



UNUSUAL PRICE HIKE Govt to import eggs if needed Tipu Munshi says it'll require approval of livestock ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government would import eggs if price of the affordable source of animal protein keeps an upward trend, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said yesterday.



"If needed, the import of eggs will be allowed in coordination with the fisheries and livestock ministry," he said while talking to reporters after a programme organised by Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) at Mohammadpur Town Hall in the city.

The minister's remarks came at a time when egg price rose substantially over the last week, piling further pressure on consumers who are already facing tough times due to the high cost of living crisis in Bangladesh.

Yesterday, retailers in Dhaka were selling 12 brown eggs for Tk 160 to Tk 170 while it was Tk 125 for the same number the week before.

Tipu Munshi said if the livestock ministry fixed the retail prices of egg, the

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With their homes under water due to incessant rain, many families of Keochia union in Chattogram's Satkania upazila have made makeshift shelters on the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar rail line in the area. Train operations are yet to begin on the line. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

CHATTOGRAM CITY 51km roads badly damaged by floods

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

The floods and waterlogging triggered by heavy rain for the last few days have badly damaged nearly 51km of roads in the Chattogram City Corporation area, CCC Chief Engineer Rafikul Islam said yesterday.

He said, in addition to this, nearly 2.2km of drains and 1.99km of footpath were also affected by flood and waterlogging in the city.

"We sought Tk 59.9 crore from the local government ministry to repair the damages, said Rafikul.

He said the repair work on the roads has started.

"We hope that the entire work will be completed within a month," he added.

During a visit, our correspondent found severe road damage in Halishahar, Agrabad, Bandar, Muradpur, Oxygen, Bayezid Bostami, Kazir Jamal Khan, and New Market areas.

The CCC said the affected roads fall under 13 wards of the city. Among them, the roads in eight wards were badly affected. CCC has 41 wards.

Chattogram Divisional Road and Highway officials said they are yet to

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They invoke 'hijrat' to entice recruits

Police say on new militant outfit; 10 suspects held from Moulvibazar 'den' placed on remand

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Farhad suddenly left his home in Meherpur in June this year. Having "driven by extremist beliefs," he associated with new militant outfit called "Imam Mahmuder Kafela." Soon he persuaded his elderly parents and wife to share his beliefs, leading them all to embark on "hijrat" for what they perceived as a cause of Jihad, counter-terrorism investigators said yesterday.

On Saturday, Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit busted a hideout of this new militant outfit and arrested 10 suspects in a special raid in a remote hilly region in Kulaura in Moulvibazar.

It was Farhad's arrest from the capital's Mirpur that led the CTTC team to the Moulvibazar "den," where some militant suspects and their families had been living, a top CTTC official said.

Investigators say the leadership of this militant group instructed its members to leave their homes along with their families. Members were also asked to bring up to Tk 20 lakh with them in contribution to the

outfit. Some sold their land, livestock and other properties to arrange the money, they said.

Farhad used his professional skill as a mason to build houses for the other members of the group in the Moulvibazar hideout, said SM Nazmul Haque, deputy commissioner of CTTC.

Several other members with other home-building skills such as electric wiring were also involved in the construction work.

On August 7, the CTTC first detained 10 members - six women and four men - of the outfit from the capital's Mirpur. They were from Jhenaidah and Meherpur, and were accompanied by eight children, said Md Asaduzzaman, the CTTC unit chief.

Farhad was arrested in the early hours of August 12 from Mirpur. Law enforcers carried out Saturday's raid in the Moulvibazar hideout upon information gleaned from him.

During the drive codenamed Operation Hill Sight, CTTC detained 10 more suspects - six women and four men. They

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MIGRANT BOAT CAPSIZE

Body of a Bangladeshi recovered

Says victim's family; no official confirmation yet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

The body of one of the eight Bangladeshi migrants feared missing after a boat from Italy to Libya capsized in the Mediterranean has been found while two others are believed to be alive, their family members said.

The deceased is Masud Rana, 22, from Narsingdi's Belabo upazila, his uncle Nurul Islam confirmed.

Those believed to be alive are Monir Hossain, 22, and Rabiul Islam, 33, of the same upazila.

However, Masud's family could not tell where his body was found, while Monir's family does not know where he is staying at the moment.

Rabiul is believed to be in Tripoli. There was, however, no official confirmation from the government offices concerned in Bangladesh.

