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**ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH**  
**Ex-additional**  
**IG Shahidullah**  
**gets 13yrs**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A special court yesterday sentenced former additional inspector general of police Shahidullah Khan to 13 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for amassing wealth illegally and concealing wealth information from the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

The court also sentenced Shahidullah's wife Masuda Khan to three years' imprisonment for abetting her husband.

The former additional IG of police was handed down 10 years' RI for accumulating wealth illegally and another three years' RI for concealing information in the wealth statement submitted to the commission. The sentences will run consecutively.

Judge Khandaker Kamal Uz-zaman of Special Court-9 set up on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**Boro procurement set to fall short of target**

**HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra**

The food department has unofficially stopped Boro procurement short of target in 16 northern districts of the country due to short supply and unpredictable weather.

Officials concerned that they could fail to achieve procurement target if the government does not start importing rice and open markets (OMS) soon.

A senior official of the department said only 13,640 tonnes of Boro has been purchased between April 28 and June 28 in the area against a target of 1,03,000 tonnes.

Food officials told The Daily Star yesterday that only 670 tonnes of Boro has been purchased in the food-surplus district of Bogra against a target of 12,263 tonnes.

Department of Agriculture (DAE), Bogra officials said Boro production achieved 12,21,680 tonnes in the district against a target of 11,52,460 tonnes this year, registering 8 per cent rise.

They said they usually get 5 percent yearly increase of Boro production in the 16 northern districts.

Officials concerned said the government started rice procurement on April 28 with a target to procure 8,02,391 tonnes of husked rice from the northern districts in four months. Around 66 lakh tonnes of husked Boro rice was produced against a target of 60,57,482 tonnes in the 16 districts.

The government has so far achieved around 50 percent of its husked rice procurement target with 4,05,023 tonnes.

Food and DAE officials apprehend that boro rice procurement is likely to fail if the government fails to start OMS soon in highly-populated areas of the northern part of the country as well as importing rice.

A senior official of the food department said the achievement of rice procurement target now depends on the government's decision to import as hoarding of rice continues at grower and rice-mill levels.

The official further added that 8,259 mills may not be able to supply rice to the government according to contract due to inclement weather and short supply of rice.

**Cloth trader accuses Rab of 'putting him in crossfire'**  
**Rab terms him 'criminal'**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A cloth trader undergoing treatment in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after being injured with bullet wounds alleged that Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel attempted to kill him by 'putting him in crossfire'.

Rab-10 officials however said Mohammad Babul is a listed criminal who was injured with the bullet wounds in a gunfight between his accomplices and Rab while early on Friday he was being transported for showing the elite battalion a spot from where they would be able to recover illegal firearms.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Sufferings of people living in Moghbazar Greenway in the city intensify yesterday due to the heavy rain the night before, causing water-logging in the street and disrupting repair work of drainage system.

**Chowdhury Alam gets 12yrs for Tk 24cr extortion**

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced detained Dhaka City Corporation Councillor, formerly ward commissioner, Chowdhury Alam to 12 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for extorting Tk 23.93 crore from 2370 shop owners of Bangabazar Complex between 2003 and 2005.

Earlier Alam was convicted for 10 years' RI for extorting Tk 20 lakh from a market owner in August 2003.

He was also sentenced to 13 years imprisonment for amassing wealth worth Tk 4.97 crore illegally

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Trucks occupy the space under the Second Buriganga Bridge at Babubazar in Old Dhaka. A few months ago the space was earmarked only for storing rice. The photo was taken yesterday.

**Move to import non-urea fertiliser at state level**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government is going to import non-urea fertiliser under state-to-state arrangements in the wake of 42 to 290 percent price hike of fertilisers in international market during the last one year.

The Advisory Committee on Economic Affairs in its meeting yesterday also exempted the import of non-urea fertiliser from Ukraine, Belarus and Morocco from Public Procurement Regulations (PPR).

The meeting also decided to relax PPR allowing Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**Embassy staff to meet Kuwaiti officials today on workers' plight**

**PORIMOL PALMA**

Bangladesh Embassy officials in Kuwait today hold talks with Kuwaiti authorities to discuss the plight of 765 Bangladeshi workers - which include over 300 women - who have not been paid for the last six months by their employers.

The cleaning companies they worked for did not arrange return tickets for these workers on completion of their contracts and now the residency permits of some have also expired.

"We have an appointment with the Kuwaiti Labour Department and the companies involved on Monday morning," Shahrir Kader Siddiky, labour councillor of Bangladesh Embassy in Kuwait, told The Daily Star over telephone yesterday afternoon.

The two cleaning companies, Nibras Services and Top Services, are owned by the same person and are said to have 'connections' with the Kuwait government. When the project these workers were working on ended, they were made to work on other projects but not paid, Siddiky said.

"As the workers' wages were low they could not make their own arrangements to return. Also the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

**BRIBERY CASE**  
**Hearing on Tarique's plea for exemption deferred**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A special court yesterday deferred to July 6 the hearing on a petition to exempt detained Tarique Rahman from appearing in person during trial proceedings of a Tk 21-crore bribery case involving the murder of a Bashundhara Group director.

The same court also deferred to July 6 the hearing on a similar petition filed by detained former home minister Mohammad Nasim's lawyers.

**TARIQUE'S PETITION**  
 Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

**India to send troops to Sri Lanka for Saarc summit**

**43 more killed in fighting**

**AFP, AP, Colombo**

India is to send thousands of troops, war ships and helicopters to Sri Lanka as part of security for next month's South Asian summit in Colombo, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

New Delhi is planning to send three war ships with a combined force of up to 3,000 security personnel because of fears that Tamil Tiger rebels could stage land, sea or air attacks, diplomats and officials said.

"Given the security situation in Colombo, it is important for India to address all possibilities because the Prime Minister (Manmohan Singh) will be attending," a top diplomatic source said.

He said war ships with helicopters will be anchored off Sri Lanka's coast in case the island's only international airport was forced to shut.

The airport has been attacked

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**10 govt officials made secys, 7 others transferred**

**UNB, Dhaka**

The caretaker government promoted 10 high officials to posts of secretaries and reshuffled seven others at the level of joint secretaries, said a government announcement yesterday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

**Special anti-crime drive ends with 50,000 behind bars**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Over 50,000 people were arrested while 398 firearms and over 2,500 bullets were recovered in the month long special drive across the country which started on May 28 and ended on Saturday.

Police headquarters sources said among the arrestees over 34,000 had outstanding warrants

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**Prayer Timing**

June 30

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-57
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

**40 Indian cops missing after Maoist attack**

**AFP, Bhubaneswar**

At least 40 members of an elite Indian anti-insurgency unit were missing in the east of the country yesterday after their boat capsized following an attack by Maoist rebels, police said.

The boat, which was carrying around 60 people, came under heavy rebel fire while patrolling a reservoir near Malkangiri in the south of the coastal state of Orissa, police said.

Eight policemen managed to swim ashore and were taken to hospital, four of them to be treated for gunshot wounds, police said. No bodies have yet been found, although rescue officials recovered some police caps.

"The boat capsized after insurgents started firing indiscriminately at the Greyhound force," Malkangiri police superintendent, Satish Kumar Gajbiye, told AFP by

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7