

কিডনী ডায়ালাইসিস মাত্র ২,৩০০ টাকা!
 প্রথম বছরে ৯৯,০৯৮ ডায়ালাইসিস সম্পন্ন।
 SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center
 ফার্মিংহাম রোড, ৭০ স্ট্রীটসিড, পল্লবপুর মেডিকেল ফোন: +৮৮০-২-৯৬৪২৯৭
 Hotline: 01991150900

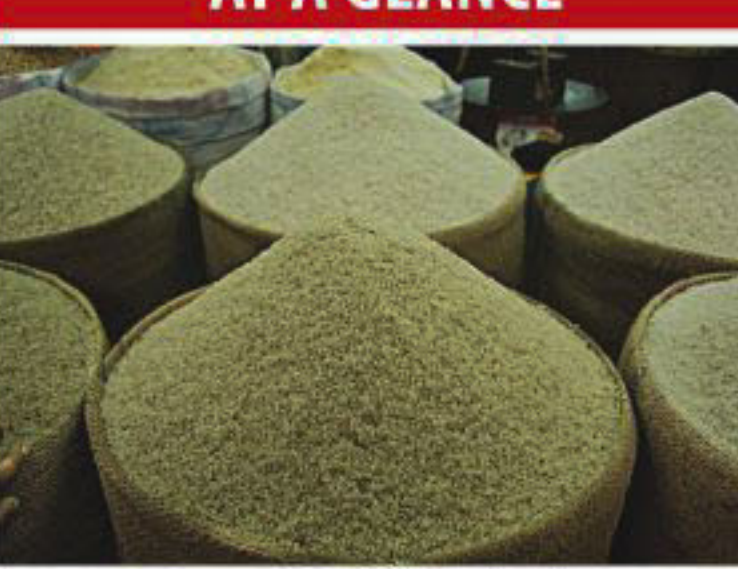
star BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY APRIL 23, 2017, BAISHAKH 10, 1424 BS

Rice stocks dip at public warehouses

SOHEL PARVEZ
 Rice stocks at public warehouses have fallen to 3.59 lakh tonnes, which is the lowest in six years, owing to less than targeted procurement in the last two seasons and increased distribution. Total food grain stocks stood at 5.46 lakh tonnes, the lowest since fiscal 2009-10, according to food ministry data. The low level of stocks has created worries that millers and traders may cash in on the situation by increasing prices of the staple. Rice prices edged up early this month, as large millers and traders banked on the loss of paddy at the hoar regions in the country's northwest. "Food grain stocks send some signals to millers. For them, low stock means that the government cannot intervene in the market quickly to curb the price spiral," said Towfiqul Islam Khan, a research fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). The present cereal stock is almost half of last year's level of 11.15 lakh tonnes. Analysts have suggested keeping the stock at a minimum of 10 lakh

AT A GLANCE



- Rice stocks at public warehouses fell to **3.59** lakh tonnes, a six-year low
- Total food grain stocks stood at **5.46** lakh tonnes
- The present cereal stock is almost half of last year's level of **11.15** lakh tonnes
- Crop loss in the hoar regions is estimated to be **4.5** lakh tonnes
- Policymakers should take a closer look at the stock situation and calibrate the targets for boro season procurement accordingly, CPD says

tonnes of grains, particularly rice, so that the government can intervene quickly to stabilise the market. Food officials have, however, brushed aside fears of a further price spiral, saying that boro harvests have begun. "Farmers have started bagging crops. There will be no scope for millers to raise prices by capitalising on the situation," said Md Badrul Hasan, director general of the Directorate General of Food. Crop loss in the hoar regions is estimated to be 4.5 lakh tonnes, which is 2.3 percent of the total boro rice production target of 1.91 crore tonnes this season, he added. The CPD, in its State of the Bangladesh Economy in 2016-17 report, said the rising rice price in recent months in the backdrop of declining public stocks appears to be the major cause that is pushing food inflation upwards. The price of coarse rice in Dhaka was 6.49 percent higher at Tk 40-42 a kilogram on Thursday, compared to a month ago.

