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Pre-Ramadan hike in essentials price



PHOTO: STAR

During Ramadan, some dishonest businessmen try to make profits unethically by hiking up prices of basic commodities. Sometimes the price rises to such a height that it goes beyond the means of lower and middle income people. And every year we see the government takes steps to rein in the price.

But the ground realities show a different picture. In practice, the government initiatives are too little compared to the need to feel its impact in the local market. This year the prices of sugar, egg, oil, onion, garlic and potato has already started to soar ahead of Ramadan.

The hoarding tendency of some unscrupulous traders for making excess profits during Ramadan aggravates the situation. The government should impose ban on hoarding of basic commodities and fix the prices of all commodities. Constant monitoring should be in place side by side with mobile court. Every market should have a Local Market Monitoring Committee (LMMC) comprising senior citizens of the locality.

The mass people should know the fair price fixed by the government. If anomalies are found they should immediately inform the LMMC for necessary actions. Finally holding talks with the business bodies on a regular basis can improve the situation to a great extent.

Md. Musfikur Rahman Jony
Baneswar, Rajshahi

Millions suffer to save a few

We learned from the July 16, 2012 issue of The Daily Star that Finance Minister AMA Muhith when asked if the World Bank report on the Padma bridge graft would be made public, had said: "I am against character assassination"

It is incredible and unacceptable. When the share market collapsed, lakhs of people became penniless, he called the share market 'naughty' and those who go there gamblers. Though he knew who were responsible for this, he did not disclose their names.

In an e-mail interview with The Daily Star, the World Bank Country Director Ellen Goldstein on July 15, 2012 said the government may disclose the bank's reports containing evidence of corruption in the project for the sake of transparency and public interest. The finance minister had said: "Bangladesh would not release the bank's reports as a mark of respect for the global leader."

It is very funny. Did not Bangladesh government accuse the World Bank of many wrongdoings when it cancelled the loan? Suddenly, from where, the mark of respect for the global leader arises?

In short, it has become clear that a few people have become important to the government. To save them the government would do anything. The country with its 16 crore people may be destroyed, just to save a few people.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

Menace of unchained dogs

The rate of dog-bite related injuries has increased alarmingly in and around West Rampura, Ulon, Wapda Road and the adjoining areas. Inhabitants of this locality are frightened of unchained dogs on the streets as they often bark at the students, passers-by and children. The number of stray dogs have increased at such a high rate that the people are feeling very unsafe. Recently, some people including students and children were bitten by these dogs.

We urge the authorities concerned to take effective measures in order to reduce the danger of dog bite and ensure security of the people in the locality.

Md. Asimuzzaman (Joy)
Thai Plastic Goli, Ulon
West Rampura, Dhaka

Proper food habit in Ramadan

The holy month of Ramadan is a great opportunity for bringing back a balanced and healthy lifestyle. Through fasting we can learn how to manage eating habits, how to improve self-control and discipline. This month gives the stomach a break, and so we are able to break down and expel the accumulated toxins from our body. The fasting in Ramadan can improve a person's health, but if the correct diet is not followed it can worsen one's health.

To fully benefit from fasting, a person should spare a great deal of thought to the type and quantity of food that he will consume in this blessed month. Over-eating not only harm the body but it also interfere with a person's spiritual growth during the month. A diet that has less than a normal amount of food but is sufficiently balanced will keep a person healthy and active during this month. Foods to avoid are the heavily-processed, fast-burning foods that contain refined carbohydrates, and obviously too much fatty foods. Be sure to aim for 2 litres or more of water daily and lots of fresh fruit juices. May this month be blessed for us.

Nishat Sharmin Seoul
Rajshahi Medical College, Rajshahi



PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

Readership of newspapers

Often some people ask me whether in these days of internet culture people can manage time to read newspapers, particularly feature/opinion/letter columns. True, due to the flourishing online newspapers and other electronic media, newspapers' readership has decreased considerably. But still people largely depend on a newspaper to find detailed information plus news and views.

The feedback I receive from the readers on my newspaper articles, particularly in the letter/opinion column is much encouraging. And very fortunately I have some genuine and regular readers. Recently, Prof. Dr. A S M Ziaul Karim of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh came to our department as an external examiner for MS Thesis defense where I was also present as examiner together with my two other departmental colleagues. This time I met Prof. Karim after quite a long time. But interestingly, his first word to me was: "Zahidul Haque, I am not finding enough of your writings in newspapers".

In fact, Prof. A S M Ziaul Karim is a very knowledgeable and dynamic professor. He has vast knowledge about research methodologies in the discipline of agricultural extension and rural development. I think the nation should be benefited from his practical knowledge and experience.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Dean
Faculty of Agriculture
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University

Dhaka

Nuclear power should be option no. 1

This letter is in reference to the exclusive interview of Dr. Ijaz Hossain, Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, BUET, published in your daily on July 14, 2012. What surprises me is that the professor did not discuss the issue of nuclear energy at all.

Nuclear powered electrical generation is the second cheapest, the cleanest, most efficient in terms of maintenance and it provides long term solutions. With perfect planning on the board and project management, we can have two medium size second generation reactors in place supplying us a minimum of 2400 MW under a barter term agreement with Russia. All the initial studies and site are in place. If we can procure MIG-29 multi-role fighter aircraft for BAF, why can't we have electricity generation in the same procedure? Only thing that lacks here is the political will of the leadership.

