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Edible oil, pulses get costlier

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of branded soya bean oil went up on the retail market in the city yesterday as retailers said distributors cut supplies following the price hike of the non-brand kind.

Retailers were selling the branded soya bean oil Tk 5-15 higher than the prices stamped on the cans.

Meantime, prices of every variety of pulses rose on the wholesale and retail markets in last two days. However, prices of both coarse and fine rice remained stable yesterday.

The food directorate yesterday increased the daily allocation of rice for Open Market Sales (OMS) outlets from 1,020kg to 1,500kg per dealer in the city. At present, 687 dealers are selling government-subsidised rice to people in the mid-and-low-income bracket.

Non-branded soya bean sold at Tk 108-110 per kg on the retail market in the city yesterday. Fifteen days back, it sold for Tk 100-102.

A shopper at Karwan Bazar said he purchased a five-litre can of branded soya bean oil for Tk 525 even though the retail price was stamped Tk 514 on the can.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

EXCESSIVE TIME FOR BORDER CHECKS

Dhaka for on-board visa checking, joint customs inspection for Maitree

SHAMIM ASHRAF

government in a week through foreign ministry.

Other recommendations include return ticket sale at both sides, easing visa system for the passengers and promotional activities to popularise the service, sources said.

The much-talked-about train service, which was suspended in March 1965 after the India-Pakistan war, resumed on April 14.

Though the journey was comfortable and immigration checking at Darsana in Chittagong was simple, enthusiasm of the inaugural run's passengers waned when they faced the customs and immigration checking at Gede in India.

In sweltering heat, the passengers had to wait for nearly two and half hours in a metal cage.

Earlier after getting down from the train with all their baggage, the passengers had to stand in queue

for their turn for checking.

Though there is arrangement for food there, the travellers could not buy those for not having Indian currency during the stopover.

Lack of toilets also added to the passengers' woes.

Earlier, it took about two hours at Darsana when Bangladesh officials emptied one compartment at a time for the checking. The passengers could go back to their seats on completion of the formalities.

Besides, immigration officials at 12 counters were prompt in their job.

Though the journey took less than eight hours, the total checking alone took five hours.

"I don't think anyone of this trip would feel like travelling in this train again if things go on like this," a foreign ministry official said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Butt confirms
Tigers whitewash

AFP, Karachi

Opener Salman Butt smashed a record-breaking century to help Pakistan beat Bangladesh by 150 runs in the fifth and final day-night international here on Saturday for a 5-0 series whitewash.

The left-hander scored a career-best 136 to lift Pakistan to their highest one-day total against Bangladesh of 329-9 in their 50 overs before the tourists succumbed to 179 all out in 40.5 overs at the National Stadium.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Maj Gen Monir
new NSIDG

UNB, Dhaka

Major General Sheikh Md Monir Islam has been appointed director general of the National Security Intelligence (NSI).

Maj Gen Monir, who was the director general of the Special Security Force (SSF), will join his new office today, said an official announcement yesterday.

Commissioned in 1978 in the East Bengal Regiment, Monir Islam held important command,

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Army to be deployed
at Wasa pumps to
ensure smooth supply

RASHIDUL HASAN

illegal sale of water by a section of Wasa staff.

"They will guard deep tube-wells, pump houses and important Wasa establishments, and will also supply water by tankers to places whenever necessary," he added.

Locals of Mirpur and Badda are already experiencing an acute shortage of water while residents of many areas in the city complain of stink in water.

On Friday, people in Badda brought out a procession protesting worsening crisis of water.

At present, Wasa has 479 pump stations with a combined capacity of supplying 172 crore litres a day while the demand for water in the city stands at 210 crore litres.

Frequent power cuts in the dry season disrupt operation of water pumps and add to the crisis, said the managing director of Wasa.

Army deployment at Wasa pumps during the summer and in the month of Ramadan has become commonplace in the recent years.

2 killed in
crossfire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two outlaws including a regional leader of banned Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) have been killed in shoot-outs between law enforcers and the operatives in Kushtia and Naogaon.

The dead are Abu Abbas, 40, regional leader of outlawed GMF and Sainul Haq alias Hira, 45, a top cadre of Lal Pata, a faction of banned outfit Purbo Bangla Communist Party (PBCP-ML).

Acting on a tip-off, police

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Mugging suspect dies
in custody

Wife alleges torture

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narganj

A man detained for suspected involvement in mugging was allegedly tortured to death in police custody in Narayanganj on Friday night.

Police, however, denied the allegations and claimed that Fakir Chan, 35, died on way to hospital

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



The number of diarrhoea patients is growing in the capital every day due to hot and humid weather. The photo was taken yesterday at the extension shed of ICDDR,B Hospital in Mohakhali.

PHOTO: STAR

Diarrhoea patients crowd ICDDR,B

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The diarrhoea situation has worsened in the capital city as the extreme hot and humid weather persists.

The emergency section of International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) Hospital witnessed the admission of 416 diarrhoea patients between 12:00am and 8:00pm yesterday.

Dr Iqbal Hossain, an associate scientist at the ICDDR,B, said that the figure is very high for this time of the year and the hospital has already taken steps to manage the situation.

He said, "The number of diarrhoea patients peak in May, from now on we expect the number of diarrhoea patients to keep increasing each day."

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Fotoonline

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CLIMATE CHANGE MEET NEXT MONTH

Dhaka to press for donors' fund commitment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

the Challenge."

The first half of the meeting was held in Dhaka last month.

Environment Secretary Reazul Kabir presented Bangladesh's draft agenda, where he said the government aims to address the issues regarding climate change in Bangladesh.

This will include an overview of the observed changes in Bangladesh due to climate change, future projections, climate-induced natural disasters, and the condition of the victims.

A number of experts suggested that the government representatives at the meeting must describe the contribution of the developed

countries to climate change and their obligation to finance the projects on adaptation to climate change in the affected developing countries.

The adaptation responses include sensitisation, disaster preparedness and community-based adaptation while strategies for mitigating climate change comprise energy efficiency measures and exploring different climate change-resilient forestation options.

The government will also seek to "secure investment funds to make Bangladesh climate resilient."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Recounting of
ballots begins
in Zimbabwe

AP, Harare

Officials began recounting ballots for a couple dozen legislative seats Saturday, an exercise that could overturn the opposition's landmark victory.

Meanwhile, an independent human rights monitor charged that the government has begun a campaign of torture and harassment

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

49 killed in intense Lankan clashes

PTI, AFP, Colombo

At least 48 LTTE rebels and a soldier were killed in fierce clashes in the restive Northern Sri Lanka, officials said yesterday.

Two Tamil Tigers were killed at Illammarudankulam area in Vavuniya Saturday, the army said.

Security forces killed 25 members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Mannar district while three others were killed in nearby Well Oya district on Friday, the ministry said.

It said one soldier was killed in clashes in Well Oya.

At least 11 rebels were killed in Thachchanamaruthamadu and Chinnavalankadu areas of Vavuniya Friday, the Defence Ministry said.

On the Mannar front, troops attacked LTTE bunkers in the

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