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HIGH PRICES OF ESSENTIALS

Double blow for those with fixed income

AKANDA MUHAMMAD JAHID

Prices of almost all daily essentials have shot up in the kitchen market, adding woes to the fixed-income people who are reeling from the economic slowdown caused by the pandemic.

In the last couple of weeks, prices of sugar, flour, chicken, fish, cooking oil, spices and vegetables have gone up due to supply constraints amid recovering demand from the pandemic and soaring prices in the international commodity market.

Visiting several kitchen markets in the capital yesterday, this correspondent found that sugar was being sold at about 11 percent higher than the government-fixed rate of Tk 74-75 a kg. The sweetener was being sold at Tk 80-86 a kg.

Abul Hussain, a retailer in the capital's Shukrabad area, said he purchased loose sugar at Tk 78 per kg from the wholesalers. "Then, how can we sell it at the government-fixed rate?"

Though rice price remains stable now, consumers have been spending

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- Green chilli Tk 200-220 per kg (up 66%)
- Eggplant Tk 60 per kg (up 50%)
- Sugar Tk 80-86 per kg (up 11%)
- Flour (coarse and fine) Tk 42 and Tk 52 per kg (up by 9% -13%)
- Onions Tk 60 per kg (up 50%)
- Unpacked soybean oil Tk 130-135 per litre (up 3%)
- Broiler chicken Tk 160 per kg (up 14%)
- Sonali chicken Tk 300 per kg (up 30%)



The Coast Guard, Chandpur district administration, police, fire service and fisheries department, and representatives of fishermen and fish traders bring out a procession of vessels to raise awareness against catching mother hilsa. A 22-day ban on catching the national fish has been enforced since yesterday. The photo was taken in the Dakatia river near Chandpur Barastation yesterday.

PHOTO: ALAM PALASH

Kishida takes office as new Japan PM

Calls Oct 31 election

REUTERS, Tokyo

Japan's new prime minister, Fumio Kishida, yesterday called a parliamentary election for October 31 and vowed to bolster the country's response to the coronavirus pandemic, shortly after being formally confirmed by lawmakers in the top job.

Kishida, a 64-year-old former foreign minister with an image as a consensus builder, earlier unveiled a cabinet line-up dominated by allies of former prime minister Shinzo Abe and ex-finance minister Taro Aso.

"I want to ensure we implement large-scale, bold coronavirus countermeasures and economic policies. To

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

'Halt US aid to Pakistan'

OCTOBER 5, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

US SENATE BODY VOTES TO STOP AID TO PAKISTAN

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved a proposal to suspend US aid to Pakistan. The provision, already voted by the House of Representatives, laid down that all US economic, military and other aid, including sale of military equipment and agricultural commodities, be stopped until Pakistan cooperates in stabilising the situation in East Pakistan and permits return of refugees from India. Aid would be resumed when President Richard Nixon certified to the Congress that those actions had taken place.

INDIA WILL NOT ACCEPT MOVE FOR BILATERAL TALKS

India will not accept any proposal for bilateral negotiations on Bangladesh on the ground that the problem was entirely of Pakistan's own making. India's Permanent Representative at the UN Samar Sen made this clear today in a rejoinder at the General Assembly to counter certain allegations earlier made by the leader of the Pakistan delegation, Mahmud Ali.

ON THE WAR FRONT

In the Kushtia-Jashore-Khulna sector, Mukti Bahini today raided the Pakistani position near Pirgacha (Khulna) and killed three Pakistani soldiers including a JCO.

Pakistani troops today burnt several villages in Bhatipara under Kashiani PS of Gopalganj in reprisal of a humiliating defeat the previous day. On that day, Mukti Bahini made a daring attack from three sides on Pakistani troops' position.

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FOREIGN TV CHANNELS

No bar to airing 24 ad-free ones

Says info minister

UNB, Dhaka

Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said there was no bar to air the 24 ad-free foreign channels.

