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Level 2 – 21st November, 2019

Onion emergency in Bangladesh

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191121-onions-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191121-onions-2.html>

Onions are very important in Bangladesh cooking. However, it is more difficult to buy them. There is a shortage. This means prices have gone up a lot. The price of one kilogram has risen from US36 cents to around \$3.25. This is nearly a ten-fold increase. Many Bangladeshis now cannot afford to buy onions. Bangladesh usually imports them from its neighbour India. Recent monsoon rain in India damaged a lot of India's onion harvest. This made India ban exports to Bangladesh. Bangladesh's opposition party has called for nationwide protests because of the record prices.

The onion crisis is very serious. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed has stopped using it in her cooking. She is using onion alternatives in her dishes. Some onions are on sale in Dhaka markets at twice their usual price. Hundreds of people queued for hours to buy one kilo. One person said he would stand for two hours more to save some money. He has never seen onion prices so high. A Dhaka resident said people in her neighbourhood have stopped eating onions. She last bought a kilo of onions 15 days ago. Many street-food sellers can no longer make their onion-based snacks.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/18/bangladesh-flies-in-planeloads-of-onions-amid-national-outcry-over-shortage>
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1517352>
<https://bdnews24.com/lifestyle/2019/11/18/soaring-onion-prices-force-many-to-twist-their-taste-buds-in-dhaka>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191121-onions-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Onions are very important in | a. gone up a lot |
| 2. This means prices have | b. protests |
| 3. This is nearly a ten- | c. Bangladesh cooking |
| 4. damaged a lot of India's onion | d. prices |
| 5. This made India ban exports | e. party |
| 6. Bangladesh's opposition | f. fold increase |
| 7. nationwide | g. harvest |
| 8. record | h. to Bangladesh |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The onion crisis is | a. based snacks |
| 2. twice their | b. so high |
| 3. stand for two hours more to | c. 15 days ago |
| 4. He has never seen onion prices | d. usual price |
| 5. people in her | e. sellers |
| 6. She last bought a kilo of onions | f. save some money |
| 7. Many street-food | g. very serious |
| 8. make their onion- | h. neighbourhood |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191121-onions-2.html>

Onions (1) _____ in Bangladesh cooking. However, it is more difficult to buy them. There (2) _____. This means prices have gone (3) _____. The price of one kilogram has risen from US36 cents to around \$3.25. This is nearly (4) _____. Many Bangladeshis now cannot afford to buy onions. Bangladesh usually imports them from its neighbour India. Recent monsoon rain in India damaged a lot of (5) _____. This made India ban exports to Bangladesh. Bangladesh's opposition party has called for nationwide protests because of (6) _____.

The onion (7) _____ serious. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed has stopped using it in her cooking. She is using (8) _____ her dishes. Some onions (9) _____ in Dhaka markets at twice their usual price. Hundreds of people (10) _____ to buy one kilo. One person said he would stand for two hours more to save some money. He has never seen onion prices so high. A Dhaka (11) _____ in her neighbourhood have stopped eating onions. She last bought a kilo of onions 15 days ago. Many street-food sellers can (12) _____ their onion-based snacks.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191121-onions-2.html>

Onions are very important in Bangladesh cooking. However, it is more difficult to buy them. There is a shortage. This means prices have gone up a lot. The price of one kilogram has risen from US 36 cents to around \$3.25. This is a nearly ten-fold increase. Many Bangladeshis now cannot afford to buy onions. Bangladesh usually imports them from its neighbour India. Recent monsoon rain in India damaged a lot of India's onion harvest. This made India ban exports to Bangladesh. Bangladesh's opposition party has called for nationwide protests because of the record prices. The onion crisis is very serious. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed has stopped using it in her cooking. She is using onion alternatives in her dishes. Some onions are on sale in Dhaka markets at twice their usual price. Hundreds of people queued for hours to buy one kilo. One person said he would stand for two hours more to save some money. He has never seen onion prices so high. A Dhaka resident said people in her neighbourhood have stopped eating onions. She last bought a kilo of onions 15 days ago. Many street-food sellers can no longer make their onion-based snacks.

ONIONS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1911/191121-onions-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about onions in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

