



COMPLIMENTARY

The Daily Star

Plus Star Campus

COMMITTED
TO
People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVII NO. 279

DHAKA SUNDAY OCTOBER 28, 2007

KARTIK 13, 1414 BS

SHAWAL 15, 1428 HIJRI

24 PAGES PLUS STAR CAMPUS PRICE: TK 10.00



COMMODITY PRICES, FERTILISER SITUATION

CA asks advisers to visit fields for prompt actions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All advisers of the government have been asked to make weekly field visits across the country starting next Friday to ensure smooth supply of fertiliser to farmers and take prompt decisions to stem the rising prices of commodities.

The decision was taken yesterday during the weekly meeting of council of advisers with Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair.

The council also approved, in principle, the Mobile Court Ordinance 2007 that would provide a detailed legal outline for the procedure and separation of powers delegated to executive and judicial magistrates.

The council will sit again today to decide on the final version of the Ordinance.

Briefing the press after the meeting at Chief Adviser's Office, Syed Fahim Munain, press secretary to the chief adviser, also said the council has commissioned an in-depth study for the implementation of Multimodal Transport Guideline, 2007.

Fahim said the CA decided on the field visit idea after the success of similar field level visits during recent floods, when advisers went to flood-affected districts, talked to district officials, stakeholders, made decisions whenever necessary and then reported back to the CA's Office.

The food ministry will hold a daily press briefing to issue updates regarding the field-level visits, its effects on the prices of commodities and the supply of fertiliser.

"Everyone knows there is an

adequate stock of fertiliser in the market, and it is heavily subsidised for poor farmers. But these poor farmers are not receiving the subsidised fertiliser or even sometimes, no fertiliser at all. The advisers will seek to solve this problem," added Fahim.

The advisers would specifically check on the roles of agents and suppliers selling fertiliser in rural areas.

Fahim maintained that international prices were still driving domestic prices upward and prices of both domestic and imported commodities are likely to rise even further due to a rise in oil prices globally.

Meanwhile, the council's approval of the Mobile Court Ordinance 2007 came following the recognition of the need to formulate separate and detailed duties and authorities for executive

and judicial magistrates after the judiciary is separated from November 1.

The council also acknowledged the need for the executive magistrates to carry out certain administrative functions. A proposal in this regard -- suggesting necessary legal provisions, directives, penalties and procedures -- is to be examined by law secretary and the proposal is to be placed before the council today.

The Multimodal Transport Regulation 2007, has been sent back to ministries concerned with instructions to provide a detailed study on transport needs of the country, especially long-term and short-term needs for an urban transport system.

The regulation would provide a concrete guideline of operations for foreign investors, Fahim said.

DU reopens today after 2 months

DU CORRESPONDENT

Academic activities of Dhaka University (DU) resume today after a closure of over two months following student unrest on the university campus from August 20 to 22.

The DU Syndicate yesterday urged all concerned to perform their duties properly to minimise the loss caused due to the closure hoping that the academic activities would resume in full swing.

The syndicate meeting, chaired by Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, appealed to the government to consider the issue of detained teachers and students sympathetically.

Earlier, the DU syndicate,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Alarming use of Yaba in posh areas

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The use of Yaba had been sweeping through the youth populace in the city's posh neighbourhoods until the recent hauls.

It began to spread at an alarming pace since the launch of a massive clampdown on heroin and Phensidyle dealers about a year ago. More and more youths in areas like Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara and Dhanmondi switched to the deadly pills with heroin and Phensidyle becoming less available.

Yaba, Thai for 'crazy medicines', however has been the drug of

choice among a section for quite a long time now. But as most of the pushers were from families having close connection with the past governments they could not be tough on them, leading to its steady spread.

A narcotics official seeking anonymity told The Daily Star, "We did not dare to challenge the suspected traders though we knew well how some people in luxury cars were peddling the drug."

A high official of the police said, "Most of the users are students of private universities, colleges and A- and O-level. They thought they were above the law in the last five

years. But the situation changed after the caretaker government came to office. We have been working without interference for the last one year and the recent hauls are a result of those sincere efforts."

