

OMS to start to keep prices tolerable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to launch Open Market Sale (OMS) on September 9 for one month to keep prices of essentials at a tolerable level during Ramadan.

Moreover, it is starting programmes like vulnerable group feeding (VGF), vulnerable group development (VGD), test relief (TR) and food for work this month to ease the post flood situation. These will continue till November.

The measures are being taken as people in general, particularly the poor, across the country continue to bear the brunt of price hike of essential commodities.

The inter-ministerial committee on price control of essential commodities at a meeting yesterday decided to launch the programmes.

The meeting held the secretariat was chaired by Golam Mustakim, additional secretary of commerce ministry, and attended by representatives of the ministries concerned and army and BDR personnel.

Talking to newsmen, Mustakim said the meeting discussed the effectiveness of market monitoring by law enforcers.

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Edible oil prices shoot through roof

SHAEEN MOLLAH

In a bizarre phenomenon yesterday, prices of edible oils shot up by Tk 10 a litre within hours in the capital due to an acute shortage of the essential commodity on wholesale markets, which is likely to have an immediate effect on the rest of the country.

On retail markets a litre of soybean oil was selling for Tk 90 to Tk 92 yesterday which had been Tk 80 to Tk 82 on Tuesday. On wholesale markets on Tuesday morning a litre of soybean oil was selling for Tk 76 to Tk 77 until it suddenly shot up to Tk 86 to Tk 87 at noon.

A litre of palm oil was selling for Tk 86 to Tk 90 on retail markets in the capital yesterday, the price of which had been Tk 76 to Tk 78 a litre the day before.

An actual shortage of edible oil coupled with an artificial shortage created by some unscrupulous businessmen is responsible for such an unusual hike in edible oil prices, said oil traders. In the last few months, prices of edible oils shot up several times.

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Due to the unusual and sudden rise in the price of soybean oil, shoppers at different kitchen markets yesterday were seen having

heated exchanges with retailers. Ratri Chowdhry, a grocery

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Supply shortage led to a staggering rise in the price of edible oil by Tk 10 per litre within hours yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Businesses for effective steps to keep food prices stable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Immediate and effective actions are required to keep prices of basic food grains at an affordable level to help the flood-hit poor to survive and restart their livelihood activities, top business leaders observed yesterday.

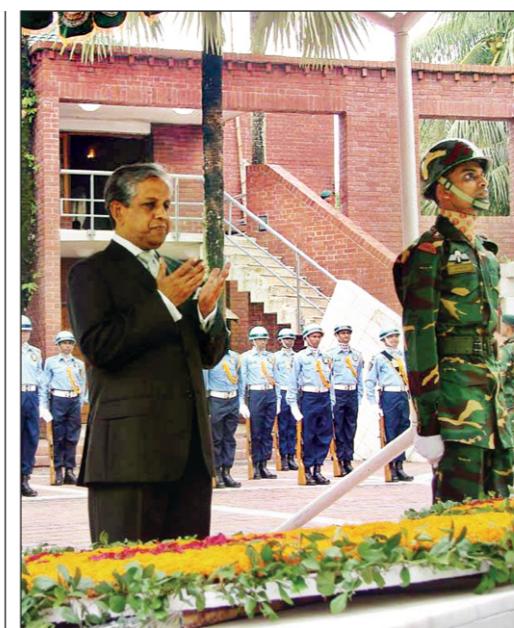
If food prices continue its present upward trend, general people especially the vulnerable group will confront extreme hardship to meet their daily minimum requirement, they said in a press statement.

The statement said, "Impending decision by BKB and RAKUB to charge higher interest rates on agricultural loans reportedly under pressure from the World Bank will boomerang and is likely to create havoc in the government to overcome the current damage to food grain production."

Charging higher interest rates at this critical juncture will increase the cost of food production and add fuel further to the already rising rate of inflation, observed the business leaders.

"The Bretton Woods prescriptions for upper adjustment of gas

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Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, left, and President Iajuddin Ahmed visit the grave of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to pay tribute to the father of the nation yesterday.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

CA, president pay glowing tributes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

10:30am while Fakhruddin at 11:30am.

During their placing of wreaths, guards of honour were given by a smartly turned out contingent from three services of the Armed Forces.

The president and the chief adviser wrote remarks in the condolence book kept at the grave.

BANGABANDHU MEMORIAL MUSEUM

In Dhaka, thousands of mourners thronged the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum premises on Dharmondi Road 32 where the great leader was assassinated.

They stood in solemn silence for a few minutes. Later, they accompanied by senior civil and military officials offered special prayers there seeking divine blessings for the departed soul of Bangabandhu and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the country.

Army chief Gen Moeen U Ahmed, Navy chief Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam and Air Force chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman also paid respect to Bangabandhu. They offered special prayers for the salvation of the departed soul of the father of the nation.

Iajuddin Ahmed placed wreath at

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Nation pays homage to Bangabandhu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation yesterday paid effusive tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of the nation, to mark the 32nd anniversary of his bloody assassination.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed placed floral wreaths separately at the grave of Bangabandhu at Tungipara in Gopalganj, paying homage to the great leader who along with most of his family members was brutally killed by a splinter group of the army on August 15 in 1975.

