



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Fish, onion, sugar dearer

Rice prices steady despite supply of newly harvested varieties

CITY CORRESPONDENT
Fish prices have skyrocketed in the city markets while rice shows no sign of downturn despite supply of newly harvested varieties. Prices of onion and sugar have registered a fresh rise with most essentials remaining steady at their previously increased rates. However, prices of some summer vegetables have come down to reasonable levels. During a visit to the kitchen markets

at Karwan Bazar, Hatirpool, New Market and Shantinagar, this correspondent found that almost all varieties of fish are being sold at Tk 100 a kilogram or above. Local and fresh fish have disappeared, and if available, they are beyond reach of ordinary buyers. A pair of medium size *hilsha* sells at Tk 400-500, *ruhi* (local, medium size) Tk 160-180 a kilogram, *pabda* Tk 350-400, *boal* Tk 180-200, *mola* Tk 150, *batashi* Tk 150, cat fish (local) Tk 350-400, prawn Tk 180-200 and *rupchanda* Tk 250-300. Only *telapia* and hybrid *pangash* or cat fish sell between Tk 80 and Tk 100 per

kilogram. Retailers were still selling coarse rice at Tk 15, *swarna pajam* at Tk 16, *najirshail* at Tk 18-20 and *miniket* at Tk 20-22. Onion is again showing an upward trend with Tk 2-4 rise in both imported and local varieties. Sugar is being sold at Tk 34, up from Tk 32 a kilogram last week. Soybean oil remained steady at its exorbitant price of Tk 54-56 a litre. A five-litre can sells between Tk 270 and Tk 280. Similarly, ginger sells at Tk 80-90 a kilogram, garlic (local) at Tk 34-40 and pulses between Tk 40 and Tk 46.

Beef remains dearer at Tk 100 a kilogram while mutton sells at Tk 160-180. A dozen of eggs cost Tk 45-48 and farm chickens are being sold at Tk 75 a kilogram. Except some new ones, prices of most summer vegetables have come down to reasonable levels. Though prices of tomato, carrot and papaya registered a little rise, cucumber sells at Tk 10 and brinjal at Tk 8-10, *jhingra* Tk 10-12, *potol* Tk 10-12, *kakrol* Tk 15-16, lady's finger Tk 10-12, *karala* Tk 12-14, a piece of gourd at Tk 15-16 and green chili Tk 20 a kilogram.

Noise nuisance at night

Builders often defy Rajuk, DoE rules in residential areas

FAIZUL A TANIM

Many construction firms are defying Rajuk and Department of Environment (DoE) orders to reduce noise levels especially at night. A resident at Banani Block A claimed that a well-known construction firm was building an apartment and it was creating noise pollution till around 10 or 11pm. Besides, building material were dumped on the streets.

"We lodged several complaints with the construction-in-charge and site engineers but it's been in vain. There are two SSC candidates in the house who cannot concentrate on their studies because of the loud noise," added another resident Abdul Berek.

When Rajuk was contacted, the authorised officer-2 said, "There are no specifics about hours of construction. However, whenever Rajuk issues a permit it is clearly stated that the work must not disturb the neighborhood."

"Construction cannot be totally stopped but using precautionary measures is advisable," added another

Rajuk officer. Asked their view, Azmal Hossain, a senior public relations executive of Rehab (association for construction firms), said they had received an official letter from the DoE on the use of stone crushing machines. "Those machines are creating too much noise and should not be operated inside the residential area. "We then distributed a copy of the letter among our members, asking them to follow the procedure as instructed by the DoE," said Azmal.

Under Section 268 of the Penal Code it states: 'A person is guilty of public nuisance who commits any act or is found responsible for an illegal omission which causes any common injury, danger or annoyance to the public or to the people in general who dwell or occupy property in the vicinity, or which must necessarily cause injury, obstruction, danger or annoyance to persons who may have occasion to use any public right'.

In another letter dated 8/04/2004 from the DoE to a construction company, it was explained that, 'Any work that

causes noise nuisance must not be carried out after seven in the evening. If any neighbour complains, the work must be immediately stopped and jamming the roads with construction materials is prohibited'.

Experts believe the mushroom growth of construction sites all over the city is connected to the increase in numbers of people suffering from respiratory ailments.

According to Dr Gulshan Ara, a professor of pharmacology, she said, "Dust from construction is leading to more people developing asthma. Also those having dust allergy or cardiac problems might experience attacks due to excessive noise."

"There should be a protective net restricting dust emission from spreading," she added.

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) Iqbal Kabir revealed, "There is no specific law yet about the time frame of construction sites. However, if we get complaints of construction materials dumped on the road and hampering the residents, we try to take legal action."

Slum dwellers' agony

Evicted from a disputed land in March they live under open sky

CITY CORRESPONDENT
About 50 families evicted from Johuri Mohalla slum in Mohammadpur are living in the open and facing threats from a group of hired criminals. The slum dwellers blamed Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Commissioner Salimullah Salu of ward No. 42 for the eviction and demolition of their makeshift houses on March 3, alleging the commissioner himself wanted to occupy the land. "We are left with no place to

go and live under the open sky," said Abul Hashem, an inhabitant. Miscreants set fire to the same slum in 1995 burning to death two young girls. After this incident the DCC reconstructed the houses. "The government owns this disputed land. We have been living here for several years. No one claimed ownership before 1995," Marjina Begum said. The victims are enlisted voters and cast their votes in the previous elections. On being elected commissioner, Salimullah claimed to be

the owner of this land and his men allegedly threatened the slum people to leave and looted the area last year. A case was filed against him with Mohammadpur Police Station, but no action was taken against the criminals as it is also alleged that the police are associated with these activities. The Johuri Mohalla inhabitants represented by Habibur Rahman Mizan, Rahima Begum, Motaleb Mia and Mujibur Rahman held a press conference at the Shahid Asad auditorium of Bangladesh

Workers Party on April 26 demanding rehabilitation. They also demanded the action against the local ward commissioner. "The inhabitants have been evicted under DCC's 'slum eviction drive'. I was present with the police and other government officials as the local ward commissioner," Salimullah said. "The slum dwellers also occupy a portion of an adjacent public plot. The authorities removed the illegal houses from the slum area as well as the plot," he added.



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

useful telephonenumber numbers

OURIER SERVICES

International
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Banmgladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666
Bangladesh Int'l Courier- 953636
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057
Enem Express- 9330699
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Modhuban Courier Service-

9550884
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169
Pacific Courier- 9568446
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249
Sky International service- 9660442
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155
Union Courier Service- 9341722
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd.- 8826429, 8810223
National
Asian courier Service Ltd.- 8313543
BAE- 9884851
Central Courier Service- 9881118
Confidence Courier Service Ltd.- 9567036
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9,
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222

Dolphin Courier- 9558802
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249
Sundarban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751
World Runner Express Ltd. 9112068, Fax - 880-2-9112068

TIPS

Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between

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

OUTING

Museum and Zoo
National Museum- 8619396-9
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday 3 pm- 8 pm, Thursday closed
Muktijuddha Jadugar- 9559091
Open: 10:30 am 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed
Bangabandhu Smiti Jadugar- 8110046
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Wednesday closed
Ahsan Manzil
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed
Shishu Jadugar- 9666466
Open: 10 am- 6 pm, Sunday Closed

CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No.	Route	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6C	Motijheel Shapla chattrar- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachattrar
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtolli	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahall
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan