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OMS of rice stopped for third time

REAZ AHMAD
Despite high price of staple food items, the government yesterday backtracked from launching the subsidised open market sale (OMS) of rice for the third time, giving rise to suspicion that hoarders' syndicates would get more time to sell off huge stocks ahead of a possible market fall.
Food officials, ready to deliver

rice to dealers for launching the OMS yesterday, were surprised at the last moment instructions for not starting the drive. No reason was given officially, the officials told The Daily Star yesterday.
The postponement decision came within four days of the September 21 inter-ministerial meeting of the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC), which decided to launch the OMS

from September 25 to keep the rice market stable.
LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf and State Minister for Finance and Planning Anwarul Kabir Talukdar attended the FPMC meeting.
The meeting decided that some

Project positive image of Bangladesh

Saifur urges expats
UNB, Dhaka
Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has called upon the expatriate Bangladeshi community to project the country's positive image abroad by manifesting the nation's achievements and countering the negative campaigns mounted against it.
The minister said this while addressing Bangladeshi professionals living in Washington at a discussion at the Bangladesh embassy on the sidelines of the Plenary Session of the 2005 Bank-Fund Annual Meetings on Saturday.
The theme of the discussion was 'Recent Economic Developments and Issues in Economic Policy,' according to a message received from the embassy.
The minister, also the governor of Bangladesh for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), highlighted the progress made by Bangladesh in economic, social, health, education, poverty alleviation, and human resources sectors.
Bangladesh's achievements in all these sectors are quite impressive compared to many developing countries, he added.



Myanmar Chief of General Staff and member of the State Peace Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann calls on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

Outlaw dies in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushitia
A regional leader of outlawed Janajuddha faction of Purba Banglar Communist Party was killed in 'crossfire' between police and his accomplices in Mirpur upazila in the early hours yesterday. Mirpur police arrested district commander of the outfit Asadul, 38, son of Abu Bakkar in Angangachhi village on Saturday morning. The police said Asadul, an accused in seven murder cases, had long been absconding and recently come back to his Angangachhi house. A police team took him to Charmile village to seize his firearms and

HC rule on govt not to harass ETV chairman

BDNEWS, Dhaka
The High Court yesterday ordered the government not to arrest or harass Ekushey Television (ETV) Chairman Abdus Salam without due process of law.
A vacation bench of the High Court comprising Justice Syed Muhammad Dastgir Husain and Justice Nirmalendu Dhar issued a rule upon the government after hearing a writ petition filed by Abdus Salam.
The court asked the government to show cause as to why direction should not be given not to arrest the petitioner without due process of law.

Adi Banoful sweetmeat factory sealed off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A mobile court yesterday sealed off the factory of Adi Banoful sweetmeat chain for continuing its production using textile dye and not changing its unhygienic environment despite being fined twice by another mobile court earlier.
The court led by Magistrate Md Rokan-ud-Douhah found the fac-

tory, situated at Dholaipar in South Jatrabari of the city, was reusing stale sweets and dead flies were lying on already prepared sweets.
"On information that the factory is still indifferent to making its environment hygienic despite two drives by a mobile court earlier, we have come here and are now going to seal off the factory," Rokan said.

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Rita leaves trail of destruction

Damage not as bad as Katrina
AFP, AP, Houston/Beaumont
Hurricane Rita delivered deep floods, wrecked homes, shredded infrastructure, spectacular fires and a killer tornado, but failed to match Hurricane Katrina's murderous march along the US Gulf Coast four weeks ago.
In the wake of the storm, President George W. Bush, still stuck in Katrina's political shadow, surrounded himself with top military planners and rescue chiefs, and said the response went well.
But new criticism flared over the messy evacuation of almost three million people, and some evacuees ignored pleas not to return to homes, in many cases blacked out by power cuts.
Texas Gov. Rick Perry said yesterday that the damage inflicted by Hurricane Rita paled in comparison to Katrina, but urged evacuees stay where they are until local officials say it's all right to return.
In Louisiana, officials prepped 100 to 120 boats to search the sodden sugarcane and rice fields Sunday. As many as 800 people may still need rescued in the parish's far-flung regions closer to the Gulf of Mexico, according to Jason Harmon, spokesman for the Abbeville Fire Department.
Officials with Louisiana's wildlife and fisheries department, which was handling the boats, said calls for help were still coming in.
Perry, speaking before he took a helicopter tour of the Beaumont area, said the region hit by the hurricane has been secured by law enforcement, but does not have water and sewer services available.
Perry hoped to get a better aerial view Sunday morning, but said there was mostly high wind and water damage.
"Even though the people right here in Beaumont and Port Arthur and this part of Orange County really got whacked, the rest of the state missed a bullet," Perry said.
Rita downed trees, sparked fires



Workers of Chittagong Development Authority demolish illegally constructed buildings in the city's Chawkbazar area yesterday.