Citing information gleaned at different times, Sub-Inspector Belayet Hossain of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) told The Daily Star recently that around one-sixth students of the city's private universities might be hooked on Yaba, a composite of methamphetamine and caffeine. Even more chilling is the way students of English-medium schools

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

There was no genocide; it was a 'civil war' Claims Shah A Hannan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Known Jamaat-sympathiser and former Islami Bank chairman Shah Abdul Hannan has described the Liberation War of 1971 as a "civil war".

He denied that genocide took place in the country at that time and that war criminals exist here.

Speaking on a talk show, Ekushey Shomoy, on private satellite television channel Ekushey Television on Friday, Hannan also expressed doubts that three million people died in the war and supported a Pakistani report according to which only 26,000 people or less died during the Liberation War.

The following is a transcript of his comments made on the talk show:

DENIAL OF WAR CRIMES

At the Simla Conference between India and Pakistan, Pakistani soldiers were released as war prisoners, not war criminals. So, I am in agreement with Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahed that there are no war criminals in the country.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

SEE EDITORIAL

1971 LIBERATION WAR

Pak major's account reveals Jamaat role

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and EMRAN HOSSAIN

Accounts of the occupation force members too bear out how Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and its paramilitary wings styled Razakar, Al Badar, and Al Shams Bahini worked fervently against the country's war of independence.

For instance, Siddiq Salik, who was serving the Pakistan army as a major in Bangladesh in 1971, in his book 'Witness to Surrender' recounts the anti-liberation role of Jamaat, Muslim League and Nizam-i-Islam.

He observed that Jamaat leaders collaborated with them [Pakistan army] not only to advance their ideals of Pakistan as an Islamic state, but also to wreak vengeance on people they were at enmity with.

Referring to the drives against Bangalee freedom fighters, he wrote, "These operations were only a partial success because the West Pakistani troops neither knew the faces of the suspects nor could they read the lane numbers (in Bengali).

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Mujaheed's claim on war criminals a blatant lie Says war crime expert Dr Hasan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr MA Hasan, an expert on war crimes during the Liberation War in 1971, yesterday came down heavily on Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahed's statement regarding the existence of war criminals in Bangladesh and termed it a blatant lie.

"We have strong evidence and state, but also to wreak vengeance on people they were at enmity with. Referring to the drives against Bangalee freedom fighters, he wrote, "These operations were only a partial success because the West Pakistani troops neither knew the faces of the suspects nor could they read the lane numbers (in Bengali).

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

BNP union bid faces Delwar group's resistance

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The move for keeping the BNP united through restructuring is facing obstacles due to pro-Khaleda Zia leaders' latest firm stance on the initiative, forcing the initiators to postpone a scheduled meeting twice.

A number of senior BNP leaders working for party unity convened a secret meeting on Friday in the capital that was to be followed by a dinner. But the meeting was cancelled as leaders loyal to detained party Chairperson Khaleda Zia refused to attend it, highly placed sources in the party said.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, who is now leading the party in the absence of its chairperson, on Friday morning left Dhaka for Sylhet reportedly to visit the

shrines of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) and Hazrat Shah Poran (RA) to avoid the meeting of party policymakers. He was however barred from visiting the shrines.

The meeting was later rescheduled for today but it was cancelled last night as pro-Khaleda Zia leaders did not agree to hold talks with leaders working for party reforms without the party chief's consent, sources said.

Some senior BNP leaders have initiated a move to resolve discord among the party leaders over reforms through appointment of a new secretary general as the first step.

Delwar had initially supported the move but later opposed it since Khaleda did not consent to replacing him as BNP secretary general, party insiders said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

EARTH Foundation's arsenic filter hoax

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The EARTH Foundation has recently advertised in newspapers for arsenic filters it claimed to have invented, seeking invitation for tenders for supplying five lakh filters without taking necessary approval of the authorities concerned for their marketing.

In the advertisement published on September 10, the Effective Assistance and Rehabilitation for Tormented Humanity (EARTH) Foundation claimed that one of its officials has invented a technology to free water of arsenic.

Khan Mohammad Khalid Hossain, who was imprisoned for more than two years in a fraud case and is accused in several other cases, is the chairman and executive director of the foundation.

According to publications of the foundation, its sources of fund are expatriate Bangladeshis, banks, local donors and sales of contraceptive products it has purchased

from the USA, UK, France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and other countries.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Jamaat war criminals should be tried: JP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (Ershad) yesterday slammed Jamaat-e-Islami for its anti-liberation role in 1971 and demanded bringing the culprit Jamaat leaders to book.

