

## Prices of essentials register rise

### Star Economic Report

The prices of essentials in the market registered a rise by 3.21 per cent after the announcement of the proposed budget, according to a survey conducted by the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB).

The tax proposals under the budget will however be effective from July 1 after the approval by the Parliament.

The soyabean price marked the highest rise by 17.64 per cent, the CAB said. It started rising at least two weeks before the announcement of the budget. Soyabean oil now sells at Tk 40 per kg in the retail market, the survey added.

Mustard oil recorded a price rise by 10.11 per cent. It now sells at Tk 62 per kg. The coconut oil price rose by 13.52 per cent.

The price of egg only remained unchanged.

The prices of other essentials also showed an upward trend. Rice (fine) price went up by 1.97 per cent while the

prices of coarse varieties were up by 1.05 per cent.

The price of flour increased by 1.38 per cent and, the prices of dal and spices shot up by 3.21 per cent and 7.34 per cent respectively. Vegetables were dearer by 10.33 per cent and beef, by 1.44 per cent. The prices of different kinds of fish went up by 4.79 per cent, soap by 1.53 per cent and betel leaves by 9.09 per cent.

CAB said the consumers expected that the prices of some essentials would decline after the announcement of the budget. But the prices of all the commodities shot up, although taxes were proposed to be reduced on some of the commodities.

CAB said the government should inform the people about the enhancement and reduction of duties and tax rates, proposed under the budget, and this potential impact on the price levels.

## Strike aggravates power situation

### By Staff Correspondent

Power supply was disrupted in more areas of Dhaka city and elsewhere in the country Tuesday aggravating the situation.

The disruptions were caused by a 72-hour strike of the workers and employees of the Power Development Board (PDB) which began Sunday.

PDB union called the strike to realise their five-point demands.

In Dhaka city, more areas were affected by power disruption causing sufferings to the people. Power supply to many localities including Nawabpur, Thakuri Bazar, Siddique Bazar, Basabo, Lalmatta and a part of Mirpur was disrupted yesterday.

Gopibagh, Ramkrishna Mission Road, Fulbaria, part of Maghbazar, Siddheshwari and other areas remained without power since Monday morning.

### IDA

### Strike at DU

#### From Page 1 Col. 5

The JCD rally held in front of the DUCSU building was addressed by Habibul Islam Habib, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee and Ilias Ali.

Speakers at the rally said that the workers of the JCD had been showing much restraint in the face of the provocative activities of the terrorists of the BCL.

They threatened that if incidents continued in this way the JCD would be compelled to provide them a proper reply.

The BCL rally held at the Aparajeo Bangla was addressed by Shafee Alam, Golam Mostafa Suzan and Quamruzzaman Ansari.

Speakers that said the JCD created anarchy in the Jagannath College by involving a close associate of the Ershad regime in the incidents of the college.

The speakers further said that the JCD was demanding elimination of terrorism but was not willing to expel the identified terrorists like Ilias, Malek and Ratan from the organisation.

A night-long gunbattle took place at Jagannath College between the activists of the JCD and the BCL on June 16.

Two students were killed and over 100 injured in that incident.

Our BUET correspondent adds: The day-long strike called by the Chhatra League (S-A) was observed spontaneously Tuesday at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) campus protesting the violence at Jagannath University College Saturday.

### Amendment Bill

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could be placed before the parliament on the next private members' day on Thursday.

He wondered at the delay in placing the bill although it received approval of the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

Samad was supported by Tofail Ahmed, Al. Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury, NDP, Suranjit Sengupta, Ganatantri Party and Advocate Asaduzzaman, Al.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas informed Samad that the bill was referred to the Law Ministry which is to obtain permission of the President for consideration by the House.

Editor : S. M. Ali

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This is not a road block put up by striking transport workers. Trucks are regularly kept parked at the entrance of the busy thoroughfare in front of Nawab Yusuf Market at Naya Bazar in the city. Policemen on duty seldom intervene to effect a discipline on the normal flow of traffic by removing the obstruction. Transport workers say they have no parking place at Naya Bazar, a busy commercial area in the old city. And they are forced to keep their trucks in this way, some drivers say.

—Star photo

## Benazir charged with contempt of parliament

### JP public meeting today

#### By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party will hold a public meeting today (Wednesday) at 3 pm at Baitul Mukarram premises demanding the release of its Chairman H. M. Ershad, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and other party leaders.

She said the government should resign, fresh elections be held under a neutral caretaker set up and electoral reforms be introduced to avoid rigging in the future.

Some JI leaders, calling her move anti-democratic, said Ms Bhutto should be tried for sedition as under the country's constitution contempt of parliament is tantamount to treason.

"I am being targeted for speaking the truth," Ms Bhutto said in an emotionally charged address.

"I have paid the price in the past and I am ready to pay the price even now," she said substantiating her statement with press clippings and reports by foreign election observers.

Some 45 PDA deputies, comprising 20 percent of the 217-member house, had endorsed her remarks.

### DU VC

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of the fifth Senate of the university at the Administrative Building.

"I become shocked to find the students who unitedly fought against autocracy, engage themselves in bloody confrontation at the instigation of evil forces," the VC said in an emotion-choked voice.

