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# Govt to buy rice at Tk 39 per kg

**Targets procurement of 3 lakh tonnes from farmers**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government is going to procure 3 lakh tonnes of rice in the next Aman season from domestic sources at a price higher than that of last year's.

The move aims at increasing the food stock and ensure fair price for farmers.

The Food Monitoring Committee in a meeting chaired by Food Minister Qamrul Islam fixed the procurement price at Tk 39 a kg while last year's price was Tk 33.

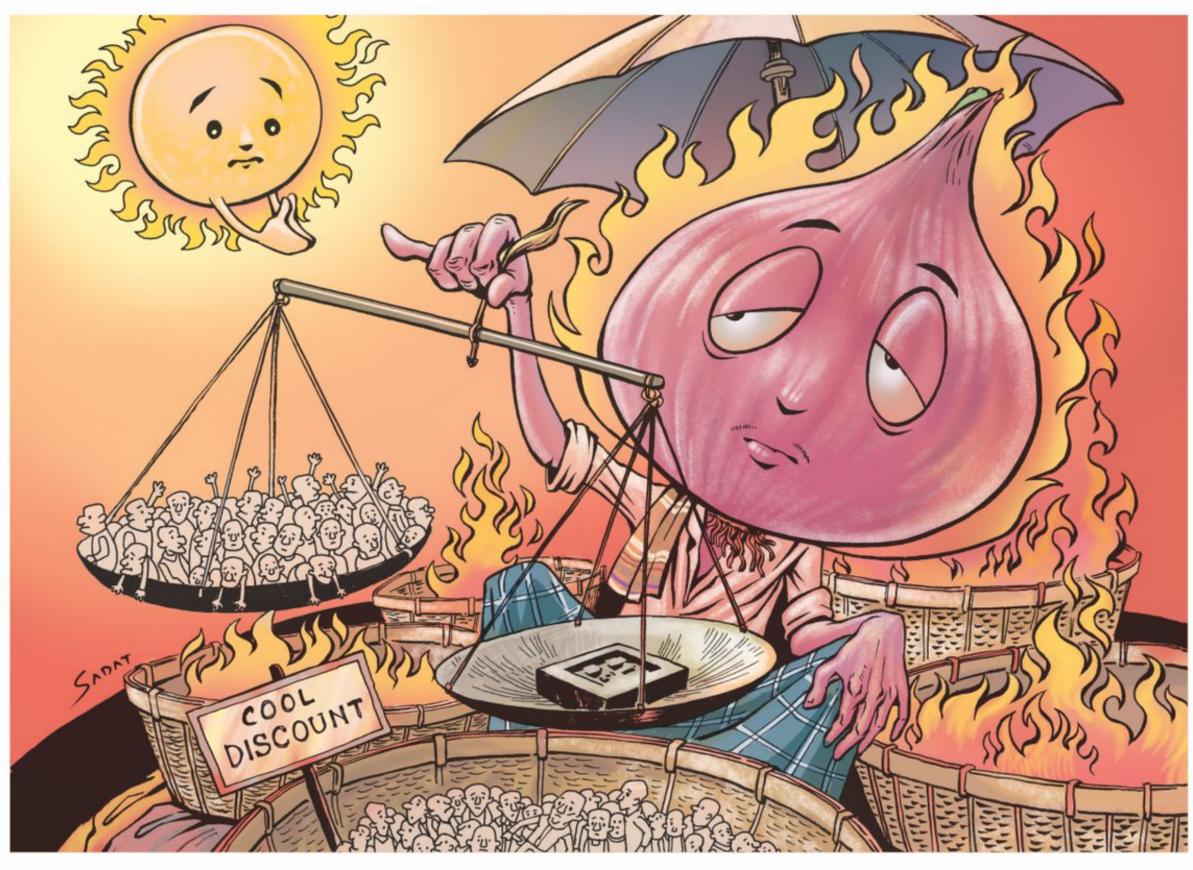
The amount to be procured remains same as that of last year's, the minister told reporters at a short briefing after the meeting at the ministry auditorium.

The food minister said the cost for producing each kg of rice was Tk 37 this year while it was only Tk 29 last year.

It means that the production cost has increased by 27.58 percent while the government's procurement rate would increase by 18.18 percent only.

A food ministry official said increased

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# Onion price slightly down, but still high

**KONGKON KARMAKER with SOHEL PARVEZ**

Onion prices have come down a little but are still way too high.

Yesterday, locally-grown onions were selling for Tk 90 a kg at the kitchen market in the capital's Karwan Bazar. However, the prices ranged between Tk 95 and Tk 100 in the grocery stores in the city.

Onions imported from India were being sold between Tk 75 and Tk 80 per kg.

A few days ago, the price of locally-produced onions shot up to Tk 100 and over after the neighbouring country imposed \$850 as Minimum Export Price for each tonne of onions.

