

ACC asks 17 to submit wealth reports by 7 days

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday issued notices to 17 corruption suspects, including former ministers Moudud Ahmed and Aminul Haque, directing them to submit their wealth statements within seven working days.

"They have also been directed to come up with the account of wealth possessed by their dependants," said a source in the ACC.

The notices were issued as per the section 26(1) of the ACC Act, 2004 and section 17 of the ACC Rules, 2007.

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BB for tougher strategy to check money transfer scam

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Bank is adopting a tougher strategy in selecting remittance houses for channelling expatriates' money in the wake of a recent money-transfer scam.

"We have to be more cautious in selecting remittance houses in the future," the central bank Governor Salehuddin Ahmed told reporters yesterday, as the Fast Solution's fraud shook the remittance market in Dhaka and London.

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Dulu's trial in looting case begins in Natore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Trial of former BNP deputy minister Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu and 93 others for arson and looting three villages in Naldanga upazila in 2004 started in Natore yesterday.

The court of Natore Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Rawnak Mahmud recorded deposition from plaintiff Asaduzzaman Shah.

According to the charges of the case, the accused launched a series of attacks at Ramsa Kazipur (Dulu's home village), Shahpara and Amtali bazar on Dulu's directives in retaliation for the murder of

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Half of fertilisers on sale is spurious

MAMUN AL MOSTOFA

Fifty one percent of fertilisers available in the market are substandard, according to a report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture by the Soil Research and Development Institute (SRDI).

Due to an inability of the farmers of the country to differentiate between standard and substandard fertilisers, they are being cheated by the unscrupulous practice of some private fertiliser producers who put out adulterated product in the market, experts said.

SRDI prepared the report after testing samples of fertilisers received from different law enforcing agencies and individuals over the period of last one year.

According to the report, 41 percent of triple super phosphate (TSP) samples, 85 percent of single super phosphate samples, 80 percent of NPKS samples - a mixed

fertiliser containing nitrogen, potassium and sulphur, 60 percent of sulphate of potash (SOP) samples, 57 percent of zinc sulphate (ZnS) samples, 68 percent of boron samples, 65 percent of gypsum samples, 60 percent of fused magnesium phosphate (FMP) samples, and 5 percent of di ammonium phosphate (DAP) samples were found to be of substandard qualities.

The SRDI report however said the agency found no adulteration in the samples of urea, ammonium sulphate, and rock phosphate.

Principal Scientific Officer of SRDI Mainul Ahsan said 90 percent farmers of the country apply TSP in their fields for better yields, although the practice is limited in coastal areas.

Ten to twenty percent farmers use SSP, SOP and FMP, boron and gypsum are used by 30 to 40 percent famers, while ZnS is used by

50 percent of them, he said.

Substandard fertilisers contain lesser volumes of the ingredients than the government set standards, which are written on their labels. For example, Razzak brand mixed fertiliser tested by SRDI, contains 1.61 percent nitrogen, 0.79 percent phosphate, 2.80 percent potash, and 1.86 percent sulphur while the government regulations stipulate that NPKS should contain 8 percent nitrogen, 20 percent phosphate, 14 percent potash, and 5 percent sulphur.

China Dosta Sar brand of zinc tested by SRDI contains only 0.004 percent zinc, and 26 percent sulphur while the government set standard requires that it should contain 36 percent zinc, and 17 percent sulphur.

A sample of substandard TSP, produced by Ms Hamid Brothers, contains a total of 41 percent

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Verdict in Mamun's arms case today

Redwan sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Judgement of a criminal case against controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition at his residence will be delivered today.

Detained former state minister for liberation war affairs and Liberal Democratic Party leader Redwan Ahmed was sent to jail with a proposal for thirty-day detention order yesterday while a Dhaka court framed charges against Jamuna Group Chairman Nurul Islam Babul in a bomb explosion case.

Besides, proceedings of the cases against detained former law minister barrister Moudud Ahmed and former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar were adjourned yesterday.

