

## VEGETABLES ON EVE OF RAMADAN Prices hiked up to 88pc Greengrocers defy govt warnings



	NOW (Per Kg)	ONE MONTH AGO
Aubergine	Tk80-90	Tk40-50
Cucumber	Tk45-55	Tk25-30
Green Chilli	Tk70-80	Tk40-50
Onion	Tk30-40	Tk28-35

**SUMAN SAHA**

Despite the government's repeated warnings, greengrocers hiked vegetable prices on the eve of Ramadan in the capital's kitchen markets to make quick profits.

The average prices of four vegetable items -- aubergine, cucumber, green chilli and onion -- rose between 11 percent and 88 percent over the last one month, The Daily Star found while visiting a number of kitchen markets. These vegetables are widely consumed during Ramadan.

Swapna Islam, a housewife, bought a kg of aubergine at Tk 80 from a roadside vendor at Kathal Bagan yesterday. It sold at Tk 50 per kg only two weeks ago.

"High prices discouraged me from buying more," said Swapna, as she abandoned her plan to buy vegetables for a week.

Cucumber price shot up to Tk 55 a kg yesterday from Tk 30 only a week back, she said. "It is illogical to hike prices within such a short time despite adequate supply."

Swapna's reaction reflects a general sense of frustration among shoppers

in most parts of the city.

At Karwan Bazar, four pieces of standard-size lemons were selling at Tk 25-30 yesterday which was Tk 15 only a couple of days ago.

Though green chilli would cost between Tk 40-60 per kg a month ago, it sold for Tk 80-90 yesterday.

At Hatirpool kitchen market, retailers were selling locally produced onions at Tk 40 a kg, up from Tk 34 a week ago.

Though the government has imposed a ban on exports of aubergine, garlic, cucumber, green chilli, lemon and coriander leaves until July 31 to ensure adequate supply during Ramadan, and check price hike, it certainly has not worked as expected.

"Prices of some vegetables have increased mainly due to supply shortage," said Mohammad Sayed, president of Shyambazar Krishi Panya Aarot Banik Samity, blaming the supply shortfall on the heavy rain in the last couple of weeks.

The price of garlic rose by 15.38 percent to Tk 60-Tk 90 a kg compared to that of the previous month, according to the Trading Corporation of

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Netherlands striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (L) goes off on a celebratory run after his successful 90th-minute penalty strike completed the Dutch's late turnaround against Mexico during their World Cup round of 16 match at Castalao Arena in Fortaleza yesterday.

## Dutch death for Mexico

AFP, Fortaleza

The Netherlands scored twice in the dying minutes through Wesley Sneijder and a Klaas Jan Huntelaar penalty to pull off a remarkable victory and move into the quarter-finals of the World Cup with a 2-1 win over Mexico on Sunday.

In a match conditioned by

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## 'JOURNALISTS ARE DOGS' Apologise, now Journo leaders hit out at Shamim Osman for his vile talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The indecent comments made by ruling party lawmaker Shamim Osman about media and journalists are an expression of his meanness, which ultimately dents the dignity of parliament, journalist leaders said yesterday.

Condemning the remarks, they called upon Shamim Osman to offer an apology and withdraw the comments immediately.

On Thursday, the controversial lawmaker elected from

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## NEWS ANALYSIS Shamim's arrogance, Bashir's courage

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The arrogance of the Osmans in Narayanganj has gone up a good number of notches since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina informed the nation, on the floor of the Jatiya Sangsad a couple or so weeks ago, that she would take upon herself the responsibility of looking after the Osman family.

The prime ministerial statement had ramifications that can clearly be imagined. An entire nation went into a state of disbelief, even shock. Where the people of Bangladesh had supposed that it was their welfare the prime minister would look into, the public declaration by the head of government that she was on the side of the Osmans made

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## Rejoinder, our reply

SM Mortuza Hossain, the newly elected vice-chairman of Muktiyoddha Sangsad central command council, has issued a rejoinder to the report headlined, "Bought out!", published in The Daily Star on June 16.

Sent through his lawyer Khairul Islam, the rejoinder claimed that Mortuza had received freedom fighter's training at Haflong in Assam and took part in the Liberation War being inspired by the father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

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## Dutch-Bangla Bank's Rating Affirmed

# AA1

Dutch-Bangla Bank has been affirmed 'AA1' (pronounced 'Double A One') rating in the long term and retained 'ST-1' rating in the short term by Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh Limited (CRAB). The rating was based on consolidated audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2013 and other relevant qualitative and quantitative information.

A comparative position of the credit ratings (surveillance rating) of DBBL for the years 2013 and 2012 is furnished below:

Surveillance rating 2013	Surveillance rating 2012	Definition
Long Term : AA1	Long Term : AA1	Commercial Banks rated 'AA1' in the long term have very strong capacity to meet their financial commitments. They differ from the highest-rated Commercial Banks only to a small degree. 'AA1' is judged to be of very high quality and is subject to very low credit risk.
Short Term : ST - 1	Short Term : ST - 1	Commercial Banks rated 'ST-1' in the short term category are considered to have the highest capacity for timely repayment of obligations. Commercial Banks rated in this category are characterized with excellent position in terms of liquidity, internal fund generation, and access to alternative sources of funds.

The rating agency views that DBBL's creditworthiness is likely to remain resilient. They also expect that the Bank will maintain its moderate to low risk profile, satisfactory underlying profitability, moderate capitalization and one of the leading positions in infrastructure segment, despite a highly competitive environment and structural changes in the industry.

Therefore, a 'stable outlook' has been assigned to the Bank.

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