

Prices of essentials increase further

Low-income group hard hit

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Prices of essentials have increased again in the kitchen markets of the city.

City dwellers experienced fresh price hike at the beginning of rainy season, two weeks after the new budget placed at the Jatiya Sangsad.

Prices of almost everything including rice, fish, meat and fruit have marked a rise.

Due to soaring price of essentials, expenditure of general people has unusually increased causing immense sufferings to low-income people.

After visiting different kitchen markets of the capital, it was found that price of rice has increased by Tk 20 per mound. The lowest quality rice is also being sold at Tk 19 per kg.

Of vegetables, prices of aubergine, tomato, okra, patal, carrot, cucumber and many other items also marked a rise.

Despite adequate supply, price of Hilsha fish is beyond the reach of low-income people. Small Hilsha fish is being sold at Tk 100 per kg and medium size at Tk 160. But Traders said demand of Hilsha fish is very high due to inadequate supply of other fishes. As a result, they are selling Hilsha at higher price.

Prices of Ruhi, katla, pangash, kalabaus, catfish and shrimp are also on rise. Per kg Ruhi was available between Tk 90 and Tk 140, Katla between Tk 85 and Tk 120, Pangash at Tk 130, Kalabaush between Tk 140 and Tk 150, shrimp between Tk 120 and Tk 250, pom at Tk 650, cat fish at Tk 320 and magur at Tk 290.

At the kitchen markets of Mirpur 1, Senpara, Kazipara, Ibrahimpur and Sheorapara, it was found that per kg of Sharma and Lata rice was being sold at Tk 26, Nazirshal at Tk 23, Miniket at Tk 25, Paizam at Tk 21.5, BR-28 and Parijat at Tk 19, while IRRI at Tk 18.

Per kg beef is being sold at Tk 110 while the mutton at Tk 220 in the markets.

Price of chicken is very high in the markets. Per kg white broiler chicken is selling at between Tk 78 and Tk 80, red broiler at Tk 90, while indigenous chicken between Tk160 and Tk180.

Supply of small fish is very poor and it is being sold at higher price. Small fish is selling between Tk 100 and Tk 140.

The price of potatoes has risen once again to Tk 9, carrot to Tk 24 from Tk 20, tomato to Tk 30, aubergine and gourd to Tk 20, patal, khira, cucumber, chhoto kachhu, okra and karala to Tk 16 while uchche, bean, kachur lati, jhinga and chichinga are being sold at Tk 14.

The price of onion is Tk 14, garlic Tk 20 and old and dry garlic Tk 48.

Price of soybean has increased to Tk 54 from Tk 50, suger Tk 38 from Tk 36 and pulse Tk 48 from Tk 46.

China to train 30 Bangladeshi textile officials

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh will send 30 managers and technicians of textile and fabrics sectors for a 30-day training in China.

China will bear the expenses from 10 million Chinese Yuan given to Bangladesh as grant for training purpose, sources in the Economic Relations Division (ERD) said.

"We will send a letter to the Establishment Ministry by Sunday to nominate 30 managers and technicians," said an ERD official. Of them, 15 will be selected from the government textile sector and the remaining 15 from the private sector.

China will scrutinise the list before giving their final nod.

The senior ERD official said Chinese Embassy in Dhaka recently sent a letter asking them to complete the training programme by this year if Bangladesh wants to use the fund for training purpose.

"China's textile sector has been developed significantly and Bangladesh wants to use experience from their successes," the official said.

Bangladesh will send the 30-member team under a financial and technical assistance agreement signed during the Chinese Premier's visit to Dhaka on April 7.

The training will be given in Beijing where many textile mills are located.

Privatise Biman management for profit

BNP lawmaker says in JS

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Ruling party lawmaker MA Hashem on Thursday blasted the Biman Bangladesh Airlines for its consecutive losses.

He also recommended appointing a private management to make the Biman profitable citing the example of Arab Emirates.

"Worldwide, the airlines are making profit. Why our Biman became a losing concern," he posed a question in the House while taking part in general discussion on the proposed budget on Thursday.

Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, was not present in the House during the discussion.

He was also critical of purchasing new aircraft and said that Biman is going to purchase new aircraft worth about TK 6,000 crore.

"But, I want to ask for whom the Biman is going to purchase the aircraft?" he said.

Hashem also came down heavily on the bureaucratic bottlenecks prevailing in the country and identified it as one of the major obstacles of the development of the country.

He also stressed the need for strengthening the monitoring system of the government hospitals and clinics where doctors do not attend regularly causing sufferings to the people, especially the rural ones.

A total of 13 lawmakers form ruling BNP, Jamaat and opposition Jatiya Party took part in the budget discussion on Thursday.

The session was adjourned till 5.30pm on June 26.



PHOTO: STAR

Workers try to salvage a truck after one of its wheel became bogged down in a dug-out road at KB Road in the old part of the city yesterday.