Jamaat did not offer any public apology for its misdeeds and it is now making the situation unstable through provocative statements, the JP leaders observed at their presidium meeting.

Chaired by JP Acting Chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud and held at the JP chairman office in Banani, the meeting was called to discuss

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

সেফট্রিয়াক্সন ইন্জেকশন প্রস্তে

প্রকাশিত প্রতিবেদনের প্রতিবাদ

সম্প্রতি কয়েকটি দৈনিক সংবাদপত্রে এবং এটিএন বাংলা টিভি চ্যানেলে ১৭টি ওয়েব প্রস্ততকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান

উৎপাদিত সেফট্রিয়াক্সন ইন্জেকশন স্প্রিং ক্রেস প্রতিবেদন প্রকাশিত প্রচারিত হয়েছে তা খুবই আগ্রহিক,

তিউনিয়ান এবং অনাকার্ডিয়াল অভিযন্তা। আমরা এ প্রতিবেদনের ত্বরিত প্রতিবাদ জানাচ্ছি।

বাংলাদেশে সেফট্রিয়াক্সন ইন্জেকশন প্রস্ততকারী আমাদের সকল সদস্য দৃঢ়তার সাথে নিশ্চিত করেছেন যে, তাদের প্রস্তুত সেফট্রিয়াক্সন ইন্জেকশন কোনো বিচারেই মানবহৃষ্টত নয়। আমাদের সদস্যবৃন্দ কর্তৃক প্রস্তুত সেফট্রিয়াক্সন ইন্জেকশন আর্জুতিকভাবে সীক্রেট প্রস্তুত পক্ষে ক্ষমতা অন্যান্য পক্ষে নিশ্চিত করেছে তা বাজারজাত করা হয়ে থাকে। এ কারণে আমাদের সদস্যগণ কর্তৃক প্রস্তুত সেফট্রিয়াক্সন ইন্জেকশনের গুণগত মান ও কার্যকরিতা নিয়ে সন্দেহের ক্ষেত্রে আবকাশ নেই।

আমরা মৌজ নিয়ে জানতে পেরেছি যে, প্রতিবেদনে উল্লেখকৃত দুইজন অধ্যাপক কর্তৃক সম্পাদিত

সেফট্রিয়াক্সন ইন্জেকশনের বিশ্লেষণ প্রতিবেদন অভিযন্তার কারণে বিভিন্ন ধরনের প্রতিবেদন প্রকাশিত প্রচারিত হয়েছে তা খুবই আগ্রহিক,

যার মাধ্যমে সেফট্রিয়াক্সন ইন্জেকশন কোনো ক্ষেত্রেই মানবহৃষ্টত নয়। আমাদের সদস্যবৃন্দ কর্তৃক প্রস্তুত সেফট্রিয়াক্সন ইন্জেকশন আর্জুতিকভাবে সীক্রেট প্রস্তুত পক্ষে ক্ষমতা না থাকায় সূচী প্রচারিত করাগে তা বাজারজাত করা হয়ে থাকে। এ কারণে আমাদের সদস্যগণ কর্তৃক প্রস্তুত সেফট্রিয়াক্সন ইন্জেকশনের গুণগত মান ও কার্যকরিতা নিয়ে সন্দেহের ক্ষেত্রে আবকাশ নেই।

আমরা মৌজ নিয়ে জানতে পেরেছি যে, প্রতিবেদনে উল্লেখকৃত দুইজন অধ্যাপক কর্তৃক সম্পাদিত

সেফট্রিয়াক্সন ইন্জেকশনের বিশ্লেষণ প্রতিবেদন অভিযন্তার কারণে বিভিন্ন ধরনের প্রতিবেদন প্রকাশিত প্রচারিত হয়েছে তা খুবই আগ্রহিক,

যার মাধ্যমে সেফট্রিয়াক্সন ইন্জেকশন কোনো ক্ষেত্রেই মানবহৃষ্টত নয়। আমাদের সদস্যবৃন্দ কর্তৃক প্রস্তুত সেফট্রিয়াক্সন ইন্জেকশনের গুণগত মান ও কার্যকরিতা নিয়ে সন্দ