

OMS of rice starts today

265 dealers appointed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government launches today the open market sales (OMS) of rice at a subsidised rate of Tk 24 in the capital and divisional headquarters to maintain price stability throughout Ramadan.

An individual can buy a maximum of 5 kg rice per day from dealers who have bought it at Tk 22.5 per kg from the government, said Abdur Razzaque, minister of Food and Disaster Management, yesterday.

The programme will also take place in the labour-intensive districts like Narayanganj, Gazipur, Narsingdi, Habiganj, Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Sunamganj and Sylhet which were affected by early flash floods this year.

"We want to make sure that people, especially in the lower income bracket, do not suffer for the rising food prices," he told reporters during a press briefing at the Secretariat.

At present, coarse rice sells at Tk 30-32 a kg while rice of slightly better quality sells at a price of Tk 33-37. These prices are 36 to 48 percent higher than that of the same time last

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Driving for disaster

Vehicles from left drive onto the level crossing at the capital's Khilgaon Rail Gate although it's time for a train to pass. On Saturday, a car was smashed by a train on the crossing. The photo was taken recently.



68 dodgy doctors identified

Warned of stern action

UNB, Dhaka

Some 68 doctors of nine districts have recently been identified by special teams for abstaining from their workplace and negligence in attending the patients.

They were served a notice yesterday that asked them to explain why disciplinary action would not be taken against them, sources told UNB.

The physicians, who will not attend their duties at the public hospitals, will face the music for failing to provide healthcare service to the suffering people.

The decision of stern action against irresponsible doctors was taken at an urgent meeting presided over by Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque.

The meeting viewed that no responsible physicians who are endowed with the knowledge and power of healing the wounds and removing the pains of suffering people can ignore attending the patients coming from remote villages.

Non-attending physicians were identified by special teams during their surprise

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Country outage-struck

RASHIDUL HASAN

The old part of Dhaka, especially Hazaribagh and Azimpur are the worst victims of ongoing power crisis in the country as the residents there endure five to six-hour-long power outage at a stretch.

The city dwellers have been complaining about the situation as what they said their misery that simply beggars belief.

The power crisis, caused by short supply of gas to power plants and increased demand, has also crippled other places in the country at a time when people are suffering from hot weather and humidity.

The resident students of Badrunnesa

College yesterday blockaded the roads in front of the institution for nearly half an hour to express their discontentment.

"Believe it or not, it has been six hours since there was electricity. We have no water running in the bathroom. Can you imagine the situation?" Taju, a student of the college told The Daily Star.

"A few days ago, each power outage would last for an hour. But for the last few days, it has been lasting for five hours at a time. It has now become quite impossible for us to stay in the dormitories," added Taju.

Kabir Hossain of Chawkbazar yesterday told The Daily Star over the phone that power went off in his area at 10:00am

and the supply was not restored till 5:30pm. He observed that this has been the situation for the last few weeks.

"How can we bear the suffering if power outages occur late in the night or early in the day?" said a banker of Azimpur, adding that after one and a half years since the government assumed power, the situation has deteriorated rather than improve.

An official of Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC) told The Daily Star that they have not noticed such massive power crisis as several inhabitants of the capital's old part told The Daily Star.

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Now Khaleda invites Hasina to iftar party

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia has invited Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to an iftar party on August 17.

BNP will host the iftar at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in honour of the country's political leaders.

Khaleda Zia's Personal Secretary (PS) Saleh Ahmed and APS Suruzzaman formally handed over the

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Reckless bus kills cop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yet another hit-and-run accident at the capital's Banglamotor intersection killed a policeman yesterday, a day after a road crash at Badda claimed two young lives.

The deceased, Mohammad Kamruzzaman, 24, was a resident of Savar and a constable of the Special Branch's security control organisation.

A Shabbagh-bound bus hit Kamruzzaman as he got down from another bus around 8:00am. He suffered severe chest injury, said Officer-in-Charge Noman of Ramna Police Station.

Rajrabbagh Police Lines' Naik Rezaul Karim, a



Kamruzzaman

cousin of Kamruzzaman, told The Daily Star that pedestrians and a traffic officer took the wounded constable to police lines hospital. Kamruzzaman was then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he expired around 11:00am.

Rejaul said Kamruzzaman, who hailed from Chuadanga, left behind wife and a ten-year-old daughter. He was a member of Bangladesh Formed Police Unit in

Congo. Namaz-e-janaza of Kamruzzaman was held at the police lines around 4:30pm and the body was sent to Chuadanga for burial.

