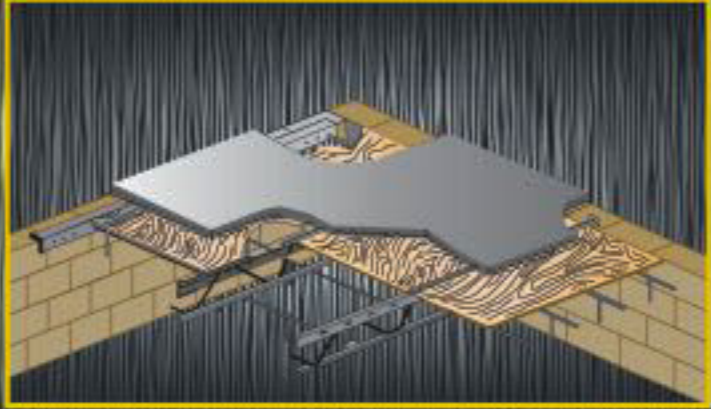


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RICE PROCUREMENT

Govt offers lower price

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to procure Aman rice from farmers at a lower price than the previous season.

But to cushion the effect of cheaper rice varieties from India, the government plans to slap more duty on imported rice, said Food Minister Qamrul Islam.

The decisions came at a meeting of the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee yesterday with the food minister in the chair.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, he said the issue of increasing the duty had been discussed and a decision in this regard would be taken in a couple of days.

The meeting decided that the government would procure two lakh tonnes of Aman rice this season at Tk 31 per kg from December 15 to March 15.

Last year, the government procured Aman rice at Tk 32 per kg.

The price offer is one taka less despite the fact that Aman production cost has increased from last year's Tk 28 a kg to Tk 28.50 a kg this year.

Officials concerned reasoned that as the current price of rice is cheaper in the market than the previous year, the procurement price has been adjusted accordingly.

The procurement season came at a time when the government granaries are full to the brim with earlier stocks, and that is why, the government is now planning to slash



Tale of urban monkeys

SHARIER KHAN

For the last two years, whenever Pintu visits his parental home in Doniya, a few kilometres off Sayedabad, he sees a troop of wild monkeys on house roofs in the tree-less neighbourhood.

Seeing them play around, he asks his old mother, "Why don't you give these poor souls some food?"

And his mother would angrily reply, "Give them food? They are a bunch of hooligans! I don't know where they came from -- but they are terrorising the neighbourhood for

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This monkey has made Uttara Sector-13 Park his home. He has been there for the last few months and is not afraid of people. Park visitors often offer him bread and biscuits. The photo was taken a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: SHARIER KHAN

Manpower export rises

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLOB

More Bangladeshi workers went abroad in the first 10 months of this year than the entire last year, government data show.

Over 4.5 lakh male and 90,000 female workers migrated to different countries until November 10, according to statistics of the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET).

The numbers stood at around 4.25 lakh and 76,007, respectively, at the end of last year.

BMET Director General Begum Shamsun Nahar expressed her hope that they would be able to send over 5,00,000 male and 1,00,000 female workers abroad by the end of this year.

Officials at the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry said the demand for

Bangladeshi workers -- both males and females -- in countries like Oman, Qatar, the UAE, Singapore and Jordan was going up every day.

Until November 10 this year, Oman has emerged as the country recruiting highest number of Bangladeshi male workers -- 1,03,637, show the BMET statistics.

Qatar is second on the list. It hired 1,01,313 male workers during the same period.

At least 45,378 Bangladeshis have migrated to Singapore, the third largest destination for the jobseekers, while 41,146 migrants went to Saudi Arabia during the same time.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), which did not hire Bangladeshi male workers for three years, has

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MIGRATION IN NUMBERS (TILL NOV 10)

MALE WORKERS

Oman	1,03,637
Qatar	1,01,313
Singapore	45,378

FEMALE WORKERS

UAE	21,410
Jordan	18,049
KSA	11,054

SOURCE: BUREAU OF MANPOWER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Man killed for protest against drunkenness

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Criminals yesterday hacked a man to death in front of his family in Pabna district town for protesting against drinking near his house.

