DHAKA

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Beef at Tk 595 per kg Shahjahanpur trader slashes price again STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Meat trader Khalil Ahmed yesterday announced to sell beef at the cheaper price of Tk 595 per kilogramme during the month of Ramadan.

This is the second instance in recent times that Khalil has sold the luxury item at lower than the market price, which is now around Tk 750-Tk 800 per kg.

"I had a plan to sell at Tk 500 but it is not possible due to cattle price hike ... I will sell at Tk 595 per kg till 25th Ramadan," Khalil said at his shop Khalil Gosto Bitan in the capital's Shahjahanpur area.

A buyer will be able to buy a maximum of 5 kg of meat at the discounted price.

AHM Shafiquzzaman, director general of Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection, visited Khalil's shop and inaugurated the SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

ALL THINGS RAMADAN



With Ramadan arriving yesterday, Chawkbazar was buzzing with people congregating for its iftar items. Perhaps no other item is as famous as "Boro Baper Polay Khay", a historic delight tied to the legacy of Old Dhaka. The item sells for Tk 800 per kg. The market also has a host of other delicacies like beef and chicken roasts, mutton and chicken cutlet, keema roll, and various kebabs including Suti, Jali, Irani, and Tika. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

A century-old tradition Hundreds head to Chawkbazar

iftar market on first day

HELEMUL ALAM

Towara, a resident of Narayanganj, came to Chawkbazar yesterday on the first day of Ramadan to try out its wellrenowned iftar for the first time in her life. Accompanied by her brother Biplob Khan, the two were inspired to come here by all the coverage regarding Chawkbazar's much talked about iftar items on traditional and social media.

Daily essentials still out of reach

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MD ABBAS

Idris Miah. a roadside makeshift iftar seller, went to Karwan Bazar Kochukhet, (grass peas), an essential ingredient correspondents found that the some fixed customers who buy

few days.

Bazar, Visiting Karwan

would be supplied within the next for high-quality fish has increased, leading to higher prices.

"Prices of hilsa, rupchada, shol, Ibrahimpur, and koral, and deshi koi have increased Kitchen Market to buy kheshari dal Mirpur-14 kitchen markets, these by Tk 200-300 per kg, and we have

14 tonnes of expired dates seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

At least 31 tonnes of dates were seized from a cold storage in Naravanganj's Kanchpur area during a drive by the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection yesterday afternoon.

Among these 14 tonnes were past the expiry date, said officials of DNCRP.

Abdus Salam, Assistant Director from Dhaka office, led the drive along with support from Md Salimuzzaman, Assistant Director of Narayanganj office and a police team.

On a tip off, the DNCRP raided Star Multipurpose Cold Storage in Kutubpur area of Kanchpur next to Dhaka-Chattogram Highway, where they found the dates of two separate enterprises stored, Abdus Salam told reporters.

During the drive they found that 14 tonnes of dates from Mosumi Enterprise expired in 2021. These dates worth around Tk 21.66 lakhs would have allegedly been marked with fake stickers extending the expiry date.

Meanwhile, dates worth Tk 26.94 lakh from Madina Enterprise were seized due to lack of paperwork.

"They wanted to sell these dates by creating an artificial crisis in local markets during Ramadan. No one has been fined yet. Legal action will be taken against those involved after the final investigation. Drives will continue," he added

Notably, the commerce ministry yesterday fixed the price of dates, a key item of iftar.

In a notice, the ministry fixed the price of low grade dates at Tk 150 to Tk 165 per kilogramme (kg).

Protests continue at JU demanding safe campus

JU CORRESPONDENT

A section of teachers and students padlocked new administrative building of Jahangirnagar University for the second consecutive day yesterday to press home their five-point demands, including maximum punishment for those involved in raping a woman on the campus in February Around 20 teachers and students under the banner of "Nipiron Birodhi Moncho" padlocked the building around 9:00am

"We have purchased boro baper polay khay and will take some other items from here to have iftar with our parents," said Towara.

She said they heard about these traditional items over the years but finally got the opportunity to come here this Ramadan

Several hundred years old, the Chawkbazar iftar market -- the largest iftar market in the capital -- attracts hundreds of people from all over the country.

