

Wholesale rice prices mark significant fall

Tk 20 down per maund in 24 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rice prices in the city's wholesale markets dropped by Tk 20 per maund in 24 hours till 5:00pm yesterday.

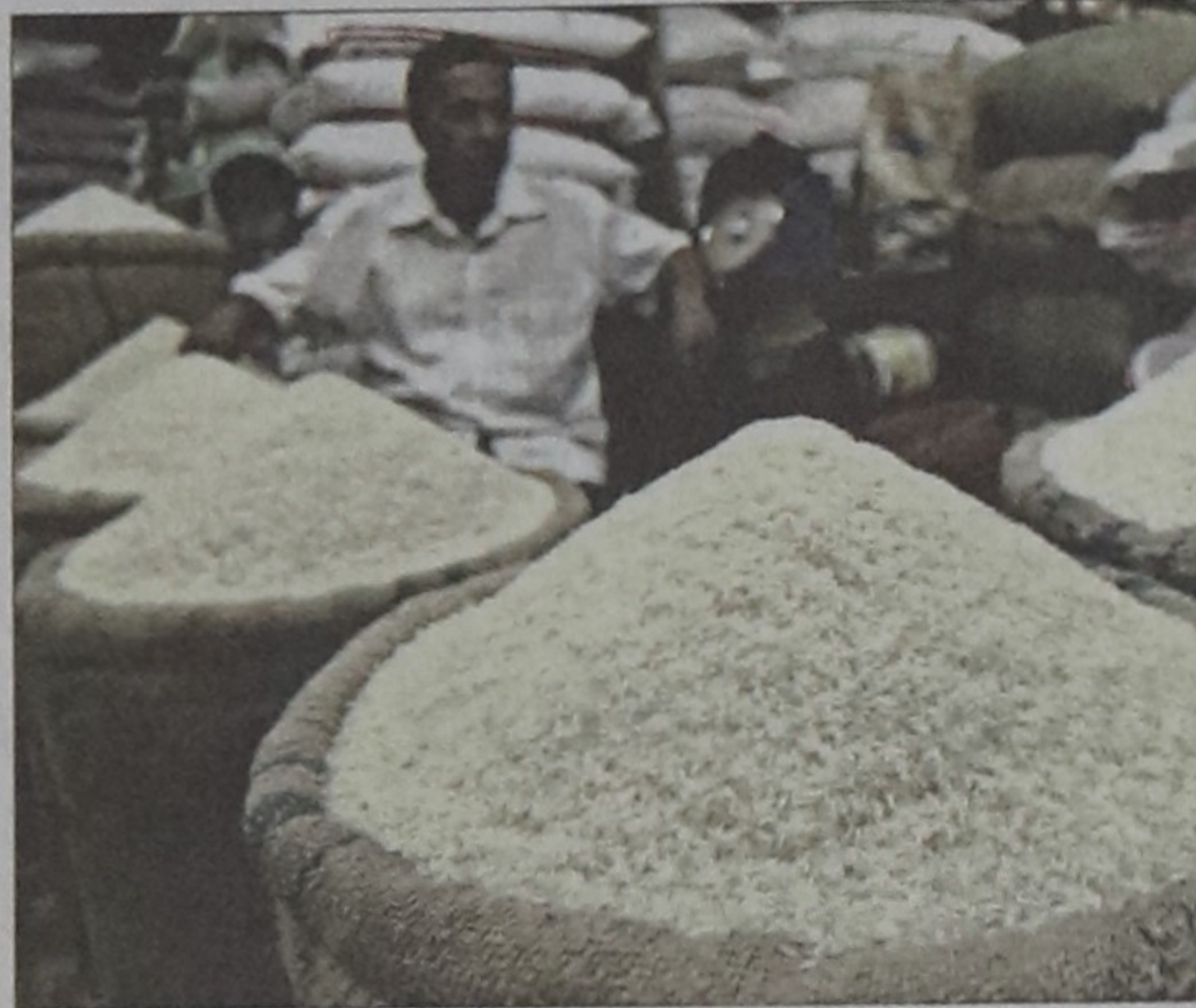
Wholesalers said the prices may remain unchanged for quite some time. The price fall, however, did not trickle into the retail markets.

