



Flood leaves wildlife in peril

P3



ICC issues arrest warrants for Russia army chief

P6



Rethinking university faculty recruitment

P8



Afghanistan win, so does cricket

P11

'Will implement Teesta project with help from India'

Says PM, sees nothing wrong in maintaining ties with both India, China

- Some people make so much money that they have to flee the country
- Rail connectivity is for the development of both the countries
- Hasina invites Modi to visit Bangladesh as soon as possible



STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said her government will implement the Teesta project with assistance from India and it has got assurances from the neighbouring country in this regard.

As Bangladesh has a longstanding issue with India over the sharing of Teesta waters, it would be easy for Dhaka if the

Teesta project is implemented by Delhi, she said.

"As India has come forward, we think if we implement the Teesta project with India, we will not have to face problems regarding water every day. We will have that benefit," she said.

The premier was addressing a press conference at the Gono Bhaban yesterday

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Waste dumped in the capital's Aminbazaar landfill is flowing into the nearby waterbody, potentially threatening the health of the surface water. In the absence of proper management and segregation of the waste, which is needed for its decomposition, areas surrounding the landfill are becoming polluted. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

'Come, let's have a debate'
PM to Yunus; says she has no yearning for Nobel Prize

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday aired her exasperation against Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus once again and invited him to have a debate with her on any issue that concerns him.

"Come and have a debate with me like it is done in the USA," she said while responding to a question during a press conference at the Gono Bhaban over the outcomes of her India visit.

"Let him come, and we will have a talk," she said.

Hasina made the remarks after a journalist asked her to comment on an article published by the Time magazine on Prof Yunus on Monday, narrating the Nobel laureate's legal perils in Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

New deals with India 'go against country's interest'
Says Mirza Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has said the MoUs and agreements signed with India during the prime minister's recent visit are "against the country's interest".

The party said it will wage a movement protesting those agreements and MoUs.

"BNP is rejecting those agreements as those are against the interest of Bangladesh. I want to say that BNP was formed to protect the sovereignty of the country. The party will take all measures to protect the country's independence and sovereignty. We will hold a press conference on June 28. After that, you will know about the programmes to be taken up by us, if necessary," said Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party.

Speaking at a press conference at the party chairperson's Gulshan office in the capital yesterday, the BNP leader said the movement is not against India but against the Bangladesh government.

During a meeting, the BNP standing committee expressed concern over those agreements fearing they could jeopardise the country's sovereignty and independence, he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Graft taking shine off govt triumphs

2 AL MPs tell JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Awami League lawmakers in parliament yesterday said widespread corruption is taking the shine off all the achievement of government.

Joining the discussion on the proposed budget for FY25, AL MPs Mahbul Alam Hanif and Motahar Hossain said politicians are having to take responsibility for bureaucrats indulging in corruption even though politicians are not involved in graft.

Hanif, the lawmaker from Kushtia-2, said the government could not curb corruption despite its zero-tolerance policy.

Also joint general secretary of AL, Hanif said the market looks unstable and commodity prices have increased. The market can never be controlled if there is corruption.

"A herd of cattle was bought for Tk 1 crore. Who bought it and why? Those

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

THE MINIKET MOCKERY

Rice millers defy ban, continue over-polishing in absence of government policy

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Defying a ban, millers across the country continue polishing rice excessively and marketing it as "miniket" in the absence of monitoring.

In 2023, the government issued a ban on polishing rice and selling it under fake names, with the aim to protect the nutrients of the grains and prevent wastage.

According to the "Production, Storage, Transfer, Transportation, Supply, Distribution and Marketing of Food Products (Prevention of Prejudicial Activity) Bill-2023", manufacturing or marketing food products by removing or altering any natural ingredients in whole or partially is prohibited and a punishable offence.

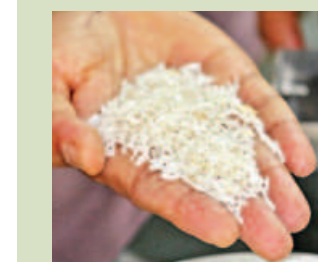
The law also prohibits marketing foodstuff manufactured from an approved variety of food grain under a different or fictitious name without mentioning it as a by-product.

However, millers continued polishing different varieties of rice and were selling them as miniket, claiming they were yet to get a polishing guidelines from the food ministry.

In Bangladesh, rice is a staple food and the primary source of carbohydrates. Nearly 39 million tonnes of rice are produced annually, with an average per capita consumption of 493 grams per day, accounting for 58 percent

a joint study by Dhaka University and Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI).

"Every year, polishing rice more than 10 percent results in the waste of 16 lakh metric tons - 0.06 percent of the entire demand," DAE



- Over 30pc rice sold as "miniket" in city markets
- Excessive milling removes vital vitamins and minerals
- 16 lakh metric tons of rice - 0.06 percent of the country's demand - wasted in polishing process

of an individual's calorie intake, according to the Department of Agriculture Extension.

Researchers said the excessive milling of rice removes essential nutrients like iron, calcium, and vitamin B, all of which are vital for health.

Polishing rice by 10 percent or above also reduces protein by 9-18 percent, fibre by 8-19, magnesium by 6-21, and folic acid by 8-50, shows

officials said. Meanwhile, Habibul Bari Shozib, one of the researchers of the joint study, reiterated that vital minerals and vitamins are lost in the process of polishing rice by 10 percent or above.

According to the study, millers polish rice excessively to make it finer and market it as miniket to attract consumers, though no such rice variety exists.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

ACC quizzes 8 officials over passports of Benazir, family

The ex-IGP allegedly misused power to get a passport renewed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday quizzed eight officials of the Department of Immigration and Passports to get information on seven passports issued to former inspector general of police Benazir Ahmed and his family members.

Benazir allegedly obtained a general passport hiding the fact that he is a government official. Government officials get blue passports, lawmakers and diplomats get red passports while individuals get green general passports.

As a government official, he was supposed to have a blue passport, said sources in the ACC.

They said the passport-issuing authorities noticed that he had a green passport and halted its renewal.

At that time, Benazir was the director general of Rab and a letter in this regard was sent to Rab headquarters, they said. But Benazir managed to get his passport renewed by abusing his power, the sources added.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Traders set up makeshift shops occupying the footpath next to a multi-storey shopping mall in the capital's Gulistan, forcing pedestrians to walk on the street. The photo was taken around noon yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Matiur used clout to stop his transfers

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

So strong was the clout of former National Board of Revenue member Matiur Rahman that he could not be transferred unless he wanted to be transferred.

A number of high officials at the tax authority said Matiur has friends in high places, and he entertained many of them at resorts he or his family owns. He used his connections and influence to have at least two transfer orders, issued by the NBR cancelled.

Matiur had worked at the Chattogram Customs, Benapole Customs, Large Taxpayer Unit (LTU), Customs VAT Commissionerate in Dhaka and Chattogram, which are considered by many officials as "lucrative".

Matiur fell in hot water after his son posted on social media a photo of a sacrificial goat worth Tk 12 lakh. The photo went viral and questions were raised about his sources of wealth. Several mainstream media outlets reported on his and his families' huge wealth and lavish lifestyle.



SEE PAGE 2 COL 5
BANKS, NBFIS ASKED TO FREEZE ACCOUNTS OF MATIUR, FAMILY - PAGE 2