36 fishermen feared dead in Bay

BDNEWS, Pirojpur
Thirty-six fishermen are feared dead as the six Pirojpur-based fishing trawlers that had gone missing a few days ago were reported to have capsized in the Bay of Bengal.
Twenty-four other fishermen, who returned to the Parer Hat yesterday with the help of other trawlers after floating in the sea for three

Prayer Timing
September 26

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	6-00	6-05
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Indian engr kills himself, wife, 4 children in UAE

REUTERS, Dubai
An Indian man slit the throats of his wife and four children, the youngest an 8-month-old baby, before killing himself in the Gulf emirate of Sharjah, a UAE newspaper said yesterday.
Gulf News said the 38-year-old engineer used to work for a consultancy company in the Gulf's trade hub Dubai but had recently called his family in Hyderabad to say he did not want to live in the United Arab Emirates any more.
Police are investigating the

MILI RAPE, MURDER IN RAJSHAHI

Hartal observed, call for students' strike today
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
The dawn-to-dusk hartal protesting alleged injustice in the schoolgirl Mafriza Khatun Mili rape and murder case was observed peacefully amid tight security.
A citizens' council called the hartal demanding cancellation of the controversial DNA tests and police final reports in the Mili rape and murder case that recommended release of the three accused.

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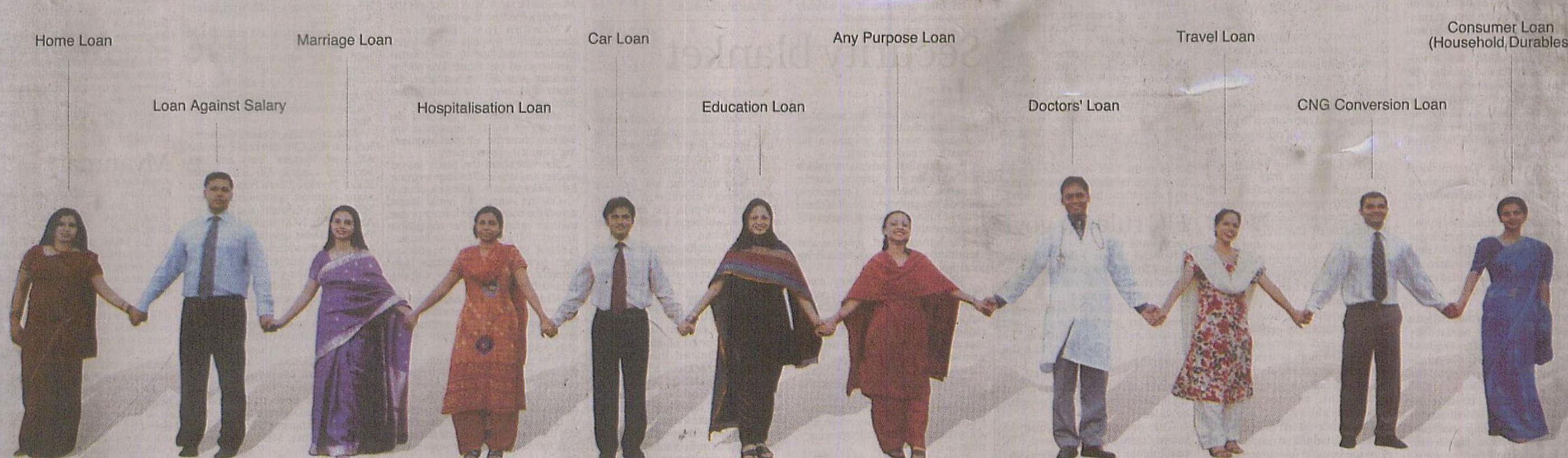
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Applications received between 1st - 31st October '05 50% waiver on membership fee

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