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Inflation eases

Fall in rice price seen as reason

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Inflation eased by 0.33 percentage point to 10.10 percent in March, mainly due to falling rice prices, says a statistical agency.

Non-food inflation hit a record high of 13.96 percent in March, up from 13.57 percent in February, according to data released by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) yesterday.

In February, inflation was 10.43 percent, and it has been hovering around double digits for the last 13 months.

According to the BBS data, food inflation was 8.28 percent in March, compared to 8.92 percent in February.

Non-food inflation crossed double digits for the first time in November last year, and continued to rise since then.

In rural areas, non-food inflation was 14.17 percent -- higher than that in urban areas in March.

Wishing anonymity, a Bangladesh Bank official said an inflow of foreign remittance into rural areas was one of the main reasons behind the rise in non-food inflation.

Analysts say repeated increases in power and energy prices and restriction on imports have been fuelling non-food inflation. It will rise further in the future, they say.

BBS Director General Shahjahan Ali Mollah told journalists yesterday that the price hike of fish, meat, eggs, milk and transport fares had fuelled inflation.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



Haripada Biswas looks on vacantly as he waits for transport after undergoing medical tests at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the capital. Dhaka University students' demonstration at Shahbagh intersection crippled traffic movement for over three hours there. The 75-year-old is a patient of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital but he had to go to BSMMU for the tests.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Reconstitute Biman board

JS body asks govt to make it efficient, profitable airline

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the civil aviation ministry to scrap the Board of Directors of Biman and form a new one with "aviation experts" to run the airliner "efficiently" and make it a profitable venture.

The parliamentary standing committee on civil aviation and tourism ministry

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

FERRY SERVICE AT PATERIA Bus operators tell of extortion

Threaten strike on southern routes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of bus owners yesterday threatened to suspend indefinitely bus services to 22 southern districts from April 8 protesting extortion at Daulatdia-Pateria Ferry Ghat.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

BUS-AUTORICKSHAW COLLISION 9 killed in Sirajganj

4 die in Rangamati bus plunge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Nine persons were killed and 20 others injured yesterday in a head-on collision between a bus and an auto-rickshaw on Sirajganj-Enayetpur road in the district's Belkuchi upazila.

In Rangamati, at least four people were killed and around 30 others injured as a bus plunged into a 150-foot ditch near Radio Station in the town around 7:00pm. Identities of the deceased could not be known immediately.

In the Sirajganj accident, eight died on the spot while another succumbed to injuries on way to Sirajganj General Hospital. Of the dead, the six people were aboard

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Sampan Race, Science Expo

A sampan race will be held this afternoon on the Karnaphuli river. A day-long science expo titled - *Chattogram O Bigyan Charcha* - will take place today in the auditorium of Fulki. The prize giving ceremony of the eight-day long photography exhibition - *Chitromoy Chattala* - will be held at Theatre Institute Chittagong this evening.

SEE PAGE 5

Profile of a Theatre Activist

The Daily Star talks to Ahmad Iqbal Haider, a popular name in the field of Bangladeshi theatre and the convener of *Odommo Chattogram Theatre Festival*.

Theatre group Tirjok Natya Goshthi's play - *Nandanpurer Mela-e Ekjon Kamala Sundari O Ekti Bagh Ashe* - was staged on Monday at Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong.

SEE PAGE 10-11

DEATH ANNIVERSARY



TODAY IS THE FOURTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF (LATE) NAZIR RAHMAN MONJUR, FOUNDER CHAIRMAN OF BANGLADESH JATYA PARTY (BJP), FORMER LGRD MINISTER OF PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH, FORMER MAYOR OF DHAKA CITY CORPORATION, A DOA MAHFIL HAS BEEN ARRANGED TODAY AT HIS BHOLA'S RESIDENCE.

ALL RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND WELL WISHERS ARE KINDLY REQUESTED TO ATTEND THE DOA MAHFIL AND PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY ALLAH TO GRANT ETERNAL PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL.

GRATITUDE FAMILY MEMBERS

The Daily Star
Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL
Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that there is nothing to be worried about the country's economy?
Yes (12.5%)
No (85.8%)
No Comments (1.8%)
TOTAL VOTES: 899
TODAY'S POLL
Do you think there should be an independent investigation into the extra judicial killing by Rab?
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING April 6
Azan Jamaat
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Juma 12-30 1-15
Asr 4-45 5-00
Maghrib 6-21 6-24
Esha 7-45 8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation

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