Over 42pc Rana Plaza survivors still jobless: survey

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
 Over 42 percent of the survivors of the Rana Plaza building collapse are still unemployed because of physical and mental weaknesses even after four years of the industrial disaster, according to a survey. Of the total unemployed, 48.1 percent are physically weak and 33.4 percent psychologically, according to the survey by ActionAid Bangladesh. The country office of the international non-governmental organisation released the outcomes of the survey—Unforgettable and unforgivable: Rana Plaza—at an event at Brac Centre Inn yesterday. More than 1,135 workers were killed and nearly 2,400 injured in the country's deadliest industrial disaster when the Rana Plaza building in Savar caved in on April 24, 2013.

4G auction after budget: Muhith

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON, from Washington DC
 The auction of the 4G spectrum will take place after the announcement of the national budget for next fiscal year, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said. The minister spoke after a meeting with Sigve Brekke, president and CEO of Telenor Group, which owns the majority stakes in Bangladesh's largest mobile phone operator Grameenphone. The Telenor Group chief met with Muhith on a courtesy call on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings at Washington in the US. Since Muhith raised the allegation of frequent call drops in voice services, Brekke informed the minister that the allocated spectrum for Grameenphone had been divided into two parts— voice and data services. There are unused capacities in data services, while there are over capacities in voice services that result in the call drops, Brekke said. If the regulator gave more spectrums, the Telenor or the Grameenphone would not have to set aside something for data and something for voice services. "They [operators] want it as soon as possible; I also want to give it soon."



AMA Muhith
 He said: "Our knowledge in the sector is very poor. But the changes are happening very fast in the world." Muhith said the 4G auction was delaying due mainly to disagreement between the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) and the operators on spectrum price. The BTRC wants to set a high price for the spectrum while the operators want it to be low, he said.

Wheat imports poised to rise

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
 Bangladesh's wheat imports may go up to 57 lakh tonnes in 2016-17 due to record low prices in the international market and comparatively high prices in the local market, said the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently. The country imported 43.66 lakh tonnes of wheat in fiscal 2015-16, according to data from the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit of the food ministry. The forecast came after import of the grain rose 45 percent year-on-year to 44.75 lakh tonnes in July-March of fiscal 2016-17. The private sector accounted for 94 percent of the total wheat imports during the period, the ministry's data showed. The USDA said Bangladesh meets 75 percent of its wheat consumption needs through imports, sourcing lower quality wheat from Russia and Ukraine, and higher quality wheat from Canada, Australia and the US. Citing trade sources, it said about 40 percent of wheat imported was sourced from Russia and 30 percent from Ukraine during 2016-17. "Bangladesh is known as a price sensitive wheat market and typically imports low-cost wheat. The small premium Bangladesh importers are willing to pay for better wheat is usually less than the additional cost of freight from distant origins. As a result, premium wheat from the United States is generally uncompetitive," said the USDA. For fiscal 2017-18, import is likely to rise to 59 lakh tonnes, it said. The import forecast is higher than that in the previous year due to changing food consumption habits, fast urbanisation, and expected lower prices in international markets, said the US agency in a report released on April 18. The USDA, however, cut its estimate on wheat production to 12.75 lakh tonnes for fiscal 2016-17 because of a decline in plantation last winter. "Fear of wheat blast dissuaded some farmers from planting wheat," it said.