Prof Moniruzzaman said the situation on the Dhaka University was "explosive" and may turn into bloody struggles any moment with the DUCSU and hall union elections nearing.

Different student bodies were trying to increase their influence and dominance on the campus by arms power.

The Vice-Chancellor reiterated his administrations neutrality and said commitments by the political parties and efficiency of the law enforcing agencies were must to free the campus from terrorism.

## JS debate on budget

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Would it just be to create more educated unemployed to do anti-social activities out of frustration or to create productive manpower? he asked.

He said the law and order situation had deteriorated due to corruption in law enforcing agencies, and suggested to utilise the services of the armed forces at peace time to maintain law and order.

Col (retd) Akbar called for lowering bank interest rates and prices of gas and petroleum products to help lower cost of production in mills and factories. He urged the government to extract hard rock and coal from the northern part of the country to reduce imports.

He urged the government to define the duties and responsibilities of MPs by a law so that they could fulfil their obligations to their constituents without interfering in others' activities.

A former minister, Col Akbar called for inculcating patriotic feeling by all. He criticised doctors and nurses for ill treatment of patients in

government hospitals and said they should realise that they received education under a highly subsidised system. He called for prohibiting use of plastic bags to encourage the use of jute bags. He also thanked the Finance Minister Saifur Rahman for keeping new taxes to the minimum.

Col (retd) Shakunt Ali of AL urged the government to be democratic in its words and deeds and said that chairmen of district councils and mayors of municipal corporations should not be nominated. For an interim period, however, members of parliament may be made chairmen of district councils, he said.

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## The Midnight File

### IAEA team to visit Baghdad

VIENNA, June 18 : A new mission of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will visit Baghdad next Saturday to inspect Iraq's nuclear capability, a spokesman said here today, reports AFP.

### 8 killed in Pak explosion

PESHAWAR, June 18 : At least eight people, most Afghan refugees, were killed and 18 injured in a powerful bomb blast today at a restaurant in Landi Kotal, a town bordering Afghanistan, witnesses said, reports AFP.

### Jamuna devours more areas

Massive erosion by the surging Jamuna devoured several villages in Manikganj and Sirajganj leaving some 1,000 families homeless while weather experts Tuesday forecast early flood in country's eastern parts, reports UNB.

### BCIC urea sales cases

## Shahabuddin, 7 others acquitted

### By Staff Correspondent

The Divisional Special Judge Mohammad Ali Khan on Tuesday honourably acquitted former BCIC Chairman Col (Retd) Syed Shahabuddin Ahmed and seven others implicated in four cases related to the export of urea.

As Chairman Col Shahabuddin had ordered the closure of BCIC, Eskaton Rest House and re-instated 54 officers and staff of BCIC earlier terminated.

Col Shahabuddin also reported the gross misuse of transport, manpower and resources of the BCIC to the deposed President on 9 January, 1989.

Murad Waiz was suspended, while the other two officers continued to serve in the BCIC.

Col Shahabuddin was made OSD on 13th May, 1989, suspended on 14th May in Bangladesh. On May 21, 1989, his passport was seized followed by massive slander sponsored by the deposed President in the government controlled media.

They had been charged with the misappropriation of US dollars 3,40,000 equivalent to Taka 10 crore by sale of 80,000 tonnes of urea to four parties at \$122 per metric tonne when the international price was allegedly \$160 per metric tonne.

The Court held that the prosecution had failed to prove the charges brought against the accused persons and acquitted them after a long trial.

The FIR and chargesheet were filed by the Bureau of Anti Corruption at the direction of the Director General of the Bureau of Anti Corruption.

Setabuddin Ahmed, Special Public Prosecutor appeared for state.

Two cases were started in November, 1989 against him related to the period he had successfully served as Chairman Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation. In both these cases he was honourably acquitted in October, 1990.

In all six cases were started against Col Shahabuddin and in all six he has been honourably acquitted.

Barrister AR Yusuf represented Col Shahabuddin in all six cases.

The same Court is also trying former BCIC Chairman and Industries Secretary Mosharraf Hossain and his wife Zeenat Mosharraf.

Col Shahabuddin had hardly served three and a half months

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ruption through establishing accountability in public actions, increase self-reliance with a view to achieving the goal of poverty alleviation.

He said allocation for the education sector is only two per cent of our national income compared to 3.4 per cent in India, 3.2 per cent in Thailand. "We need to give a big push on education and that is why marginal increase in allocation for the sector will not suffice," he said.

On the issue of foreign aid utilisation, Dr Mahbub said the financing of public expenditure has been enhanced this year and thus dependence on foreign aid for development continues to remain at an alarmingly high level. He said rising share of foreign loans will raise our debt servicing liability.

"If we fail to use foreign aid judiciously, as in the past, we shall impose additional burden on future generations," he added.

(Details on Business Page)

## BCL-JCD clash in Sirajganj 30 injured

SIRAJGANJ, June 18 : Thirty students, including 10 JCD leaders, were injured as the student activists of Awami League and BNP fought pitched battle here today, reports UNB.

### Yeltsin

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they will resist radical economic reform plans