

Bangladesh leads in solar home systems

4m systems installed in the country out of 6m worldwide till 2016

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Bangladesh has topped a global list of countries that have installed the highest number of Solar Home Systems (SHS).

With four million of the systems set up so far, the country is also at the forefront of nations using clean stoves and biogas plants, and promoting the cause of renewable energy that constitutes a fifth of the world's final power consumption. This growth in renewable energy use also helped increase employment in

● Bangladesh ranked 5th in terms of installing domestic biogas plants

● 45,610 biogas plants installed in Bangladesh so far

● Country among top five users of clean cooking stoves

● Jobs in Bangladesh solar sector saw a 10% rise in 2016

Bangladesh. "As of 2016, more than 6 million SHS and kits were in operation worldwide, with 25 million people benefiting from them. Bangladesh, the largest SHS market worldwide, now has more than 4 million units installed," said the just released "Renewables 2017 Global Status Report".

Paris-based energy think-tank, REN21, brought out the report with financing from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the German

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A torn sheet of a metal barrier on Khilgaon flyover sticks out precariously over a traffic lane yesterday afternoon. The authorities concerned seem to be oblivious to the danger on one of the busiest flyovers in the capital.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



Bowlers see India thru'

Likely to face Bangladesh in semis

AFP, London

India swept into the Champions Trophy semi-finals and eliminated woe-ful South Africa as Shikhar Dhawan and Virat Kohli inspired the holders' eight-wicket victory on Sunday. Unless there is a huge net run-rate swing after today's Sri Lanka-Pakistan game, it will be India as the table-toppers from Group B who Bangladesh, the Group A runners-up, will face in their

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Worries over VAT on packaged spices

SOHEL PARVEZ

People will have to pay more to buy packaged powders of spices due to the imposition of uniform 15 percent VAT on these essential cooking ingredients from July 1.

Mustard oil will also get pricier as 15 percent Value Added Tax has been slapped on it.

At present, mustard oil is exempted from VAT while Tk 6 has to be paid as VAT against an administered price of Tk 40 for each kilogram of packaged powders of spices.

The budget for fiscal 2017-18 also proposes an increase in supplementary duty on import of cinnamon, cumin, cloves, cardamom and black pepper by various rates.

However, soya bean, sunflower and rice brand oil have been exempted

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'JMB financier' held in N'ganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested a garment factory owner who it claimed is a Majlish-e-Shura (policy-making body) member of JMB's "Sarwar-Tamim Group" and also a major fund provider for the banned militant outfit.

A Rab-11 team arrested Imran Ahmed, 37, managing director of Jim Tex Linkage Industries Limited, and his accomplice Shamim Mia, 29, in a raid in Narayanganj's Rugganj area.

Shamim is Imran's driver. He used to

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Imran Ahmed

IMF identifies future risks for Bangladesh

Suggests actions from policymakers to keep economy stable

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and REAZ AHMAD

Considering the fast approaching general election in Bangladesh and a likely post-Brexit economic slowdown in Europe, the International Monetary Fund has identified seven risk areas where Dhaka needs to take policy measures.

Most importantly, political turmoil may return and security conditions could worsen, adversely affecting confidence,

investment and growth, the IMF says.

The global financial institution also identified a protracted slowdown in key export markets, particularly the European Union (EU), and a further weakening of remittance as important risk factors that Bangladesh needs to weigh well.

Following the visit of an IMF mission to Bangladesh in April, the executive board of the Washington-based organisation

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TOP QUOTE

"Around the world, there're still 168 million children in child labour. Eighty-five million of them are engaged in hazardous work."

ILO DIRECTOR-GENERAL GUY RYDER IN A STATEMENT ISSUED ON WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

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