"Some 24 foreign channels have clean feeds and there is no bar to air those channels. Akash DTH is operating the channels and others can do so. If there is any need of sending letters regarding the issue then we can give it to the cable operators," he said.

Hasan was exchanging with Association of Television Channel Owners (ATCO) at a meeting held at the secretariat.

The minister also urged the cable operators to refrain from violating the laws.

"A vested quarter is involved in spreading

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3 shopping sites laundered Tk 350cr

CID primarily found Eorange siphoned off Tk 232cr

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Eorange, Dhamaka Shopping and SPC World Express have laundered at least Tk 350 crore that they had received from customers in advance payment for goods, found the Criminal Investigation Department of police in its primary investigation.

Of them, Eorange, where absconding police inspector Sohel Rana is a director, siphoned off Tk 232.4 crore. Dhamaka Shopping, whose directors have fled the country in July for the US, laundered about Tk 116.7 crore. SPC World Express, whose Chief Executive Director Al Amin and its director Sharmin Akter were arrested on Sunday by the CID, whisked off about Tk 1.2 crore.

In June, the CID's Financial Crime department initiated a shadow investigation against 20-odd e-commerce platforms, Humayun Kabir, special superintendent of the department, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The department requested the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit -- the government agency responsible for investigating money laundering, suspicious transactions and cash transaction reports -- to look into the companies' bank transactions.

So far, proof of money laundering has been found against the three companies and cases have been filed

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HEAT AND TOUCH WORK US duo wins Nobel Prize for medicine



Julius

Patapoutian

AFP, Stockholm

US scientists David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian yesterday won the Nobel Medicine Prize for discoveries on receptors for temperature and touch.

"The groundbreaking discoveries... by this year's Nobel Prize laureates have allowed us to understand how heat, cold and mechanical force can initiate the nerve impulses that allow us to perceive and adapt to the world," the Nobel jury said.

The pair's research is being used to develop treatments for a wide

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RAPE IN BEGUMGANJ Delwar, Kalam given life terms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A Noakhali court yesterday sentenced two people to life imprisonment in a case filed over raping a woman in Begumganj upazila.

Each of the accused was also fined Tk 50,000, in default of which they will have to serve three more months in jail.

The convicts are: Delwar Hossain alias Delu and his associate Mohammad Ali alias Abul Kalam. They are residents of Eklashpur union of the upazila.

The verdict in the case was delivered almost a year after it was lodged.

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Workers, mostly of ready-made garment factories, cram into a bus on their way home from work. Such disregard for social distancing could easily result in Covid transmission. The photo was taken in Savar on Dhaka-Aricha highway this week.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

EVICION DRIVE IN ASSAM Congress suspends MLA after arrest

He made 'provocative remarks' in reaction to Sept 23 eviction violence that left 2 killed in police firing

AGENCIES

The Assam Congress yesterday suspended its MLA, Sherman Ali Ahmed, days after he was arrested for making provocative statements on an eviction drive around 40 years ago. In a one-line statement, Congress said that it has suspended Ahmed with immediate effect for repeatedly violating party discipline.

The Congress had earlier served a show-cause notice to the three-time MLA from Bagbar for justifying the killing of eight people during an agitation in Darrang district in 1983. He called the eight people, seen as martyrs of agitation in the Assamese society, "murderers".

Ahmed apparently made the remarks while reacting to eviction drive in the district on September 23 that left two persons dead in police firing.

Earlier on September 20, a similar eviction drive was carried at four places in Dholpur, about 9 km from Sipajhar, and nearly 800 families - most of whom were Bengali-speaking Muslims - were removed from 4,500 bighas of land the government claimed ownership for, reports NDTV.

His comment has evoked strong reactions across Assam and multiple FIRs have been filed against him. Ahmed was later arrested from his official residence in Guwahati on October 2.

In its show-cause notice, the Assam Congress has accused MLA Sherman Ali Ahmed of making "politically motivated" statements "with the intention of damaging

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 5

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-53 7-30
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-56 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION