



GLOBAL ENERGY INDEX

Big leap for Bangladesh

7 notches up in 2016: WEF

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh has made a significant progress in energy management and has moved seven notches up in the major global energy index, prepared and released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The Geneva-based WEF in its "Energy Architecture Performance Index (EAPI) 2016" put Bangladesh at 106, up from 112th position of last year.

The country also achieved a higher overall score for better energy management towards economic growth and development and environmental sustainability, reports BSS.

This year the country earned a total score of 0.50 on a scale from 0-1 against last year's score of 0.45. Progress has also been made in economic growth and development (from 0.52 to 0.63), environmental sustainability (from 0.39 to 0.44) and energy access and security (from 0.44 to 0.45).

The EAPI ranks countries on their ability to deliver secure, affordable and sustainable energy.

Switzerland topped the index followed by Norway with

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People of the Chakma community performing their traditional Phulbiju near Changhi Bridge in Khagrachhari yesterday. This is part of the biggest social festival Baisabi of the indigenous people of Chittagong Hill Tracts that celebrate the New Year.

PHOTO: KAFIL MAHMUD

Pajon aroma in the hills for Biju

TRIBENI CHAKMA

Turu turu tururu baji bajette
Para para berebong bekku miline

Eichha biju biju biju...
(Turu turu flute is playing, We will roam together around in the neighbourhood, Today is Biju)

While this popular Tanchangya song is being played in many houses of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the women of ethnic communities get busy with the preparations for Pajon on the day before the New Year.

Pajon is a special vegetables dish without which the Chakma and Tripura New Year Biju and Baisuk, respectively, becomes incomplete.

It is also popular among the Marma community who call their New Year Sangrain.

Together the main day of
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MASSIVE LAND PURCHASE IN BANSHKHALI

Locals were kept in dark about power plant

PINAKI ROY with DWAIPAYAN BARUA and PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY

S Alam Group, the company at the centre of Banshkhali row, bought land in Gondamara union in the name of textiles and vegetable oil companies and then started developing it as a site for a coal-fired power plant.

The group, however, did not have the site clearance for the plant.

A letter from Banshkhali upazila land office of Chittagong says 660.40 acres of land have been bought by the group's two companies -- Genesis Textile Accessories and Apparels Ltd and S Alam Vegetable Oil Ltd.

A copy of the letter, addressed to

assistant commissioner (land) of Banshkhali, has been obtained by The Daily Star.

The group wanted 5,000 acres of land in Gondamara for 1,320 megawatt electricity plant and other industrial projects, according to the letter signed on November 5, 2015 by the

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MOBILE SIM HC clears biometric registration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared way for the mobile carriers to continue with the biometric registration of SIM cards.

Declaring the biometric registration system of SIM cards legal, the court ordered the authorities concerned to strictly

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NEWS ANALYSIS

5,000 MORE AUTOS FOR DHAKA

Govt move runs counter to STP

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The road transport and bridges ministry's move to allow 5000 more CNG-run auto-rickshaws on the city roads runs counter to the Strategic Transport Plan (STP) for Dhaka that holds small vehicles largely responsible for traffic congestion.

Moreover, the sudden move does not go with the spirit of a law made in 2012 to set up the Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority. The law puts the onus on the

