



RAMADAN ESSENTIALS

## Prices up on high demand

Commerce ministry sees no dearth in supply

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Prices of some essentials whose consumption goes up during Ramadan are on the rise already despite adequate supply, much to the worries of the consumers.

Prices of chickpea, sugar, garlic, lentil and cooking oil have jumped up compared with those a year or a month ago, according to the prices quoted in the market data of the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) yesterday.

A market analysis by the commerce ministry in the middle of May found that the supply is good enough to meet the expected demand during Ramadan starting early next month, when commodity prices are expected to rise further riding on high demand.

Market analysts say it has become a tradition that prices of almost all grocery items would skyrocket before and during the fasting month.

Aware of this, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed held a meeting with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and wholesalers and retailers on May 17. He directed them to keep the market stable.

The minister said supply of all items, including rice, sugar, edible oil,

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**ONE-YEAR PRICE COMPARISON ACCORDING TO THE TCB PRICE LIST YESTERDAY. PRICES MAY VARY FROM MARKET TO MARKET.**

- CHICKPEA: TK 61-65 (Per kg) vs TK 85-100 (Per kg)
- LENTIL: TK 110-115 (Per kg) vs TK 140-145 (Per kg)
- ONION: TK 41-46 (Per kg) vs TK 35-45 (Per kg)
- SUGAR: Tk 60-62 (Per kg) vs Tk 41-42 (Per kg)
- COOKING OIL (Per ltr): Tk 93 (Per ltr) vs TK 90-95
- GARLIC (Per kg): Tk 60-80 vs Tk 100-135
- MEAT, SPICES, EGGS: PRICES OF ALL KINDS OF MEAT, SPICES AND EGGS ARE ALSO ON THE RISE.

## Fizz IPL's first best foreign young player

SPORTS REPORTER

The honour was not a surprise but it was an honour that all Bangladesh i cricket



fans will be proud to call their own. At the end of Sunrisers Hyderabad's rousing Indian Premier League (IPL) final victory over Royal Challengers Bangalore yesterday, Mustafizur Rahman was adjudged the Emerging Player of IPL 2016 -- an accolade that perfectly capped off the season for the young pace sensation from Tetulia. He becomes the first foreign player to win the trophy, which was called variously 'Young Player of

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## SHIPWRECKS IN MEDITERRANEAN

# 700 migrants feared dead in a week: UN

AFP, Rome

A week of shipwrecks in the Mediterranean culminated yesterday with 700 migrants feared dead and survivors giving harrowing testimony of dozens of small children drowned.

Survivors brought to safety in the Italian ports of Taranto and Pozzallo told the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR) and Save the Children how their boat sank on Thursday morning after a high-seas drama which saw

one woman decapitated.

"We'll never know the exact number, we'll never know their identities," said the UNHCR's spokeswoman Carlotta Sami. But multiple witness reports suggested over 500 people had drowned in that shipwreck alone.

With some 100 others missing after a boat sank Wednesday, and 45 bodies recovered from a wreck that happened Friday, the UNHCR said it feared up to 700 people had drowned in total this week.

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## PM assures investors of full security

Invites Japanese businesses to invest in Bangladesh

BSS, Tokyo

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reassured Japanese investors that the door of Bangladesh is open for them as she said some recent incidents would not frustrate the investment climate.

Addressing a breakfast meeting with Japanese

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## Hell in Highlands

Bangladeshis ended up enslaved in Scottish hotel



The Stewart Hotel in Scotland

AGENCIES

It was a clear case of modern-day slavery. Shamsul Arefin promised four Bangladeshis jobs at his hotel in the Highlands of Scotland and charged each of them up to £18,000 to escape poverty in Bangladesh.

But what was meant to be a new start became a nightmare for Sheikh Nasir Ullah Bhuiyan, Hasan Mahmud, Kamal Ahmed and Abul Kalam Azad.

They were told to pay him substantial

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TOP QUOTE

"We will not give any opportunity to invest undisclosed income in housing sector or elsewhere without asking questions."

FINANCE MINISTER

AMA MUHITH

IN RESPONSE TO REALTORS' PROPOSAL FOR ALLOWING PEOPLE TO BUY FLATS WITH UNTAXED MONEY.



**DHALESHWARI IN DANGER:** This huge bridge over the Dhaleshwari river in Jagir area of Manikganj sadar is evident how mighty once the river had been. Sadly today, it is absolutely dry at places like this, as silt accumulated and blocked the water flow in nearby Tittli area. Locals have long been demanding urgent steps to save the river in vain. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## HUMILIATION OF TEACHER

# HC asks district admin to report

Orders it to give details on steps taken against those responsible

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the district administration of Narayanganj to submit three separate and detailed reports specifying steps taken so far against the perpetrators responsible for humiliating schoolteacher Shyamal Kanti Bhakta.

The deputy commissioner and the superintendent of police of Narayanganj and the officer-in-charge of Bandar police were asked to submit the reports before the court by June 8.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the three reports submitted by the three officials concerned yesterday, the court said it would take action if the next reports were prepared insincerely.

The HC bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir also fixed June 9 for passing further orders on the issue.

During hearing of a suo moto rule, the court said the reports submitted by the DC, the SP and the OC were not prepared in line with the rule and order.

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Bloodshed makes mockery of polls

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The ongoing union parishad polls redefined the universal definition of election. It has also presented a new model of ballots, which matches no international standards for elections.

Now, the election, according to the new model, is no more a peaceful mechanism for people to choose their representatives casting votes.

More than 100 people were killed and a few thousands were injured in electoral violence since February. Incidents of capturing polling stations, stuffing ballot boxes and intimidating opponents were rampant in the last five phases of the elections.

More than 200 chairman candidates were elected untested, denying people their right to vote.

All these have surpassed the previous records and have taken the ongoing elections to an unprecedented level.

The ongoing elections mock the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and the spirit of our constitution.

Article 21 (3) of the UDHR unequivocally says that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of the government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal

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## We are obliged...

Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Managing Director & CEO of Islami Bank achieved the 'Asian Banker CEO Leadership Achievement Award-2016'

Under his dynamic leadership, Islami Bank was accorded the

'Best Managed Bank in Bangladesh' Award



Managing Director & CEO of Islami Bank receiving the awards. Barney Frank, former Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee of the US Congress, Emmanuel Daniel, Chairman of The Asian Banker, Alain Chevalier, Chairman of The Asian Banker Summit Advisory Council and Ms Nguyen Thi Hong, Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Vietnam were present in the ceremony. This prestigious award is given once every three years considering the overall performance and achievement of CEOs of banks in Asia-Pacific regions

This achievement goes to all of us.

Our workforces, millions of customer and numerous well-wishers deserve this honor.

Our heartiest greetings and gratefulness to all



**Islami Bank**  
Bangladesh Limited