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# Onion prices in India hiked

## No significant impact on local retail market found yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday hiked the price of onion for its open market sales, a day after India, the country's main source of the cooking ingredient, hiked its export price.

India on Friday, in a bid to rein in prices in its domestic market, raised the export price of per tonne of onion by \$200 to \$1,150, said a notification from the neighbouring country's ministry of commerce and industry.

The Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), the government agency responsible for price stabilisation of commodities, yesterday resumed its open market operations at Tk 65 each kilogram (kg), up from Tk 55 a kg it sold prior to Eid-ul-Azha.

"It is really unfortunate that the government is selling at increased prices. It will create a negative impact on the market by indirectly encouraging traders to increase prices," said Humayun Kabir Bhuiya, general secretary of Consumer's Association of Bangladesh.

The vegetable yesterday sold at Tk 100-110 a kg at the retail level.

"It is likely that the onion prices will rise further following India's decision," said Harun Ur Rashid, convener of Importers Group of Hili Land Port, Dinajpur.

At the time of writing, onion prices have already started rising at the wholesale level, traders said.

The import cost of onion, including the cost of transport, SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



With prices of onions skyrocketing, people looking for a cheaper deal buy onions for Tk 65 a kg from a Trading Corporation of Bangladesh truck parked in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

PHOTO: STAR

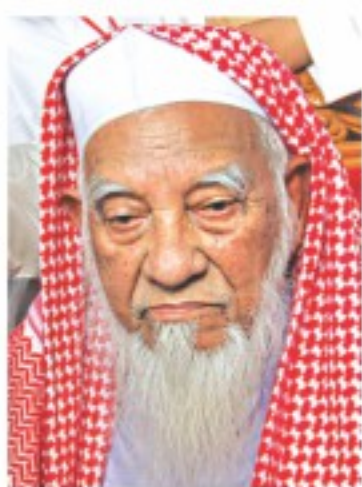
# Women flowers, not tamarinds

## Shafi goes back on his controversial remark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hefajat-e Islam Ameer Shah Ahmed Shafi yesterday said people misunderstood him when he had likened women to tamarinds.

Seeking to deflect criticism for his recent misogynist remarks, he said, "I did not label them as tamarinds. I had only likened them to tamarinds because when you walk beneath a tamarind tree, or see someone eating SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



# Graft, politics scuttle job for youth scheme

Finds TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Service Programme, marred by corruption and political interference, mostly failed to provide the youths with viable employment, according to the findings of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

Though the scheme empowered the participants with training, socialisation and financial ability, it could not be viable in absence of a long-term target, TIB officials said while pre-

senting the research findings at a press conference in the city's Brac Centre Inn.

The programme was launched as a two-year pilot scheme in 2010 in two districts, Kurigram and Barguna. Gopalganj was later included in the scheme, though it was not there in the original concept of the programme.

It aimed at providing three-month training to the youths -- aged between 18 and 35, and who have at least secondary education - to employ them for two years at public and

private organisations.

Partisan selection of participants, training by unauthorised persons, paying allowance without attendance are some of the unethical practices identified in the research, said TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman.

Though the programme conceptually had great prospect, it had provoked the youths to gain monetary benefit through underhand exchange, he said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

# Call off hartal

## PM urges Khaleda at Rajbari rally

UNB, Pangsha, Rajbari

Urging the opposition leader to withdraw their 60-hour fresh hartal, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called on people to build a strong resistance against those who blast bombs and take away food from their mouths.

"I request the opposition leader [Khaleda Zia] not to enforce the hartal that will destroy the academic life of young students," she said.

The prime minister was addressing a mammoth public rally at Pangsha University College ground in Rajbari.

Also the president of Awami League, Hasina alleged that the opposition leader wants to disrupt the Junior School Certificate (JSC) examinations, begging tomorrow, by enforcing another unnecessary hartal.

Referring to the opposition's previous spell of hartal, she said "the opposition leader killed" 20 people in the last 60-hour hartal. "I phoned her and requested her to withdraw the hartal. But you all know about how she replied to me," SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



GIVE A SMILE! Bangladesh stars Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, left, and Tamim Iqbal appear relaxed as the latter takes a photo of the former during their training in Mirpur yesterday. Having taken winning 2-0 lead against New Zealand, the third and final ODI today at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium may be a dead rubber, but anything than a win for the Tigers will not satisfy the cricket-lovers of Narayanganj who fought for tickets of the match for the last couple of days.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# War game nearly brought N-disaster

## Documents reveal

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

New evidence that Britain and America came close to provoking the Soviet Union into launching a nuclear attack has emerged in former classified documents written at the height of the cold war.

Cabinet memos and briefing papers released under the Freedom of Information Act reveal that a major war games exercise, Operation Able Art, conducted in November 1983 by the US and its Nato allies was so realistic it made the Russians believe that a nuclear strike on its territory was a real possibility.

When intelligence filtered back to the Tory government on the Russians' reaction to the exercise, the prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, ordered her officials to lobby the Americans to make sure that such a mistake could never happen again. Anti-nuclear proliferation campaigners have credited the move with changing how the UK and the US thought about their relationship with the Soviet Union and beginning a thaw in relations between east and west.

The papers were obtained by Peter Burt, director of the Nuclear Information Service, an organisation that campaigns against nuclear proliferation, who said that the documents showed just how risky the cold war became for both sides.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# HASINA-KHALEDA TALK

## Petition filed with HC over leak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a petition with the High Court challenging the legality of recording and publishing the phone conversation between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and opposition leader Khaleda Zia.


Abdullah-Al Baki lodged the petition as a public interest litigation for a court directive on the government to identify the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

PRAYER TIMING November 3		
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-55	5-30
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-34
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think that the opposition leader will respond to the Prime Minister's call not to enforce any agitation programme that could harm students' academic life?

Yes

(09%)

No

(91%)

TOTAL VOTES: 242

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the ruling and the opposition parties are sincere about holding talks to resolve the prevailing political impasse?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

# Germany, Brazil draft anti-spy resolution

## Malaysia summons US, Australia envoys over alleged surveillance

AGENCIES

Germany and Brazil have presented a draft resolution to a UN general assembly committee that calls for an end to excessive electronic surveillance, data collection and other gross invasions of privacy.

The draft resolution, which both Germany and Brazil made public on Friday, does not name any specific countries, although UN diplomats said it was clearly

aimed at the US, which has been embarrassed by revelations of a massive international surveillance programme from a former US contractor.

Meanwhile, as a row over a vast US-led surveillance network deepened in Asia, Malaysia summoned the heads of the US and Australian missions in protest at spying allegations, its foreign minister said yesterday.

The dispute erupted in the region this

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

# Dog gets an MBA degree

WWW.ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

You know a university is shady when even a dog can get a Master's degree. Yes, you heard right - in order to unmask the American University of London (AUOL), BBC Newsnight had Pete the dog apply for an MBA at the American University of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

