



**FAST BUILD**  
PROVIDES RODS OF ANY SHAPE AND SIZE AS PER DESIGN



BSRM  
building a safer nation

Terminal 3,  
Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport

Proud Construction Partner



## Price cap is not working

Govt move to rein in prices brings little relief for consumers



SHAHEEN MOLLAH and ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

The price cap on 29 commodities exists on paper only as most of those items are being sold at prices higher than those fixed by the government.

Visiting Karwan Bazar, Kochukhet, Ibrahimpur and Mirpur-14 kitchen markets in Dhaka yesterday, The Daily Star found that traders were selling the essentials at the previously hiked prices.

Grass peas were being sold for Tk 130-140 a kg against the government-fixed rate of Tk 92.61.

Vegetables like cabbage, cauliflower, beans, aubergine, green chillies, tomatoes, and pumpkin sold at prices

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

An artisan embroidering a garment with beads and stones in a wooden frame in Ambagan Bihari Colony in Chattogram city – an area famous for its artisans' zardosi and karchupi skills. With Eid-ul-Fitr coming, they are busy making clothes suited for the festive occasion. However, due to foreign labels coming in, such traditional designs are losing their significance, hampering the lives and livelihoods of such artisans.

## Rice prices shooting up too

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rice prices have gone up by Tk 1.5 to Tk 4 per kg in Dhaka markets over the last five days.

Different varieties of Miniket rice sold for Tk 70 to Tk 77 per kg in retail markets across the capital yesterday. Last Tuesday, they sold for Tk 66 to 74 per kg.

Retail traders were selling BR-28 and BR-29 varieties for Tk 60 to Tk 65, up from Tk 56 to Tk 62 before.

Guti, Swarna, Pajam and Nazirshail prices rose by Tk 1.5 to Tk 2.

"Normally, the demand for rice goes down during Ramadan, so the price remains stable. But the situation changed this year. This is the first time I have seen rice prices increase during Ramadan," said Abul Kalam, proprietor of Lamia Enterprise at Dhaka's Kachukhet.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## INDOMITABLE MARCH

### Mujib-Yahya talk continues

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

On the morning of March 17, Mujib-Yahya talks resumed. It was Sheikh Mujib's 51st birthday. Bangabandhu reiterated his demand for the withdrawal of Martial Law and the immediate transfer of power to elected representatives. Yahya put forth the same excuse of legal difficulties and stated that Justice Cornelius, then Yahya's legal adviser, had been entrusted with the task to consider the legal aspects. A meeting between the advisers on both sides was proposed, which took place on the same evening. Lt. Gen Peerzada started off with the observation that the discussions between Mujib and Yahya that morning had proceeded on the basis that Yahya would make a proclamation. Bangabandhu, according to Peerzada, had proposed that the elected members from both the eastern and western wings should separately draw up constitutions for the respective wings, and thereafter, they should sit together to make a constitution for Pakistan. The eastern wing should make provisions for autonomy on the basis of Six Points, and in the western wing, the provinces would have autonomy to the extent provided to a province under the 1962 Constitution; the Centre will retain additional powers. Justice Cornelius suggested that a provisional constitution should be brought into force through a resolution of the National Assembly. It was also suggested that the advisers of both sides should sit in a plenary meeting with Bangabandhu and Yahya to decide on the basic guidelines based on which the provisional instrument would be drafted. [Kamal Hossain, Bangladesh: Question for Freedom and Justice, UPL, 2013, pg.93]

#### 'GET READY'

On the evening of March 17, Yahya Khan summoned General Tikka Khan to the President's house. He reportedly told Tikka that Mujib was not 'behaving'. 'Get ready,' Yahya added. Subsequently,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

## Dhaka keeping watch on India's citizenship law

Says foreign minister

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud has said Bangladesh, as a neighbouring country, is closely monitoring India's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which permits non-Muslim religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan to apply for citizenship.

While addressing the media at the YNT Centre in Chattogram on March 15, he emphasised, "The new CAA of India is its internal affairs, but as Bangladesh is a neighbouring country, we are keeping watch on it," according to a foreign ministry statement.

The CAA legislation was enacted in 2019, but its implementation was delayed due to unrest. However, rules for its enforcement have now been established.

Indian Home Minister Amit Shah recently announced on Monday (March 11) that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "fulfilled another commitment and upheld the promise of the framers of our constitution to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians living in those countries".

In response to queries regarding the US's critical stance on Bangladesh's recent election, where it was deemed not free and fair, Hasan Mahmud stated that while the US has the right to express its opinion, the assertion that the election lacked participation was untrue.

The foreign minister highlighted

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## Gaza truce efforts revived as first sea aid unloaded

AFP, Palestinian Territories

Efforts towards a truce in the Israel-Hamas war appeared to rekindle yesterday after a new proposal from the Palestinian militant group which also called for more aid into Gaza, where the first food shipment by sea reached shore.

Israel said it would send a delegation to Qatar for another round of talks on a possible deal. It also advanced plans for a military operation in Rafah, where most of Gaza's population has sought refuge from more than five months of war and deprivation.