MAMUN'S ARMS CASE

After completion of arguments from the prosecution and the

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PHOTO: STAR

Construction materials kept on both sides of a road at Dilkusha commercial area in the capital have blocked traffic movement on it. The authorities seem to have turned a blind eye to this.

Govt allots 7-acre land to rehabilitate evicted slum dwellers

PORIMOL PALMA

The government has decided to allot seven acres of land of Public Works Department (PWD) in Mohakhali and Mirpur to construct buildings to rehabilitate the evicted slum dwellers.

This is the first such initiative by the government for the poor people left homeless by the government evction drives. The construction of the buildings will be financed by NGOs and the slum dwellers will pay the cost in instalments once they are allocated the flats.

A total of 7,000 to 8,000 people could be housed in the buildings to be constructed on the two pieces of land, Professor Nazrul Islam, convener of Steering Committee for Rehabilitation Plan for Evicted Slum

Dwellers, told The Daily Star on Sunday.

The steering committee comprises representatives from National Housing Authority (NAH), Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk), Centre for Urban Studies (CUS) of Dhaka University and the Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP).

The NGOs that can collect money from their donors will contribute to the process of constructing the buildings, while CUP, an umbrella organisation of the NGOs working on urban issues, will work as the coordinating agency, the urban expert noted.

"This is surely going to be a new model in Bangladesh that the government teaming up with the NGOs has taken such a step for rehabilitating the slum dwellers," Prof Nazrul,

also the chairman of CUS, said.

He, however, noted that it will not be possible to accommodate all 50,000 slum dwellers evicted recently with the flats under these two projects. Those who can afford the cost of each flat of around Tk 3.5 to 4 lakh and were evicted from the slums near these project areas will be given priority in getting flats, the professor, also the chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC), said.

The steering committee member and NAH Chairman Abdul Qayyum said that they have already prepared a draft agreement in this regard and will submit it to the

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PCJSS leader gets 17yrs in jail in arms case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court here yesterday awarded 17 years imprisonment to Satyabir Dewan, general secretary of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), in an arms case.

Additional Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Mohiuddin Ahmed, also the judge for Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), gave the verdict.

On February 18, the joint forces seized one LG and one cartridge from Satyabir's residence in Bonorupa area under Kotwali

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Prayer Timing		
July 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Rawshan, Anisul at loggerheads over JP chairmanship

RASHIDUL HASAN

Jatiya Party (JP) is on the verge of a division as two of its senior politicians, barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud and Rawshan Ershad, are at loggerheads with each other over the supreme post of the party.

Both the leaders claimed to be representing the mainstream JP and boasted to prove their popularity among its grassroots workers and leaders by holding separate councils.

The drama unfolded on June 26 when Rawshan Ershad, senior presidium member of Jatiya Party (JP) and wife of Ershad, proclaimed herself as the acting chairman of JP

and unveiled plans for intra-party reforms -- apparently seeking to dethrone former president HM Ershad from the top party post.

On June 30, JP chief HM Ershad added fuel to the fire by quitting his post and appointing Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, a presidium member of the party, as the acting chairman of the party until a new party chief is elected through a council.

The recent developments over the top party post have clearly divided its leaders and workers, party sources said.

HM Ershad sent messages to grassroots leaders and workers of

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UK keeps up terror hunt amid fear of fresh attack

AFP, London

Police arrested two more people yesterday over a weekend car bombing at Glasgow airport, bringing to seven the number of suspects detained after three failed attacks which have put Britain on maximum alert.

The two men, aged 25 and 28, were arrested overnight in the wake of Saturday's attack in which a blazing car loaded with gas canisters ploughed into the door of the main terminal of Scotland's busiest airhub.

That attack followed two failed car bombings in London on Friday, and triggered the government to

raise the national security threat level to its highest, meaning another attack is expected "imminently."

"I'm very encouraged by the progress" made in the investigation, said Home Secretary Jacqui Smith, who was to update lawmakers on the probe during the day.

Amid fears of a new al-Qaeda-style attack, the government also called a new meeting of its so-called COBRA crisis cell, the fifth in four days, to discuss the latest developments.

The suspects already in custody include the two men who rammed a Jeep Cherokee into Glasgow

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