The victim, Shudhanshu Boshak, 55, son of Nimai Boshak of Radhanagar Rathghar, was a trader of brass-made goods and part-timer of a restaurant.

Shudhanshu's wife Taposhi Boshak said some six to seven men of Monzil, an alleged drinker, entered their house around 3:00pm and stabbed her husband mercilessly when Shudhanshu was going to his workplace [restaurant].

"Monzil along with others often drink near the house. Heavily drunk, he was lying near the house yesterday noon. When my husband found him

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Facebook says 'no' to request for user info

STAR REPORT

Popular social networking site Facebook turned down all the requests of the Bangladesh government for information about users in the first half of this year.

The government made three requests about as many users between January and June, according to Global Government Requests Report released by the site yesterday.

Since the introduction of the report in 2013, the government made 16 requests about 37 users/accounts, but the social media giant declined them all.

The site, upon request from the government, restricted access in Bangladesh to three contents "reported under local

Folk music fest begins

Big turnout on opening night

FAHMIM FERDOUS

The army stadium in the capital has long served more as a concert venue than a sports arena, but the sights at the venue on the opening night of the three-day Dhaka International Folk Festival -- presented by Meril -- were extraordinary yesterday.

Even at midnight, tens of thousands filled the arena with buoyant energy, as folk musicians from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan gave enthralling performances one after another.

Pallavi Dance Centre, led by noted dancer-choreographer Minu Haque, opened the festival,

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Indian singer Papon enthalls the audience with his performance on the opening night of the three-day Dhaka International Folk Festival at the capital's army stadium last night.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Modi visits UK amid protests

Becomes first Indian PM to address British parliament, signs trade deals

AGENCIES

Britain and India welcomed billions of pounds worth of trade deals during a visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but his arrival yesterday was overshadowed by protests over a perceived rise in intolerance back home.

Modi got a warm welcome by British Prime Minister David Cameron, who has tried to cultivate closer ties with India to secure business opportunities in a fast-growing economy at a time when Modi has been prioritising other relationships.

For his part, Modi is seeking to restore his authority on the world stage after a defeat for his party in Bihar polls. He appealed to business to invest in a more transparent India in a speech at the Guildhall.

Modi is on a three-day visit to Britain, the first by an Indian prime minister in nearly 10 years. He will meet Queen Elizabeth II today and address a huge rally at

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BNP to resist bid to remove Zia's grave

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will put up resistance if the government attempts to remove the grave of party founder Ziaur Rahman from Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban area.

"It will be a disgraceful chapter in the country's politics if the government removes Zia's grave," BNP Vice-chairman Maj (ret'd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed said yesterday at a programme organised by Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka.

The central leader of the opposition also urged the

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HISTORIC ELECTION IN MYANMAR

Military offers olive branch to Suu Kyi

Pledges smooth power transfer; Obama congratulates the democracy icon, urges 'inclusive' govt

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's military establishment yesterday pledged to ensure a smooth transition of power as Aung San Suu Kyi's pro-democracy party stood on the verge of a crushing election win.

The country has been dominated by the military for half a century through direct junta rule and -- since 2011 -- by a quasi-civilian government run by its allies.

But the balance of power is almost certain to shift to Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD).

It has captured more than 80 percent of seats declared so far from Sunday's election -- a huge stride in the party's long democracy struggle.

By yesterday afternoon the NLD was just 38 seats short of hitting the magical figure of 329 to claim a majority across both houses of parliament.

It appears set to smash through that marker and rack up a big majority, an outcome that appears to have prodded the conciliatory messages from the military and its political allies.

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His sufferings may end soon

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

The local administration will give land and construction materials to build a house for blind rickshaw-puller Monir Hossain, a story of whom was published in The Daily Star on Wednesday.

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CONDOLENCE



Abdul Awal, freedom fighter and retired secretary, passed away on 11 Nov 2015 at 7 am (Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un) at United Hospital Dhaka. He has left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter, three grand children and countless friends and well wishers. He was born on 1937 in Noakhali. He was the District Commissioner of Patuakhali in 1971 and Chittagong divisional commissioner in 1976. Please pray for the salvation of the deputed soul.

Mourning Family