

Prices to come down to reasonable level by Dec

Says BDR DG

UNB, Dhaka

Director General of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed on Thursday said that prices of essentials have now become stable and would come down to a reasonable level by December or January.

"The prices were at an exorbitant level at the beginning of Ramadan. But now they have become stable. And I hope prices will come down to a tolerable level by December or January," he said.

He was addressing a discussion arranged by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at its conference room.

FBCCI President Mir Nasir Hossain presided over the discussion, which was followed by a milad

mahfil and Iftar party.

Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed said the prices of essentials shot up due to the price hike in the international market as well as political instability in the country.

Referring to the success of BDR-run 'Dal-Bhat operation' and 'Fair Price Shops' in controlling the prices of essentials, the BDR DG said there have been some domestic constraints and obstacles to controlling the prices.

"There has been shortage of supply and the production has also been disrupted by two-phase floods. It is not easy to contain the price hike immediately. So, the government, traders and all have to work together to achieve the complete success," he said.

He also urged the business community to spend their Zakat

money on foods for flood-affected people.

FBCCI leaders, former FBCCI president Yusuf Abdullah Harun and incumbent Director A Rauf Chowdhury also took part in the discussion.

Yusuf Abdullah Harun proposed to create a joint fund of Tk 250 crore by the business community, government and the banks for providing daily essentials to poor and low-income people during the month of Ramadan.

Mir Nasir Hossain said criminalisation and indiscipline still exist in the country's market system, which has become a major obstacle to controlling price hike.

He urged the business community to make reasonable profit as a step to help contain the price spiral.

2 schoolboys drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Two schoolboys drowned while they were taking bath in a pond near Nayapara Government Primary School in Narayanganj town yesterday.

The boys were identified as Shawon, 8, son of Alam Mian, and Shuvo, 10, son of Jahangir Alam Badsa of Nayapara area. Shawon and Shuvo were students of Nayapara Government Primary School.

Local people rescued the boys and took them to Narayanganj General Hospital where on doctors declared them dead.

'Provide maternity allowance to poor mothers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop have called for providing maternity allowance to poor mothers across the country under the micro-credit scheme.

The two-day workshop, organised by the Development Organisation of the Rural Poor (DORP), ended at its central office in the city yesterday.

Presided over by DORP Secretary General AHM Noman, the concluding session was addressed by Micro Credit Consultant Abdul Awal and Desk Manager Credit and Training Humayun Kabir.

DORP branch managers from Barguna, Lakkhipur, Ramgati, Bashkhali, Katiadi, Bhuapur, Sirajganj and Kalihati took part in the workshop.

The workshop was informed that a total of 10 mothers at Gobindashi area in Bhuapur were given maternity allowance under PKSF micro-credit service charge.



TOYOTA ART CONTEST Bangladeshi girl wins 3rd prize

Lamia Sayara Mela, a class five student of Bangladesh International School, has won the third prize in the Toyota Dream Car Art Contest 2006 held in Japan recently, says a press release.

Toyota Motor Corporation organised the contest where 20,000 entries from Asia region were submitted.

Mela is the youngest daughter of artist Rezaun Nabi and Sohana Shahrin.

Appeal for help

A newborn baby is suffering from congenital heart disease.

Ahmed Noman is now undergoing treatment at Square Hospital in the city.

His daily treatment costs Tk 40,000 and so far around Tk 5 lakh has been spent, says a press release.

Doctors said Ahmed's complete recovery requires two month's hospital care and would cost around Tk 40 lakh.

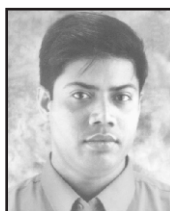
But Shibly Noman, father of the boy, is unable to manage such a huge amount of money for the treatment of his son.

Notably, the boy's mother, who is now receiving treatment at Bangladesh Medical College, lost her fertility as she had to undergo a complicated operation during his birth.

So, Shibly has made a fervent appeal for financial assistance from the affluent people of the society to save the life of his son.

Contributions can be sent to Shibly Noman, Account No SB-34044529, National Bank, ZH Shakdur Women's Medical College and Hospital Branch, Dhaka OR Shibly Noman, Account No 1509100657702001, BRAC Bank, Sath Masjid Road Branch, Dhaka.

