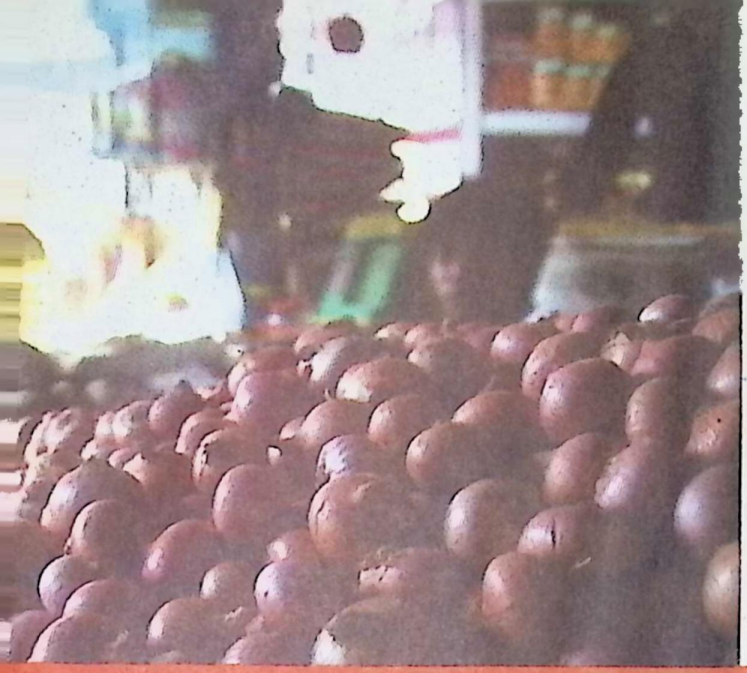
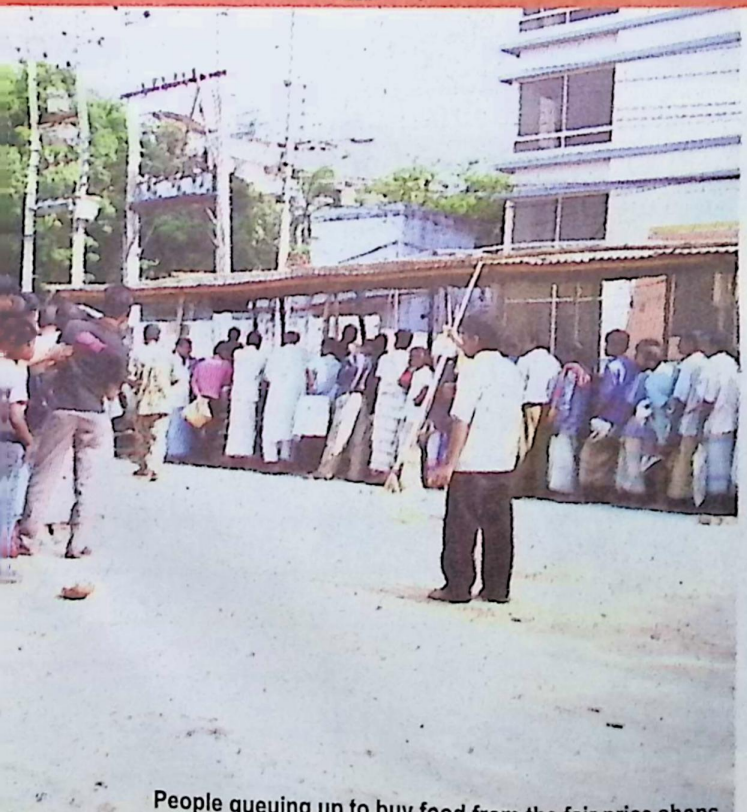


150 a week? With the price of food the way it is that's how much I end up spending a day let alone a week! Where will my rent come from? Where will every other expense in my life come from? At least before there were more construction projects around the city and I would be employed most of the week, these days there isn't even that option". Islam's story is simply one a million, more like one in a few million because there are people toiling all over the country now working on a daily basis trying to feed themselves and their dependants, but with the current state of the economy no where near enough jobs are being created, that coupled with rising prices in every sphere has hit Bangladesh hard.

Noted economist Wahiduddin Mahmud sets the problems faced by Bangladesh in a more global perspective when he says, "Realistically if you look at the situation around the world it is quite easy to comprehend that the

High to Pay



People queuing up to buy food from the fair price shops.

era of cheap food is over, internationally and in Bangladesh." His comments may seem provocative but if one were really to have a look at the situation of world food right now there would be no other answer. It has even come to the point when the World Health Organisation has openly stated that prices will continue to rise beyond 2010. That does not mean they will stay at today's astronomical levels, but will continue to rise. That will be a problem the world will have to face, with global demand increasing and stuttering supply we could find ourselves in the very real situation of bidding for food, finding the highest bidder and only then receiving food. There have already been food riots around the world from Haiti to Egypt and they are telling signs of what may occur in Bangladesh in the near future. This is even harder to believe for Bangladesh which is primarily an agriculture based economy.

Dr. Anu Mohammad of Jahangirnagar University looks beyond the global phenomena of rising food prices and claims that things are not as bleak as one might imagine for Bangladesh. Mohammad says, "the fact of the matter is that the current rise in food prices affects us quite simply because we have to buy grain and other food products from abroad. That is easy enough to understand. But what is not commonly known is that we produce nearly enough grain to feed our own country