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## Govt wary of rice price

Fears state buying may cause further spike, decides to import instead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a sharp departure from the usual practice, the government will not procure rice from the domestic market in the current Aman season fearing that public buying might further inflate the price of rice.

"We have decided not to procure rice this Aman season from local market, or fix its price. Rather, we will import food grains," Food Minister Abdur Razzaque told journalists yesterday after a meeting of the Food Policy and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) at his ministry.

"The price of rice price may go even higher if we procure it at a high price," he said.

The government now has a stock of around 8 lakh tonnes of rice and wheat, and will import 8 lakh tonnes more by the year end, added the minister.

Each year the government procures food grains from the domestic market at higher prices to provide incentive to farmers.

"But such incentive is not needed now, as rice price is already

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## NO RULES WORKING

The city is experiencing a surge in battery-run three-wheelers these days. Most of these vehicles are seen in bad shape and carrying passengers in excess. They remain at risk of accidents for their instability due to a lack of centre of gravity. Moreover, the vehicles are operating on the city streets without permission.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## AL MP Lutful Hai dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lutful Hai, an Awami League lawmaker and a veteran freedom fighter, died in the capital yesterday morning following a massive cardiac arrest.

He was 70. He left behind

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## Evidence 'convincing'

2 ACC probes find merit to sue Khaleda for graft

EMRAN HOSSAIN

The Anti-Corruption Commission has claimed to have found "convincing" evidence that former prime minister Khaleda Zia had shown fake sources of funds for establishing Zia Charitable Trust.

Nearly Tk 2 crore spent on the establishment of the Trust came from unknown and fake sources, said a commission official referring to the findings of an ACC probe into corruption allegations against Khaleda.

The probe did not find any involvement of

Khaleda's sons Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko in the corruption.

Meanwhile, another ACC investigation found lack of diligence on the part of the then prime minister Khaleda Zia in the allocation of Tk 100 crore for construction of the Bhairab bridge, said a source at the commission.

The ACC is now looking into the legal aspect of the probe reports to find whether they have any flaws or loopholes.

Probes into the corruption allegations against Khaleda were initiated early this year

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## BNP calls hartal for Nov 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP has called another countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal for November 30 demanding actions to resolve the miseries of the people, save democracy and defend the country's interest.

The party will hold procession and rallies in districts and

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## Regret? No

Huda says expulsion not done properly; expects Khaleda to withdraw order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expelled BNP vice chairman Nazmul Huda yesterday blamed the conspiracy of the "Noakhali clique" within BNP for his expulsion from the party.

"I do not accept the expulsion. It was

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## PM reaches Russia

BSS, St Petersburg

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived at St Petersburg in Russia yesterday at 4:00pm (local time) on the first leg of her 12-day tri-nation tour of Russia, Belgium and Japan.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Russia S M Saiful Haque, top ranking officials of the Russian foreign ministry and organisers of global "Tiger Natural

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