Every Ramadan, people gather at the market to buy varieties of items. Several hundred makeshift shops sell items prepared from meat, vegetables, sweets, milk and other ingredients.

Some iftar items can be traced back to the Mughal era. SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

for piyaju, a popular item for iftar. in at least 20 shops at Karwan Bazar Kitchen Market, but found it only in two shops where the prices were unusually high, forcing me to leave the market without imported fruits despite the high purchasing kheshari dal," he told

this newspaper. To verify his claim, these correspondents visited at least 30 grocery shops at Karwan Bazar and found that kheshari dal was only available at two shops, where it was being sold for Tk 140 to Tk 150 per kg.

Wishing anonymity, a kheshari dal wholesale trader told the newspaper that the product was

prices of broiler chicken, mutton, these regardless of the prices," he "I searched for kheshari dal fish, and some fruits -- including watermelons, bananas, pineapples, guavas, and strawberries -- have

increased by Tk 20-100. Customers were seen buying prices.

Broiler chicken is being sold at Tk 220-230 per kg, up from Tk 200-210 last week. Mutton is now priced at Tk 1,050-1,200, compared to Tk 1,000-1,150 last week.

"Being the main source of meat for low-income people, the demand for broiler chicken is high. But the supply is not adequate, leading to the price increase," traders claimed. Sukkur Ali, a fish trader at scarce on the market and hoped it Karwan Bazar, claimed the demand

claimed.

Additionally, prices of dates, sugar, lentils, ginger, garlic, potatoes, chickpeas, and flour have remained high for the past month. Meanwhile, the commerce ministry fixed the price of dates, one of the key items for iftar, in a notice on Monday, setting the price of low-grade dates at Tk 150 to Tk 165 per kg.

However, when these correspondents visited the capital's kitchen markets, they found that there were no dates available for below Tk 200, while several traders told The Daily Star that they were unable to procure dates at the SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Following the incident, the JU vice chancellor, pro vice-chancellors and other administrative officials could not enter the building.

Their five-point demands also include removal of former students from halls, ensuring accommodation of regular students, and identifying and prosecuting those involved in ragging culture; actions against the accused of various crimes on the campus; and investigation into the negligence of the university's proctor and provost of Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall over the rape incident; and legal actions against the drug syndicates on campus.

Parvin Jolly, a professor of the history SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Conduct drives at restaurants as per law: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the authorities concerned why harassment in the name of an operation or raid would not be declared illegal.

The HC also directed to conduct raids at restaurants as per the law.

The court also asked them to show causes why they should not be ordered not to demolish any structure of restaurants

The bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Atabullah issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Restaurant Owners Association seeking necessary directives to this effect.

After the fire incident on Dhaka's Bailey Road, some agencies are conducting drives against the restaurants, which have been running even legally and illegally, haphazardly and without issuing any show cause notice in order to conceal their own negligence, writ petitioner's lawyer Ahsanul Karim told reporters.

Therefore, owners and staff members of restaurants are getting panicked and their businesses are being hampered, he said.

Advocate Ahsanul said there have been many fire incidents in the country's residential buildings, but those don't justify vacating or dismantling all residential buildings, he said.

Deputy Attorney General Tushar Kanti Roy represented the state during the hearing.



Abdur Rahman selling balloons to children outside schools in Khulna's Shibbari area yesterday afternoon. Purchasing each balloon for Tk 40, he retails them for Tk 50, selling 80-100 pieces everyday. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Woman killed after being hit by bus in Shahbagh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was killed after being hit by a bus in Dhaka's Shahbagh area yesterday morning.

The identity of the woman, aged around 45, could not be known immediately.

A bus of Savar Paribahan hit the woman when she was crossing the road near Aziz Super Market around 8:45am, leaving her critically injured, said Md Selim, a sub-inspector of Shahbagh Police Station.

Pedestrians took her to the emergency department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University where doctors declared her dead, the SI said.

Police seized the bus and detained its driver Esa Mia from the spot, the police officer said.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.