

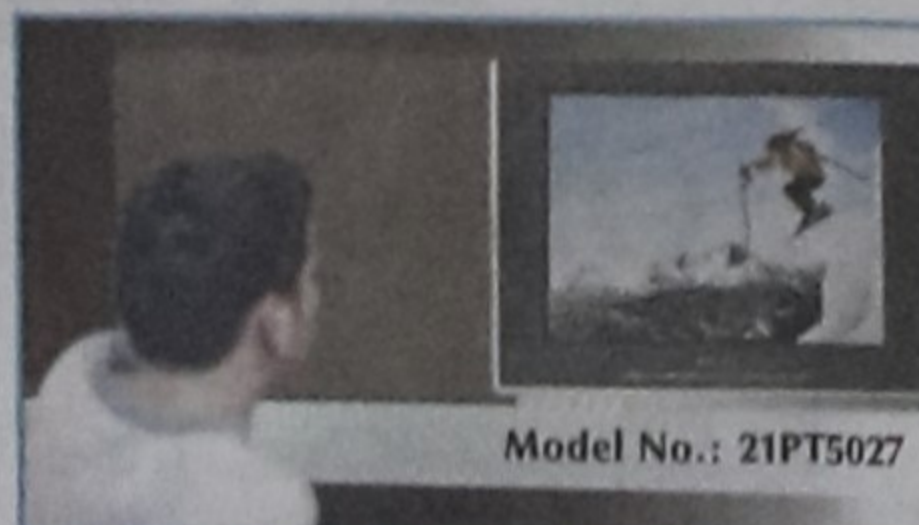
## Track your shipments online

You can check the status of your shipments across the world in real time, stage by stage, through to delivery. Just log on to [fedex.com/bd](http://fedex.com/bd) and you can track up to 30 FedEx shipments at a time.

**FedEx**  
Express

 Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.  
Express delivery service

Every Package Matters



Model No.: 21PT5027

## Enhance your Viewing Experience



Model No.: 21PT2327



Model No.: 21PT5007

PHILIPS

sense and simplicity

TRANSCOMB  
ELECTRONICSSadar Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1208, [www.transcomb.com](http://www.transcomb.com), Customer Service Center: 8855366-8, 01712-685463, Enquiry: 01713-041243-8, 01713-082479

## Daughters of Asma Jehangir assaulted, threatened

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed men of the Pakistan Muslim League Q (PML-Q) recently assaulted and kept confined two daughters of Asma Jehangir and their friends for several hours in Lahore.

Asma Jehangir is a well-known lawyer, human rights activist and the United Nations special rapporteur on the right to freedom of religion or belief.

According to a statement of the Asian Human Rights Commission, the two were beaten severely and threatened. The gunmen also made threats and used very filthy language towards Asma.

When police were called to the scene they took the side of the gunmen who claimed to be police officers. However, only two out of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

## More broken pieces of artefacts found in rubbish dump

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab members with the help of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) employees recovered four more broken pieces of the two stolen artefacts from Baliapur rubbish dump in the city's Aminbazar area.

So far a total of 46 pieces of the two priceless statues of Lord Vishnu have been recovered after those were stolen at Zia International Airport in December while being sent to France for an exhibition.

Maj Md Aminul Huq of Rab-1 said they recovered the four pieces of the brown Vishnu statuette from the basement and the National Museum authorities have identified those.

## Dhaka zoo put on alert over bird flu fear

Test confirms 'Rhea' bird dies of cold, not flu

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

The lone rhea, a species of flightless ratite bird native to South America, of the Dhaka National Zoo had died of enteritis, not of bird flu infection, said zoo authorities yesterday.

The eight and a half year-old rhea, brought from Thailand, died on Sunday. As the bird was discharging nasal fluid, the authorities were panic-stricken over the possibility of spreading avian flu in the zoo.

After examining faeces sample of the dead bird, both Central Disease Investigation Laboratory (CDIL) and Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) con-

firmed that the bird was not infected with avian flu.

The reason of the rhea's death was simply enteritis, a cold related disease, said the CDIL report.

Biosecurity measures have been beefed up in the zoo following the death of the rhea, said the zoo authorities.

Kazi Fazlul Haq, curator of the zoo, told The Daily Star, "The birdcages are being sprayed with disinfectants twice daily and the entire zoo has been sprayed as well."

"Virkon -- a type of disinfectant is being sprayed at the entry and exit points of the zoo for the safety of visitors. Besides, protective

bamboo fencing has been erected [around the birdcages] to keep people at a safe distance," he added.

"Electrolyte, vitamins and minerals have been increased in the bird feed to strengthen their immune system. Even all the animals of the zoo have been vaccinated as part of the precaution management," said Shafiqur Rahman, animal nutrition officer of the zoo.

The CDIL officials have been monitoring the situation at the zoo round the clock, added Rahman.

Biosecurity are the common-sense measures taken to protect

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

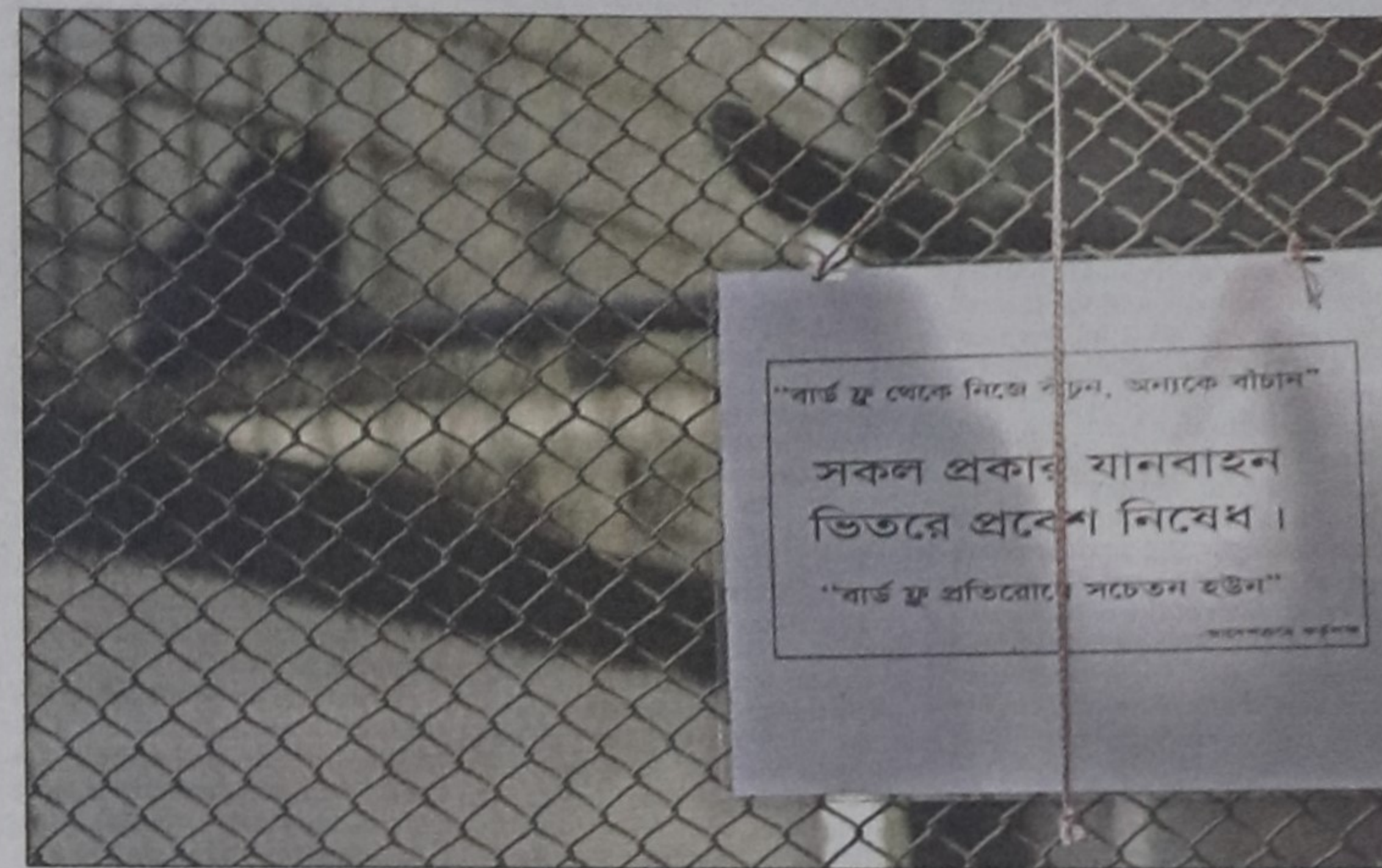


PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka Zoo authorities fearing a bird flu epidemic hang notices on aviaries telling people to be aware of the disease.

## Zafarullah gets HC bail

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted bail to Awami League presidium member Kazi Zafarullah in a fresh case filed against him under the Emergency Powers Rules (EPR).

A division bench comprising Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice M Abdul Hye also issued a rule asking the government to explain why the proceedings of the case filed against Kazi Zafarullah should not be squashed.

The government attorney didn't oppose the bail move for the AL leader and former lawmaker.