Rahmat Ullah



Rahmat Ullah, a photojournalist of daily Sangbad, is a kidney patient. His both the kidneys have been damaged.

According to doctors, he needs immediate kidney transplantation, which will involve Tk 10 to 11 lakh.

But it is not possible for his family to arrange such a big amount of money.

So, he has made a fervent appeal to affluent people of the society to come forward with financial assistance to save his life.

Contributions can be sent to Rahmat Ullah, Account No 3409622, Standard Bank Ltd, Tophkhana Road Branch, Dhaka.



PHOTO: STAR

Landowners of Ramchandrapur, Boro Sayek and Adabor moujas in the city's Mohammadpur area form a human chain yesterday demanding the government pay them according to the current market price of the lands and rehabilitate them before acquiring their lands for the proposed Kalyanpur Regulating Pond Project.

Creative writing workshop at British Council

British Council (BC) is going to organise a creative writing workshop for young writers under its Central and South Asia Regional Project, New Silk Route.

BC is looking for 20 emerging creative writers writing in English language between the ages 25 and 35 to take part in the five-day workshop in January 2008, says a press release.

The workshop will provide the opportunity to develop writing with the support of an experienced writer from the UK. As part of a group, the selected young writers will also contribute to discussion about publishing, literature in performance, translation, teaching of literature and teaching of creative writing.

Interested writers can fill in an application, which can be found in British Council website www.britishcouncil.org/bangladesh and email/post/fax it or could write to the BC at culture.science@bd.britishcouncil.org.

The deadline to submit the application is September 30, the release added.

IBA Executive MBA Admission Test Sept 28

The IBA Executive MBA Admission Test (Fall 2007), which was postponed earlier, will now be held at the Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka at 10:00am on September 28, says a press release.

The applicants who have not yet collected their admit cards are advised to collect the same during office hours (9:00am to 2:30pm) from September 22-27.

CARE relief distribution programme

Olivier Brouant, rapid response coordinator of ECHO's Regional Support Office, South Asia, inaugurated the relief distribution programme of CARE Bangladesh in Tangail and Jamalpur districts on Wednesday.

On the first day, 100 flood-affected families in Polshia and Pathail Kandi villages of Nikrail union at Bhuapur received relief packages that contained 25 types of food items and other essentials including 20 kg rice, 1 kg salt, 2 kg sugar, 2 kg oil, 9 meters of plastic, children's clothing, education materials, sarees and sandals for women, says a press release.

CARE Bangladesh, with ECHO funds, distributed the relief materials and 70 per cent of the recipient families were from CARE beneficiaries while others were from general categories.

Within the next two to six weeks, a total of 11,500 flood-affected families in 10 unions of Kalihati and Bhuapur in Tangail district and Sarishabari and Dewongonj in Jamalpur district will be receiving the relief packages. Eleven Village Development Committee (VDC) members in consultation with local community leaders and civil society representatives identified the families.

After taking part in the relief operation, Olivier Brouant visited a number of flood-affected families in Polshia. He talked to the family members and inquired about their suffering and future plans to overcome the situation. Finally, he expressed satisfaction over CARE Bangladesh's relief operation effort.

Abdul Awal, programme officer, ECHO, South Asia, Bangladesh and Suman SMA Islam, humanitarian coordinator of CARE Bangladesh were also present.

4 killed in Jessore road crash

UNB, Jessore

Four people were killed and six others injured in a collision between an auto-tempo and a bus at Begaritola on Jessore-Satkhir road on Thursday night.

The auto-tempo overturned and fell into a roadside ditch after the bus rammed into it, sources said.

Three of the dead were identified as Zohra Begum, 35, Nagor Ali, 11, and Shahjahan, 30. The identity of another victim, aged around 35, could not be known.

Receiving information, police rushed to the spot and sent the injured to hospital.

In another road accident, 30 people were injured when a bus fell into a ditch after hitting a roadside tree at Padmabila on Jessore-

Khulna road.

Fifteen of the injured were admitted to Jessore General Hospital. The rest were given first aid.

2 children drown in Chandpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Two children drowned in a pond at Montola village at Faridganj in the district yesterday.