We have wiped out crime from country

Babar claims

BDNEWS, Netrokona

State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar said the overall improvement of law and order situation is one of the prerequisites to the development of a country.

Babar said this yesterday while he was inaugurating the newly built Mohanganj thana and barrack at a cost of Tk one crore.

He said, the four party alliance promised the people prior to the election that they would wipe out crime from the country if they are voted to power.

"We have already succeeded to restore peace in people's mind wiping

out crime from the country," he added.

He spoke at the function as chief guest with Netrokona Superintendent of Police Abu Naser Mohammad Khaled in the chair.

Abdul Kalyum, Inspector General of Police, DIG M Sadequr Rahman, Alhaj Abu Abbas MP, Alhaj Dr. Mohammad Ali MP and DC Hossain Jamil also spoke.

Babar said the government had taken necessary steps for modernisation of police forces after assuming power.

He said, training institutes have been set up in 30 districts and Highway Police Departments is introduced while Tk 300 crore has

been spent for the housing project for the members of police department.

Police has been provided with modern weapons and a large number of vehicles, he added.

The state minister later visited tornado hit Fatepur, Tioshri and Madan areas under Madan upazila.

CJFD executives

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Md Mostafa Kamal, Senior Reporter of UNB and Enamul Huq, shift editor of BDNEWS, have been elected president and general secretary of the Chittagong Journalists Forum-Dhaka (CJFD) for the session 2005-06.

The 15-member executive committee was formed yesterday at its annual general meeting at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Other office-bearers are Humayun Sadek Chowdhury of Amar Desh (Vice President), M Sayem Tipu of the weekly Probashi (Joint General Secretary), Anup Khastagir of BSS (Treasurer), Syed Mahmud Taslim of Khabar Patra (Office Secretary), Syed Golam Mostafa of Banglabazar Patrika (Publication Secretary).

The executive committee members are Enamul Haque Chowdhury of BDNEWS, Anis Alamgir of Channel i, Prabir Das Gupta of Janakantha, Kader Gani Choudhury of Dinkal, Santosh Sharma of Sugandha, Saif Islam Dilal of Amar Desh, Nawsheba Sabih Kabita and Mesbahuddin Jongi of Toitomboor.

Forum members Ranajit Biswas, Mrinal Chakrabarty and Md Jahir Uddin Ahmed conducted the election.



PHOTO: STAR

A child parliamentarian addresses the Child Parliament on "Children will speak for themselves" at the Shaheed Moejuddin auditorium at the Family Planning Association Bhaban in the city yesterday. Khelaghar, a children's organisation, organised the event.

'Urology units to be set up in all medical college hospitals'

BSS, Dhaka

Fully fledged urology units will be set up in all medical college hospitals in phases, said Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday.

"Steps have been taken initially to provide necessary equipment and recruit manpower along with the development of infrastructure in

medical college hospitals to this end," he said at the 9th scientific conference of Bangladesh Association of Urological Surgeons at BCPS auditorium in the city.

Chaired by President of the association Prof MA Wahab, the function was also addressed by Health Secretary AFM Sarwar Kamal, Vice-Chancellor of BSMMU and President of Bangladesh

Medical Association (BMA) Prof MA Hadi, BMA Secretary General Prof AZM Jahid Hossain, Vice-President Dr Ahsan Kabir and Prof MA Salam.

Dr Mosharraf said the government has attached utmost importance to specialised treatment and taken steps to provide primary healthcare services to all.

He said post-graduate courses on many specialised subjects have been introduced in the country's six medical colleges to achieve the objectives.

As part of its ongoing programmes, the minister said, the government has also set up "National Institute of Kidney Disease and Urology" with a 54-bed hospital to provide quality treatment to patients.

He said steps have also been taken to modernise the urology department of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

Nearly 50 lakh people are suffering from kidney and urological ailments in the country, he added.

Some 350 experts are taking part in the three-day conference.



PHOTO: STAR

Former Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) lawmaker Major (Retd) Akhtaruzzaman speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Lightning kills boy in Rajshahi

Bss, Rajshahi

A teenage boy was killed and two others were injured in lightning at Kumarpara under Boalia police in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Moinul Haque, 17, son of Ashraf Islam of Kumarpara.

The injured are Sarat Saha, 55, and Khokon Saha, 16. They were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Local people said the victims were struck by the thunderbolt while walking in the morning.



Lions PDG Forum executives

Lion M Sirajul Islam has been reelected chairman of Lions PDG (Past District Governors) Forum for the third consecutive year, says a press release.

The election was held at the annual general meeting of the Forum at Bangladesh Lions Foundation auditorium in the city recently.

Lion Benajir Ahmed and Lion Bodiul Islam have also been reelected secretary and treasurer respectively.

A former lawmaker, Lion Sirajul is also the vice-chairman of UCEP Board of Governors.

Lion Benajir is the managing director and chief executive officer of Raymond Group of Industries and a former president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).