



POVERTY DECLINES

The rate falls on expansion of industrial and services sectors

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POROSHENKO TAKES OFFICE

The new Ukrainian president pledges to avert civil war

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SUPERB SHARAPOVA

The Russian superstar wins her second French Open title

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Buyers duped

Little or no checking in 11 'formalin-free' kitchen markets in city; patron of the move wants back detection kits from 2 markets

SIMAN SAHA and GAZI TOWHID AHMED

One and a half years into its launch, the FBCCI's much-applauded initiative to make kitchen markets formalin-free has lost steam mainly due to lack of eagerness among market committees.

With support from banks, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) supplied formalin detection kits to 11 kitchen markets in the capital in September 2012, and declared those formalin-free.

Though it is obligatory to test for formalin in fish every day, at least four of the 11 markets don't do so. The rest run tests only two to four times a month because of slack monitoring by market committees.

The four markets are Mohammadpur's Town Hall Market, Shantinagar Bazar, Mohakhali kitchen market and Kaptan Bazar, The Daily Star learnt from visits to these markets.

The FBCCI has sent letters to the market committees of Town Hall and Mohakhali kitchen markets, and asked them to return the kits as those were not being used.

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Traders abandon their fish stores in a kitchen market of Mohammadpur on May 25 hearing about a surprise visit by a mobile court. Lack of regular checking has led to formalin-tainted fish in kitchen markets. A sign, top, claiming the Malibagh Bazar free of formalin. An official checking shrimps to see if they have formalin at the same market, bottom.



PHOTO: FILE/BANGLAR CHOKH

BIG BLOW TO GERMANY Wheels come off Rolls Reus

AFP, Mainz

Germany suffered a major blow ahead of the World Cup finals on Saturday as an ankle injury ruled midfielder Marco Reus out of the tournament, the German Federation announced.

The 25-year-old Borussia Dortmund star, known as 'Rolls Reus' and scorer of seven goals in 21 appearances for Germany, suffered a slight tear to ankle

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Marco Reus in agony during the match against Armenia. PHOTO: AFP



Foodgrains import shot up 56pc

Falling prices in global market fuelled it

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Foodgrain imports have accelerated 56 percent, to 28.95 lakh tonnes in the first 10 months of this fiscal year from that of the previous year with private importers taking advantage of declining prices in the global market.

Rice imports jumped 13 times to 3.75 lakh tonnes, with private importers going on a buying spree between July and May,

data from the food ministry show.

Rice imports by the private sector rose as the price is lower in India than in Bangladesh, said Abul Bashar Chowdhury, chairman of BSM Group, a Chittagong-based foodgrain importer.

Coarse rice price stood at \$400 a tonne in West Bengal, whereas it is \$420 a tonne in Dhaka, the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit said in its latest report.

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BUDGET REACTION Happy JP unhappy now

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday expressed doubts about the implementation of the proposed budget for 2014-15.

Giving the JP's formal reaction to the proposed budget at a press conference at his Banani office, Ershad said the budget is not highly ambitious, but

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ABDUCTED BY SOMALI PIRATES 7 sailors freed after 3½ years

UNB, Dhaka

Somali pirates have freed seven Bangladeshi crew held hostage aboard a Malaysian flagged vessels for over three and a half years, said a foreign ministry official yesterday.

The Bangladeshis were on board MV Albedo when it was hijacked by Somali pirates on November 26, 2010.

They have been released by their captors and are being flown to Nairobi by a special aircraft of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Kenya, mentioned the official.

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