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PRICE HIKE OF ONION

Customs detectives quiz 14 importers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) yesterday quizzed 14 onion importers to "gather information" on sales and stock of the cooking ingredient.

The move comes in the face of surging onion prices, which hit a record high of around Tk 250 per kilogram early last week, owing to a shortage of supply.

The CIID, a field office under the National Board of Revenue (NBR), said it asked a total of 47 onion importers to appear in its office with information on the quantity of onions they sold, their proceeds from sales as well as names and addresses of the persons to whom the onions were sold.

Yesterday, a total of 14 importers, mainly from Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Bogura and Sathkhira, appeared before the CIID and rest 33 onion importers are expected to be questioned today.

It has summoned importers who imported over 1,000 tonnes of onions between August 2019 and November 18 this year, the CIID said.

It, however, did not compile the total amount of onion imports by these 47 importers.

"We are trying to gather some information about where they have sold onions and the stock they have in hand. And we are getting their versions and once we complete doing so, we will be able to conclude whether they have sold at higher prices and how much supply they have. We expect the onion market [prices] will come to a tolerable level," CIID Director General Shahidul Islam said while briefing reporters in his office.

The CIID top official said onions were being imported through planes.

"We see that there are enough onions in the market. There is no shortage. Prices

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In a unique form of protest, jute mill workers holding empty plates bring out a procession in Khulna city's Natun Rastar Mor area yesterday to press home their 11-point demand, including implementation of the wage board award, and payment of wages and arrears. Story on Page 5.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

2 killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

Two alleged criminals -- a drug dealer and a robber -- were killed in "gunfights" with law enforcers in Dhaka and Sunamganj early yesterday.

The man who was killed in Dhaka is Mizanur Rahman Mintu alias Megha Mintu, 34. He stood accused in at least 12 murder, arms and drug cases, Md Kamruzzaman, an assistant director of Rab-1, told The

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 26

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-10 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00
JAMAAT 5-45 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

HONG KONG LOCAL ELECTIONS

Pro-democracy camp scores landslide win

Beleaguered leader Carrie Lam vows to 'listen humbly' to voters

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's deeply unpopular leader yesterday vowed to "listen humbly" to voters after the pro-democracy camp scored a crushing victory in community-level elections that revealed broad public support for a protest movement that has stirred months of violence.

In a rout that stunned the semi-autonomous territory, candidates seeking to loosen control by China seized an overwhelming majority of the 452 elected seats in the city's 18 district councils, bodies that have historically been firmly in the grip of a Beijing-aligned establishment.

The result, the first vote to be held since protests engulfed the city, was a humiliating rebuke to Beijing and Chief Executive Carrie Lam.

She has stubbornly dismissed calls for political reform and repeatedly suggested that a silent majority supported her administration and opposed the protest movement.

"The government will certainly listen humbly to citizens' opinions and reflect on them seriously," Lam said in a statement issued by the government.

But she gave no specifics on the likely response.

China's foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Beijing "resolutely supports" the leader and backs the police and judiciary in Hong Kong in "punishing relevant violent and illegal behaviours".

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Hitler's top hat sells for \$55,000 at auction

THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE

Hitler's top hat sold for more than \$55,000 at a controversial auction of Nazi memorabilia in Germany.

The auction at Hermann Historica began Wednesday in Munich and continued till Thursday.

Other items that sold on the first day were a silver-plated copy of "Mein Kampf" that once belonged to senior Nazi Hermann Goering for about \$145,000 and a cocktail dress belonging to Hitler's paramour Eva Braun for \$5,000, double the expected price, Deutsche

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