



Eid gift for 1.25cr ultra-poor families

To get 10kg rice each; PM calls for foreign funding for rural projects

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The government is set to distribute 10 kilograms of rice to each of the 1.25 crore ultra-poor and destitute families ahead of Eid-ul-Azha to soften the blow of a spiralling inflation.

The disclosure was made yesterday by Enamur Rahman, the state minister for disaster management and relief, after a meeting of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

At the meeting, Hasina expressed concerns about the escalating prices. The Daily Star has learnt from people informed on the discussion.

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People use illegally dredged silt from rivers to fill low-lying areas and floodplains so that those can be turned into housing plots. They use pipes like the one in the photo to conduct their illegal activity on an industrial scale. The photo was taken at Trimohani in the capital.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'Rab framing me for robbery attempt'

Man alleges; court finds the case statement at odds with what Rab told his mother over phone

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

According to the case statement, Rab arrested a man preparing to commit a robbery near a footbridge at Mayakanan in the capital's Sabujbagh at 6:10pm on February 15.

But according to security camera footage seen by these correspondents, the 26-year-old rickshaw puller named Mojaffor was walking near his home at 6:38pm that day on Dotala Masjid Road in Meradia, about three kilometres away from Mayakanan.

In the CCTV footage from Meradia, he was wearing the same pink hoodie seen in the mugshot provided to reporters by Rab after his arrest.



During a hearing of Mojaffor's petition for bail on February 28, a court listened to recorded phone calls between a Rab-3 officer and Mojaffor's mother Modhumala Begum and found discrepancies in the complaint.

The court ordered departmental action against Rab-3 Deputy Assistant Director Ikhtiar Hossain who filed the case.

In the order, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mehedi Hasan wrote that the Rab officer told the mother of the accused over the phone that her son was detained for accompanying drug addicts and hanging out with some "women of questionable character".

"But the man is accused of attempted robbery, and the record shows a cutter was recovered from him. This is suspicious," the magistrate added.

The list of seized items was made at 6:45pm, but the Rab member did not tell the mother about finding a cutter in her son's possession during the call around 10:45pm that day, reads the order.

When Mojaffor's mother repeatedly asked what her son had done, the Rab officer said something different.

It primarily appears to the court that the Rab personnel had an ulterior motive behind detaining him and showing

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POLLS TO SCC AND RCC

Councillor races to be close in Sylhet

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, ASHIK ABDULLAH APU from Sylhet

The battle for Sylhet city mayor in all likelihood will be "one-sided" today but the races of councillors will be tight, said voters of the city.

Awami League mayor nominee Anwaruzzaman Chowdhury is relieved as major opposition BNP boycotted the polls and the candidate of Islami Andolon Bangladesh quit the race on June 13 after its mayor contender in the Barishal city polls came under attack on June 12.

Anwaruzzaman is only to face Jatiya Party candidate Nazrul Islam Babul.

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AL worried over turnout in Rajshahi

MD ABBAS and ANWAR ALI, from Rajshahi

Turnout in today's polls remains a concern for the camp of the Awami League mayor candidate in Rajshahi city.

Intra-party rivalry between AL candidate AHM Khairuzzaman Liton and Rajshahi City AL General Secretary Dablu Sarkar have heightened the concern, party insiders said.

The AL nominee, however, said that they have devised an elaborate plan to increase turnout and ensure maximum votes for "boat", his electoral symbol.

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Bangladesh set to seek BRICS membership

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh will apply to join BRICS alliance, and the process to formally seek its membership is underway, according to an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On June 19, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said Bangladesh would welcome if BRICS formally invites it to join the grouping of five member states – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

"We will surely join once they invite us. We have yet to receive any formal letter.

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