Edison Group plans big

It wants to increase presence in many consumer segments

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM
 Edison, the parent company of mobile handset brand Symphony, hopes to invest a few hundred crore taka in different sectors of the Bangladeshi economy in the next eighteen months, ranging from e-commerce to electrical appliances, says its top executive. "Our target is to increase our presence in many consumer segments," says the group's Managing Director Jakaria Shahid. "We aim to have a substantial larger footprint in Bangladesh within a few years." According to its website, the group's annual turnover stood at \$298 million in 2014, with growth of 21 percent over the previous year. In 2014, the group employed more than 1,000 people. Edison is now investing in manufacturing, real estate, the leather industry, distribution and power transformers, among others. The company has opened an export-oriented footwear factory in Gazipur at a cost of about Tk 80 crore. "By 2020, we plan to have invested about Tk 50 crore in power transmission and distribution businesses, with a factory already established in Keraniganj for this pur-



Jakaria Shahid
 pose," says Shahid. There are also plans for brickworks to be set up at Sreenagar in Munshiganj, in partnership with international company Hexagon. Edison has already established itself in the city's real estate sector and is aiming to increase mobile handset market share from 40 to 45 percent by 2020. "Our smartphone sales are growing rapidly and will account for close to half the country's total handset sales within three years," says Shahid. Meanwhile, a plan to establish a device assembly plant has been shelved due to the country's tax structure which Shahid says is unfavourable to such kind of investment. "Because most of the mobile phone components are imported from China, we don't think much value addition in Bangladesh will be possible at this stage," he says. At present there is a 25 percent tax on handset imports, while the duty on equipment is 45 percent. However, if the government takes a strategic decision to foster assembly plants with a friendlier tax structure, Edison will reconsider. "For an assembly plant to be internationally competitive, import duty on equipment would need to be below 5 percent," he says.

Govt to give incentives to job-creating sectors

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
 The government plans to provide special incentives to those involved in the agriculture and export sectors, and businesses that are creating jobs, according to the chairman of the National Board of Revenue. "The new budget will be more business-oriented and some sectors will be given special incentives as per the advice of the prime minister," said Md Nojibur Rahman. He made the remarks at a workshop on income tax and value added tax organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) at its auditorium in the capital. The new VAT law will be implemented from July 1, said Rahman. "It is a law of high quality and there is scope to provide incentives to businessmen. The new VAT system is mostly online-based," he added.

Moosa gets two weeks to appear before investigators

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
 The Customs Intelligence has granted two weeks to controversial businessman Moosa bin Shamsher to appear before a committee investigating his alleged involvement in using a car registered with fake documents. The field office of the National Board of Revenue granted the additional time after Moosa appealed for it citing sickness. The businessman will have to appear on May 7 before investigators to submit statement and documents in self-defence to help probe a case for using a Range Rover, which was brought into the country by evading duties.

MTB এমটিবি এক্সেস ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
 সাক্ষী ও সাক্ষিত হিচাব, মাসিক ও মেয়াদী সঞ্চয় একাউন্ট, নগদ অর্থ অ্যাকাউন্ট ও ডেবিট কার্ড, বৈদেশিক রেমিট্যান্স, কৃষি ঋণ প্রদান, মুদ্রা ও মাঝারি ঋণ প্রদান, ইন্টারনেট ও এপএল ব্যাংকিং, মাসিক ও মেয়াদী সঞ্চয় একাউন্ট, অর্থ স্থানান্তর (BEFTN), বিদ্যুৎ ও গ্যাস বিল প্রদান, ডেবিট ও ক্রেডিট কার্ড প্রদান, স্মার্ট কার্ড কি প্রদান, মুদ্রা ব্যাংকিং

Within 24 Hours Every Where In BANGLADESH Free Home Delivery
BIZLI CABLES connect safely
99.99% PURE COPPER
 101% copper conductivity, Used RoHS compliant, Operating Temperature 90°C, Short Circuit temperature 250°C, Lead free, AC voltage 12.5 KV, CPRI Certified
 Call for Home Delivery 09613 737 777
 www.rfeshop.com

বর্ষবরণ উপসর্গ
১৮% পর্যন্ত ছাড়!!
 সকল ফার্নিচারে সারা দেশে ৫ এপ্রিল থেকে ১৫ মে, ২০১৭ পর্যন্ত
PARTEX FURNITURE total care
 Customer Care: 01708 462391
 EMI Facility of Different Banks is Available
 WBEQ-169 WN-03+BK, WTDR-169 WN-03+BK | WBSD-169 WN-03+BK
 www.partextargroup.com