



AMAN RICE OUTPUT

Production hits a new high of 1.35cr tonnes due to higher acreage

PAGE B1

JOOP SWART MASTERCLASS

Bangladeshi photographer selected for the prestigious int'l programme

PAGE 9

'HAPPINESS HAS NO PRICE'

It's also not a mobile phone app that can be downloaded, pope tells teenagers

PAGE 8

Fuel oil prices cut by Tk 3-10

PER LITRE	KEROSENE	DIESEL	OCTANE	PETROL
PREVIOUS PRICE (TK)	68	68	99	96
PRESENT PRICE (TK)	65	65	89	86

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has cut the prices of octane and petrol by Tk 10 a litre and diesel and kerosene by Tk 3 per litre to pass on to consumers the benefit of low fuel prices on the international market.

The price reduction would take effect at midnight, Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, told reporters at the secretariat yesterday.

The ministry issued a notice to this effect.

The price of diesel and kerosene has been reduced to Tk 65 from Tk 68 a litre, octane to Tk 89 from Tk 99 and petrol to Tk 86 from Tk 96.

On March 31, the government cut the price of furnace oil, mostly used by industries and power plants, by more than 30 percent to Tk 42 a litre. The prices of diesel, petrol and octane were not adjusted at that time.

The cut came after the finance ministry sent a proposal to the energy ministry to slash the prices of octane, petrol, diesel and kerosene.

The finance ministry proposed cutting the prices of octane and petrol by 15 percent and that of diesel and kerosene by 25 percent.

Yesterday's cut was part of a government plan to reduce the fuel prices in three phases, according to energy ministry officials.

Further reduction in fuel prices would be made if consumers benefit from this price cut and the prices of products and services that depend on oil ultimately go down, they said.

The energy ministry is particularly interested in seeing whether the transport fares drop following the price cuts in the first phase.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Kurshida Bewa, who lost her 19-year-old son Shanto in the Rana Plaza tragedy, wails in front of the site of the disaster on its 3rd anniversary yesterday. At least 1,134 people -- mostly garment workers -- were killed and several hundred others were injured after the multi-storey building came crashing down in Savar on the outskirts of the capital in 2013.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Probe failure to blame

Victims' families, colleagues say about killings of 4 RU teachers in 12 years

ANWAR ALI, RAJSHAHI

Rajshahi University teachers are getting murdered one after another because the real perpetrators are not being tried, according to victim families and colleagues of the slain teachers.

Prof AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee, who was hacked to death in Rajshahi city on Saturday, is the fourth RU teacher to have been killed in the last 12 years.

Their families and colleagues claimed that a proper trial of the previous killings and punishment of the killers could have saved Prof Rezaul.

"The real killers are never traced and punished due to the lack of proper investigations. As a result, our teachers are being killed one after another," said RU Vice-chancellor Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin yesterday.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Murdered, then falsely labelled

Family, locals reject 'IS claim' that slain RU teacher promoted atheism, say he was a believer, kind to people of all religions

ANWAR ALI, back from Bagmara

While a reported statement of Islamic State labelled him as a promoter of atheism, Prof AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee was a believer who was kind to everyone irrespective of religion, according to his family members and people of his home village.

Apart from organising folk music programmes and sports competitions in his village Dorgamaria under Bagmara upazila, Prof Rezaul contributed for a mosque and a madrasa there.

Recently, he spent Tk 1.5 lakh for the mosque's renovation. He also donated a handsome amount for turning the tin-shed structure of the madrasa into a building and the work is going on. He had promised more, locals said.

The 58-year-old professor of English at Rajshahi University also established a music school in the village. It was built of bamboo, palm leaf and tin sheet.

"We never had enough money. But my father used to donate for

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



TOP! QUOTE
"This murder is a direct attack upon intelligence, culture and spirit of generosity, which were what Professor Karim was representing."

EMBASSY OF FRANCE IN DHAKA
ON THE BRUTAL KILLING OF RU TEACHER AFM REZAUL KARIM SIDDIQUEE

3 YEARS OF RANA PLAZA DISASTER

Time yet to heal victims' families

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The 24th has become part of Shahida Begum's life. It is the date she goes to the Rana Plaza site every month, be it in the scorching heat, rain or cold.

She spends some time alone at debris-strewn disaster site in Savar remembering her daughter who worked there until her last day.

She was never found. "Coming here I can hear my daughter's call as if she is calling me right here," said the weeping mother in her 40s. She was at the site yesterday, the day when the nine-storey building collapsed three years ago.

"I feel like my daughter is still alive. She cannot slip away anywhere. How could you slip away?" said the mother and passed out. Regaining conscious after a while, Shahida

said, "Where have you gone ma...?"

Like Shahida, family members and relatives of Rana Plaza victims, with photographs of their loved ones, thronged the site and shed tears.

It was the third anniversary of the country's deadliest industrial disaster that claimed at least 1,136 lives and left over 2,000 others injured.

More than 50 are still unaccounted for. Many wailed and some sobbed where their loved ones had toiled day and night stitching clothes for global brands.

Some recited holy verses, some shared their agonies with others and some lit incense sticks. A huge number of onlookers came and talked to the victims' families and took photographs.

Many expressed anger for not getting

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



"Tread softly because you tread on my dreams," Yeats once wrote in one of his love poems. There is no knowing on whose dreams Rezaul Karim treaded, but he treaded this campus for 33 years of his teaching life and before that as a student. But he will tread no more. In this August 26, 2015, photo, taken by his student Atik Hossain Zisan, the professor of English is seen walking on the RU campus.

'PLOT TO KILL JOY' Police claim Shafik named three others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday claimed that journalist Shafik Rehman disclosed the names of at least three more people involved in the alleged plot "to kidnap and kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy".

"He [Shafik Rehman] revealed the names of at least three people. We are verifying the information. They will be arrested if we find evidence against them," Monirul Islam, additional commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told reporters in city's DMP media centre.

He did not name any of the trio but claimed that they were Bangladeshis and had links with BNP politics.

Some of them live in Bangladesh and some abroad, he said.

Shafik, who is now on a five-day remand in the second phase, also gave police vital information about the source of money

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Hyderabad mentor VVS Laxman celebrates with Mustafizur Rahman

PHOTO: SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Fizz fever in IPL goes viral

SPORTS REPORTER

"Bangladesh is privileged to have Mustafizur Rahman," Sunrisers Hyderabad captain David Warner said after Mustafizur's superb spell of nine for two in four overs set up an emphatic win over Kings XI Punjab in Saturday's Indian Premier League (IPL) match.

The Bangladeshi eyes eagerly watching the telecast could have told him right then that they are aware of the privilege and count themselves lucky to have Fizz in their team. Since his international debut exactly a year ago on April 24, 2015 in the T20I against Pakistan, swiftly followed by 11 wickets in his first two ODIs that brought about a maiden series win over India, he has been treated like the precious gem that he is. A thought uppermost in the minds not only of the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Hindu priest murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A Hindu priest died on Saturday, a day after he was stabbed by a local youth in Tungipara of Gopalganj.

Police arrested the youth identified as Shariful Sheikh, 25, in the murder case filed by the victim's son.

The dead, Paramananda Roy, 70, of Dakkhin Bashuria village under Kushali union, used to read out to people from religious books at different programmes in the area, family members said.

He was returning home on Friday afternoon from a market near Gimadanga village. As he reached a bridge around 6:30pm, Shariful stabbed him in the abdomen and the right hand with a knife, the victim told his family members before his death.

Local people rushed him to Tungipara Upazila Health Complex, from where he was shifted to Khulna Medical College Hospital, said the priest's grandson Mukesh.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1