



Rise in prices of essential commodities has not stopped daily shoppers at the Kanthalbagan kitchen market.

# Commodity prices keep on spiralling

**FAIZUL KHAN TANIM**  
 Prices of essential commodities continue to rise further in the city's kitchen market. Both buyers and sellers fear that the essential prices may further rise with the introduction of the new pay scale for government officials and employees. The government is going to announce the new pay scale on May 20 which will be made effective from January this year, finance minister said earlier this month.

Prices of some varieties of rice, pulses and vegetables have already risen in the market. Ahmed Sharif, a trader at Gulshan-1 kitchen market says, "Even one week before, we bought pulses (Mugh) at Tk 40 per kg which has now risen to Tk 45. This is the season for pulses and there should not be any price hike." Some traders however said less cultivation of pulses has caused the price hike. In Karwan Bazar, kitchen market traders said prices of

vegetables are showing an increasing trend. The price of tomato shot up from Tk 23 to Tk 28 a kg in the last couple of weeks. Papaya is now selling at Tk 20 which was Tk 12 two weeks ago. The sellers said the prices have increased due to short supply in the market as this is off-season for these vegetables. Rice traders in Karwan Bazar wholesale market said price of some varieties of rice also rose in the last one week - Pajam from Tk 15 to Tk 17 a kg, Miniket from

Tk 22 to Tk 23 and old Najirshail from Tk 20 to Tk 22. Price of kerosene rose to Tk 30 per litre from Tk 25 few weeks ago. Soya bean oil is now selling at Tk 48-50 per litre which was Tk 45. The prices of turmeric and chilli however came down in the market. Shopkeepers in various kitchen markets in the city say the price of essential commodities will definitely rise with the implementation of new pay scale.

# Dismissals of teachers raise fresh controversy at Monipur School

**SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY**

Some 35 teachers of Monipur High School have recently been dismissed with the current authorities and the previous administration of the school putting the blame on each other for the incident. The teacher who are working now are under extreme pressure as they have to fill in vacuum apart from their own responsibilities. "Most teachers are fatigued after taking six or seven classes every day," said a student of class seven. Currently the school has over 8,000 students and the 150-strong faculty is not sufficient. The sacked teachers, selected by the previous administration,

had performed their duty until May 2 before they were dismissed. "When their papers were sent to SA Khalek MP, the chairman of the management committee, for confirmation, he declined to sign them," claimed Sabdar Ali, the ex-headmaster of the school who had started recruiting the teachers by advertising in dailies at the end of 2004. The school's present body on the otherhand, put the blame on Ali who was forced into an early retirement by the current management committee at the beginning of the year. Mahfuza Begum, assistant headmistress of the school explained the situation. "The teachers were taken on a temporary basis and the past administration tried their level best to

confirm their appointments as most of them were good teachers," said Mahfuza who added that due to a government directive, additional teachers could not be appointed at that time and the teachers in question were all working on a temporary basis. "The teachers were all cautioned about this and they still carried on working fully aware of the possible circumstances," said Mahfuza. Meanwhile, the sudden shortage in teaching staff has left students and guardians deeply concerned about the future. "We have protested in some dailies against that action especially since the school has a shortage of teachers. Now the situation has worsened with the dismissal of so many teachers at a time," said Golam Nabi, mem-

ber secretary of Monipur High School Parents Forum. The Forum has been playing an active role in protesting alleged corruption and mismanagement of the current administration. But sources said that due to his outspoken criticism of the school's activities, the authorities have already filed a number of cases against Nabi and other members of the forum with the Pallabi and Mirpur police stations. "We are being harassed only because we had raised our voice against corruption and the unfair early retirement of Sabdar Ali," said Nabi. SA Khalek MP was out of the country while this report was being prepared and could not be reached for comments.



A wave on uncertainty hovers around the future of the Monipur School students because of conflicts within the administration.

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