On December 11 last year, Zafarullah was re-arrested minutes

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## Obama breaks free in New Hampshire

AFP, Manchester

Barack Obama built a double-digit opinion poll lead ahead of today's New Hampshire primary, threatening another ominous blow to Hillary Clinton's White House hopes.

The former first lady's once iron-clad lead in the northeastern state appeared to evaporate as voters flocked to the 46-year-old senator from Illinois, riding the wave of his stunning Iowa caucuses victory last week.

Republican White House hopefuls meanwhile squabbled in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Barack Obama

DU VIOLENCE CASE  
4 witnesses say nothing against accused teachers students

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Four prosecution witnesses in one of the cases filed for breaching Emergency Power Rules (EPR) on the Dhaka University (DU) campus in August last year did not give any statement yesterday against the accused -- four teachers and 15 students of DU.

Two of the witnesses are Shah Alam and Jahangir Alam -- tea vendors in the TSC area of the university campus while the other two are Humayun Kabir Titu and Mohammad Asaduzzaman -- both cameramen of private TV channel Ekushey Television (ETV).

In their statements, the tea vendors told the court that they saw a large crowd of people and police in the TSC area. They however could not mention any date of the incident.

The two cameramen said they were on the DU campus on August 21 last year to cover processions and police action.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## DailyStar-Prothom Alo seminar on democracy today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International Secretary General Irene Khan will deliver a keynote speech on "Human Rights: Countering the Disappointments of Democracy" at Cirdap Auditorium in the capital at 4:00pm today.

Former adviser to caretaker government Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, and former attorney general AF Hassan Arif will also speak at the discussion jointly organised by The Daily Star and Prothom Alo.

