

More items join price hike race

Atta, pulses and powdered milk dearer

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Prices of more items like *atta* (flour), pulses and powdered milk have joined the price hike race in the last one week. Soybean oil which saw several rounds of rise in the last few months marked further rise. Fish prices soared further and is likely to become more dearer as local fishes will not be sufficiently available in the coming months. However, prices of vegetables, farm chicken, eggs and onions remained static. Meat and rice prices also did not mark rise. In the city markets yesterday, a two-kilogram packet of *atta* was selling at Tk 36 which was Tk 28 only a week ago. Pulses, especially *masur* (lentil), became dearer. Lentil price increased by Tk 3-4 and was selling at Tk 50-52 per kilogram. Prices of tinned or packed powdered milk rose by Tk 8-10 per

kilogram last week. Soybean oil, which made its last round of rise only two weeks ago, rose further to Tk 58-60 per litre. It was selling at Tk 52 just after Eid. A five-litre container is now priced at Tk 280-290, up by Tk 15-20. Side by side, prices of mustard and palm oil also went up by Tk 4-5 per litre. In the Karwan Bazar market, fish traders were demanding exorbitant prices despite sufficient supply of different varieties. Local *ruhi* was selling at Tk 160-170 per kilogram which was Tk 140-150 two weeks earlier and Tk 100-120 just before Eid. Imported varieties, which were Tk 80-100 before Eid, now being sold at Tk 110-130. Prawn sells at Tk 200-250 per kilogram depending on their sizes and local cat fish at Tk 300-350. However 'African' cat fish is still cheaper and sells at Tk 75-85 per kilogram. Pabda has become dearer by at least Tk 150 and sells at Tk 550-

600 a kilogram. Other varieties of fishes have also marked a similar rise. Farm chickens were still selling at Tk 55-60 per kilogram and eggs Tk 36-38 per dozen. Beef sells at Tk 80-90 and mutton at Tk 160-170. Local and Indian onions are static at Tk 18 and 20. Market sources said prices of both onions and soybean oil are unlikely to go down before April because of 'some import factors'. Meanwhile, ginger prices jumped to Tk 46-48 from last week's 40-42 per kilogram. Among vegetables, potato sells at Tk 8-10 per kilogram, local beans Tk 10-12, tomato Tk 10-12, carrot Tk 10-12, green tomato Tk 12-14, radish Tk 6-8, cucumber Tk 15-16, paupa Tk 7-8, brinjal Tk 12-14, green chilli at Tk 30-35. However gourd prices are high and sells at Tk 20-25 a piece.



Central Shishu Park to wear a new look

Project proposed to introduce 16 new items

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development is yet to approve a project proposal submitted by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) last December for a com-

plete renovation of the Central Shishu Park. DCC officials said that revival of the outlook of the park will encourage more visitors and bring an increase in revenue. The renovation cost estimated at Tk 92 crore will include repair-

ing the old worn out rides and introducing 16 new items. The existing rides which have already exceeded their life span of 10 years are deteriorating and may lead to serious accidents if precautionary measures are not taken.

"It is impossible for any machine to run properly after 10 years," said a concerned DCC official. "Most machines have parts that wear," he added. The official said some rides are still able to provide good service and attributed it to "DCC's strict maintenance." Once approved by the ministry the DCC plans to complete the project by 2006. Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) built the Central Shishu Park at Suhrawardy Udyan in 1979 and handed it over to DCC for maintenance. The number of rides at that time was ten and in 1992 DCC added two more -- flying plane and flying rocket. Bangladesh Air Force presented another ride called F-6 fighter plane in 1997. The sixteen new rides to be included are Barnstormer, Roller-coaster, Mono-rail, Water-splash, Giant wheel, Viking Mars, Bumper cars, Laser shows

and 3-D movies. The project also proposes expansion of the area up to the police control room beside the park, which will increase from 15 acres at present to 19. Two underpasses from the National Museum and Dhaka Club have been included in the proposal. Visitors will be able to reach the park easily. "It will help other passers-by too," the official added. The entry ticket which is only Taka 5 now, may increase, but will not exceed Tk. 25. "The fee will still be much lower than private amusement parks," he said. The Central Shishu Park is the country's first amusement park and is accessible to people of every social stratum. According to DCC, almost 5,500 visitors turn up everyday. Sources inside DCC said there will be an earning of Tk 18 crore every year after meeting maintenance costs if the project is implemented.