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HC clears way to publish BCS results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday allowed the Public Service Commission to publish the preliminary results of the 30th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS).

Earlier on Sunday, the same bench directed the PSC not to publish the results until further order in response to a writ petition, filed by 19 students following revelation of errors and inconsistencies in 10 to 15 queries in set-2 question paper of the preliminary test.

During the hearing yesterday, the bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain, however, raised question on competence of PSC chairman Saadat Husain.

"How the PSC chairman

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BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addresses a rally at Paltan Maidan in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

\$1b loan deal enrages BNP

Agitation after Eid, warns Khaleda from rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday demanded the government scrap the \$1 billion loan deal with India.

Describing the deal as a "pact of slavery", she said people would not accept anything against national interests.

Khaleda, also leader of the opposition, threatened tough agitation after Eid ul-Fitr if the government fails to end public sufferings from water, gas and electricity crises.

Addressing a rally before a mass procession in the capital, she urged people to wake up and unite in efforts to bring about a "Bangladesh free from all shackles".

After the rally, the former prime minister led the procession brought out from Paltan Maidan at 5:50pm.

Several thousand BNP activists participated in the march, carrying portraits of late president Ziaur Rahman, Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman.

The procession, which paraded through Fakirapool, Naya Paltan, Kakrail, Shantinagar, Malibagh and Mouchak before

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Corporal punishment to students banned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday slapped an outright ban on including in physical punishment to the students at all educational institutions in the country.

An education ministry circular asked the district education officers and upazila secondary education officers to take action under the existing law along with departmental action against such misconduct.

The decision came against the backdrop of increasing number of such incidents recently.

It has been noticed that teachers of some educational institutions impose inhuman punishments on the students

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Two Jamaat leaders held

STAR REPORT

Two top leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj units were arrested yesterday morning.

The arrestees are Abdul Malek, acting secretary general of Rajshahi Jamaat unit, and Mokhlesur Rahman, Jamaat Ameer of Chapainawabganj pourasava unit.

Boalia police arrested Malek from his Chhoto Bongram Uttarpara residence in the city, reports our staff correspondent in Rajshahi. Malek, 51, is a member of the city Jamaat Majlish-e-Sura.

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Jamaat's Taher sued for sedition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police filed a sedition case against former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher early yesterday.

Sub-inspector Nasim Uddin of Shahbagh Police Station filed the case after getting approval from the home ministry.

Rezaul Karim, officer-in-charge of the station, told The Daily Star that the case was filed against Taher as he had "threatened" to make the state non-functional using "reserved forces" and take actions against some of the government institutions and people working in them without naming any.

Taher, a central executive committee member of Jamaat, made the statement at a meeting at the National Press Club on



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SEXUAL ABUSE CU teacher sacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong University Syndicate yesterday terminated an assistant professor of anthropology department on charges of sexually abusing a female student of the department.

"Assistant Professor Abdullah Al Mamun was terminated since the charges against him has been proved," CU Vice-chancellor Professor Dr Abu Yusuf told The Daily Star.

The victim student brought allegation against the teacher

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HUSBAND'S SECOND MARRIAGE BID Another woman tries to kill herself, daughter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In another suicide attempt in the city, a mother with her baby daughter jumped before a running train yesterday near Sainik Club at Banani as her husband divorced her to marry someone else.

Maksuda Begum, 32, wife of Ashraf Uddin of Arahazar upazila in Narayanganj, and her one and a half-year-old daughter Tanzina were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Doctors said the mother and daughter are still unconscious, with severe head injuries.

Maksuda's nine-year-old son Nazmul, a

class-II student of a pre-cadet school in the city, was present at the time and witnessed the attempted suicide.

At DMCH he told The Daily Star last night that his mother with Tanzina in her lap jumped on the rail tracks in the evening but the train instead of running over them hit and tossed the two away from it.

"This is your maternal uncle's contact number. Inform him about our death and tell him to arrange our burial. Inform the police about the reasons behind our suicide," said a shocked Nazmul while narrating the last conversation with his mother.

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3 workers injured in factory fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire at a sweater factory in the capital's Tejgaon industrial area yesterday left three of its employees severely burnt and gutted its machinery and a huge amount of threads.

The injured employees of Focus Fashion Ltd were rushed to a local clinic. Their identities could not be known immediately.

Sources from the factory and Fire Service and Civil Defense (FSCD) said the fire broke out at around 1:30pm when most of the workers

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