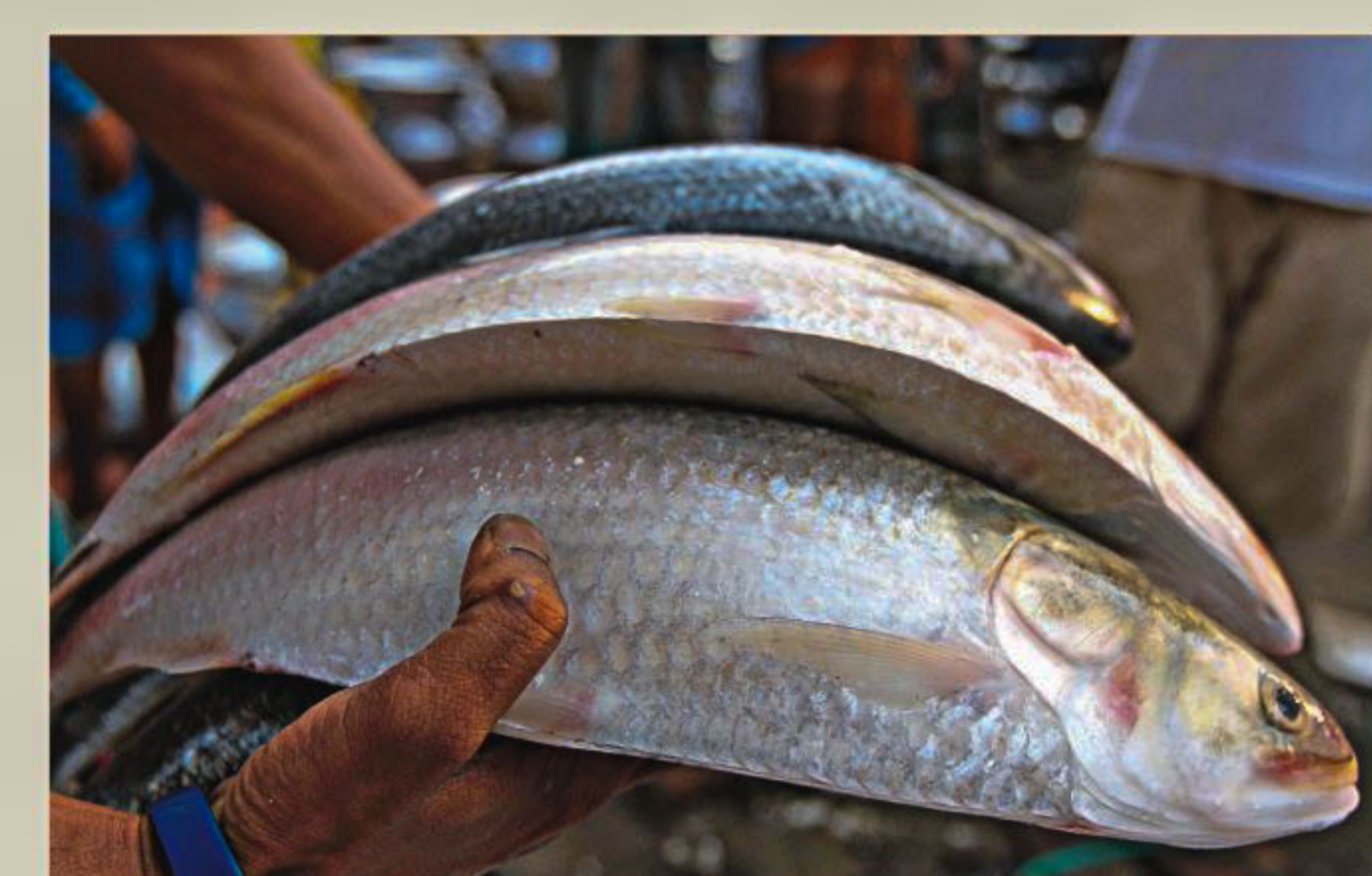
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Clarification, our reply

The road transport and bridges ministry yesterday sent a clarification for a report published in The Daily Star on April 12 with the headline "Public bus, not auto rickshaw".

The ministry said the Road Transport and Highways Division had sought opinions of different ministries and departments regarding the approval of 5,000 CNG-run auto-rickshaw licenses in line

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A trader asking for Tk 26,000 for two pairs of hilsa at Merul Badda fish market in the city on Monday. The price of hilsa has shot up due to shortage of supply and high demand ahead of Pahela Baishakh.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

PAHELA BAISHAKH No hilsa on PM's menu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has decided to strike hilsa off tomorrow's menu at her official residence, Gono Bhaban, in an effort to discourage people from having jatka (hilsa fry) on Pahela Baishakh.

Khichuri, fried brinjal, egg and chicken curry would be on the menu.

"By dropping hilsa from her menu on Pahela Baishakh, the prime minister has

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TOP QUOTE

"In Bangladesh, opposition party usually comes to power next time. But we have failed to become a real opposition party; we have rather become a domestic opposition party."

JATIYA PARTY CHIEF
HM ERSHAD
ADDRESSING A PROGRAMME AT HIS BANANI OFFICE

Evening ban to limit festivity

Nari Nirapotta Jote slates DMP restriction on Pahela Baishakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Slapping a ban on outdoor programmes in the evening of Pahela Baishakh should not be a way to protect women; it will only add fuel to extremism opposed to women's freedom, rights activists said yesterday.

At a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital, they criticised Dhaka Metropolitan Police's decision not to allow celebrations of Bangla New Year in public places after 5:00pm on Thursday.

"Such a step surely indicates that they (government) are giving in to the extremists and standing against free thoughts and the spirit of freedom and universality of the Liberation War," said Sultana Kamal, convenor of Nari Nirapotta Jote.

The Jote was formed by some 150 individuals and

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Sohag returns after 16 days

Says he was kept blindfolded at unknown place

RAFIUL ISLAM, from Comilla

Mizanur Rahman Sohag, a friend of Sohagi Jahan Tonu's younger brother, was released by his abductors early yesterday, 16 days after he was picked up from his house in Burichang upazila of Comilla by a group of men posing as law enforcers.

Sohag's relatives and neighbours found him on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway, around 200 yards off his home at Narayansar village around 5:30am.

The abductors dropped him there from a microbus, and he was in the same dress -- a lungi and a

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