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## Fish, chicken get pricier

Low-income people finding it hard to keep them on menu; onion price rises by Tk 7-10 a kg

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MD ABBAS

The prices of chicken, fish, and onion have gone up in Dhaka's kitchen markets, putting the low-income people in a bind.

Visiting the kitchen markets in Karwan Bazar, Mirpur-11, Kazipara, Shewrapara, Ibrahimpur, and Kochukhet yesterday, The Daily Star found that chickens of all breeds were selling at increased prices.

Broiler chicken was being sold for Tk 220-230 per kg, up from Tk 210-220 seven days ago, sonali chicken for Tk 370-390 against the previous week's price of Tk 350-360, and deshi (local) chicken for Tk 650-700, an increase by Tk 50.

Chicken traders blamed the searing heat for the price hike.

Md Ismail, a salesman at Maa Shafia Poultry at Karwan Bazar, said the extreme heat impacted the production of poultry negatively.

"The production of poultry dropped after the Eid-ul-Fitr due to the heatwave. Some mother hens died at poultry farms due to the extreme heat," he added.

The prices of all varieties of fish have also soared by Tk 20-100 a kg.

Pangas fish weighing two kg was sold for Tk 220-250

### PRICES IN DHAKA (IN KG)

COMMODITY	YESTERDAY	A WEEK AGO
CHICKEN (broiler)	Tk 220-230	Tk 210-220
CHICKEN (sonali)	Tk 370-390	Tk 350-360
PANGAS FISH	Tk 220-250	Tk 180-220
RUI FISH	Tk 320-360	Tk 280-320
ONION (local)	Tk 65-70	Tk 58-60

per kg yesterday, up from Tk 180-220 a week ago.

Rui fish was sold for Tk 320-360 a kg yesterday against the previous week's price of Tk 280-320. Each kg of prawn was selling for Tk 700-800 yesterday, an increase by Tk 100-150.

Monir Hossain, a fish trader at Kochukhet kitchen market, said the supply of fish is less than the demand, which is driving the prices up.

"I have increased the prices of all varieties of fish by Tk 50-200 per kg at my shop as I had to buy fish at higher prices," he added.

For consumers, there is no good news as regards the price of onions either. The price of the essential cooking ingredient has soared to Tk 65-70 a kg from previous week's rate of Tk 58-60.

Several onion traders blamed the price hike on their suppliers and farmers from different districts. They alleged that the suppliers were stocking onions ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

Sajib Sheikh, owner of Matri Bhandar at Karwan Bazar, said they purchase onions from Pabna, Rajshahi, Faridpur, and Rajbari.

"As the demand for onions increases before Eid-ul-Azha, many farmers and traders are stocking onions to make extra profits during that period. This has led to a shortage of supply and subsequently a price hike," he said.

People from limited- and low-income families are

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Young opener Tanzid Tamim celebrates reaching his fifty in Bangladesh's first of a five-match T20I series against Zimbabwe at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday. Tamim, who was dropped thrice, became only the second Bangladeshi to score a fifty on T20I debut.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Tamim powers Tigers to victory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Powered by a fifty on debut from young opener Tanzid Tamim, Bangladesh romped to an eight-wicket victory against Zimbabwe in the rain-interrupted first of the five-match T20I series at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

Chasing a mediocre 125-run target, Bangladesh cruised over the line in 15.2 overs – thanks to an unbeaten 67 off 47 deliveries from Tamim and the butterfingering of Zimbabwe players who had dropped the left-hander on three occasions.

Tamim, on three, was dropped twice in the first over after resumption following the second rain-break and was once again provided life after reaching his maiden fifty in the format. The left-hander, however, had found groove, smashing a total of eight boundaries and two maximums. He became only the second

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## Rafah incursion 'could be a slaughter of civilians'

Warns UN agency as Israel plans for offensive

REUTERS, Geneva

An Israeli incursion in Rafah would put the lives of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians at risk and be a huge blow to the aid operations of the entire enclave, the UN humanitarian office said yesterday, as the World Health Organization announced contingency plans for an incursion.

Israel has repeatedly warned of an operation against Hamas in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, where around a million displaced people are crowded together, having fled months of Israeli bombardments.

"It could be a slaughter of civilians and an incredible blow to the humanitarian operation in the entire strip because it is run primarily out of Rafah," said Jens Laerke, spokesperson for the UN humanitarian office (OCHA), at a Geneva press briefing.