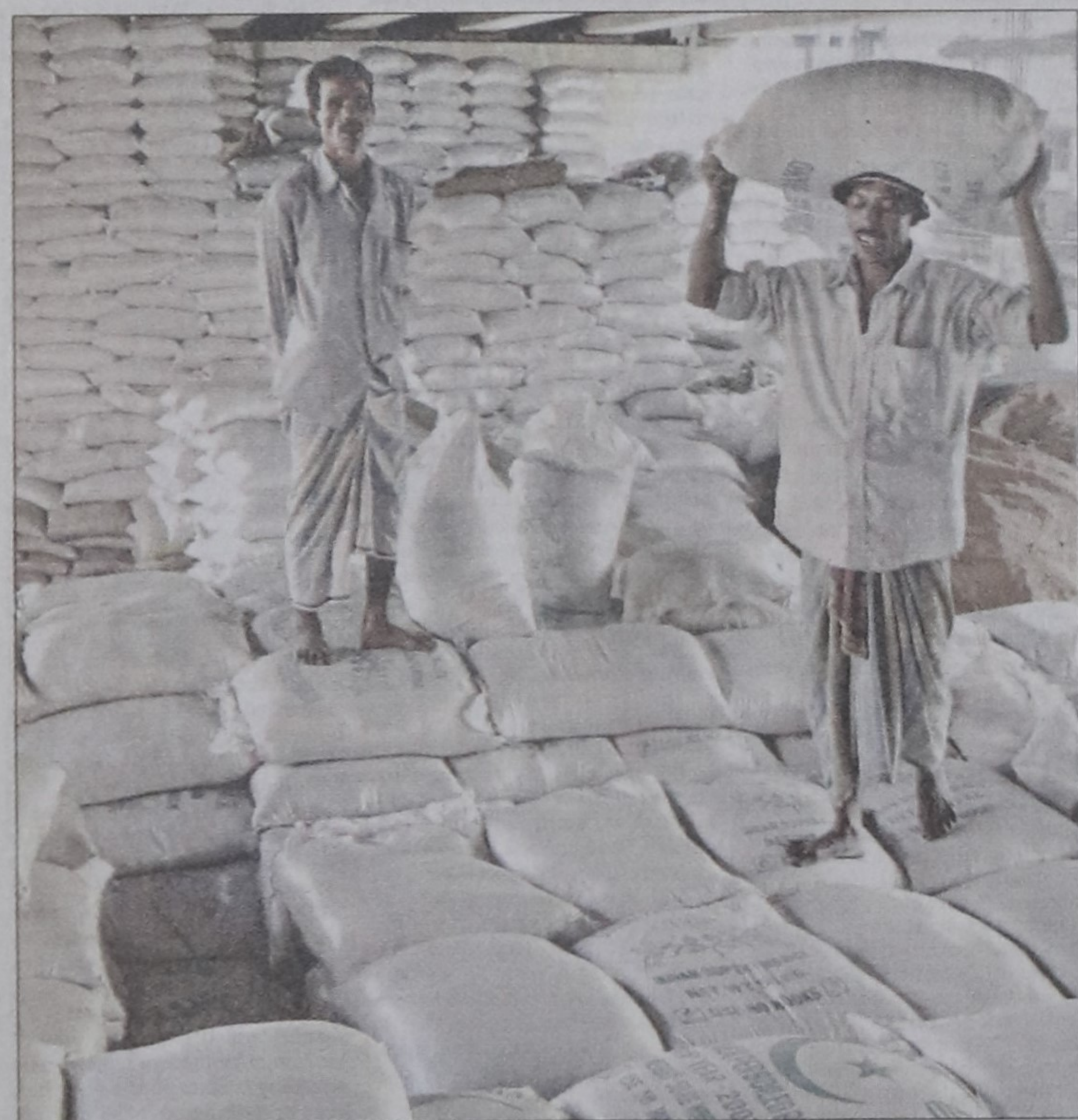


PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Urgently imported rice being stored in a warehouse at Babubazar wholesale market in the capital yesterday as prices soared during the last couple of weeks.

CAR SCAM CASE  
Charges framed against Harris, Ashraf, Obaidul

UNB, Dhaka

An anti-graft court yesterday framed charges against Harris Chowdhury, political secretary to detained former prime minister Khaleda Zia, detained former whip Ashraf Hossain and Orion Group Chairman Obaidul Karim in a car scam case.

Judge Shamsunnahar Begum set January 10 for commencing the trial through recording depositions by the prosecution witnesses in the case.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case accusing Ashraf Hossain, Obaidul

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Delwar permitted to meet Khaleda as counsel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered allowing BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Sanaullah Mian and Nawshad Jamir to meet detained party Chairperson Khaleda Zia as her counsels.

They will conduct the Gatco and Nico related cases against the former prime minister filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Earlier, nine lawyers had sought permission to meet Khaleda for discussion on the cases but court yesterday allowed three of them including Delwar Hossain, a senior advocate of the Supreme Court.

BNP leaders hoped that

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## Muggers loot Tk 13 lakh from expat

STAR REPORT

Armed muggers yesterday snatched Tk 13 lakh on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Narayanganj from an expatriate Bangladeshi on a visit to his home-land from Saudi Arabia, after shooting at a microbus carrying him to the capital.

Reazul, injured in the incident, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with a bullet in his neck.

Quoting police our Narayanganj correspondent said a gang of four

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## Ex-adviser Bulu sued for hiding wealth

ACC probing allegations against 12 graft suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed cases against former BNP lawmaker Barkat Ullah Bulu and Comilla municipality Chairman Monirul Haque Saku for amassing assets illegally and concealing wealth information from it.

ACC Assistant Director Manjur Alam filed the case against Bulu, also former adviser to commerce ministry, his wife Shamima Akhter and son Omar Sharif Mohammad Imran with the Ramna Police Station.

He accused them of accumulat-

ing wealth worth Tk 4.89 crore beyond their known sources of income and keeping back from the ACC information about wealth worth Tk 3.37 crore.

The charges were brought under sections 26 (2) and 27 (1) of the ACC Act, sections 109 of the penal code and 15 (d) (5) of the emergency power rules. Shamima and Imran were accused of aiding and abetting the former BNP lawmaker.

Bulu, also president of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, turned in his wealth statement on July 30, showing that he, together with his wife

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

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

Source: Islamic Foundation

**job in your pocket**

The Daily Star Classifieds  
On Mobile or Computer  
[cellbazaar.com](http://cellbazaar.com)  
Help: 01713238381-5

**GREAT SOLUTION**

For Material Handling, Storage and Transportation

**MADE IN BANGLADESH**

**Plastic Pallets**

**Major Advantages**

- Space saving and economical
- Excellent for factory automation
- Suitable for both Fork & Hand lift
- Normal life span over 10 years
- Meet standards of HACCP, GMP, ISO 14001 & ISO 9001
- Meet Euro & Asia standards and ISO 6780
- Resistant to weather and climate change
- No moisture absorption
- No insects, no bacteria formation like wood
- Washable, easy to clean
- No maintenance
- Eco friendly, Recycleable
- User's company or brand logo can be printed on the pallets

**BENGAL WARES**

**Bengal Plastic Industries Ltd, Unit-4**

Bengal House, 75 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh  
Tel: (880 2) 988 8248 Cell: 01713 041358, 01819 412900 Fax: (880 2) 882 7507  
E-mail: [sales@bengal.com.bd](mailto:sales@bengal.com.bd)  
[www.bengal.com.bd](http://www.bengal.com.bd)