

The Paily





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Your Right to Know

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VOLATILE RICE MARKET

Import eased as prices soar

Agriculture minister blames millers, wholesalers for price hike

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government is going to allow the private sector to import six lakh tonnes of rice with 25 percent duty to stabilise the rice market.

Now, an importer has to pay 62.5 percent duty for importing rice.

Rice importers will have to apply to the food ministry with all necessary documents by January 10 next year, Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder said at a virtual press conference yesterday.

"The ministry will give approval to import of a certain quantity of rice after scrutinising the applications.

"If needed, we will buy 15 to 20 lakh tonnes of paddy from farmers," said the minister.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque has said the government will not allow import of more than six lakh tonnes of rice by the private sector to safeguard the interests of farmers.

The government move comes at a time when prices of the staple keep soaring in both retail and wholesale markets.

Besides, the food grain reserve has dwindled to seven lakh tonnes from 13 lakh tonnes in December last year.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

No Covid vaccine for under 18s

Says health minister
Staff Correspondent

People aged below 18 will not get the Covid-19 vaccines, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

The first shipment of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine from India's Serum Institute will arrive between late January and early February while the shipment from the global COVAX facility will be available by June.

The government has adequate preparation to ensure proper distribution, he told reporters after visiting two vaccine laboratories of the Directorate General of Drug Administration.

"Three crore shots of the vaccine will arrive in phases over the next six months," he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Five women working in a crop field where tobacco is being cultivated. Hundreds of acres of plain land in Khagrachhari are being used for tobacco cultivation as farmers get high profits. However, the focus on tobacco is reducing cultivation of food crops like rice and vegetables, and harming the fertility of the soil.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 12

Court
orders
freezing of
670 bank
accounts
of Paplu,
family

Stop
narcotics
supply,
ensure
order,
security in
jails: HC

Bangladesh could see a seven-fold increase in climate migration:

57,390 grabbers feast on 770 rivers

Says river commission report to JS body

Rashidul Hasan

As many as 57,390 individuals and organisations grabbed the country's 770 rivers.

Of them, 18,579 have been evicted in the last one year by deputy commissioners of different districts.

The National River Conservation Commission (NRCC) yesterday came up with the latest development on river grabbing and eviction at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on shipping.

Ruling Awami League MP and chairman of the committee presided over the meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban

NRCC Chairman Dr Muzibur Rahman Howlader told The Daily Star after the meeting that one of the reasons why the eviction drives couldn't achieve the desired goal was that at least 10 percent of the encroachers were locally and politically influential people.

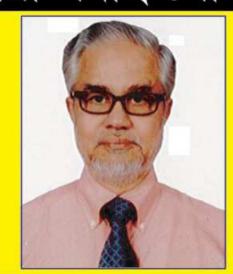
Insufficient funding and inadequacy of logistics support for the DCs are also responsible for this.

The NRCC in its report submitted to the parliamentary body said large structures were built inside the rivers and river banks in every division, but those could not be demolished because the encroachers had muscle power and influence.

In the report, NRCC also said different government structures also couldn't be removed despite repeated attempts.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

আমরা সবাই শোকাহত



প্রকৌশলী মোঃ রিয়াজত আলী বাচ্চু

প্রথিত্যশা প্রকৌশলী এবং বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি, সমাজসেবক ও শিক্ষানুরাগী আউটরাইট গ্রুপ, আউটপেস স্পিনিং মিলস্ লিমিটেড এবং আর. এ. স্পিনিং মিলস্ লিমিটেড এর মাননীয় চেয়ারম্যান, অষ্ট্রেলিয়ান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল স্কুল ও ইষ্টার্ন ইউনিভারসিটির পরিচালনা পরিষদের সম্মানিত পরিচালক, ক্রীড়াঙ্গনের মোহামেডান ক্লাবের প্রাক্তন একনিষ্ট সংগঠক প্রকৌশলী মোঃ রিয়াজত আলী বাচ্চু (৭৪) ভারতের চেন্নাই এপোলো হাসপাতালে বিগত ২৫ শে ডিসেম্বর বার্ধক্যজনিত কারনে ইন্তেকাল করেছেন। (ইন্না লিল্লাহে ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন)। অদ্য সোমবার (২৮ শে ডিসেম্বর) বাদ যোহর গুলশান আজাদ মসজিদে প্রথম নামাজে জানাজা এবং বাদ আছর খিলগাঁও বটতলা জামে মসজিদে দ্বিতীয় নামাজে জানাজা শেষে পারিবারিক কবরস্থানে দাফনের কাজ সম্পন্ন করা হবে।

তিনি স্ত্রী, বড় পুত্র প্রকৌশলী রাজীব হায়দার, ছোট পুত্র প্রকৌশলী রুবায়েত হায়দার ও একমাত্র কন্যা রেজওয়ানা সিলভী, পুত্রবধু, জামাতা, দুই নাতি এবং অসংখ্য গুণগ্রাহী রেখে

আমরা তাঁর এ মৃত্যুতে গভীর ভাবে শোকাহত। আমরা সবাই প্রার্থনা করি পরম করুনাময় আল্লাহতায়ালা যেন তাঁকে জানাতুল ফেরদাউস দান করেন।

কোম্পানী ও প্রতিষ্ঠান সমুহের পক্ষে সকল কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ।

Achievement of New Height



Reliance Insurance Limited has been awarded by SAFA Best Presented Annual Reports Award "Overall Winner" as well as "Winner" in the insurance category for the year 2019

It's our great pleasure to state that Reliance Insurance Limited has been awarded as the "Overall Winner" among a total of 101 companies from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka for SAFA Best Published Annual Reports Award competition 2019 from "South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA)"

In addition, We have been awarded as "Winner" in the insurance category among all participants from SAARC countries by SAFA.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all our valued clients and stakeholders for their patronage and trust in us which has made us the winner of this prestigious award for the year 2019. Without your continuous support, reaching this height would have been impossible. We promise to uphold this trend and be able to accomplish our stakeholders' expectations.

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