The price of Parija, a medium-quality fine rice that was sold at Tk 1,180-1,200 per maund (37.32 kg) Thursday, was sold for Tk 1,160 to Tk 1,180 a maund yesterday.

A maund of BR-28 (Lata) rice, also a mid-quality fine rice, was selling at between Tk 1,150 and Tk 1,160 on the wholesale market yesterday. The variety was sold for Tk 1,170 to 1,180 per maund a day before, on Thursday.

Irra, a coarse variety, was being

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45 hurt as Rab, villagers clash in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

At least 45 persons were injured, one with bullet, during a clash between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and villagers of Bahalbaria in Mirpur upazila of the district yesterday when the law enforcers went there to rescue an abducted man.

The Rab arrested seven persons including two women following the incident. They also rescued Nazir Hossain, who was abducted from the capital on May 20.

Villagers said three years ago four young men of the village—Sohel, Anwar, Al Amin and Rezaul—gave Tk 11 lakh to Rezaul who promised to send them abroad within a year. But Rezaul failed.

When the four asked him to return their money Rezaul started giving excuses.

Hailing from Saheb Nagar village of Mirpur upazila, Rezaul resides in Tejgaon area in the capital. One of his brothers was an expatriate to Malaysia.

On December 16 last year, Rezaul went to the village with Nazir Hossain of Trishal in

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Five slain in city, four in critical condition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five people were killed and four others injured in three incidents in the city's Khilgaon, Sutrapur and Adabar areas yesterday.

The injured were stated to be in critical condition.

Of those killed, Russell, 28, Rafique, 32, and Liakat, 32, were beaten to death by locals for allegedly trying to rob the staff of a trawler on the river Balu at Nasirabad union under Khilgaon Police Station in the early hours.

With this, at least nine people were killed in mob beating in the last two days in the city.

Late yesterday afternoon, extor-

tionists shot and killed Ashiqur Rahman Khan, 30, and wounded his two brothers in Wari under Sutrapur Police Station.

In Adabar, day labourer Tariqul Islam, 55, was punched and kicked to death by a neighbour following an argument over a trivial matter.

Of the injured, brothers Atiqur Rahman Khan, 32, and Arifur Rahman Khan, 25, and their alleged attackers Robin, 24, were undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). They were in critical condition with bodies riddled with bullets.

TRIPLE MURDER
Police said an angry mob clubbed

to death Russell, Rafique and Liakat and injured Salauddin, 32.

The injured was admitted to Orthopaedics Hospital in a critical condition.

Officer-in-Charge of Khilgaon Police Station Sheikh Mohammad Abu Zahid said the incident happened when a gang on board a trawler attempted robbery at around 4:30am.

The relatives of the victims however claimed the four were attacked in the fallout from a feud over sand and diesel trade in the locality.

Two cases, one for robbery and one for murder, were filed in connection with the incidents. Haji

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Arms snatched from police in Gazipur

UNB, Gazipur

Miscereants attacked a police patrol team and snatched a shotgun from the law enforcers at Konabari under Sadar upazila of the district early yesterday.

Police said three constables of Konabari police outpost were on patrol duty at Konabari Natup Bazar on the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway at about 3:00am.

Suddenly, a gang of 10-12 criminals swooped on the patrol team, leaving constables Nayeab Ali and Mosharrif Hossain injured. The gang also took away a shotgun from Nayeab Ali.

Police immediately launched a drive in the area to recover the

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PACKED LIKE SARDINES... A large number of students of Dhaka University sleep on the floor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall mosque as the authorities cannot arrange seats for them in the dormitory. The photo was taken around 2:00am yesterday.

Hundreds of DU students stay at mosques, corridors

Ex-student leaders occupy a large number of hall seats

RAKIB AHAMMED

Resident students of first and second semesters at Dhaka University (DU) continue to suffer the brunt of seat crisis compounded by former students still occupying rooms at the halls.