Israel has said it will work to ensure the safe evacuation of civilians from Rafah.

Aid operations in Rafah include medical clinics, warehouses stocked with humanitarian supplies, food distribution points and 50 centres for acutely malnourished children, Laerke said.

OCHA would do everything possible to ensure aid operations continued, even in the event of an incursion, and was studying how to do that, he added.

A World Health Organization official said at the same briefing that a contingency plan for Rafah had been prepared, which included a new field hospital, but said it would not be enough to prevent a substantial rise in the death toll.

"I want to really say that this contingency plan is a band-aid," said Rik Peepkorn, WHO representative for the occupied Palestinian territory via video link. "It will absolutely not prevent the expected substantial additional mortality and morbidity caused by a military operation."

Other preparations include pre-positioning medical supplies at hospitals further north in case Rafah's three hospitals become non-functional, as has happened multiple times in the seven-month conflict due to Israeli raids and bombings.

In Gaza, the Israeli military has killed seven people, including four children, after bombing a house in Rafah overnight.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at least 34,622 people have been killed in the Palestinian territory during almost seven months of Israeli offensive. The tally includes at least 26 deaths in the past 24 hours, a ministry statement said.

- WHO opening new field hospital
- 26 more Palestinians killed in Israeli airstrikes
- Trade with Israel halted until permanent Gaza truce: Turkey
- Hamas praises Turkish decision as brave and supportive of Palestinian rights

## Canada police charge three with murder of Sikh leader Nijjar

REUTERS, Ottawa

Canadian police charged three people yesterday with the murder of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in the province of British Columbia in June 2023, Canadian media said, citing court documents.

Nijjar, 45, was shot dead outside a Sikh temple in Surrey, a Vancouver suburb with a large Sikh population.

The news broke days after the White House expressed concern about the reported role of the Indian intelligence service in assassination plots in Canada and the United States.

The presence of Sikh separatist groups in Canada has long frustrated New Delhi. Nijjar was labeled a "terrorist" by India.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced in September that Canadian authorities were pursuing allegations linking Indian government agents to the murder of Nijjar, a Canadian citizen. New Delhi rejected Trudeau's claim as "absurd."

CTV and Global News first reported the news of those arrested yesterday, with CTV saying all three were Indian nationals.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are due to brief media about the case at 3:30pm EDT (1930 GMT).

Neither the RCMP nor the Indian mission in Ottawa were immediately available for comment.

Canada had been pressing India to cooperate in its investigation. Last November, US authorities said an

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## 3 injured as trains collide in Joydebpur

Probe body formed; 3 BR staffers suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

At least three people, including a loco master, were injured in a collision between a passenger train and a freight train at Joydebpur Junction Railway Station in Gazipur yesterday.

The Dhaka-bound Tangail commuter train with only the staff on board and no passengers crashed into a stationary oil tanker train at Joydebpur Outer Signal (Kazibari) area on the Dhaka-Tangail rail route around 10:45am, said Joydebpur Junction Officer Sirajul Islam.

Several coaches of the passenger train were derailed and the rail connectivity snapped on the Dhaka-Tangail, and Dhaka-Mymensingh routes, stranding several trains, Joydebpur Junction Railway Police In-charge Setabar Rahman said around 4:00pm.

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Relatives of Palestinians killed in Israeli bombing mourn next to the bodies of their loved ones at the Al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Reader's Digest UK folds after 86 years



AGENCIES

The UK edition of Reader's Digest, a beloved monthly magazine known for its curated articles and features, has come to an end after 86 years in circulation.

The magazine's Editor-in-Chief Eva Mackevic has announced the news recently on LinkedIn and the Reader's Digest UK website.

She wrote on LinkedIn: "After 86 wonderful years, I am very sad to share that Reader's Digest UK has come to an end. It has been my privilege and joy to contribute to this iconic publication for nearly eight years, leading its talented team for the last six."

"Unfortunately, the company just couldn't withstand the financial pressures of today's unforgiving magazine publishing landscape and has ceased to trade."

Mackevic paid tribute to her colleagues, as well as the magazine's writers, and the PRs and brands that it has collaborated with over the years.

She added: "To any writers awaiting payment for their work, I've been assured that the insolvency practitioners

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