



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

PLUS SPADEA ON KSRM



REGD. No. DA 781 | Vol. XXXI No. 217 | BHADRA 14, 1428 BS | Your Right to Know | MUHARRAM 19, 1443 HJRI | 18 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00

Import helps push the rice prices down

Govt wants 349 pvt importers to bring 15.92 lakh tonnes by Sept 25

PINAKI ROY

Rice prices have started to drop after the government allowed private importers to bring in the staple from other countries. Despite a bumper yield in the last Boro season, rice prices were going up putting burden on the people during an economic slowdown caused by the pandemic. The government then decided to import rice to put the brakes on the rising prices.

The prices are now showing a declining trend in the retail and wholesale markets.

Per kg of coarse rice which was Tk 44 in the wholesale market in Dinajpur last week was selling for Tk 38 in the same market on Thursday.

In the capital, the same variety of rice, however, was Tk 42 to Tk 44 per kg. It was Tk 48 a week ago.

The prices of fine rice also fell by Tk one or two per kg in the markets.

The government has so far permitted 349 private

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MRT LINE-6
UTTARA TO MOTIJHEEL

TOTAL LENGTH	20.1 km
TOTAL STATIONS	16
PROJECT COST	Tk 21,985 cr
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	July 2012-June 2024
TEST RUN TODAY	Uttara to Pallabi

LIKELY PARTIAL LAUNCH	(Uttara to Agargaon) Dec 2022
OVERALL PROGRESS	68.49 % till July
CARRYING CAPACITY	60,000 passengers per hour
TRAVEL TIME	Around 40 minutes

METRO RAIL PROJECT Formal test runs kick off today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The formal test run of the country's first metro rail service will start from today when a metro train will run on the elevated rail track connecting the depot in the capital's Diabari and the first four stations.

The test run in the Uttara North, Uttara Centre, Uttara South and Pallabi stations will be inaugurated by Obaidul Quader, the road transport and bridges minister, at the depot at 10:00 am today.

On Friday, as part of the preparation, the authorities operated the train between four stations at a very slow speed to check safety issues and take different technical measurements ahead of today's programme, said ABM Arifur Rahman, project manager (CP-8) of Mass Rapid Transit Line-1 project.

A fifth station at Mirpur-11 will also be kept ready today as when the train reaches the Pallabi station it will get power from the power sub-station at Mirpur-11.

After the performance test, the authority would move on to integrity tests for synchronisation and then on to trial run.

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Bangladesh, India flights to resume on Sept 3

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Flight operations under the air bubble agreement between India and Bangladesh are set to resume from September 3, four months after it was suspended amid rising Covid-19 infections.

Passengers travelling from Bangladesh to India will be subjected to mandatory RT-PCR tests on arrival at Indian airports

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COVID TESTING AT GOVT FACILITIES Result backlog a cause for alarm

MOUJIB AHMED SUJAN

Medics took Asma Begum's nasal swab at a hospital in Sirajganj to get her tested for coronavirus on August 10. But the 55-year-old woman has yet to formally get the result.

The period she is having to wait may be unusually long, but most people who went to a government facility in recent weeks to get tested for Covid-19 in an RT-PCR lab had to wait for days before the result showed up.

When testing takes such a long time, the national data on transmission does not reflect the reality and can mislead policymakers, said experts.

Another wave of Covid may be in the offing, they said, adding that the lengthy tests are a weak link in the system that must be fixed.

Earlier this month, as the government PCR labs remained swamped with more samples than they could test in a day, it took health officials

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12 Bangladeshis on their way out of Kabul

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A total of 12 Bangladeshis, whose flight from Afghanistan was cancelled after two bomb blasts outside Kabul airport on Thursday, were on their way home, said the foreign ministry.

According to the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Bangladeshis would be flown in via a third country. Fifteen Bangladeshis were stuck in Afghanistan.

Mashfee Binte Shams, secretary (east) at the ministry, yesterday said, "Six of them flew in a flight arranged by the US."

Further details about the third country

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US kills IS 'planners' after Kabul carnage

Evacuations in final phase amid more terror attack threats

AGENCIES

The United States took aim at the Islamic State group in Afghanistan yesterday, killing two high-level targets in retaliation for a deadly suicide bombing at Kabul airport, where the airlift of those desperate to flee Taliban rule moved into its final fraught stages.

US troops yesterday began their withdrawal from the airport, the Pentagon said, following a two-week scramble by Washington and its allies to fly out their nationals and Afghans at risk of reprisals under Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers.

American officials also warned of a high risk of further attacks by the group - enemies of both the West and the

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B'BARIA BOAT CAPSIZE 9 children among 22 dead

Too many people were aboard the vessel

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Nine children, among the total 22 victims, were killed in the boat capsized at Laishka Beel in Brahmanbaria on Friday evening.

Those children could not come out of the boat as most of them and women were inside the boat that

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NEW ERA OF CONNECTIVITY IN DHAKA SKYLINE

Felicitations on the eve of the official inauguration of Dhaka Metro Rail test run. Construction partner Shah Cement wishes resounding success of the test run.

Shah Cement & Shah Cement Ready-Mix Concrete

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