Numbered card to identify citizens

BCSIR scientist develops social security system

CITY CORRESPONDENT

A local scientist has developed a Numbered Social Security (SSN) system designed to identify all the citizens in the form of a national ID card.

"With the introduction of this personal ID card the government will be able to collect accurate data concerning population, health, education, date and place of birth and death, unemployment, development, poverty, law and order etc," claimed M. Inayet Husain, a retired scientist and ex-principal scientific officer of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR). The top of the card will bear the name and profession of the cardholder and a number that can be accessed by computer. It will provide brief personal details of the holder. The centre will have a social security number comprising 20 digits. The first ten will indicate the person's place of residence and last ten will bear his personal

identity. The bottom of the card will carry the holder's photo, thumb impression and signature of the issuing authority. Husain came up with this method after intensive research over the last six years. He estimates the cost of one card at Tk 54 and it might take 3-4 years to introduce it across the country. Through the card's security number its holder will be able to authenticate ownership of land also believes its inventor. "This card will help the government's planned introduction of the Certificate of Land Ownership (CLO) by identifying the actual person," said Husain. The researcher said that any individual having this card will collect demand note for annual revenue of his land from the land directorate and will establish his right after paying this to the bank. "If SSN-based land card is introduced, many deprived women in the country will get their due share of parental property," said Husain.

Husain is confident that his invention has the potential to increase government revenue, identify terrorists and criminals more easily and ensure security in the banking sector. Paying utility service bills will also become easier with the card. Husain had submitted a letter to the Prime Minister's office on September 2002 explaining the functions and the potential of the card and appealed to be considered for introduction across the country. The PMO sent it to the Ministry of Home and Ministry of Social Welfare. It then came to the Election Commission. The EC has replied to both the ministries saying the SSN card could be considered for implementation. But Husain has not heard anything since. "If the authorities implement the card through the Election Commission or the Statistical Bureau it will be easier to introduce," said Husain who hopes that he will receive the green light soon.

healthouting,taxicab&traintiming

HEALTH

Hospitals

Heart

National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59

Burn

Dhaka Medical College Hospital Burn Unit-8626812-6

Cancer

National Cancer Institute- 8014914, 8826561-65 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9

Diabetes

Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50

Mother & Child Care

Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62

Azimpur Mother & Child Health Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

Eye

Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315 National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807

Dental

Dental College -9002035

Orthopaedics

National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150

General

Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6 Rushmono General Hospital- 8317819 Holy Family Hospital- 83111731-25 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital-

8612550-4, 8614545-9 Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202, Shamarita Hospital- 9131901 Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800, 9122560-69 Salimullah Medical Collage Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6 Cholera Research Hospital (ICDDR)- 8811751-60 Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135

Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563 Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040 Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061,7319022 Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9

Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040

MARKET CLOSED

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday Elephant Road-Friday Bishal Center-Friday Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday Polwell Market-Friday BCS Computer City-Friday Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday. Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday Stadium Market-Friday Bangabazar Market-Friday National Museum-Thursaday Ahsan Manzil--Thursaday. New Market-Tuesday Gausia Market-Tuesday Mouchak Market-Sunday Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday Eastern Plaza-Sunday Farmview Super Market-Sunday Muktiyuddha Jadughar-Sunday Dhaka Zoo-Sunday Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

Yellow Cab Navana 9558065 Salida 9344477, 0171620881 Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191 Cab One 7113282-3 Nihon 8624741-2 Orion 9347277 Anudip 8125285 and 8127611 Capital 9352847 Union 8130485

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express Mahanagar Prabhati Mahanagar Godhuli Turna Parabat Express Joyantika Express Upaban Express Tista Express Ekata Express Upakul Express Padma Express

Leaves Dhaka at 4:00 pm Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am Leaves Dhaka at 3-05 pm Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm Leaves Dhaka at 6-30 am Leaves Dhaka at 12-30 pm Leaves Dhaka at 9-30 pm Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm Leaves Dhaka at 6-00 am Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 10:15 pm Reaches Chittagong at 2-55 pm Reaches Chittagong at 9-11 pm Reaches Chittagong at 7-05 am Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-55 Reaches Noakhali at 1-35 pm Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm

LIBRARY & INFO

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

Central Public Library- 8626001-4, Shishu Academy- 9564128 Shilpakala Academy- 8614673 Bangla Academy- 8619550 Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407 Nazrul Institute- 9114602 Ford Foundation- 8116133 Alliance Francaise- 8611557 British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7 Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604 Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6 Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096 The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314 Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412