



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXI No. 315

AGRAHAYAN 21, 1428 BS

Your Right to Know

RABUS SANI 30, 1443 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00

"It is better if the expatriates don't come home now."
HEALTH MINISTER ZAHID MALEQUE

"Thousands of people will come down to the streets, if Khaleda is not sent to abroad for treatment."
BNP SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR

"I don't want to speculate, but certainly ... it looks a lot like rehearsals."
US DEFENSE SECRETARY LLOYD AUSTIN ON CHINESE MILITARY FLIGHTS NEAR TAIWAN

Crushed by rising inflation

Low- and middle-income people struggle to cope as commodity prices soar; recent fuel price hike partly to blame

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

"I simply cannot describe what I'm going through," Tashdiq Hasan says, summing up his current financial pressure.

The junior executive at a private bank in Dhaka has been struggling to keep his family above water amid the coronavirus pandemic and rising living costs.

He has a fixed monthly income of Tk 36,000. Nearly half -- Tk 16,000 -- goes to house rent and utility bills.

With the rest, he meets all the expenses for his family of five, including baby food and other essentials for his newborn daughter and medical bills for his ailing mother.

Prices of daily essentials were already

"The government's decision to increase fuel price has made a chain reaction of price hike in the market. Prices of all types of food and non-food commodities have increased... This is completely arbitrary."

DR FAHMINA KHATUN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CPD

1,000 a month to travel to and from work. For people like Tashdiq, the amount could buy at least two weeks' baby food.

"It's another dent in my wallet. I don't

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

high for Hasan, and his hardship intensified after another spell of price hikes of almost every essential amid the pandemic. The pandemic has also meant additional expenses of buying face masks and hand sanitizers to keep the family safe.

The recent fuel price hike and its cascading effects have compounded the situation further, upsetting his family budget and making daily life more expensive. Due to the increase in bus fare, Tashdiq will need an additional TK

500

a month to travel to and from work.

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