



# Edible oil prices hiked again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government increased prices of edible oil yesterday, less than a month after doing the same citing price hike in the international market.

On February 17, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said the prices in the domestic market had been adjusted with that of the international market.

A national price setting committee, a body under the commerce ministry, yesterday hiked the prices after consultation with importers, millers, wholesalers and trade body leaders, it said.

At retail, the price of not-packed palm oil (super) has been fixed at Tk 109, up from Tk 104 per litre fixed last month. Prices of not-packed soybean oil have been fixed at Tk 117, up from Tk 115 per litre.

The retail price of branded canned soybean oil has been fixed at Tk 139 from Tk 135 per litre. Prices of five-litre branded canned soybean oil have been fixed at Tk 660 from Tk 630 per litre, according to a statement from the commerce ministry.

The ministry in its statement mentioned that the demand for edible oil in Bangladesh is nearly 20 lakh tonnes a year and 90 percent of the demand is met by imports.

It also said prices of non-refined soybean oil were \$1,275 a tonne and non-refined palm oil \$1,037 a tonne. It cited high freight charges too.

Abul Hashem, general secretary of Bangladesh Edible Oil Wholesalers Association, said he did not get any letter

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People waiting to get tested for coronavirus in front of a tent on the premises of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital yesterday. Testing facilities are again seeing queues of people as the number of new cases has recently been on the rise.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## LAXMIPUR BY-POLLS AL nominee had close link with Papul

Party leaders question his nomination

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Several members of the Awami League Parliamentary Board have questioned its decision nominating Nuruddin Chowdhury Nayan, general secretary of Laxmipur district AL, for contesting the Laxmipur-2 by-election.

At a meeting of the board yesterday, they pointed out that Nayan had close ties with Mohammad Shahid Islam alias Kazi Papul, who lost the Laxmipur-2 seat upon his conviction by a Kuwait court, said meeting sources.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader initiated the discussion at the meeting at the Gono Bhaban with Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina in the chair, mentioned the sources.

Later, most of the board members took part in the discussion and placed their

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## PK HALDER'S SCAMS Why ex-BB dy governor, ED not arrested yet

HC asks ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the Anti-Corruption Commission why ex-deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank SK Sur Chowdhury and its Executive Director Shah Alam have not been arrested for helping PK Halder embezzle and launder a huge amount of public money from four non-banking financial institutions.

"Either arrest them [SK Sur and Alam] or conduct an inquiry. If they are found involved in the scams, arrest them. Otherwise, clear them of corruption charges," the court told ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan at a hearing on a suo motu (voluntary) rule issued earlier.

About the escape of Proshanta Kumar Halder, known as PK Halder, the HC said that if the commission wanted, it could have informed the immigration officials over mobile phone about the travel ban on him to prevent him from fleeing the country.

"What was the difficulty for the ACC in informing the immigration officials?" it asked.

There was negligence on someone's part, leading to the failure in detaining PK Halder, observed the bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Mohi Uddin Shamim.

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## ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### Dhaka dialogue begins

MARCH 16, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### BANGABANDHU CALLS ON YAHYA

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman met President Yahya Khan this morning. He arrived at the President's House in a car flying a black flag to mourn the death of those killed during the ongoing non-cooperation movement. It was an hourlong discussion. There were no aides on either side. Yahya started the discussion with explanation for his action in postponing the National Assembly.

Bangabandhu charged him with a grave blunder in failing to consult the leader of the majority party before taking such a decision. Yahya offered that he would find a way out of the present impasse. Bangabandhu told him that nothing short of acceptance of the demands raised by him on March 7, particularly the immediate withdrawal of martial law and the transfer of power to the elected representatives, would suffice.

Yahya expressed his reservation about the withdrawal of martial law,



saying there were legal difficulties in withdrawing martial law before framing a constitution. Thereupon, Bangabandhu told him that he would ask legal experts to sort out the issue with the president's advisers.

The same evening, Kamal Hossain, directed by Bangabandhu, met Lt General Peerzada, principal staff officer to Yahya Khan. In reference to the immediate withdrawal of martial law, Peerzada argued that it would create a "legal vacuum".

Kamal Hossain countered the argument and said an Interim Arrangements Order (effectively a provisional constitution) could be in force during the interim period between the withdrawal of the martial law and the framing of a constitution. He further argued that this arrangement could

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## ASTRAZENECA SHOTS No evidence of casualties

WHO, vaccine maker say; France, Germany, Italy pause rollout

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday that its advisory panel was reviewing reports related to AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine but there was no evidence that any health incidents were caused by the shot.

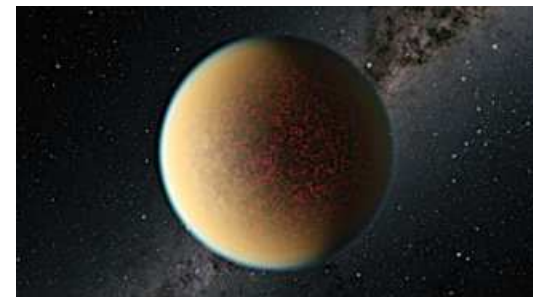
In a reply to Reuters, WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier said: "As soon as WHO has gained a full understanding of these events, the findings and any unlikely changes to current recommendations will be immediately communicated to the public."

"As of today, there is no evidence that the incidents are caused by the vaccine and it is important that vaccination campaigns continue so that we can save lives and stem severe disease from the virus," he added.

