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# PRICE HIKE OF RAMADAN ESSENTIALS

## Crooked traders make most of lax monitoring

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traders have continued to sell essential foods and popular Ramadan items at higher prices, even two weeks into the holy month, taking advantage of the slack monitoring of kitchen markets in the capital.

Prices of a few items saw a further hike over the last week, while some items, whose prices were increased previously, are still selling at higher-than-normal prices, to the dismay of people with limited income.

During a random survey by The Daily Star at popular kitchen markets, the prices of imported garlic, sugar and aromatic rice much consumed during festivals were seen varying widely from one market to another.

Meanwhile, the prices of some vegetables have come down, to the relief of consumers.

Earlier, Dhaka south and north city corporations, commerce ministry, consumer rights department and others designated to ensure fair prices promised to contain the price hike of essentials during Ramadan.

But scanty surveillance and monitoring have helped unscrupulous traders exploit consumers as seen in Mirpur-11 kitchen market, Kalmilata kitchen market in Tejgunipara, Jurain kitchen market and West Kazipara mosque kitchen market.

At the Mirpur market, sugar sells at Tk 75 a kg, Tk 7 higher than what was in the beginning of Ramadan, Chinese garlic at Tk 300, which was Tk 240 two weeks ago.

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Instead of being in school, 12-year-old Alamgir toils 12 hours a day in an aluminium utensil factory for just Tk 150. He had to make the choice between food on his plate and an education. The photos were taken at a factory in Muradpur in Chittagong city yesterday. Today is World Day Against Child Labour.  
 PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## Help govt root out terrorism

PM urges ulema from Qawmi madrasas

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the ulema of Qawmi madrasas to motivate people against the spread of terrorism and to help the government's efforts to eliminate this social menace from the country.

"Please motivate the people to engage them in the anti-terrorism movement," she said.

The PM made the call when a group of ulema (Islamic scholars) of Qawmi madrasas, led by Maulana Ashraf Ali, met her at her parliament office.

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## King Nadal rules again

STAR SPORT DESK

A year ago, when Rafael Nadal withdrew from his third-round match at the French Open with a wrist injury, bringing an end to his participation in a tournament he had won nine times since 2005, most were predicting the end of the road for arguably the greatest clay court player of all time and one of the greatest to have picked up a tennis racket.

A year later, in one of the greatest sporting accomplishments on the most demanding surface tennis can offer, Nadal completed his most

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## Dublin warns May over DUP coalition

Isolated UK PM faces trouble in forming govt; Corbyn says he still can be PM

AGENCIES

British Prime Minister Theresa May suffered a further setback yesterday in her efforts to stay in power after Dublin warned that her plans to form an alliance with a Northern Irish party could upset the province's fragile peace.

In a phone call, Irish premier Enda Kenny told May that forming a minority government reliant on the support of the hardline Protestant Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) could pose a "challenge" to the 1998 Good Friday peace accords.

The future of the proposed alliance had already been thrown into confusion late Saturday after May's office announced that an outline agreement had been struck, only to backtrack and say that talks were still ongoing.

"The taoiseach (Kenny) indicated his concern that nothing should happen to put the Good Friday Agreement at risk and the challenge that this agreement will bring," an Irish government spokesman said.

London's neutrality is key to the delicate balance of power in Northern Ireland, which was once plagued by violence over Britain's control of the province.

May responded that the DUP deal "would provide stability and certainty for the UK going forward", her office said.

The 60-year-old is struggling to reassert her authority after losing her parliamentary majority in Thursday's snap election, just days before Brexit talks begin.

The Sunday newspapers carried reports that Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson was set to launch a bid to oust her, although he dismissed them as "tripe", insisting on Twitter: "I'm backing Theresa May."

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## Tragedy struck long ago, plight not over yet

Victim of Jagannath Hall roof collapse in need of money for eye surgeries

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Life was offering endless possibilities when Ratan Kumar Saha, a fresher at Dhaka University, started pursuing his dreams of higher education some 32 years back.

But a tragic twist of fate all of a sudden turned things upside down, making him suffer till today.

He narrowly survived a roof collapse at Jagannath Hall that killed 39 people, including 26 students and 13 guests, on October 15, 1985.

Both his hands were broken into pieces and his face was deformed. He had to remain hospitalised for over nine months and take a year's break from studies.

However, his indomitable spirit never let him give up. A student of geology, he obtained first class in honours and masters and went on to become a teacher at some renowned private schools in Dhaka.

His left hand gradually regained strength while he can only write with the other.

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## Prisoner freed after lookalike found



AGENCIES

A man who spent 17 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit has been released after police found his lookalike.

Richard Anthony Jones from Kansas City, Kansas, was set free on Thursday because a judge declared there was no longer sufficient evidence to convict him.

Jones had been jailed for armed robbery in 1999 based on an eyewitness account.

During a new hearing into his case, witnesses who testified against him said they couldn't tell Jones from 'Ricky', whose resemblance to the freed man is uncanny and who eerily shares his first name.

The judge ordered Jones's release because there was no physical, DNA or fingerprint evidence that tied him to the crime. What's more, Jones lived on the other side of Kansas while his lookalike lived in the same area the incident occurred.

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## PM leaves for UK, Sweden tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will make a two-day official visit to Sweden on June 15-16 to further deepen and expand the cooperation between the two countries.

Hasina is the first head of state or government who is making a bilateral visit to Sweden. She will go to Sweden via London. Her flight is around noon tomorrow.

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**SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS**

Ramadan	June	Sehri	Iftar
16	12	6-50	
17	13	3-37	6-50
18	14	3-38	6-50



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Huge piles of garbage left on the side and on the slow lane of Dhaka-Aricha highway at Hemaetpur of Savar. Yesterday morning, a motorbike rider slipped on the garbage and was run over by a microbus. The biker was killed on the spot. At least five bikers fell there until 5:00pm yesterday.

## US attorney gen next in scandal's spotlight

Set for senate grilling over his alleged connection to Russia

AFP, Washington

Jeff Sessions, a longtime senator until President Donald Trump picked him as US attorney general, heads to Congress this coming week when he will face a grilling about his Russian interactions.

Sessions, among the earliest high-profile backers of Trump's election campaign, appears before his former colleagues tomorrow, days after explosive testimony by ousted FBI director James Comey, whose removal he recommended.

Concerns have been raised about whether Sessions helped otherwise subvert the ongoing Russia-related investigations.

"This is going to prompt a lot of questions for him," the panel's top Democrat, Senator Patrick Leahy, told AFP of an appearance in which lawmakers will be eager to learn what role Sessions played in Comey's firing last month.

The Senate Appropriations Committee had called in the attorney general to testify about budget issues. But on Saturday, after senators made clear they would zero in on Sessions's connections to Russia, Sessions shifted his plan, opting to address the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"In light of reports regarding Mr Comey's recent testimony before the Senate Select

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**PRAYER TIMING JUNE 12**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
 AZAN 3-44 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15  
 JAMAAT 3-54 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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