The US charity World Central Kitchen (WCK) yesterday said its team had finished unloading almost 200 tonnes of food, the first shipment to arrive on a new maritime aid corridor from Cyprus.

"All cargo was offloaded and is being readied for distribution in Gaza," WCK said in a statement.

WCK's partner, the Open Arms vessel which towed the aid on a barge, had sailed from Larnaca port on Tuesday.

The United Nations has reported particular difficulty in accessing the besieged Gaza Strip's north for deliveries of food and other aid.

Residents say they have resorted to eating wild plants and animal fodder, and some have stormed the few aid trucks that have made it through.

Meanwhile, the main UN agency operating in the Palestinian enclave yesterday said that one in three children under age of 2 in northern Gaza is now acutely malnourished and famine is looming.

"Children's malnutrition is spreading fast and reaching unprecedented levels in Gaza," the UN

Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said in a social media post.

With the situation increasingly dire, donors have turned to the air and sea.

Multiple nations have begun daily aid airdrops over Gaza. Germany's air force yesterday said it successfully made its first delivery over north Gaza.

The new maritime corridor is to be complemented by a temporary pier which United States troops are on their way to build.

But air and sea missions are no alternative to land deliveries, UN officials and aid groups say. Humanitarians have cited Israeli restrictions as among the obstacles they face.

The health ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza said at least 63 people had been killed over the previous 24 hours.

Earlier yesterday, ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra reported 36 deaths from a strike on a house sheltering displaced people in Nuseirat, central Gaza.

AFPTV images showed a building blown apart. Yusef Tabatibi, lifting concrete blocks among the rubble, said residents were trying to recover the dead with only their bare hands.

"What should we do? God help us," he said.

Witnesses reported air strikes and fighting in the southern Gaza Strip's main city Khan Yunis as well as areas of the north.

In negotiations aimed at securing a truce and hostage deal, Hamas has put forward a new proposal for a six-week ceasefire and the exchange of about 42 Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, an official from the Islamist group told AFP.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

## Passenger train fares to rise soon

Likely to take effect from April 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Passenger train fares are going to be increased soon as Bangladesh Railway is set to cancel rebating the fares of passengers travelling over 100 kilometers.

Currently, BR gives a 20-30 percent rebate for those travelling over 100km, meaning the fares for most destinations will rise, officials said.

The fare rebates are: 20

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



## PRAYER TIMING


MARCH 17

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:51	12:45	4:30	6:12	7:45
JAMAAT 5:01	1:15	4:45	6:22	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MARCH	SEHRI	IFTAR
06	17		6:12
07	18	4:45	6:12
08	19	4:44	6:13



# ১৭ মার্চ

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান এঁর শুভ জন্মদিন

ও

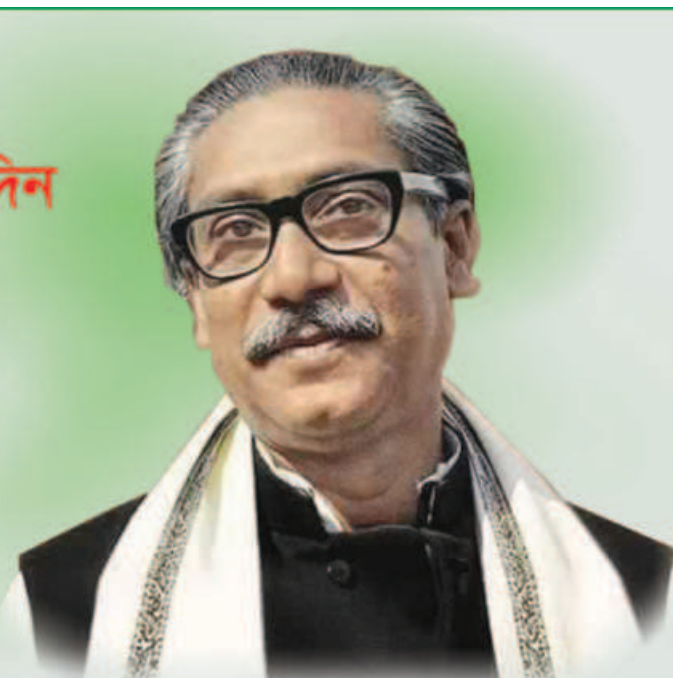
জাতীয় শিশু দিবস ২০২৪


নিপীড়িত মানুষের মুক্তির মহানায়ক

সর্বকালের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বাঙালি, স্বাধীনতার মহান স্থপতি


জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান এঁর শুভ জন্মদিনে

আমাদের বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধা







**সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.**  
বিশ্বস্ত ও স্মার্ট  
www.sonalbank.com.bd



**জনতা ব্যাংক পিএলসি.**  
উন্নয়নে আপনার বিশ্বস্ত অংশীদার  
www.jb.com.bd



**অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.**  
Agrani Bank PLC.  
দক্ষ ও কার্যকর সেবায় প্রতিশ্রুতি  
www.agranibank.org



**রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.**  
উন্নয়ন সেবার নিশ্চয়তা  
www.rupalibank.com.bd