

Fertiliser import

FROM PAGE 1
import a record 16.5 lakh metric tons (MT) of chemical fertiliser in FY 2009-10 to supplement the uncertain domestic production, for meeting the 29.5 lakh MT requirement officially projected for the fiscal year.

Industry sources however feared that the import target might still appear inadequate if BCIC factories continue to suffer production losses owing to the persistent gas crisis.

One BCIC official said the corporation is not being able to set a production target for the current fiscal, as nobody knows whether the shut factories will be able to resume production anytime soon.

Talking to The Daily Star, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury acknowledged the need for increased urea import, and blamed the previous government's inertia in exploring new gas fields, for the current gas crisis.

She said, "We're stuck with limited options -- obviously, we have to give priority to power generation and that's why some of the fertiliser factories have to be kept out of operation."

Matia however expressed firm resolve to meet farmers

Imams

FROM PAGE 1
"If anyone has the symptoms of swine flu infection, they will receive treatment without tests," he said, adding treatment may start at home with the intake of the antiviral drug Oseltamivir without visiting a doctor.

Patients of cancer, asthma, diabetes and expecting women in cases of swine flu symptoms must visit the doctors, the minister said. He claims "preparations at the hospitals are enough" to handle the swine flu patients.

At least 5,000 health workers across the country have already been trained to care for the swine flu patients. So the people who live in the remote areas will not be deprived of treatment, the minister observed.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, State Minister for Religious Affairs Md Shahjahan Miah and State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Md Motahar Hossain were present at the meeting.

Meanwhile, sufferings of the patients at different city hospitals remain unchanged, according to insiders. Most of the hospitals, which declared to provide swine flu treatment, did not give proper counseling or treatment to the infected patients.

Most of the hospitals' employees are still referring the patients to the IEDCR, saying they would not admit them without positive test results. But the government has meanwhile stopped conducting further tests.

The health minister said the ministries are working to make aware the people about swine flu and some 5,000 physicians have been provided training in this regard.

Moreover, doctors and health centres in Dhaka and at district and upazila levels have been instructed to give the patients proper advice on the virus.

"The situation has not yet worsened that much to close the educational institutions," said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

The educational institutions are being closed on account of the month of Ramadan. The swine flu panic has no relation with the vacation," he added. He suggested informing the health or education ministry if any student is suspected to have been carrying the virus.

Country Representative of W H O D u a n g v a d e e Sungkhobol and IEDCR Director Prof Mahmudur Rahman, among others, were present at the meeting.

Matin
FROM PAGE 1
"All attempts to appease the Nazis between 1934 and 1939 through various agreements and pacts were morally unacceptable," including the 1939 Nazi-Soviet accord, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said yesterday.

"All attempts to appease the Nazis between 1934 and 1939 through various agreements and pacts were morally unacceptable and politically senseless, harmful and dangerous," Putin said.

"We must admit these mistakes. Our country has done this. The Russian parliament has condemned the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. We have a right to expect this from other countries that also agreed deals with the Nazis."

Putin appeared to be referring to various deals including the 1938 Munich agreement in which Britain and France told Nazi Germany they would not object to its annexation of parts of then Czechoslovakia.

The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, signed on August 23, 1939, was a nonaggression agreement between Adolf Hitler's Germany and Joseph Stalin's Soviet Union in which the two regimes also secretly agreed to carve up Poland.

It led to the Nazi invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, widely regarded as the start of World War II.

Putin was speaking at a ceremony in Gdansk, in northern Poland, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the invasion.

Rare frog
FROM PAGE 1
collect its tadpoles and raise them for use as bait for fishing or supply these as food to the fish cultivated in fishponds. Also local people there eat its legs. This is the reason its number is going down all over its range.

"Kankra-bhooch Bang" is little smaller than our common "Kula Bang" female reaching a maximum of 8 centimetres. As it lives in muddy areas of the Sundarbans it often remains covered with mud when colour markings on the back are obliterated. Unlike "Kula Bang" it has no long ridges running from front to the back of the body. Its ridges are short and broken. Both eyes and tympanum are prominent. Its feet are about 75 percent webbed when there is no webbing on the forefoot. Tips of all fingers and toes are pointed. Underside is whitish but throat is variously coloured.

The House sub-committee investigated the matter and submitted its report containing a clear and unambiguous finding that the defendants in collusion with others had cancelled the tender causing a loss of Tk 8,05,84,096 to the public exchequer, Shahadat added.

Foreign militants

FROM PAGE 1
The detained Indian militant also said that he built a safe-home in Habiganj in 2002 to shelter fugitive terrorists, and recruit and train Bangladeshi to take part in terrorist attacks in Kashmir, India, Pakistan.

