



Whose rice is it anyway?

A day after seizure of 155 tonnes of 'stolen govt rice', food dept says stock in govt warehouses intact; one more truckload of rice found

ARUN BIKASH DEY and PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

As many as 155 tonnes of rice seized in the port city while being smuggled out of government depots was packed in jute sacks bearing the insignia of the Directorate General of Food.

The directorate, however, claimed the rice seized from seven trucks was not theirs.

Meanwhile, a Chittagong court yesterday sent the manager of the Halishahar central storage depot (CSD), from where the rice was allegedly stolen, and four truckers to jail

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



When money can buy a proxy inmate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Is Tk 2 lakh worth 17 months of a man's life? In Manikganj, this question was answered, in a failed attempt to recreate the story from the popular Bangla movie, Aynabaji.

In November 2013, a man identifying himself as Aynal Haque from Chak Palpara village of Singair surrendered to a trial court in connection with a rape case. For 17 months, he was gulfed in jail.

However, in 2014, he filed a petition with the High Court for scrapping the conviction in the case. Following the

petition, the HC issued a rule asking the government to explain why the trial court verdict should not be scrapped.

In a strange turn of events, the same year, one Aleya Begum claiming to be the convict's mother, filed another petition with the HC challenging the legality of the detention. In it, she mentioned that the person imprisoned was not actually Aynal but her son Arif Khan, a resident of the same area.

It turns out, Arif Khan had in fact opted to become a substitute criminal, a practice that traces its origins to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

No more unplanned development of city

Experts at WB-sponsored int'l conference suggest making Dhaka livable thru' proper planning, management

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A World Bank-sponsored international conference yesterday underscored the need for planned development of the upcoming new city on the eastern fringe of Dhaka.

The unplanned growth of Dhaka city has made it one of the world's most messy and dense cities with unpredictable congestion, said Qimiao Fan, the World Bank country director.

A well-planned east Dhaka could boost produc-

tivity and liveability, helping to relieve congestion in the rest of the capital. But with business as usual, doubling Dhaka would only double the current mess, he said.

"Dhaka's growth has taken place without adequate planning, which resulted in a city with poor liveability and vulnerability to disasters."

If the current trend continued, eastern Dhaka ran the risk of facing the same low productivity as the rest of the capital, Fan added. If properly

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

KEY PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS

- Traffic jam eats up 3.2 million working hours daily
- It costs the economy several billion dollars per year
- Average driving speed in Dhaka 7kmh, down from 21kmh 10 years ago
- Ensure dedicated lanes for bus as 47% people use them
- Build adequate footpaths as 20% people use them
- Preserve some 5,500 water retention areas in east Dhaka

Undocumented Bangladeshis to be 'rehired' KL assures Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Malaysia has given assurance to allow all the Bangladeshi workers staying illegally in the country to legalise their status under the current 'rehiring programme' which will continue till December 31.

Malaysian Immigration authorities have also said that they would not go for crackdown on illegal foreign workers, including the Bangladeshis, to facilitate them to register under the rehiring process.

The assurance came from the Director General of the Immigration Department Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali when government representatives from Bangladesh, India and Nepal met him on July 17 to request halting of the crackdown as well as allowing the illegal foreign workers to legalise their status.

A two-member Bangladeshi delegation led by High Commissioner Md Shahidul Islam attended the meeting.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Ctg, Benapole ports to stay open 24/7

Govt decision, taken to ease export-import, will take effect next month

STAR REPORTER

The government yesterday decided to keep Benapole and Chittagong ports operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week from next month with an aim to ease export and import activities.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to open the extended service at the country's largest land and sea ports on August 1, says a press release from the shipping ministry.

The decision, made in an inter-ministry meeting at the shipping ministry, came at a time when the Benapole port is facing a manpower crisis. At the Chittagong port, a shortage of jetties is making vessels wait at the outer anchorage for offloading.

Talking to The Daily Star, several officials and port users said the number of the staff must be increased and infrastructure of the ports developed if the authorities were to keep those open round-the-clock.

Contacted, Shipping Secretary Ashok Madhab Roy said the government made the decision following an order from Sheikh Hasina. The PM gave the order at a meeting with secretaries on July 2, he said.

Asked, he claimed it would be possible to run the ports 24/7 with the existing manpower.

Representatives from foreign ministry, home ministry, National Bureau

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

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BETWEEN

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FOR DEVELOPMENT OF

THE OASIS

AT ISPANAHANI COLONY

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MOGHABZAR, DHAKA | JULY 18, 2017



ABC Real Estate Limited - a concern of ABC is launching the most prestigious Gated Community Residential Complex "THE OASIS AT ISPANAHANI COLONY" in the heart of Dhaka at the grand old Ispanahi Colony, Moghbazar. A Joint Venture Development Agreement was signed between ABC and ISPANAHANI on 18th July, 2017 in a simple ceremony at ABC House, Banani, Dhaka. Managing Director of Ispanahi Group Mr. Mirza Sajid Ispanahi and Chairman of ABC Mr. Subhash Chandra Ghosh signed the Agreement on behalf of their respective organizations.

Architect Mostaqur Rahman, Director, Mr. Rashed Chowdhury, Director, Engr. Nasrid Islam, Director, Mr. Zahidul Islam, Director, Ms. Sabina Alam, Director, Engr. Shougata Ghosh, Executive Director and Mr. D. N. Chatterjee, Chief Operating Officer of ABC, and Mr. Mirza Ali Ispanahi, Directors of Ispanahi Companies attended the ceremony.

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