



B3

Govt to
review
edible oil
prices



P3

Dhaka air
2nd most
polluted in
the world



Vulnerable
nations demand
funding for
climate losses



P11

India
legend
Mithali Raj
calls time



PRICE HIKE OF ESSENTIALS Noose tightens on low-income groups

SUKANTA HALDER

The cost of living has gone up but the incomes of most consumers have not. It is not just the prices of edible oil and rice that are hurting, it's almost everything they need in the kitchen every day.

In Dhaka, lentils, potatoes, flour, onions, garlic, gingers and other necessities have become dearer this week compared to the last, The Daily Star found while visiting several kitchen markets yesterday.

Even the gas used for cooking is more expensive now.

The people of lower- and lower-middle income groups are having to tighten their belts further.

Data from the state-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh shows how steeply the prices have gone up.

The prices of Miniket and Nazirshail varieties of rice were being sold between Tk 75 and Tk 80 a kg, up by at least Tk 5 from last week, retailers said. Coarse rice is now Tk 58 a kg, up Tk 8.

Sajib Mia, a trader at Mirpur-1 Kitchen Market, said potatoes were Tk 30 a kg, up by about Tk 5 from a week ago.

Red medium lentils were Tk 140 per kg, up Tk 15, while the smaller ones were Tk 135 per kg, up Tk 5.

Traders said brown flour, also known as atta, was Tk 48 a kg, at least Tk 6 higher than a week ago. The

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

We can now achieve even bigger feats

PM tells JS on motion thanking her for Padma bridge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the success in constructing the Padma Bridge has instilled self-confidence in the people that the country can implement even larger projects in future.

Participating in the general discussion on a motion placed in parliament to greet and thank her for the construction of the 6.15 km bridge, she said, "One single decision for the construction of Padma Bridge with our own fund brightened the country's image... The whole world has started to show respect towards Bangladesh."

The motion was adopted unanimously by a voice vote following a discussion that went on for over six hours.

Thirty-eight MPs from the treasury and opposition bench took part in the discussion.

Chief Whip Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury brought the motion in the House under Section 147 of the Rules of Procedure.

During the nearly 30-minute speech, the premier said, "The people of our country have gained knowledge on technology. In future we'll be able to do more improved [bigger] tasks," she added.

Lambasting the role of Dr Muhammad Yunus in cancellation of the World Bank's funding for the Padma Bridge project, the PM asked how an individual can harm the country just for his lust for the post of a managing director of a bank.

She also alleged that an editor (of a newspaper) was also involved closely in the matter.

"Dr Yunus and that editor emailed the World Bank time and again so that the funding is stopped... Hillary Clinton was

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



NEWSPAPER WEBSITES

They're not permitted to publish video Says info minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In their declaration, the newspapers were not given permission to hold talk-shows and show videos on their websites, Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud said yesterday.

Streaming news through IPTVs also goes against the government's policy, he added.

"We will take action against them very soon," said the minister after meeting the leaders of the Association of Television Channel Owners (ATCO) at the Secretariat, according to a press release.

In the meeting, the association demanded enforcement of law to stop such activities by the IPTVs and daily newspapers' websites.

About the decision of imposing a special tax on the production and broadcast of adverts with foreign artists, Hasan said, "We've made the decision to save both the industry and the artists. It will be implemented from July. We've given a letter in this regard."

At the meeting, ATCO's Senior Vice President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and the directors discussed clean feed and quick initiation of TRP.

Asked about the case filed against Fazle Elahi, a journalist in Rangamati, under the Digital Security Act,

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6



Both sides of the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital's Karwan Bazar area are gridlocked. Dhaka North Awami League held a protest procession from Tejgaon to Dhanmondi from yesterday noon, resulting in terrible traffic congestion for much of the day. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Commuters suffer for procession in rush hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League's procession during rush hour yesterday led to traffic gridlock in the capital and caused hardship for city dwellers amid the scorching heat.

Party leaders and activists from different wards of the capital converged at the Satrasta intersection -- where the procession was scheduled to start -- in pick-ups and motorcycles around noon. Soon, vehicles moving towards the busy intersection got stuck.

The procession was organised by Dhaka City North Awami League, in protest of remarks allegedly made by Jatiyatabdhi Swechchhasebok Dal -- BNP's volunteer wing -- during a rally last month.

The procession started from the intersection, went through Hotel Sonargaon intersection and Panthaphat and ended

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7