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16 PAGES: Tk 15.00



**P11**  
**Shakib emphasises on teamwork to end on a high**



**P7**  
**Taiwan says 68 Chinese warplanes, 10 vessels detected near island**



**P6**  
**Film industry struggling to accept Sohan's demise**



**P3**  
**Read CSA before commenting, says Momen**

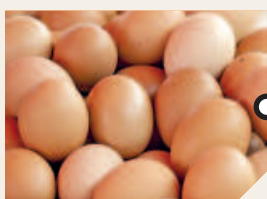
## Govt fixes egg, onion, potato prices

Experts sceptical if move would be effective in bringing down prices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a first, the government yesterday fixed the prices of eggs, onions and potatoes in its bid to contain the runaway food inflation, which hit a 12-year-high last month.

In August, food inflation soared 278 basis points to 12.54 percent – the highest since October 2011 – with the price spiral more pronounced in rural areas, according to data published by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics on Sunday.



**RETAIL PRICE**  
**Tk 12.5-13** per piece

**GOVT-FIXED PRICE**  
**Tk 12** per piece



**RETAIL PRICE**  
**Tk 45-50** per kg

**GOVT-FIXED PRICE**  
**Tk 35-36** per kg



**RETAIL PRICE**  
**Tk 80-90** per kg

**GOVT-FIXED PRICE**  
**Tk 64-65** per kg

Subsequently, the agriculture ministry fixed the prices of the three items, whose prices have remained elevated in recent weeks, under provision four of the Krishi Baponon Ain 2021. The commerce ministry will implement the new prices, said Wahida Akter, agriculture secretary.

The retail price of an egg, which shot up last month, has been fixed at Tk 12, while onion, whose price has spiralled following India's announcement last month to impose a 40 percent export duty on it, will sell for Tk 64-65 per kilogram.

The price of potato, a staple, has been fixed at Tk 35-36 a kg.

The egg price was fixed after analysing the average prices in the past six months, which was about Tk 14, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said while announcing the prices.

The agriculture secretary assessed the prices of onions and fixed a "logical" retail price, he added.

"The initiative is good but there is doubt about its effectiveness," said Ghulam Rahman, president of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh.

He went on to urge the government to monitor the market effectively.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Huge plumes of smoke rise as a fire rages at Mohammadpur Krishi Market in the capital. Over 200 shops were damaged by the fire that started before dawn broke yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Fire rips through Krishi Market

Over 200 shops gutted; short circuit or burning mosquito coil might have caused it: firefighters

SHAHEEN MOLLAH, MUNTAKIM SAAD and SAJJAD HOSSAIN

A fire ripped through Mohammadpur Krishi Market early yesterday, burning down groceries and other goods worth several crore in over 200 shops.

Several hundreds of people will count massive losses or lose their jobs, shop owners said.

The one-storey building with corrugated iron roof is on a list of risky kitchen markets in the capital, according to firefighters.

Dhaka North City Corporation CEO Selim Reza said 217 shops had been damaged.

Salim Ullah Solu, president of the shop owners' association, said over 250 shops were severely damaged, adding that many of these shops had goods worth Tk 25-30 lakh.

He and several other shop owners said the fire was first seen near a bakery on one side of the market around 3:40am.

It seems the fire was caused either

by a faulty electric wire or a mosquito coil, Lt Col Md Tajul Islam, director at Fire Service and Civil Defence, told reporters at the scene.

Since there is no water body close to the market that doesn't have fire safety equipment, firefighters had to partially rely on water provided by Dhaka Wasa and Bangladesh Navy to put out the flames.

Tajul said the shop owners were earlier notified multiple times about the risk they were in and several awareness campaigns had been conducted there.

The fire spread really fast, collapsing the iron roofs and leaving a trail of devastation. After five hours of effort, 17 fire engines brought the fire under control around 9:25am, officials said.

By 4:00am, the shop owners began to arrive at the scene hearing about the fire. They could do little but watch the towering flames engulf the entire kitchen market that also houses many clothing shops and a few jewellery stores.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## CASE UNDER ICT ACT Odhikar's Adilur, Elan jailed for 2yrs

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Odhikar Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan and Director A S M Nasiruddin Elan have been sentenced to two years in a case filed for running "a distorted report and doctored images" about the May 5-6, 2013, police action on a Helajat-e-Islam rally in Motijheel.



Adilur

A Dhaka court yesterday delivered the verdict in the case filed under the Information Communications and Technology (ICT) Act.

It cancelled their bail and ordered them to be sent to jail with conviction warrants. Adil and Elan were in the courtroom.

The court also fined each of them Tk 10,000,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT Deeply concerned over rights situation in Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Parliament yesterday adopted a resolution expressing deep concern at the "deteriorating human rights situation" in Bangladesh and called on the government to restore a safe and enabling environment for NGOs, human rights defenders, activists, and religious minorities.

The resolution – Human rights situation in Bangladesh, notably the case of Odhikar – insisted that Bangladesh upholds "the country's international commitments, particularly under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights".

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



### THE THIRD VIEW

**Our new CJ's call to fight graft is urgent, crucial and enthralling**

SEE PAGE 8



Mohammad Rizwan scored an unbeaten 86 off 73 deliveries and stitched together a crucial 108-run sixth-wicket stand with Iftikhar Ahmed to see Pakistan post a total of 252 for seven in 42 overs in their rain-interrupted Asia Cup Super Four game against Sri Lanka in Colombo yesterday. The winner of the contest will face India in the final on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Rizwan propels Pakistan

AFP, Colombo

Mohammad Rizwan hit an unbeaten 86 to steer Pakistan to 252-7 against Sri Lanka after rain reduced their crucial Asia Cup contest to 42-overs-a-side on Thursday in Colombo.

The Super Four match is effectively a semi-final with the winner to meet India in the final of the 50-over tournament, a prelude to the ODI World Cup starting in October, on Sunday.

According to a slight DLS adjustment, Sri Lanka's target will also be 252 in 42 overs.

Pakistan elected to bat first after rain delayed the match by two hours and 15 minutes, with a reduction of five overs from each innings, before another break cut out more overs.

Sri Lanka's bowlers took regular early wickets to check Pakistan's scoring, but Rizwan hit back with his 12th ODI half-century and a 108-run stand with Iftikhar Ahmed, who made 47, to give his team a challenging total.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Namaz e Janaza & Milad Mahfil Mafizur Rahman



Ex-Secretary Mafizur Rahman (CSP) passed away on 9th September at his Gulshan residence (Inna Lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un). He is survived by his wife, two daughters, two sons, five grandchildren and a host of admirers and friends.

His Namaz e Janaza will be held on Friday, 15th September 2023 baad Jumma, at Azad Masjid, Gulshan, Dhaka. His family would appreciate your attendance in joining them in prayers for his departed soul.

A Milad and Dua Mahfil will be held baad Asar prayer on Saturday, September 16th 2023 at the Lake Breeze – Ground Floor, House No 34, Road Number 104, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.