

Coarse rice price soars

42pc rise in a year; govt to import 3 lakh tonnes of rice on urgent basis

- Govt's rice stock hits 6-year low (2.5 lakh tonnes)
- 3 international tenders floated for rice import
- Rice prices in int'l market too showing upward trend

REAZ AHMAD
 Among the essential commodities, coarse rice price registered the highest rise in the last one year, according to the state-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) which keeps track of prices of daily necessities.
 Prices of coarse rice, mostly consumed by the poor and people of lower-middle income groups, went up 42 percent since June last year.
 Even though the private sector imported one lakh tonne of rice during that time, paying 25 percent import duty, the price of a kg of coarse rice was Tk 45-46 this week. In the first week of June 2016, it was Tk 30-34 a kg.
 Though prices of finer and medium quality rice varieties
 SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Illegal extraction of stone continues in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila destroying the environment. An administrative order directed 12 local traders last month to stop digging and filling up the already dug-up trenches, but the traders didn't comply. Such pits have been dug on around 50 acres of land in the upazila. The photo was taken at the Piyain river in Jaflong yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



England in semifinals

Beat NZ by 87 runs

AFP, Cardiff
 Mark Wood took the key wicket of Kane Williamson as England booked their place in the semifinals of the Champions Trophy with an 87-run win over New Zealand at Cardiff on Tuesday.
 New Zealand, set 311 for victory, finished on 223 all out with 39 balls left.
 They were in the hunt while captain Williamson, fresh from a hundred in the Blackcaps' opening rain-marred no result against Australia, was making 87.
 But fast bowler Wood made the key breakthrough to dismiss the star batsman. Then, as happened after Williamson's departure
 SEE PAGE 30 COL 1

Improve labour rights to retain GSP benefit

EU letter calls on govt; urges changes in relevant laws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The European Union has called on Bangladesh to show tangible progress on labour rights to avoid temporarily losing the generalised system of preferences (GSP) benefit that allows the country duty-free export to the 28-nation economic bloc.
 "This will be essential for Bangladesh to remain eligible for the Everything But Arms regime," said the EU in a letter to the government on May 31.
 The letter came less than two weeks after the third review meeting of sustainability compact, which took place in Dhaka on May 18.
 It was sent to the secretaries of foreign, commerce and labour ministries, venting dissatisfaction as Bangladesh did not reply to its previous letter of March 16.
 Dhaka did not present any time-bound
 SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Sniffer dogs join cargo screening

CAAB deploys them at Shahjalal airport after EU slaps curbs on goods from Bangladesh

REZAUUL KARIM AND RASHIDUL HASAN
 The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh yesterday for the first time started using bomb detection dogs in cargo screening at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.
 It took the step after the European Union, according to official sources, put Bangladesh on the list of high-risk countries in terms of operating cargo services to the EU countries.
 Business leaders said the CAAB has been late to introduce the measure as a proper bomb detection system was already
 SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Muhith defends excise duty on bank deposits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Defending his proposal for higher excise duty on bank deposits, Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said it was simply that the annual tax, which had been in place for several years, was slightly increased for the next fiscal year.
 Excise duties on all types of bank deposits, including deposits under pension schemes and fixed deposits, have been increased on average 67 percent in
 SEE PAGE 30 COL 5

Unexamined, yet it gets JS nod

SHAKHAWAT LITON
 The Jatiya Sangsad has ignored again its rules of procedure by denying a parliamentary body to examine the reasons behind Tk 18,370 crore additional expenditure by ministries in the current financial year.
 As many as 26 ministries and divisions spent the money in excess of the allocations made by the House in the current fiscal year. After spending the additional money, they came to parliament seeking its approval.
 Without questioning them about the expense, the House yesterday passed Tk 18,370 crore supplementary budget after holding a brief discussion.
 Twelve lawmakers participated in the discussion that
 SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Gesturing to the driver to go slow, a jaywalker plunges among the speeding traffic to cross the street at the capital's Banglamotor intersection yesterday afternoon. Many others like him cross the road in the area every day although a footbridge, not in picture, is just a few yards away.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

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