The reports of Fukushima accident are telling us that the accident has happened purely due to negligence and human error. Some even cites conspiracy theory to weaken Japan's economy. The reactors were originally designed to withstand up to 9 on Richter scale. Japan is turning on its reactors one by one now. Japan would not do that if they were not absolutely sure about safety.

So, what I want to say is that nuclear power should be our option no. 1, gas-powered turbine is second and coal-fired power should be our reserved option.

Congratulations, President Morsi

We congratulate the democratically elected president Mohammad Morsi of Egypt and wish him all success. We hope and pray that under Morsi's leadership the situation in the whole Arab world would improve and the Palestine-Israel problem would be solved.

O. H. Kabir
Wari, Dhaka

A disturbing report of stealing

A coloured photograph was published in a local English daily on 15th July, about teachers stealing the roof sheets from the government primary school at Kalapara of Patuakhali district. It is simply

beyond imagination!

The photograph showed the loaded van in front of the school. Further, at least six persons were visible behind the van on the school veranda and in front. One wonders if they were curious spectators, or people connected with the school.

Was it something organised, or that some teachers as well as others of the school were involved? Were the police and the local Nirbahi and educational officers informed? The report did not clarify these points.

Please provide follow-ups on this report to inform the readers more about this sad, ugly and unbelievable incident. If teachers were involved, then they should be identified, given exemplary punishment and driven out of teaching profession.

S.A. Mansoor

Ban green chilli export

The price of green chillies has increased by 200 percent from Tk 20 - Tk 40 a month ago to Tk 80 - Tk 100 a kg now in the city markets. Some say that the prices of chillies are rising in the domestic markets due to exports to India. Indian markets are facing a shortage of vegetables supply due to floods. Prices of green chillies along with aubergine, onion, potato, garlic and cucumber etc. are also on the rise in the Indian markets.

The month of Ramadan is set to begin from the third week of July. It has been observed that during Ramadan consumption of the above mentioned vegetables increases along with sugar and cooking oil in our country. If exports of vegetables to India continue for earning more profits during Ramadan, it would disrupt the smooth vegetable supply in our local markets. The local consumers would be deprived of adequate supply of these items meaning the prices will not remain within reasonable limits. Recently the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) urged the government to slap a ban on export of these commodities to check the price spiral during Ramadan.

We hope the government would accept the proposal of FBCCI in this regard and start implementing it by imposing restriction on exports of green chillies immediately.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road, Gopibagh, Dhaka



PHOTO: A.M.AHAD/ DRKNEWS



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Top RMG buyers worried at unrest

Share views in a rare meeting in Dhaka, finalise a letter to PM for solution (July 19, 2012)

Mohsin

This is the result of poor foreign policy. Our top leaders have vitiated the relations with the development partners and customers to such an extent that it now seems it has taken an ominous turn.

Nasirullah Mridha, USA

The foreign buyers' concern over labour unrest in unison in Bangladesh really worried us. AL government should take this issue seriously for the betterment of our economy.

Robin

Pay attention, government! Westerners' worry carries a

severe concern. Don't take it lightly. You saw what happened in the case of WB - the sPadma Bridge episode!

MD. Mehedi Hasan

There are many kinds of unrest...but labour unrest is most vital in our country. It's really a big matter of concern.

Dr. nazmul Haq

Prime minister, please take immediate action to save the jobs of millions of poor workers.

Anonymous

The US ambassador already informed that the buyers in US are hesitating to buy garments

from Bangladesh because of labour unrest and the killing of the labour leaders. It portends the danger of another notch down in the economy of Bangladesh.

Suahmed

A reasonable wage rate and regular payment might minimise labour unrest. The buyers should help the manufacturers by enhancing their price offer to address the situation.

Maruf

Do these buyers ever think that social stability is needed? This can be achieved by paying fair wages, introducing health insurance, proper pension plans etc. Unions are needed to negotiate fair wages and fair working conditions. So, buyers should help the government to take required steps regarding this.

Amdem, USA

A ripple effect has started with the Grameen Bank crisis and dispute with Dr Yunus. First to suffer is the Padma bridge loan. Next to suffer is garment industry. We do not know where the next wave hits; may

be foreign investment. Politicians in Bangladesh think that they can conquer the world with verbal bullet. But actual power lies with those who have real bullet. I think that is working in the case of Bangladesh.

Qasem, Canada

Prime minister please kindly look into the matter seriously. The nation is eagerly waiting to find a justified solution. There should always be a congenial atmosphere in factory to have smooth production to keep shipment schedule. Otherwise the country might see the worst.

Jumana Sarwar

To bring back the confidence of the buyers, the AL leaders must realise that they ought to do something. 1) A credible and acceptable investigation must be started soon to deal with Aminul murder case. 2) People responsible for Ilias Ali disappearance must be held accountable, no matter how powerful they are. 3) Basing of Grameen Bank and Prof Yunus must be stopped. 4) Political deadlock on caretaker issue must be removed.