

Govt to cut prices of non-urea fertilisers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government for the third time in its tenure has decided to cut down the prices of non-urea fertilisers -- muriate of potash (MoP) and diammonium phosphate (DAP) -- by 40 and three percent respectively, as an incentive to farmers to grow more winter crops.

At the farmers' level, MoP will be sold at Tk 15 a kilogram, which now sells at Tk 25, while DAP will be sold at Tk 27 a kg, which now costs Tk 30, said a press release of the Ministry of Agriculture.

At dealers' level new price

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

ARMS HAUL CASE CID quizzes ex-home secy Faruk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former home secretary Omar Faruk was summoned and interrogated at Criminal Investigation Department (CID) headquarters yesterday in connection with the sensational 10-truck arms haul case in Chittagong.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

CYCLONE GIRI HITS MYANMAR Tidal surge at south coast

More than 100 fishermen missing with trawlers; 3,000 taken to cyclone shelters in St Martin's island

STAR REPORT

Cyclone Giri hit Myanmar's southern coast of Sittwe around 8:00pm last night triggering storms, rains and huge tidal surges in Saint Martin's island and other parts of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh.

With tidal surges hitting seven to eight metres above normal water level, people of St Martin's island and Teknaf moved to safer shelters.

Meanwhile, 21 small fishing boats with over a hundred fishermen went missing in the Bay of Bengal since yesterday.

Firoz Ahmed, union parishad chairman of St Martin's island, said last night that around a hundred houses and 20 shops in the eastern part of the island went under water.

Over 3,000 people of the island were shifted to two cyclone shelters, a hospital, district council's bungalow, union parishad building and residential hotels.

"Giri is crossing the southern coast of Myanmar having a peripheral effect on some parts of Cox's Bazar. The cyclone will take four to five hours to pass but Bangladesh is out of danger," said Abdur Rahman, on-duty forecasting officer of the meteorological department, at 9:45 last night.

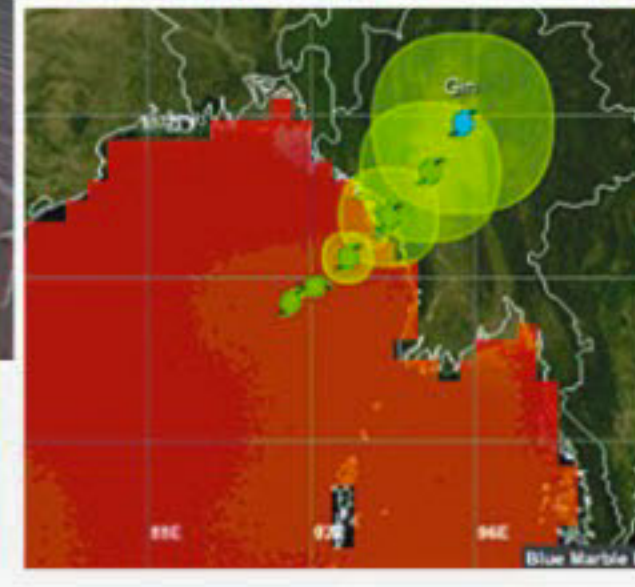
The cyclone would diminish once it hits the land, Rahman said, adding that the speed of the cyclone could not be ascertained immediately.

As an effect of the cyclone, storms raged through Shahparis Dwip, adjacent to St Martin's island, Sabrang in Teknaf and surrounding areas.

Kishore Kumar Sardar, a deputy director of Red Crescent Society in Cox's Bazar, said over 40,000 people of coastal areas were moved to safe places by yesterday evening.

Around 20 villages in Teknaf and adjacent areas, 30 villages in Kutubdia, 100 chars and low-lying areas of Patuakhali and 40 villages in Chakaria were reported to have inundated with tidal surge.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Fishing boats and trawlers are anchored at Firingibazar Fisheryghat in Chittagong for safety. The Bay of Bengal has been very rough under the impact of cyclone Giri over the last two days.

PHOTO: STAR

SARIMA MURDER Case filed but 'killer' yet to be held

A CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A case was filed with Katwali Police Station on Thursday night in connection with the killing of university student Mridhat Sarima Rahman. Mizanur Rahman, father of the victim filed the case against HM Toha Sourav who allegedly stabbed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR Govt spending falls significantly: WB

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The spending in infrastructure sector, especially in power, ports and transport, in Bangladesh has fallen significantly in the recent years affecting the country's growth and employment, said a World Bank report.

The report "Bangladesh Public Expenditure and Institutional Review" published early this

month reviewed the public expenditure from fiscal year (FY) 2003 to 2007 FY.

It said expenditures on national infrastructure declined by eight percent from those of the period of 98-02 FY, whereas the interest payment and subsidy for the losses incurred by state-owned enterprises (SoE) increased. The spending which was 21 percent of the public

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

3 drown as boat sinks in Sandhya

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least three people drowned while one went missing as a trawler with cheer-crowd of a rowing competition capsized in the Sandhya River near Harta Bazar under Uzirpur upazila of the district yesterday.

Officer-in-Charge Sukumar Chandra Roy of Uzirpur Police Station said they had recovered the bodies of Rashed, 10, Sharmin, 8, and Shahida, 22, of Banaripara while Munim, 7, of the same village was missing.

The victims with friends and relatives went to enjoy the traditional rowing competition

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Drutojan Express back on track

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The Dhaka-Dinajpur intercity train Drutojan Express yesterday resumed service, 11 days after the incident of Sirajganj.

The train with 10 compartments and a power car left Dinajpur station with 150 passengers at 8:20am as scheduled.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

CANTONMENT HOUSE Khaleda to appeal by November 11

HC: lease void since beginning



EMRAN HOSSAIN

Lawyers of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia are studying the High Court (HC) judgment which upheld the legality of the government notice that had asked the opposition leader to vacate her Shaheed Mainul Road residence in Dhaka Cantonment.

Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, a standing committee member of BNP also one of Khaleda's lawyers in the case, said yesterday that they will challenge the judgment in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court before November 11.

The HC delivered the verdict on October 13, rejecting Khaleda's petition that had challenged the government notice. The court in the judgment also instructed the government to allow Khaleda 30 days' time from the date of the verdict to vacate the house.

Barrister Rafiqul said they received a copy of the judgment's text that was released on Thursday.

In the judgment the HC termed the whole process of leasing out the house to Khaleda as "highly illegal" and "against public interest".

It said the decision to hand over the property to Khaleda was not taken by the government, but by the then chief of army staff.

The court mentioned five reasons which render the lease void. The reasons are: I) the land is not transferable according to Cantonment Land Administration (CLA) Rules 1937, as it is a Class A-1 military land; II) there was no "reason of a public nature" to lease out the property; III) there was no government decision to lease out the property; IV) since the decision of leasing out the property was taken by the chief of army staff, it

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