

## Ramadan starts with no let-up in price spiral

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fasting city dwellers sweated in the price heat of essentials on the first day of Ramadan, finding most too hot to handle.

Prices of some more essentials rose yesterday while some others remained unchanged at their previous day's high in the kitchen markets, making a mockery of the government efforts to tame the marauding price bull.

The prices of soyabean oil, garlic, tomato, beans, brinjal and masur pulse rose yesterday although they are in sufficient supply in the kitchen markets including New Market, Hatirpool, Fakirpool, Malibagh, Mohammadpur Krish Market and Karwan Bazar.

Garlic prices ranged between Tk 56 and Tk 80 a kg in different markets, while it was between Tk 44-48 for each kg only a few days back. Ginger sold at Tk 28-32, lentil at Tk 42 and bitter gourd at Tk 28.

The soyabean oil prices ranged between Tk 50 and Tk 52 a kg against Tk 48-50 in the beginning of the week. Prices of master oil varied between Tk 64 and Tk 66 a kg against Tk 60-65.

Locally produced onion was selling at Tk 30-32 a kg and imported (Indian) onion at Tk 24 to Tk 26, higher than their prices two weeks ago. Ginger prices hovered between Tk 40 and Tk 42 a kg. Prices of sugar remained at the previous level of Tk 33 to Tk 34 a kg. Salt sold at Tk 11-12 a kg.

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Extra law enforcers can't bring order to roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 2,500 additional police, Bangladesh Rifles and ansars personnel yesterday hit the road, cracking down on illegal parking and traffic law violators as Ramadan, the fasting month of the Muslims began.

Even then rush hour traffic peaked to an abnormal level, gridlocking roads. Fasting commuters had to sweat it out in the snarls.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury along with the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) commissioner visited two spots at Motijheel and Mouchak to inspect traffic condition.

"I am satisfied with the special drive and it will help the city dwellers," Altaf told newsmen.

"Another 2,500 extra personnel will be deployed tomorrow," DMP

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PHOTO: STAR  
Officials of a mobile court book a driver for improper parking in Eskaton yesterday after a police-BDR joint force was deployed to keep roads around shopping centres clear of traffic jam.

## CBA men besiege BB governor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 300 officers and employees led by leaders of the Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) confined Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Fakhruddin Ahmed to his office for an hour yesterday.

They were demanding fresh recruitment of staff employees and promotion of all promote officers within a few days. The afternoon session ended after the agitating staff forcibly entered the governor's office to voice their demands.

The BB promote officers and staff gathered around the governor's office at around 2:30pm yesterday, insisting that the central bank chief hear their demands.

The governor, who had just returned from a meeting with the

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### Notice

The Daily Star continues to publish the list of plot allottees in Rajuk's Purbachal project. Find today's list on pages 17, 18, 19 and 20.

## BNP MPs for laws to clip free media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling BNP lawmakers have demanded enactment of laws to control the media as they believe it has taken a stand against the government and is engaged only in negative journalism.

Highly placed sources said the members of the parliamentary standing committee on the information ministry at its Monday's meeting stressed immediate enactment of laws to rein in the media involved in exaggeration in reports.

The sources quoted the MPs as telling the chair of the meeting that the media should not enjoy such unfettered freedom. Most of them accused the newspapers of abusing the freedom of press guaranteed by the constitution.

Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury, chairman of the committee, presided over the meeting. BNP lawmakers Manjurul Ahsan Munshi, Sohrab Uddin, Hafiz Ibrahim and Information Minister Tarigul Islam attended it. Besides, high officials of the ministry, heads of the

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## Khaleda okays probe into judge's 'graft'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday sent the reference file to the president for formation of the Supreme Judicial Council to probe an allegation of misconduct against an additional judge of the High Court.

The president is likely to ask the chief justice soon to form the council headed by the chief justice and probe the allegation.

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## 6 killed in Iraq as police clear rubble of Monday blasts

Coalition soldier, 2 civilians die in roadside bomb explosion

AGENCIES, Fallujah/Baghdad

At least six people, including children, were killed by a car bomb in the Iraqi town of Fallujah, just a day after 43 people died in the bloodiest

day in Baghdad since US troops seized the city.

A roadside bomb blast in the southern Iraqi city of Basra killed a soldier from the US-led occupying

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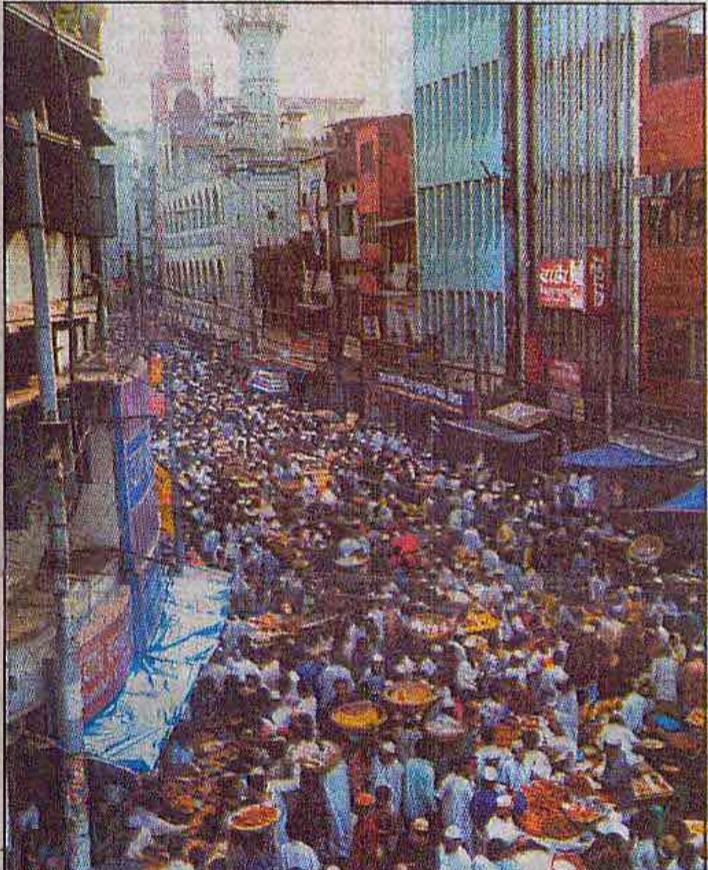


