



## Cambodian rice brings respite

### Deal signed to import 2.5 lakh tonnes amid depleting stock; rice price in local market still sees no sign of fall

REAZ AHMAD

In a desperate move to replenish the dried up food silos and boost rice supply in domestic market, the government has struck a deal with Cambodia to import 2.5 lakh tonnes of the staple in three months.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh yesterday, the southeast Asian nation will actually provide up to 10 lakh tonnes rice in the next five years. A quarter of it will reach Bangladesh by October this year.

The import price could not be known immediately.

This is second such import deal in less than two months since the government approved import of 2.5 lakh

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AT A GLANCE (In tonnes)

- Projected shortfall 15 lakh
- Planned govt import 12 lakh
- Import lined-up 8.5 lakh
- So far imported 93,000 (public sector)
- So far imported 1.52 lakh (pvt sector)



A couple of hours' rain floods the street in front of TCB Bhaban at Karwan Bazar, a business hub of the capital. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Advice must be before cops accept case

### Police HQ issue order over section 57

STAR REPORT

From now on, police have to take advice from the legal wing of the Police Headquarters before recording any case under section 57 of the ICT Act.

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday issued the order, directing all police units to follow it properly.

The order, which comes amid rising number of cases under the section, instructed the officials concerned to demonstrate "utmost cautiousness" in registering cases under the section.

If any suspicion arises about any complaints, the police station concerned must immediately register a general diary and then verify the authenticity of the case.

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## Neymar's move to PSG imminent

AFP, Barcelona

Neymar could be presented as a Paris Saint-Germain player as early as this weekend for a world record fee as Barcelona admitted defeat in convincing the Brazilian to stay at the Camp Nou on Wednesday.

Wagner Ribeiro, an advisor to the player, claimed PSG would pay his 22.2 million euro buyout clause in the "coming hours" to more than double the current transfer record set by Paul Pogba's 105.2 million euros move to Manchester United last year.

Earlier, Barcelona ended weeks of speculation by publicly confirming for the first time the 25-year-old's wish to leave after four years at the Camp Nou.

Neymar Jr. accompanied by his father and representative, communicated to FC Barcelona this

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## Repeat pilgrims must pay Tk 44,000 extra

### Insist Saudi authorities; Biman to operate more special flights to clear backlog of pilgrims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Performing hajj this year has become very uncertain for over 7,000 Bangladeshis as the Saudi authorities insist those who performed the rituals at least once in the last five years must have to pay an additional Tk 44,000 each.

The Saudi hajj authorities conveyed

the decision to the Bangladesh Hajj Mission in Saudi Arabia at a meeting in Makkah last night, Hajj Councillor Maksudur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Saudi officials argued that they adopted the same policy for all hajj pilgrims from around the world and the Bangladeshis must also comply with it.

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Pilgrims at Ashkha Hajj Camp wait for hajj visa. They arrived at the camp four days ago. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## 16TH AMENDMENT VERDICT

### EC not empowered to hold fair polls: SC

### 'Govt argument to empower JS arbitrary'

SHAKHAWAT LITON

SHAKHAWAT LITON

None of the succeeding governments took any step to strengthen the Election Commission with all the powers it needs for holding a free and fair parliamentary election, observed the Supreme Court in the 16th amendment case verdict.

Even the opposition parties had not raised the point in parliament or in any forum which resulted in the EC not being institutionalised yet, the SC said.

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The argument for empowering the parliament to remove Supreme Court judges for restoration of 1972 constitution appears as 'cheap, populist, whimsical, arbitrary and sentimental,' observed the SC in the 16th constitutional amendment case verdict.

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## Today is the 4th Death Anniversary of Sobera Ahmed Rizvi (Rita)



We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember her in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of her soul

Jowher (Shahinshah), Yasser, Nasser, Zain, Fatema, Zarah & Zameer

## 15-yr-old girl 'raped' in a running truck

Driver held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A 15-year-old girl has allegedly been raped by driver and helper of a goods-laden truck inside the vehicle. Police rescued the victim from the truck in ACI Panirikal area of Narayanganj's Siddhirganj around 10:00am yesterday.

Quoting the girl, Abu Bakar, sub-inspector of Siddhirganj Police Station, said she left home after a quarrel with her mother. She reached Gazipur Chowrastra area around 4:00pm on Tuesday.

Around 8:00pm, driver of the truck Mehedi Hasan and helper Sohan found the girl on the street alone and forced her to get on the vehicle, saying they would take her to Dhaka. But when the truck was heading towards Narayanganj, the duo raped her, the police official said.

As the truck stopped in ACI Panirikal area in the

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