They were identified as Sojb, 5, son of Babul Mia and Aktar Hossain, 4, son of Md Alamgir.

Family sources said the children suddenly slipped in the pond while playing beside it in the afternoon.

Neptune has a 'warm' south pole, astronomers find

AFF, Paris

An international team of astronomers say that Neptune, long dismissed as a cobalt-blue gas giant cloaked in deathly cold, has a relatively warm south pole.

Temperature maps, made using Europe's Very Large Telescope (VLT) located in the Chilean desert, show that Neptune's south pole is warmer than anywhere else on the planet by about 10 degrees Celsius (18 degrees Fahrenheit), the team says.

By earthly standards, this may not seem much of a deal. But compared to an average temperature on the Solar System's outermost recognised planet of a frigid -200 C (-392 F), the south pole is almost balmy.

The warmth differential is enough to let methane gas, which elsewhere lies frozen in Neptune's upper atmosphere, to leak out through the south pole and into space.

France's National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), in a press release on Tuesday, said the phenomenon is due to Neptune's agonisingly long orbit.

A Neptunian "year" is the same as 165 Earth years, for this is the time the distant planet takes to circle the Sun.

Because of the planet's tilt, the south pole has been exposed to the Sun for the past 40 years, creating a relative "hot spot," the CNRS said.

Eventually, as Neptune continues its crawl around the Sun, the south pole will be darkened and the north will be illuminated, and the methane escape will shift there.

"In 80 years, when Neptune's north pole emerges into summer, we can expect the situation to be reversed," the CNRS said.

Glenn Orton of NASA's Jet

Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), who also took part in the research, said the fact that Neptune's "summer" lasted decades had a big impact on its climate system, for some regions were bathed in continual sunlight and others locked in enduring darkness.

"This is a likely factor in Neptune having the strongest winds of any planet in the Solar system," he said. "Sometimes, the wind blows there at more than 2,000 kilometres (1,200 miles) an hour."

Driver shot, car hijacked in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of criminals hijacked a private car after shooting its driver at Uttara in the city yesterday morning.

The injured was identified as Ziaul Haque, 25, driver of a car owned by Zahid Hossain, director of Hashim Sweater Factory in Sripur, Gazipur.

Police said at around 6:45am Ziaul came to the residence of Zahid to pick him up.

Three to four carjackers, who came to the spot in another car, intercepted Ziaul then and asked him to hand over the key.

While Ziaul refused to give the key, the muggers shot him in the chest and made away with the car.

Ziaul was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later shifted to Chest Diseases Hospital at Mohakhali in a critical condition.