PHOTO: STAR  
Thousands flock to Chawk Bazar in Old Dhaka to buy iftar specialties, unique to the area, on the first day of Ramadan yesterday.

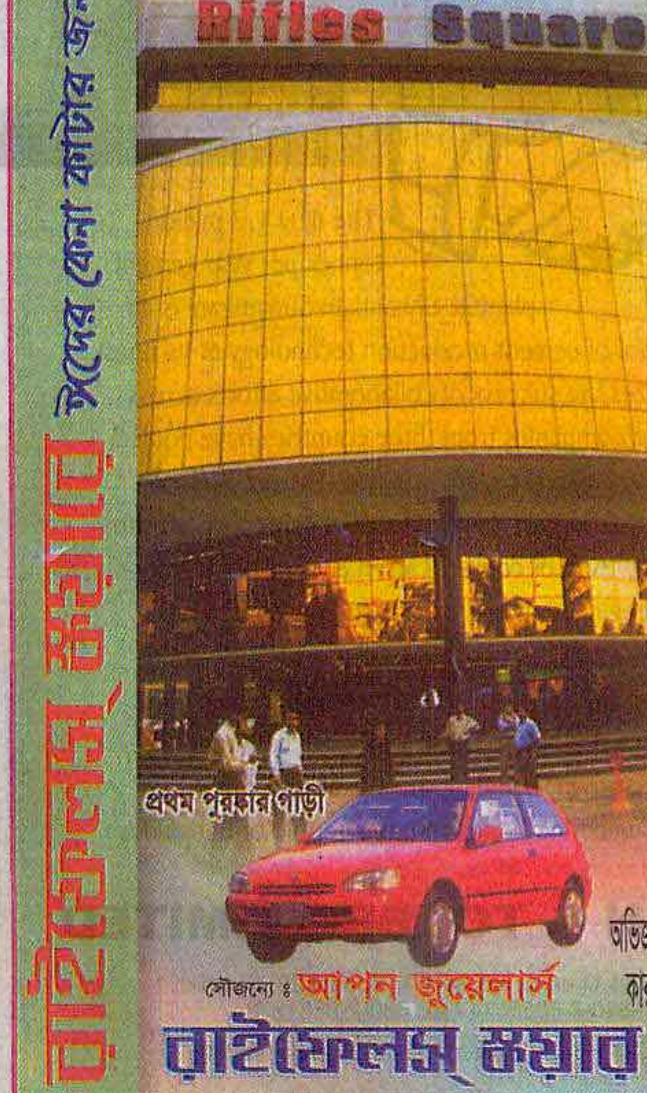
রাষ্ট্রীয় ক্ষমতা প্রদানের জন্য আপনাদের আম্বুজন

## স্বেচ্ছাকৃতি আকর্ষণীয় র্যাফেল ড্র

আপনিও হতে পারেন গাড়ির মালিক।

ধানমন্ডি ২ নং রোডের রাইফেলস ক্ষয়ারে ইদ উগলক্ষে আকর্ষণীয় র্যাফেল ড্র। যে কোন দোকান থেকে ন্যূনতম ৫০০/- টাকার জিনিস কিনে আগনি পাচেন ১টি ত্রুটী লাকী কুপল যার প্রথম পুরকার গাড়ি। সহ আরও অসংখ্য আকর্ষণীয় পুরকার।

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## WE ARE GRATEFUL

To all who expressed their condolences at the sad demise of Late Durre Samad Rahman

We express our deep gratitude to all who had sent their condolences and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family of Late Durre Samad Rahman and prayed for the salvation of her departed soul.

We thank Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Speaker for their kind support to the members of the bereaved family despite their busy schedule.

We feel much consoled at the condolences expressed and solidarity extended by the two Hon'ble former Presidents, Hon'ble Members of the Cabinet, Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad, Hon'ble Members of the Parliament, Political Leaders, former Ministers and MPs, Diplomats, Officials, Journalists, Industrialists and Business Leaders, distinguished citizens from home and abroad including those from Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Sunamgonj, Habiganj, distinguished personalities of the International bodies, all political workers, citizens, friends, relatives and well-wishers.

We deeply appreciate and acknowledge with gratitude the services of all – relatives, physicians and hospital aides – for the medicare and support extended to the departed over the last two years and a half.

May Allah bestow upon us all peace and happiness in both the worlds. It is our earnest hope that we stand by each other in well and woe.

MEMBERS OF THE BEREAVED FAMILY

