350 shares held by those sponsor directors.

Nur Mohammed has 32,000 shares in the bank while those of Nasrin Akhter total 419,850, Tasmin Akhter 115,500, Standard Stitches 50,000, Standard Group 51,000, Amotex 40,000 and Dhaka Insurance 11,000.

On August 31 last year, the capital market watchdog halted till further orders transactions of around 11 lakh shares of Jamuna Bank held by 30 sponsor directors
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

2 Ctg customs officials held for bribery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The joint forces arrested two customs officials and a security man of Chittagong Customs while they were taking bribe from an employee of a private inland
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
June 26		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-17	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Bomb attack kills 6 UN peacekeepers in Lebanon

AFP, Khiam

Security was boosted in south Lebanon yesterday after a bomb attack killed six UN peacekeepers, further rattling security in the country where the army has been battling Islamist militants for weeks.

Spanish Defence Minister Jose Antonio Alonso was in southern Lebanon visiting his country's troops after Sunday's blast, which killed three Spaniards and three Colombian nationals.

It was the first fatal attack on peacekeepers since the UN Interim Force in Lebanon's mandate was expanded last year in the wake of a devastating 34-day war between Israeli troops and the Hezbollah Shia militia.

Security in the deeply divided country has already been shaken by a deadly standoff between the army and al-Qaeda inspired Fatah al-Islam militants in northern Lebanon, and a string of bomb attacks in and around Beirut.

No one has claimed the UN attack, but Lebanese judicial sources have told AFP that captured fighters from Fatah al-Islam have threatened attacks on peacekeepers.

A Lebanese security source said the car bomb was detonated by remote control as the peacekeepers' armoured vehicle passed by in the Marjayoun-Khiam valley, an area about 10km from the Israeli border.

A Spanish colonel told AFP it was a "deliberate attack".

"This attack was very well prepared in advance," the officer said at the scene. "The bodies of two of the victims were blown several metres (yards) by the force of the blast."

Unifil commander Major-General Claudio Graziano of Italy said the bombing was aimed at destabilising the region.

"It's not an attack against
SEE PAGE 15 COL 7