



TRADE DEFICIT WIDENS

The shortfall doubles in July-April due to sluggish exports

PAGE B1

'PHENOMENAL' EMINEM

Rapper unveils action-packed mini film

PAGE 9

THE PENSIONER

Behind the poignant photo of a crying Greek

PAGE 8

CAESAREAN BIRTHS

Up mostly on greed

Lax watch on private healthcare providers responsible

PORIMOL PALMA

The number of caesarean births has almost doubled in the last eight years largely due to lack of accountability of profit-hungry private healthcare providers and absence of proper rules and regulations.

The figure rose to 690,000 or 23 percent of total deliveries last year from 355,000 or 9 percent of total deliveries in 2007, according to Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2014.

The World Health Organization recommends that a country should keep births through caesarean section below 15 percent, as it is a major operation that carries risks and takes a lot

CAESAREAN BIRTHS

YEAR	PERCENTAGE (OF TOTAL DELIVERIES)
2014	23
2011	17
2007	9
2004	4

SOURCE: BANGLADESH DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY

longer for a patient to recover compared to a normal delivery.

Some doctors claim that many expectant mothers prefer c-section to normal delivery, but many experts blame the rise in c-section on private

healthcare providers.

"Patients want a lower risk procedure. They also don't want to withstand labour pain," said a gynaecologist at a private hospital in the capital, seeking anonymity.

However, Dina Farhana, nutritionist of a Dhaka-based NGO, said c-section might be necessary in some cases, but the fact is private clinics and hospitals are largely responsible for the increase in caesarean births.

Child and women health expert Prof MQK Talukder said c-section is a life-saving option only in some complicated cases. It is unnecessary in many other cases.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Test, then store

AL lawmaker stops storing of Brazilian wheat in Kushtia warehouse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A ruling party lawmaker in Kushtia yesterday stopped 500 tonnes of Brazilian wheat from being stored at a local warehouse on the grounds that the grains were substandard.

"I heard that the wheat was of substandard quality. That's why I did not let it enter the Kumarkhali warehouse without testing it properly," said Abdur Rouf, a lawmaker from Kushtia-4 constituency (Kumarkhali-Khoksa).

The consignment of wheat was sent to Kushtia on 14 trucks from Khulna.

After hearing the matter, the MP rushed to the spot. Around 100 ruling party leaders and activists accompanied the lawmaker when the incident took place, wit-

nesses said.

"I'll not let the people of my constituency eat this wheat," Rouf told The Daily Star over the phone. He said he checked a sample

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

Kushtia-4 MP Abdur Rouf checking a sample of the wheat imported from Brazil.



TOP QUOTE

"Like any other public institutions, the judiciary can be subjected to fair criticism if and when occasion demands"

CHIEF JUSTICE SURENDRA KUMAR SINHA AT A WORKSHOP IN THE CITY



The Tigers train at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, ahead of their opening T20 International against South Africa. The match starts at 1:00 pm today.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Mamata's eyes on Farakka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kolkata

After blocking the Teesta water-sharing treaty, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee now says Bangladesh is getting more Ganges water through the Farakka barrage than stipulated in the agreement.

"This situation has been

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Saudi govt refused to intervene

Jamaat sought help for stopping war crimes trial, BNP for resolving political impasse

MIZANUR RAHMAN KHAN

Jamaat-e-Islami had sought the help of Saudi Arabia to stop the war crimes trials multiple times. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia had asked for the intervention of the Saudi government to resolve the political impasse. But Saudi Arabia did not respond to these requests.

The late King Abdullah had signed a decree (number 61646) deciding not to



interfere in the internal affairs of Bangladesh, translations of some diplomatic documents regarding Bangladesh from those leaked by WikiLeaks recently reveal. Anticipating strains with the Sheikh Hasina-led government, the Saudi government did not even respond to Khaleda Zia's request for the treatment of Arafat Rahman.

Comments from the Saudi embassy in SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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AA+

Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited has been reaffirmed 'AA+' Rating in the Long Term, 'ST-1' Rating in the Short Term and 'Stable Outlook' by Credit Rating Information and Services Ltd (CRISL) for the year 2014

Surveillance Rating	Explanation
2013 Long Term: AA+	High Safety for Timely Repayment Banks rated in this category are considered to be of high quality, offer higher safety and have high credit quality. This level of rating indicates a bank with sound credit profile and without significant problems. Risks are modest and may vary slightly from time to time because of economic conditions.
2014 Long Term: AA+	
2013 Short Term: ST-1	Highest Certainty of Timely Repayment It indicates highest certainty of timely repayment. Short-term liquidity including internal fund generation is very strong and access to alternative sources of funds is outstanding. Safety is almost like risk free Government short-term obligations.
2014 Short Term: ST-1	
Outlook: Stable	'Stable Outlook' indicates that there is no significant volatility in business operation in foreseeable future.

Date of Declaration
21 June 2015

Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited

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