The director of the Oxford Vaccine Group yesterday said there was no link between the jab it developed with AstraZeneca

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## 'Lava egg' planet shocks scientists



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have discovered a planet covered in lava that is strangely creating a second atmosphere to make up for the one it had lost.

The planet, called GJ 1132 b, is thought to have had a thick hydrogen atmosphere similar to Neptune, however the heat from the sun it orbits stripped away the hydrogen and helium - turning the world into a bare core around the size of Earth.

However, the events that followed that have astonished astronomers: the Hubble telescope found that a "secondary atmosphere" had developed on the planet consisting of molecular hydrogen, hydrogen cyanide, methane and also contains an aerosol haze, which is closely related to smog on Earth.

Scientists believe that hydrogen in the first atmosphere had been absorbed into the planet's magma mantle and is being released through volcanic processes to create this second layer of gas.

"It's super exciting because we believe the atmosphere that we see now was regenerated, so it could be a secondary atmosphere," said study

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## Vaccine can be taken while fasting

Ministry notifies; DGHS clarifies how vaccine works

UNB, Dhaka

Muslims can receive Covid-19 vaccine shots during the fasting of Ramadan, said Islamic Foundation.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs issued a handout in this regard yesterday after a views-exchange meeting at the Islamic Foundation on Sunday.

The meeting said taking the vaccine during the daytime will not break the fasting as the jab does not enter the stomach directly.

Religious Affairs Secretary Mohammad Nurul Islam attended the meeting as chief guest, with Islamic Foundation Director General Mohammad Mushfiqur Rahman in the chair. High officials concerned were also present.

DGHS STATEMENT Meanwhile, the Directorate

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## COUP IN MYANMAR

# 11 more protesters killed

Suu Kyi's court hearing postponed as internet down; martial law declared in Yangon, Mandalay

AGENCIES

Myanmar security forces fired on pro-democracy demonstrators yesterday, killing 11 people, media and witnesses said, a day after dozens of protesters were shot dead and attackers torched several Chinese-financed factories in the city of Yangon.

Supporters of detained democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi marched again, including in the second city of Mandalay and in the central towns of Myingyan and Aunglan, where police opened fire, witnesses and media reported.

"Two men were killed because of gunshots and six others were injured," a witness in Magway region's Aunglan town told AFP, adding that one of the dead was shot in the chest.

"He was right besides me. Another one got shot in his head."

Six fatalities were also reported in the city of Myingyan. Among those dead were "three people, including a woman... with gunshots," said a Myingyan resident.

There was a further death in the city of Monywa, state media said, while two men in their 20s were killed on the spot in

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Mandalay, according to a local doctor and an AFP reporter.

The protesters took to the streets in defiance of the authorities, whose escalating use of violence resulted in dozens being killed on Sunday in the bloodiest day since the February 1 coup that overthrew Suu Kyi.

State broadcaster MRTV reported martial law had been imposed in several districts of Yangon which gave commanders wide powers to crush dissent, and Myanmar Now later reported it had also been imposed in several parts of Mandalay.

Sunday's arson attacks prompted China's strongest comments yet on the

## VIOLENCE IN NOAKHALI

# Badal sued in another case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Another case was filed yesterday in connection with the February 19 clash between two Awami League factions in Noakhali's Companiganj upazila, which left a local journalist dead.

Companiganj upazila Jubo League Joint Secretary Salauddin Priton filed the case with Noakhali Cognisance Court-2 against 105 named and 150 unnamed people.

Priton is a supporter of Basurhat municipality Mayor Abdul Quader Mirza, also the younger brother of AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader.

Companiganj upazila AL Organising Secretary Mizanur Rahman Badal, supporter of AL lawmakers Ekramul Karim Chowdhury and Nizam Uddin Hazari, has been named the prime

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**B1**

**Woman forced out of home for bringing a baby girl to the world**  
**PAGE 5**

**DMP begins block raids in the capital**  
**PAGE 3**

**PRAYER TIMING MARCH 16**  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:00 12:45 4:30 6:14 7:45  
JAMAAT 5:35 1:15 4:45 6:18 8:15  
**SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION**

**Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd.**  
(A JOINT VENTURE OF BANGLADESH POWER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (BPDB), BANGLADESH AND NTPC LIMITED, INDIA)

**CORRIGENDUM NO. 1 TO INVITATION FOR BID FOR PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF IMPORTED COAL AT PLANT JETTY (CDP) FOR 2X660MW MAITREE SUPER THERMAL POWER PROJECT AT RAMPAL, DISTRICT-BAGERHAT, KHULNA DIVISION, BANGLADESH (International Competitive Bidding)**

Ref. No. BIFPCL/MSTPP/COAL/2021/751/754 Date: 16.03.2021

The dates mentioned in the IFB No. BIFPCL/MSTPP/COAL/2021/751 dated 03.03.2021 are hereby amended as follows:

Availability of Bidding Document for sale and download	From 16.03.2021, 10:00 Hrs. (BST) to 11.04.2021, 17:00 Hrs. (BST)
Pre-Bid Meeting	12.04.2021, 11:00 Hrs. (BST)
Last date for submission of Bids	06.05.2021 upto 11:00 Hrs. (BST)
Opening of Technical Proposal	11:30 Hrs. (BST) on 06.05.2021

All other terms & conditions in the Document will remain same. For all other details, may please visit the website [www.bifpcl.com](http://www.bifpcl.com).

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