

FINALLY

"Speechless"  
Bob Dylan says  
he accepts his  
Nobel Prize

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## Promises not kept

Rice compensation yet to reach fishermen in 19 days of 22-day ban on hilsa fishing; ministries trade blames

PINAKI ROY

Hundreds of fishermen in coastal and other districts are passing hard days, as they are yet to get the promised food support in compensation from the government for not catching hilsa during the ongoing ban.

The reasons for the delay in the rice distribution range from mismanagement of the local authorities to a lack of coordination between the ministries concerned.

The government imposed a countrywide ban on fishing, selling, hoarding and transport of hilsa from October 12 to November 2. During the ban, each fisherman family was to get 20kg VGF (vulnerable group feeding) rice as compensation.

Nineteen days of the 22-day ban have already passed but many fishermen did not get any rice.

As a result, hundreds of fishermen from Chittagong, Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Barguna, Pabna, Sirajganj, Rajshahi and Manikganj are facing severe financial hardship. Many of them find it difficult to make ends meet.

And as many of them went fishing defying the ban, they were arrested, fined and even jailed, and thousands of metres of their valuable nets were burnt.

"The ban is nearing its end. But we are yet to get any rice. Some fishermen are now working as day

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A fisherman holding his registration card



Bangladesh off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz wears a broad grin on his face after getting England batsman Jonny Bairstow trapped in front of the stumps during the second day of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday. The youngster's six-wicket haul got the visitors all out for 244 before the hosts ended the day at 152 for three in their second innings.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Tigers slightly ahead despite Mahmudullah madness

AL-AMIN

The roller coaster second Test at Mirpur which is merely an extension of the Chittagong Test produced yet another breathtaking contest on the second day yesterday when fortunes fluctuated from one end to the other. At the end of three captivating sessions, which

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## Pump owners call off strike

Govt assures them of considering demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The owners of filling stations yesterday withdrew their indefinite strike that was scheduled to start from today.

They came up with the decision following the government's assurance of considering their demands that include reduction of lease fees for land, an increase in sales

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## AL keeping party, govt separate?

10 ministers, state ministers dropped from central working committee

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The ruling Awami League has decided to draw a distinction between the party and the government and accordingly dropped 10 ministers and state ministers from its new central working committee.

The decision was made to strengthen the AL, keeping in mind the next national election in 2019.

"We took the decision in principle to separate the government from the party. The prime minister recently informed us of her

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TOP QUOTE

"The people of Bangladesh are exposed to severe harm due to smuggling of drugs from the neighbouring country."

HOME MINISTER ASADUZZAMAN KHAN ABOUT YABA FACTORIES IN MYANMAR

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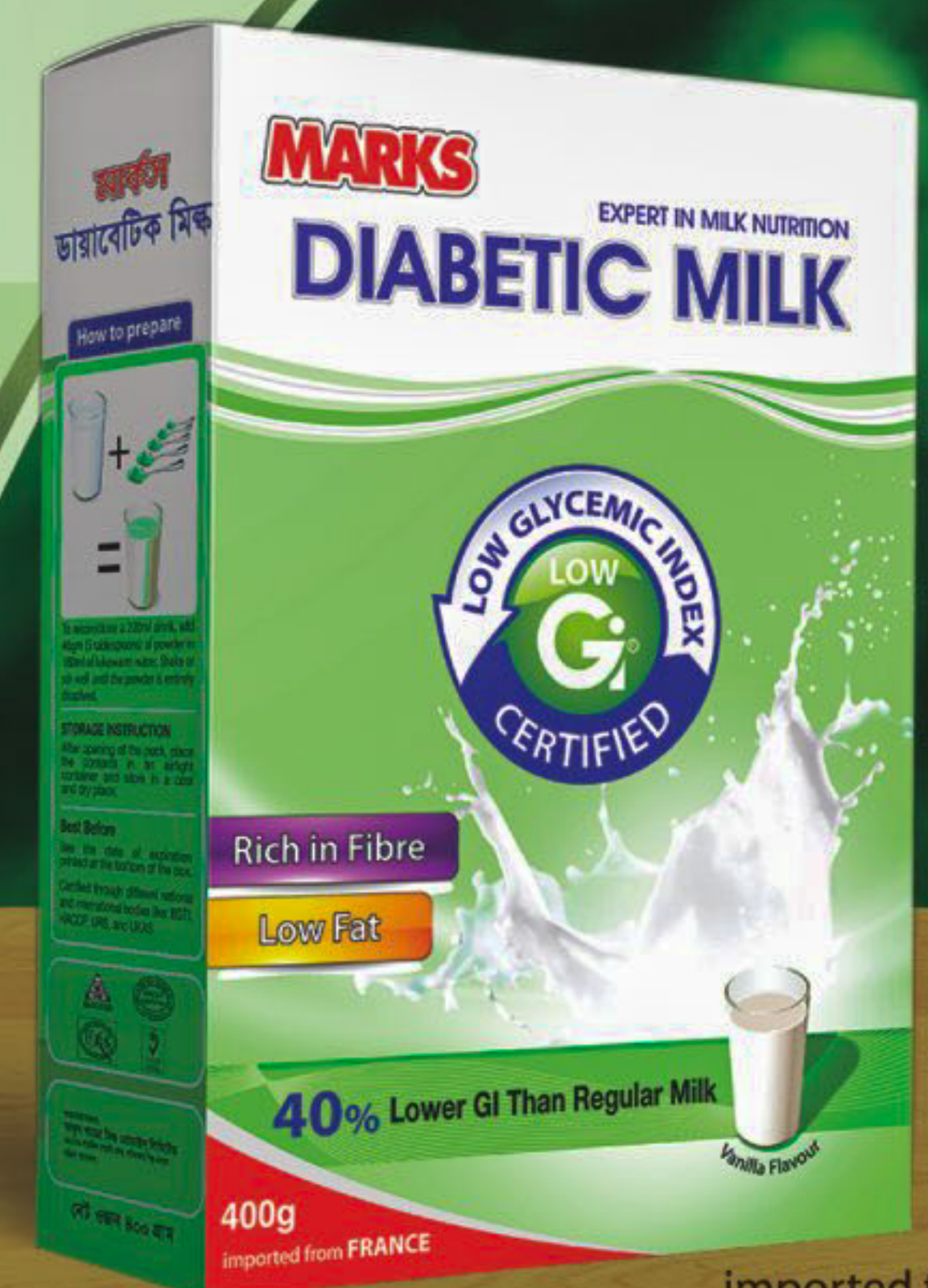
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