



Onion prices remain high despite raids

Govt to import 52,000 tonnes of the bulb

STAR REPORT

Onion prices did not come down despite raids by the authorities in different wholesale and retail markets across the country.

Yesterday, the locally-grown onion was selling at Tk 196 to Tk 220 per kg and the Indian onion at Tk 160 to Tk 170, said Mohammad Babul Mia, a retailer in the capital's Kawran Bazar, one of the biggest kitchen markets in the capital.

Onion prices shot up by more than Tk 100 per kg to Tk 240 overnight following India's announcement of an export ban on the vegetable from December 8 to March next year.

India is a major source of the key cooking ingredient for Bangladesh.

At an event in the capital yesterday, Commerce Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh expressed his shock, saying, "How could the price of onion increase by Tk 80 per kg and rise to Tk 200 in a matter of one day?"

To rein in the spiralling prices, 43 teams of the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection conducted raids all over the country and fined 80

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A Gazan boy attends the funeral of Palestinians killed in an Israeli raid, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, at Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Hasina to start polls campaign from Sylhet

Likely to address rally December 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also the president of the ruling Awami League, will formally kick off the election campaign of the ruling party at a rally in Sylhet likely to be held on December 20.

Obaidul Quader, general secretary of the party, made the announcement during a press briefing at the

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56 aspirants win back candidacy

Mahi B Chy, ex-JU VC Anwar Hossain among them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-six aspirants got back their candidacy yesterday, winning appeals against cancellation of their candidacy in the January 7 national election.

Of them, one is from the Awami League, three from Trinamool BNP, five from Jatiya Party, and 33 are independents, said the Election Commission in a statement last night.

EC officials rejected 32 appeals and said decisions regarding six others would be made later.

A total of 558 appeals were filed by aspirants. Hearing on the appeals will continue until December 15.

During the last three national elections, reporters were allowed at the hearings. But the EC barred journalists from entering the room during yesterday's 94 hearings.

Some of those who got back their candidacy include AL's Nasirul Islam Khan of Kishoreganj, Bikalpadhara's Mahi B Chowdhury of Munshiganj, Jatiya Party's Talebuzzman of Noakhali, Bangladesh Nationalist Movement's Doly Shaontoni of Pabna, Bangladesh Congress' Ashraf Hossain (Hero Alam) of Bogura, and independent runner Anwar Hossain of Netrakona.

Anwar, a former VC of Jahangirnagar University, said voters in his area were happy that he had won the appeal.

Mahi B Chowdhury last night said, "So far, the polling environment is beautiful and competitive."



Gaza health situation 'catastrophic'

Warns WHO chief as Israel launches series of 'violent raids' targeting southern city of Khan Yunis

AGENCIES

The impact of the Israel-Hamas conflict on Gaza's healthcare sector has been "catastrophic", the World Health Organisation chief said yesterday at an emergency board meeting, saying conditions were ideal for the spread of deadly diseases.

"It's stating the obvious to say that the impact of the conflict on health is catastrophic," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told the 34-member board.

"In summary health needs have increased dramatically and the capacity of the health system has been reduced to one third of what it was," he said.

Israeli forces yesterday fought Hamas fighters around southern Gaza's main city, as the UN chief decried divisions that had "paralysed" the Security Council's response to the two-months-old war.

Hamas said that Israel had launched a series of "very violent raids" targeting the biggest southern city of Khan Yunis and the road from there to Rafah, near the border with Egypt.

A source close to Hamas and

- Israel pounds 250 targets in 24 hours
- Death toll in Gaza now 17,997
- UN chief decries divisions that 'paralysed' UNSC's response
- Efforts to renew Israel-Hamas truce 'continuing': Qatar

Islamic Jihad told AFP both groups were engaged in "fierce clashes" with Israeli forces near Khan Yunis, where an AFP journalist reported heavy strikes.

Fighters of the groups also reported fighting in Jabalia and Gaza City's Shejaiya district in northern Gaza, while the Israeli army said early yesterday it had struck "over 250 terror targets" in the previous 24 hours.