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CA, president pay glowing tributes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday paid glowing tributes to father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as they placed wreaths at the grave of the great leader and signed the condolence book kept there.

"Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is a bright star in the national life of Bangladesh. This great leader's contribution is invaluable in establishing Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign nation in the world stage," wrote lajuddin in the condolence book.

This was the first visit of lajuddin to the grave of Bangabandhu after assuming the office of the president.

"The nation will forever remember his contribution with respect," wrote the president. "On the 32nd anniversary of this great leader's martyrdom, I am paying deep respect to him on behalf of the nation and praying for the salvation of his departed soul in the court of Allah," he added.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed wrote, "On behalf of the

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BNP's party fund unused in flood relief

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Two groups of the BNP are conducting countrywide flood relief activities without using the party's relief fund.

"We have a relief fund...but this year we are distributing relief at our own effort because we do not want to use the fund as party activities are banned at the moment," BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We also want to ensure transparency in using the party fund," he added.

BNP has a relief fund with Pubali Bank's Paltan branch in the capital to provide relief during the natural disasters, sources said. Two party leaders including Mannan Bhuiyan are authorised to operate the account.

According to sources, affluent people including businessmen and many organisations have donated money to the fund over the years.

But this year nobody donated money to help the flood victim,

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A mother with her diarrhoea-affected kid on the lap heads for a hospital by boat. The photo was taken from the capital's low-lying suburb Trimohony now under floodwater.

Workers vandalise Ctg RMG factory for arrears

'Planned attack' by outsiders: BGMEA chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

July and overtime of three months. A few minutes later, the workers came out of the room and informed a few others that the management refused to pay the salary and overtime. Witnesses said this prompted the workers to go on rampage.

Sources alleged that law enforcement refrained from going into any action as a very small section of workers rampaged Sirina Garments and Textiles Ltd, a concern of Crown Group of Companies, on Bayezid Bostami Road.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Anwar-Ul Alam Chowdhury Parvez suspected that the attack was pre-planned and instigated by outsiders. Majority of the workers stood helpless in the corners of the factory and on the ground floor premises.

Sources meanwhile said misbehaviour of a top official of the factory led to yesterday's incident.

They said some five workers went to the office room of Director (operation) Michael, who is a Sri Lankan national, around 2:30pm to claim their salary for the month of

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BHUIYAN CITES POLITICS BAN AS REASON

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Flood death toll nears 500

Number diarrhoeal patients spiral

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 38 people died due to flood-related causes in 24 hours till 1:00pm yesterday, raising the death toll to 481.

Among the dead, 33 died due to drowning, two died of diarrhoea and three died from snakebites, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) control room.

A total of 4,088 people were

4 of a family killed in Ctg road crash

CU CORRESPONDENT

Five persons, including four of a family, were killed when a speeding truck ploughed into an autorickshaw near City Gate area of Pahartali in the city yesterday.

The dead were identified as Hosen Ara Begum, 35, wife of one Siddique of Bhatiari in Sitakunda upazila, her daughters Rizvi, 2, Liza, 6 and Rita, 8 – all travelling by autorickshaw. A rickshaw puller was also killed in the accident.

Sources said the truck collided head-on with the three-wheeler,

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4 suicide bombings kill 200 in Iraq

Deputy oil minister kidnapped, 5 GIs die after chopper downed

AP, AFP, Baghdad

Four suicide bombers struck nearly simultaneously at communities of a small Kurdish sect in northwestern Iraq late Tuesday, killing more than 200 people and wounding 375 more, Iraqi military and local officials said.

The death toll was the highest in a concerted attack since Nov 23,

when 215 people were killed by mortar fire and five car bombs in Baghdad's Shia Muslim enclave of Sadr City. And it was most vicious attack yet against the Yazidis, an ancient religious community in the region whose members are considered infidels by some Muslims.

The bombings came as extremists staged other bold attacks: levelling a key bridge outside

Baghdad and abducting five officials from an Oil Ministry compound in the capital in a raid using gunmen dressed as security officers. Nine US soldiers also were reported killed, including five in a helicopter crash.

Gunmen dressed in Iraqi security uniforms kidnapped Deputy Oil Minister Abdul Jabar al-Waga

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EC invites tenders again for equipment

Most of earlier bidders disqualified

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) invited tenders once again for supplying equipment to it, as earlier bids for most of the items for preparing the voter list with photographs had been disqualified, putting the commission in a predicament regarding completing the procurement on time.

According to the new tender schedule, sale of the tender forms and submission of the bids will be completed by the middle of the next

month, and then the Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) will start evaluating the bids.

After evaluating the bids, selected companies will be awarded contracts for supplying the equipment within four to eight weeks of signing the contracts. If a procurement involves more than Tk 25 crore, approval from the cabinet purchase committee will be needed, according to the Public Procurement Rules 2003.

The EC in its electoral roadmap

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