



Pran Pasteurized Milk

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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE
SHOUT

SUGAR IMPORTS COSTLIER

NBR slaps 20pc regulatory duty on raw and refined sugar to protect local mills

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'VERY SORRY'

US President Obama apologises to Japan for spying on govt officials

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ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN IN MALAYSIA

Bangladeshis feel the pinch

PORIMOL PALMA

As Malaysia's economy starts to slow down in the face of falling oil prices and political uncertainty, Bangladeshi workers in the Southeast Asian nation are starting to feel the crunch.

The value of the ringgit has gone down to a 17-year low against the US dollar amid political uncertainty. This has started to eat away the Bangladeshi migrants' savings and the amount they can send home every month.

Now it takes more than 4.2 ringgits to buy one dollar. It was a little over 3 ringgits six months ago.

Migrants say their living cost is higher now and their savings are dwindling. Now, a ringgit is worth just above Tk 18. It was Tk 24-25 just a few months ago.

"I usually send 1,000 ringgits a month to my family back home. Now it is worth less than Tk 20,000. It used to be around Tk 25,000 before," said Mohammad Ilias, 30, who works as a salesman at a furniture factory in Kuala Lumpur's Ampang area.

The ringgit has fallen further since he spoke to The Daily Star on August 13.

A six percent goods and services tax (GST) from April this year has pushed up

commodity and service prices as well, he said.

Ilias said his salary, including overtime, was around 1,500 ringgits only six months ago but it slowly came down to 1,200 ringgits and overtime work is few and far between.

He said he would not be able to send even 1,000 ringgits this month to his family in Haluaghat of Mymensingh.

A strong Malaysian economy is rather important for Bangladesh. About six lakh Bangladeshis work there and send money home.

In 2014-15, they sent almost \$1.4 billion, which is over nine percent of the remittance Bangladesh received in the entire fiscal year.

Malaysia is Bangladesh's third largest labour destination after Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Malaysia's economy has been dogged by concerns that slumping oil prices will harm growth in the oil-exporting country, says an August-11 AFP report.

Prime Minister Najib Razak also is struggling to fend off corruption allegations related to his links with the debt-ridden state investment firm 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

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PART-2

India doesn't export and Bangladesh doesn't import, yet the age-old cattle trade goes on and it accounts for nearly \$1 billion business a year. Up against cow slaughter, the ruling BJP in India has recently choked the illegal supply channels to Bangladesh. New dynamics that followed: RSS guarding the borders, border guards becoming suddenly reluctant to be partners in the crime and smugglers looking for other goods. With the clandestine business almost coming to a grinding halt, The Daily Star, in its 3-part series, will focus on the impact on life and livelihood across the border.



The recently taken photo shows herds of buffaloes, brought from India, at a cattle shed in Bakher Ali village of Chapainawabganj. With the Indian authorities intensifying measures to stop cattle smuggling, Bangladesh is likely to face a crisis of sacrificial animals during Eid-ul-Azha. PHOTO: STAR

EID CATTLE

SHORTFALL

likely up to 30pc

Stakeholders expect boom in local cow rearing, call for quick import to tackle short-term crisis

PINAKI ROY and SOHEL PARVEZ

The country will face a cattle shortage of up to 30 percent during Eid-ul-Azha this year due to India's ongoing curb on cattle supply.

Taking advantage of the shortage, a group of unscrupulous traders may charge exorbitant prices for sacrificial animals during the festival, if immediate measures to import cattle are not taken by the government amid the Indian restriction.

The newspaper learnt these talking to different government officials, researchers, cattle

traders, farmers, meat merchant and skin merchant associations and smugglers.

Both the state minister for fisheries and livestock and the commerce minister have admitted that there will be a shortage of cattle during the coming Eid.

Talking to The Daily Star, Narayan Chandra Chanda, state minister for fisheries and livestock, said, "There will be a crisis of cattle during the coming Eid-ul-Azha. It is not possible to increase their production instantly. But we are taking some initiatives to increase production, which will take some time."

Speaking to journalists on August 14, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, said the shortage of cattle during the Eid would be as high as 10 lakh.

Nearly 80 lakh cattle are slaughtered annually in Bangladesh, of which almost 50 percent are slaughtered during Eid-ul-Azha, the second biggest religious festival for the Muslims. This year the demand for cattle may reach up to 40 lakh during the festival, according to the Department of Livestock and Services (DLS).

Cattle merchants and the association of

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TOP QUOTE

"The government is restricting the freedom of the press. The media cannot write or express their opinions now. They have to say whatever the government wants them to say."

JIP CHAIRMAN
HM ERSHAD
AT A DISCUSSION IN HIS
BANANI OFFICE YESTERDAY

Myanmar 'rebels' attack BGB team

One injured; criminals retreat as joint force retaliates

STAR REPORT

Myanmarese separatist group Arakan Army swooped on a Border Guard Bangladesh patrol team in Boro Modak area of Thanchi in Bandarban yesterday morning, leading to a gun battle that left one nayek injured.

BGB Nayek Jakir Hossain was shot during the gunfight that started around 9:30am, said Col Waliur Rahman, sector commander of Bandarban BGB.

He was taken to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Chittagong by helicopter, sources in the BGB said, adding that he was out of danger.

Soon after the attack, additional BGB men from nearby camps joined the gun battle that continued until 3:00pm, reports our Bandarban correspondent.

Additional BGB and army men from camps in Ruma, Thanchi, Ali Kadam and Bandarban Sadar were dispatched to the remote area by helicopter.

The joint force took the situation under control as the separatist group retreated. An operation was going on to capture the attackers yesterday evening.

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2 US journos shot dead on air

Murderer kills himself

BBC ONLINE

A man who shot two journalists on live TV in the US state of Virginia has died after shooting himself, police say.

Vester Lee Flanagan, 41, an ex-employee of WDBJ7 TV known professionally as Bryce Williams, was in a car that was surrounded by police following a chase.

WDBJ7 TV reporter Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Ward were killed some seven hours earlier during an interview in the town of Moneta.

The gunman later uploaded a video of himself opening fire at close range.

The White House has urged Congress to rapidly pass gun control laws in the wake of this latest shooting in the US.

Virginia State Police said the suspect's vehicle had been spotted on the Interstate 66 highway following the shooting, and

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A double-decker picking up passengers on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital's Farmgate yesterday, stopping beside a sign that glaringly prohibits buses from halting there and warns of fines for their non-compliance. Though a number of traffic personnel were there, they took no action.

PHOTO: SK ANAMUL HAQ

Hike in power, gas tariffs likely

Fuel prices might be kept unchanged; industries to get new power connections

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Gas and power tariffs might see a rise but fuel prices are likely to remain unchanged despite the fall in oil prices on the international market, according to officials at the power, energy and mineral resources ministry.

The issues were discussed at a meeting on the overall situation of the energy sector at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday. Senior officials of the energy and power divisions were present there.

The meeting decided that new electricity connections would be provided to industries, said a Power Division official, who attended the meeting.

Power Division Officials told the meeting that more funds were needed to set up power plants to meet the growing demand for electricity.

Power distribution and marketing companies must be made self-sufficient in terms of funding to help them keep up electricity generation, transmission and distribution, they said.

At present, the difference between the power generation cost and the retail price of power is Tk 1.5-Tk 2 a unit.

They also advocated raising gas tariffs to prevent wastage in the sector.

The meeting then asked the energy and power divisions to make a move to raise power and gas tariffs.

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