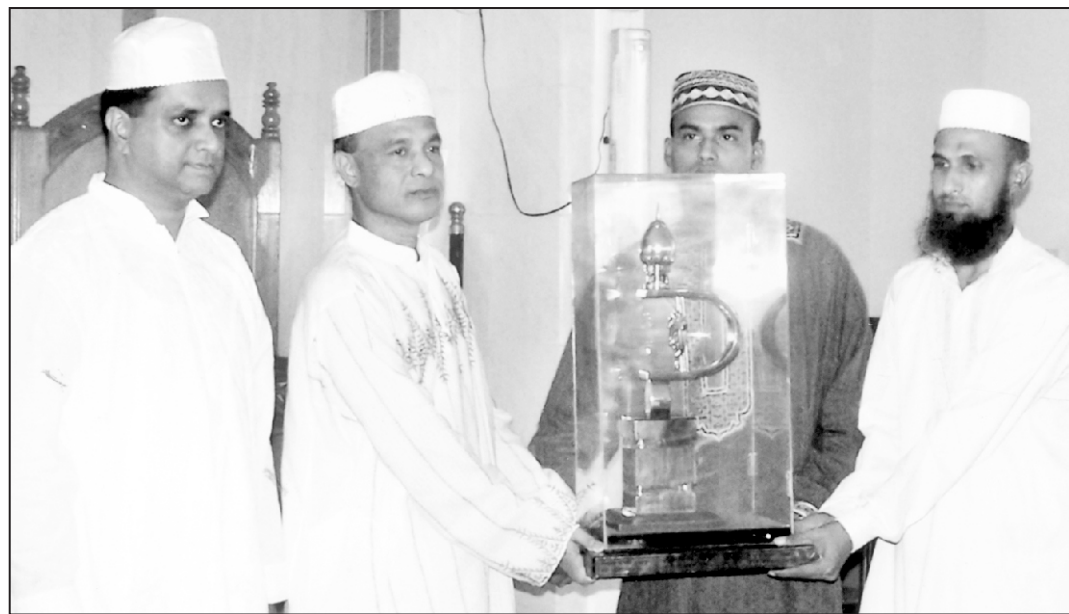


PHOTO: ISPR

Quarter Master General Lt Gen Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury gives away a trophy to the 14 Independent Engineer Brigade team who won the title of Army Qirat and Azan Competition-2007 at the Army Central Mosque at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

Qirat & Azan contest prize distribution ceremony held

The prize distribution ceremony of Inter-Area Qirat and Azan Competition-2007 of Bangladesh Army was held at the Army Central Mosque at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday, says an ISPR release.

The 14 Independent Engineer Brigade team won the title while the 6 Independent ADA Brigade team became runner-up.

In Qirat competition, Sainik Md Abul Hossain of Rangpur area won the first prize while Sergeant Md Emdadul Islam of 14 Independent Engineer Brigade team got the second prize.

In Azan Competition, UP Lance Corporal Md Sahab Uddin of Savar Area team became first while Warrant Officer Md Babul Aktar Mollik of Army Signal Brigade got the second prize.

Quarter Master General (QMG) Lieutenant General Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury gave away prizes among the winners as the chief guest.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Sylhet and Rajshahi divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places, Met Office said in a forecast.

It also said that day temperature may fall by 1 to 2 degree Celsius over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and may remain nearly unchanged over the Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest of 23.8 degrees at Barisal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:55pm today and rises at 5:47am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in celsiuspercentage		Humidity in	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.8	27.1	61	58
Chittagong	31.6	26.2	90	78
Rajshahi	35.6	25.8	65	67
Khulna	32.5	25.1	80	86
Barisal	--	23.8	88	--
Sylhet	36.0	26.6	46	41
Cox's Bazar	31.7	26.2	74	67
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.8	73	80

ANTI-ADULTERATION DRIVE 4 held, factory sealed off

UNB, Keraniganj

Four people were arrested on charges of producing adulterated medicines and cosmetics at Choto Kushierbagh in the early hours of yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-2 raided a factory at about 2:30am and recovered adulterated medicines and cosmetics worth about Tk 3 lakh.

The arrestees were identified as Akram Hossain, 25, Ekram Hossain, 21, Rocky, 18, and Tuhin, 17.

Rab sources said a gang has been engaged in producing adulterated medicines and cosmetics and selling those in the market using brands of different established companies in the last seven years.

Liberation War Museum programmes

Liberation War Museum organises a programme at Slaughters' Den at Mirpur in the city today where Afsaruddin Mollah, eldest son of martyred freedom fighter Barkat Ali Mollah, and Shariful Islam Bablu, who narrowly escaped death during the liberation war, will recount the days of 1971 before the students of Mirpur Ananda Shishu Shikshalaya, says a press release.

The programme begins at 3:00pm.

Obituary

Economist Dr Sadrel Amin Latifur Reza passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Almati in Kazakhstan yesterday at the age of 64, says a press release.

Dr Reza, a professor of economics at Kazakhstan University, left behind two daughters and a host of relatives, friends and many research papers.

Dr Reza also taught at Dhaka University and Independent University, Bangladesh. He also served as the director general of BIDS.

He had joined as professor of economics at the University of Kazakhstan last year.

He has authored several books and many research papers.

Arrangements were being made to bring his body to Dhaka, the press release added.

Relatives and friends are requested to pray for the departed soul.

Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of Sheikh Hamidul Haque Kachi, former president of Bangladesh Photographic Association (BPA), says a press release.

On this occasion, a milad and doa followed by an Iftar party will be held at BPA office in the city.

All the members of BPA are requested to join the programme.

Bina Rani Sarker



Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Bina Rani Sarker, wife of Dr Sudhir Ch Sarker, says a press release.

On this occasion, various religious programmes have been arranged at the Mandir of Sri Sri Loknath Brahmachari in the city.