Over 1,000 male students have been living in inhumane conditions at different dormitories. The crisis is acute especially at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall, Mukhtijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall, Haji Mohammad Muhsin Hall, Sir AF Rahman Hall

and Salimullah Muslim Hall.

There, over 500 students have been staying in mosques, corridors and 'Gono' rooms, four-bed rooms used to accommodate 30 to 32 boarders.

But none of halls and university authorities seems much concerned about their plight. There has been hardly any effort from the administration to allot the entrants rooms by evicting the former students, mostly belonging to JCD, the student wing of BNP.

Several students living at the makeshift shelters told The Daily

Star that they could have been comfortably staying at halls if the authorities had forced the illegal occupants to leave.

"But that's not going to happen as most of the house tutors and provosts are supporters of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami and thus on the side of JCD cadres," said a student living in the AF Rahman Hall mosque for the last seven months. He was speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Talking to the Daily Star last night, DU Vice-chancellor Prof

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2kg heroin seized in Benapole, C'nawabganj

STAR REPORT

Law enforcers seized two kilograms of heroin in separate drives in Benapole and Chapainawabganj yesterday and on Thursday night and arrested an alleged heroin smuggler.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) raided the house of Rabiul Islam Kalu at Bhabber village in Benapole yesterday morning, according to our correspondent.

They seized 1kg heroin kept in nine polythene packets from the house and arrested Rabiul, who, Rab said, has been involved in the

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People bathe, wash clothes and litter in the DND canal in Demra ignoring Wasa prohibition. Wasa uses the water of this canal for supplying to the city.

Agri subsidy to continue, incentives for investors

Finance adviser tells budget discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will give a job for 100 days to a member of each poor family or give them cash money for the period from next fiscal year, Finance and Planning Adviser AB Mirza Aziz said yesterday.

The measure aims at helping the poor households to fight the rising inflation and food grain price, the adviser told a budget discussion styled "The budget we want" organised jointly by Federation of Bangladesh

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and satellite channel ntv.

Speaking as chief guest at the function at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday, he also pledged to take steps in the budget to tame the current price spiral.

He said the government will continue agriculture subsidy to reduce price hike and widen different social safety schemes to increase the income of the poor.

Describing different challenges ahead of the government, he said the infrastructure of the country was damaged while many farm animals perished in back-to-back floods and Cyclone Sidr, resulting in regional disparity. He said the government will take steps in the budget to solve the problems.

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China, Russia sign N-deal

AFP, Beijing

China and Russia on Friday signed a one-billion-dollar deal to expand a nuclear energy facility in the Asian nation, a Russian official said.

"We have completed negotiations on construction of a uranium enrichment factory," Sergei Kiriyenko, head of the Russian nuclear agency Rosatom, told reporters in Beijing.

He was speaking during a visit to Beijing by new Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, who is on his first foreign trip since taking office this month.

The deal will include construction of a fourth block of a nuclear facility that enriches uranium in

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FIRST DAY OF DIALOGUES 'Positive outcome a must for an acceptable poll'

RASHIDUL HASAN and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

There is no alternative to a positive outcome of the ongoing dialogues between the government and political parties, for creating a congenial atmosphere for a free, fair and credible election in the country, observed former care-

taker government advisers, members of the civil society, and educationists.

Following the military backed caretaker government's maiden dialogue on Thursday with two political parties -- the Workers Party of Bangladesh and Bikalpadhara Bangladesh -- the observers warned if the dialogues

fail, it would adversely affect the upcoming general election and the country as a whole.

On the second day of the talks tomorrow the government is scheduled to sit with Jatiyatabadi Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu).

But the two most important parties of the country, Awami

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Govt hopeful of dialogues with all parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is hopeful about the participation of all political parties, including the Awami League and the BNP, in the ongoing dialogue, Education Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman yesterday said.

"We're looking forward to a successful end of it," he said as the Awami League (AL) and the BNP said they might stay away from the talks if their detained party chiefs

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