

MORE FUN AND FANTASY



PHOTO: STAR

Women parade in colourful dress to mark the addition of Parade Show and Magic Tunnel to Fantasy Kingdom, the country's largest entertainment park at Ashulia, about 35 kilometres northwest of the capital.

CPD dialogue on crop sector 'Protect market from Indian dumping'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs to take both tariff and non-tariff measures to protect its rice market from dumping by Indian exporters.

Expressing this view at a policy dialogue in the city yesterday, experts recommended various options like raising import tariff and LC margin and lowering domestic rice production cost by expanding rural electrification and subsidising irrigation.

In response, Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman expressed the government's readiness to use "all available trade-defence measures" such as calibration of applied tariff

within the bound levels and imposition of anti-dumping, countervailing or safeguard duties to protect local production.

"Let there be no doubt in anybody's mind that our national interests are supreme for our government," Noman said.

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a leading think tank, organised the dialogue on 'Liberalisation of Crop Sector: Can Bangladesh Withstand Regional Competition?'

The nearly four-hour discussion, held at the BRAC Centre, was largely attended by policy planners, local and foreign experts, agriculturists, economists, diplomats and representatives of private and

public sector bodies.

Noman and former Deputy Speaker Prof Ali Ashraf spoke as chief guest and special guest respectively.

Member of the CPD Board of Trustees and Bangladesh Rice Foundation Chairman M Syeduzzaman chaired it. CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya delivered the address of welcome.

Head of Social Science Division at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Dr Mahabub Hossain, presented the keynote paper titled 'WTO and Trade Liberalisation for the Crop Sector.'

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PHOTO: STAR

Germany-based members of the Afghanistan national football squad at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel lobby on arrival yesterday. Afghanistan will be taking part in the 3rd SAFF Championship which kicks off tomorrow. (Story on page 13)



Revenue reforms body for tax holiday abolition

RAFIQ HASAN

The revenue reforms commission has suggested that the government withdraw the tax holiday system, enhance the income tax exemption limit from Tk 75,000 to Tk 100,000, close down the bonded warehouses for diplomats and EPZs, and bring 31 new sectors under the tax net.

The commission has also recommended doubling of the tax -GDP ratio, lowering of corporate tax for companies listed with the capital markets, and increasing the dividend amount applicable for income tax.

The eight-member high-powered commission headed by Mir Mostafizur Rahman, former finance

secretary, submitted its interim report to Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday afternoon.

"We would examine the report and see how far we can implement it in the socio-economic context of the country," M Saifur Rahman told the newsmen after receiving the report.

"Although we would review the budget next month, I do not see much scope for bringing major changes in the fiscal measures if income and expenditure of the government remain on target," he said when asked whether the recommendations would be incorporated in the current budget.

Responding to another query
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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Jan 9		5-28 pm
Jan 10	6-43 am	

Prayer Timings		
Jan 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-30	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-55	4-10
Maghrib	5-33	5-38
Esha	7-30	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Muhuri murder trial begins

UNB, Chittagong

Hearing of the sensational Gopal Krishna Muhuri murder case began before the Speedy Trial Tribunal here yesterday.

Twelve persons including eight local Shibir leaders and activists were earlier indicted for gunning down Muhuri, principal of Nazirhat

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Entity without identity

ABUL KALAM AZAD

None of the attending doctors thought he would survive when the little boy at the emergency unit of the National Orthopedic and Trauma Hospital at around 10:00pm on November 16.

The five-year-old had sustained serious injuries on his left foot, legs and head. The only information that the attending staff got about the boy was that he had fallen off a bus somewhere in the city's Gulistan area. His left foot was badly severed and he bled profusely from several other wounds.

"Considering his injuries
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Charity trap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Charity has turned into a death threat to a father and his daughter.

Sharbat Ali Gazi, a waiter, filed a general diary with the Dhanmondi Police Station yesterday after a swindling gang threatened him with death upon his inquiry about a musical concert arranged for Shabana, a cardiac patient, as fundraiser.

Shabana also appealed to the authorities concerned to save her father from the clutch of the gang that organised the concert to raise funds for her treatment.

Accompanied by her father, Shabana was standing in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday with a placard that read "Save my father, not me".

An organisation named Fages scheduled the concert for tomorrow at the army stadium.

Thanks to his neighbours, Ali got to know that the youths of the so-called organisation were plotting to swindle the father and his daughter out of the proceeds from the charity concert.

Earlier, Adnan, Galib, Imdadul and Fameed of the organisation
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PHOTO: STAR

Shabana, a cardiac patient, holds a placard in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday, seeking help to save her father (beside her) from a gang of swindlers.

Charges against 9 in schoolteacher murder case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday pressed charges against nine people in the schoolteacher Swapan Kumar Goswami murder case.

DB Inspector Mohammad Abdul Malik, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka.

The accused are Jalal alias Zillu, Rifat Akhand, Moksudur Rahman Biplob, A K M Mosharraf Hossain Arman, Mahmudul Hasan Johnny, S M Sabbir Rahman alias Shantanu, Tanvir Sharif Apon, Parosh and Shahidul Islam alias Shuvo.

Of them, Zillur, Rifat, Shantanu, Apon and Jonhy are now in jail custody while Biplob, Arman, Parosh and Shuvo have been absconding since the murder.

Rifat has become an approver in the case.

Abdul Malek, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, prayed for issuance of arrest warrant against the absconders and attachment of their moveable property.



Swapan Kumar Goswami

In the charge sheet, 28 people were shown as prosecution witnesses.

Accused, Zillu, Rifat, Shantanu and Apon gave confessional statements before the CMM's court on different dates.

Swapan Kumar Goswami, an English teacher of the Government Laboratory High School in the city was shot dead on October 26 near his residence at Bhutergoli.
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