According to media reports quoting survivors, the boat, carrying at least 41 migrant workers, sank off the coast of Tunisia last week.

Eight people from Narsingdi's Belabo

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Russian shelling kills 7 in Kherson

4 Ukrainian drones shot down in Belgorod, Kursk regions; Kyiv tries to pierce Russian lines in south

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russian forces shelled two villages in the southern Ukrainian region of Kherson yesterday, killing seven civilians including a baby, Ukrainian authorities said.

A couple, their 23 day-old child and another man were killed in the village of Shyroka Balka, Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said. The couple's 12-year-old son was critically wounded and died in hospital, he added.

Drone air strikes deep inside Russia have increased since a drone was destroyed over the Kremlin in early May.

Two people were killed and one wounded in the neighbouring village of Stanislav, which Klymenko said was struck 12 times with artillery.

"The terrorists will never willingly stop killing civilians," Klymenko wrote in a Telegram post along with two photos of damaged houses. "The terrorists must be stopped. With force. They don't understand anything else."

Ukraine's military reclaimed the western

part of the Kherson region from Russian occupation last November but Kremlin forces have continued regularly shelling the area from across the Dnipro River.

In a separate incident, Russian air defences shot down at least three Ukrainian drones over western regions of Russia yesterday, the defence ministry said. Two drones were shot down over Belgorod region and another over the Kursk region.

Drone air strikes deep inside Russia have increased since a drone was destroyed over the Kremlin in early May. Civilian areas of the capital were hit later in May and a Moscow business district was targeted twice in three days earlier this month.

Meanwhile, a Russian warship yesterday opened warning fire on a Palau-flagged dry cargo ship in the southwestern Black Sea as it made its way to Ukraine, the defence ministry said.

In the western parts of Donetsk region where waves of Ukrainian fighters were used to gain a foothold to the east of the town of Staromaiorske, Ukrainian forces are trying to pierce Russian lines.

Vladimir Rogov, a Russian-installed official in parts of Zaporizhzhia controlled by Moscow, said that there had been intense fighting south of Velyka Novosilka - in that area - as Ukrainian troops try to pierce Russian lines to push down to the coast on the Sea of Azov.

55 BCL men sued over assault on prosecutor

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Sylhet

A case was filed yesterday against 55 Chhatra League leaders and activists over the assault on an assistant public prosecutor (APP) of the Sylhet Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court.

Prabal Chowdhury, also a former BCL leader, filed the case under the Speedy Trial Tribunal Act at the Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, three days after he was assaulted in the city's Dariapara area on Thursday night.

Nazmul Islam, president of Sylhet district unit BCL; Rahel Siraj, general secretary of the same unit; Nayeem Ahmed, general secretary of Sylhet city unit BCL; and Ruhel Ahmed, newly-elected councillor of ward-32 of Sylhet City Corporation, were named in the case, among 51 others.

Besides, another 250 to 300 unnamed people were also accused in the case.

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FLOWERS GALORE ... With monsoon in full swing, seasonal flowers are in bloom and the flower sellers at Dhaka University's TSC are making the most of it. They collect the flowers from nearby gardens, make delicate necklaces and wreaths out of them and put them on display, from where many customers come and pick their favourites. Each piece is sold for around Tk 20. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Archaeologists find Europe's oldest stilt village

AFP, Lin



Beneath the turquoise waters of Lake Ohrid, the "Pearl of the Balkans", scientists have uncovered what may be one of Europe's earliest sedentary communities, and are trying to solve the mystery of why it sheltered behind a fortress of defensive spikes.

A stretch of the Albanian shore of the lake once hosted a settlement of stilt houses some 8,000 years ago, archaeologists believe, making it the oldest lakeside village in Europe discovered to date.

Radiocarbon dating from the site puts it at between 6000 and 5800 BC. "It is several hundred years older than previously known lake-dwelling sites in the Mediterranean and Alpine regions," said Albert Hafner, a professor of archaeology from Switzerland's University of Bern.

"To our knowledge, it is the oldest in Europe," he told AFP.

The most ancient other such villages were discovered in the Italian Alps and date to around 5000 BC, said the expert in European Neolithic lake dwellings.

Hafner and his team of Swiss and Albanian archaeologists have spent the past four years carrying out excavations at Lin on the Albanian side of Lake Ohrid, which straddles the mountainous border of North Macedonia and Albania.