Overnight strikes hit "a Hamas military communications site" and

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Boats with 400 Rohingya refugees land in Indonesia

REUTERS, Jakarta

Dilapidated boats carrying an estimated 400 Rohingyas arrived in Indonesia's Aceh province yesterday, chief of a provincial fishing community has confirmed, adding to a recent surge of Myanmar's Muslim minority arriving in the country.

Prior to yesterday's arrivals, the United Nations' refugee agency (UNHCR) said that 1,200 Rohingyas people, a persecuted minority from Myanmar, had landed ashore in Indonesia since November.

Miftah Cut Ade, chief of the fishing community in Aceh, said that two boats landed in the province early yesterday morning, one each in the districts of Pidie and Aceh Besar. Each boat was carrying an estimated 200 Rohingyas, he said.

Andi Susanto, a local military official, said about 180 Rohingyas had landed in Pidie at 4:00 am, and that officers were

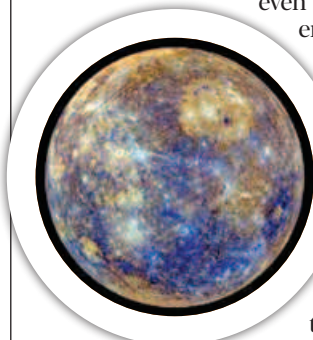
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Mercury may be capable of hosting life under its surface

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Mercury may have salt glaciers under its surface, according to a ground-breaking new study that hints at the possibility of the planet closest to the Sun having habitable conditions for some extreme life forms.

Research on Earth has revealed previously that some salt compounds can create habitable niches even in some of the harshest environments such as the arid Atacama Desert in Chile.



The new study, published recently in the Planetary Science Journal, hints at the possibility of subsurface areas on Mercury that may be much more hospitable than its surface.

Such salt glaciers are of "pivotal importance" as they could be signs of volatile compounds such as water, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen on other worlds, say scientists, including Alexis Rodriguez from Nasa's Marshall Space Flight Center.


This finding is "groundbreaking" according to scientists as Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun with extremely hot daytime temperatures and yet it has somehow preserved volatile compounds for "over one billion years."

"Our models strongly affirm that salt flow likely produced these glaciers and that after their emplacement they retained volatiles for over 1 billion years," study co-author Bryan Travis said.



PHOTO: AFP

Newly-arrived Rohingya refugees receive food donated by people at a beach in Laweueung, Pidie district in Indonesia's Aceh province yesterday.




গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
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আন্তর্জাতিক পর্বত দিবস ২০২৩ উপলক্ষে
দেশবাসীকে জানাই
আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন

একটি সুখী, সমৃদ্ধ, ক্ষুধা ও দারিদ্রমুক্ত স্বপ্নীল ও ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ গড়ার অঙ্গীকার এবং সন্ত্রাসমুক্ত পরিবেশ প্রতিষ্ঠার প্রত্যয় নিয়ে বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা পরিষদ নিজস্ব উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচি এবং ২৮টি ন্যস্ত বিভাগের বিভাগীয় কার্যক্রমের সমন্বয় সাধনসহ নিম্নবর্ণিত কার্যাদি গ্রহণ ও বাস্তবায়ন করছেঃ

- ১। শিক্ষা
- ২। স্বাস্থ্য সেবা
- ৩। কৃষি
- ৪। মৎস্য ও প্রাণি সম্পদ
- ৫। ক্ষুদ্র ও কুটির শিল্প
- ৬। যোগাযোগ
- ৭। পানীয় জল ও স্যানিটেশন
- ৮। সমবায় ও সমাজ সেবা কার্যক্রম
- ৯। ক্রীড়া ও সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক কর্মকাণ্ড
- ১০। স্থানীয় পর্যটন
- ১১। আইসিটি সেক্টর উন্নয়ন এবং
- ১২। মানব সম্পদ উন্নয়ন ইত্যাদি।

একটি উন্নত, সমৃদ্ধ, আধুনিক ও সম্প্রীতির মডেল জেলা হিসেবে বান্দরবানকে গড়ে তোলাই হলো আমাদের দৃঢ় অঙ্গীকার-


ক্য শৈহা
চেয়ারম্যান
বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা পরিষদ

জিডি-১৯৩০