Obaidullah built the shelter under the cover of a kindergarten named 'Noor Shah Islami Kindergarten' in Habiganj's Shayestaganj upazila.

One of LeT's operations chiefs in Bangladesh, Faisal alias Khurram Khayam alias Abdullah, supplied Tk 18,000 in two lots to Obaidullah to construct the house.

Intelligence sources said, however, that Obaidullah has not revealed all the details about his operations in Bangladesh since his arrival in 1995.

In his statement, Obaidullah said several other militants in Bangladesh visited his safe-home, including Moulana Mohiuddin, who he knew from the Deoband madrasa, and Harkat-ul Jihad, Bangladesh leader Mufti Abdur Rouf.

His fellow LeT member Habibullah alias Mansur and Jamal, visited Srimangal

twice in 2002 to rent a house for a temporary safe-home.

Later, the then ARCF chief Asif Reza ordered Habibullah and Jamal to open a training camp for Bangladeshi recruits that would also serve as a safe shelter for Pakistani and Indian mujahideens, according to Obaidullah's statement.

Obaidullah decided against opening the training camp because of security risks.

In 2005, Obaidullah met ARCF chief Amir Reza, Asif Reza's brother, at Khurram's house near the Noorani mosque in Dhaka's Goran area.

There, Amir asked Obaidullah to buy a permanent safe house and provide Jihadi training to Bangladeshi recruits.

Obaidullah claims they insisted on giving him the responsibility for the camp despite his reluctance.

At the end of 2008, Khurram called him from Pakistan to press him to work harder for the organisation as demanded by his senior commanders. Khurram also told Obaidullah that he may return to Bangladesh after he (Khurram) discusses the move with "ISI and LeT high-ups."

Criminal hurt in 'shootout' with Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A criminal sustained bullet injury in a 'shootout' with Rapid Action Battalion in the city's Motijheel yesterday.

Ismail Hossain Lalu alias Rocket Lalu, 34, of Jatrabari, is an accomplice of "Foreign" Kuddus, one of the top listed criminals in Motijheel area.

When a patrol team of Rab-3 moved to arrest a gang of three to four criminals in front of Motijheel Ideal School and College, the criminals opened fire on them. As the Rab personnel retaliated, a gunfight ensued.

Lalu was found lying at the spot bullet-hit in his left leg after the shootout.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police arrested him but his accomplices managed to flee.

A revolver and three bullets were recovered from the spot.

Rab sources said Lalu confessed his involvement in killing trader Anwar at the capital's Shapla Chattar on September 27, 2008.

Lalu was also involved in extortion and an accused in several cases including arms cases with Motijheel and Sabujbagh police stations.

2 abducted in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Two activists of United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) were allegedly abducted yesterday.

In a press release, UPDF claimed that members of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) abducted Shukra Sen Chakma, 29, of Jurachak, and Ranjan Chakma, 28, of Barkal, from Rangamati Reserve Bazaar.

During his submission, barrister Amir said a combined law should be enacted to try the BDR mutineers as different offences including killing, looting and torture took place during the February 25-26 carnage at the BDR headquarters.

The two were delivering

their submissions as amici curiae (friends of court) before the 11-member full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, during the hearing on the presidential reference on the mode of trial of the accused BDR personnel.

Earlier on August 25, advocate TH Khan also said in his submission that the offences committed during the BDR carnage can be tried under the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973.

"If the BDR incidents are tried under court martial, that will be judicial killing in the name of trial like the trial of the Ziaur Rahman murder case," he said.

The court adjourned the hearing on the reference until 10:00am today.

Sale of sugar

FROM PAGE 16
government and private sector to control it.

As a result, the sugar is not being sold at the price fixed by the government.

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Asian water

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first day. This indicates that Indian delegation did not want to sign any declaration," said an official present at the meeting.

Though China is a part of Hindu Kush-Himalayas region and it has to play a key role in management of the region, it did not join the conference as observer, said the official seeking anonymity.

The 10 visions for addressing the climate change say the regional players must come together to generate an improved database for climate change responses and adaptation at all levels.

The visions also include the countries of south Asia to address the challenges of climate change through collaborative actions at enhanced capacity regarding data collection, and sharing and research on impact of climate change through SAARC and other organisations.

The miners called for the strike instantly and confined the officials and staff to the administrative building by placing rocks in front of the building, sources said.

Monimul Haque Momin, president of Sramik Karmachari Union, was among the 10 sacked workers. He told a meeting held at the mine that they would go for tougher movements if the workers are not reinstated to their jobs.

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