India reset the MEP after nearly two years to increase supply in its domestic market and curb price hike there.

The country, which itself has a huge demand for the essential cooking ingredient, is a major source of onion for Bangladesh.

The retail prices in New Delhi have touched Rs 80 for a kg owing to tight supply, according to reports by some Indian media outlets.

That hike eventually had an impact on

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# 'Bribery at every step'

**Finds TIB study on lower courts; justice seekers pay Tk 200 to Tk 10 lakh in bribe**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Many justice seekers pay between Tk 200 and Tk 10 lakh bribe to different people during legal proceedings at lower courts, a Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) study has found.

The TIB conducted the study on different lower courts, including district court, judicial magistrate's court, and metropolitan session judge's court, of 18 districts across the country between January and October.

It found poor transparency, accountability, and governance that stress people in every step of getting justice.

"Many employees of the courts do not do anything without getting bribes, the amount of which depends on the type and importance of the case, number of plaintiffs and defendants, and the justice seekers' capacity to pay," the study said.

Some lawyers demand money for signing documents for changing lawyers, withdrawal of a case, and when receiving compensation from the accused.

A number of layers demand money from both sides, the plaintiff's and the defendant's, saying that they would make sure they win, it added.

The TIB interviewed 66 judges and 371 people related to lower courts, including lawyers, police officials, law ministry officials, and justice seekers. It also organised several discussions among them and observed activities on courts premises.

Findings of the study were revealed at a press conference at the TIB office yesterday.

The study said the Supreme Court and the law ministry control the lower courts, which deal with approximately 86 percent of the total cases filed in

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# 'Criminal' killed in 'shootout' with Rab

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

A suspected criminal was killed in a "shootout" between Rab and his cohorts in the port city's Panchlaish early yesterday.

The dead, Mohimuddin Mohin, was from Hajipara area under Bayezid Police Station, said Rab-7 Deputy Director Lt Commander Ashequr Rahman.

According to Rab, 36-year-old Mohin was known to be an operative of notorious Shibir cadre Sazzad.

The "shootout" took place in Rajganj area of Panchlaish around 4:00am, said Ashequr.

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# Cities not safe for women

**55pc face violence, ActionAid reveals in study**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A total of 54.7 percent women living in urban areas of Bangladesh face violence, ActionAid said in a study yesterday.

They face physical, psychological, financial and social violence including unwanted touches from strangers, said the study, referring to a 2015 report by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and UNFPA.

ActionAid's study was conducted on the basis of five indicators - situation of violence against women, existing legal frameworks for violence against women, proper plan and budget allocation to stop violence against women, gender friendly urban planning and gender friendly transportation system.

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# SMARTPHONE ADDICTION It can lead to imbalance in brain: study

**INDEPENDENT.CO.UK**

People's smartphone addiction could be causing an important imbalance in the brain, according to a new study.

The research looked at people who were tied to their phone and

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**NATURE QUEST**

Rajshahi Zoo staffers are hoping that this gharial couple, pictured recently, will have some babies next year as the critically endangered reptiles are already having a good time ahead of their mating season in December-January. The 35-year-old male gharial, about 12 feet long, was brought in August from Dhaka to mate with Rajshahi's 33-year-old female, who is about nine feet.

PHOTO: ANWAR ALI

# Cops 'raid CPB office'

**Use noise emitting device to disperse protesters during hartal over power tariff hike**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Minutes before the beginning of yesterday's countrywide hartal called by the left-leaning parties protesting the power tariff hike, police allegedly raided the office of Communist Party of Bangladesh and picked up 11 of its leaders and activists.

The detainees were later freed.

Police also lobbed at least four teargas canisters inside the office in Paltan around 5:30am, the CPB alleged in a press statement.

Around 6:00am, police dispersed the protesters when they were trying to gather near Shahbagh intersection. They used noise emitting devices to disperse them.

Maruf Hossain Sorder, deputy commissioner (Ramna division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that the devices were used to "bring the situation

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**SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center**

**PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 1**

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN	5-15	12-30	3-45	5-19	7-00
JAMAAT	5-50	1-15	4-00	5-22	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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# ATTACK ON PABNA JOURNOS Minister's son, 29 others sued

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna**

A case has been filed against Ishwardi upazila unit Jubo League President Shirhan Sherif Tomal, also the son of Land Minister Shamsur Rahman Sherif, and 29 other ruling Awami League men for beating up four journalists on Wednesday.

The journalists were gathering information on the preparation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Ishwardi to inaugurate the construction of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant yesterday.

One of the victims, Partho Hasan, Pabna district

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বিজয়ের মাসে একযোগে ৩৭ জেলায় শুরু হচ্ছে

**স্মার্ট জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র বিতরণ**

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হেল্পলাইন: ১০৫

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