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Soybean oil prices cut by up to Tk 6 a litre

SUKANTA HALDER

Edible oil refiners have cut soybean oil prices up to Tk 6 a litre though the consumers rights organisation said the rates should have been reduced by at least Tk 30 amid falling prices of the item in the global market.

Yesterday, Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners and Vanaspati Manufacturers' Association reset the highest retail price of loose soybean oil at Tk 180 a litre, down from Tk 185.

It refixed the highest retail price of onelitre bottled soybean oil at Tk 199, down from Tk 205, and a five-litre bottle at Tk 980, down from Tk 997.

The new prices take effect today. This is the first time in the last couple of months that edible oil refiners have reduced prices. Since February, edible oil prices rose up to Tk 55 a litre as refiners hiked prices in phases in line with spiralling prices in the international

Tapan Kanti Ghosh, senior secretary at the commerce ministry, said the cut in oil prices was in discussion over the last few

Earlier, Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission recommended cutting edible oil prices, which started declining in the global market late May, he said.

The price evaluation committee on basic commodities under the commerce ministry suggested reducing the prices in consultation with importers, refiners, wholesalers, added Tapan.

Ghulam Rahman, president of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said the prices have not been reduced in keeping with the rates at which prices have come down in the international market.

Substance abuse in children spiralling

CHILDREN TREATED AT GOVT REHABS

YEAR	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	TOTAL PATIENTS	20,592 narco cases were
2012	4	10,749	filed against 21,992 people
2013	0	8,108	in 2021
2014	1	10,364	Total number of drug addicts is eight million
2015	8	9,504	
2016	47	12,815	
2017	74	14,688	 60pc of the inmates are accused in narco cases
2018	80	25,143	
2019	109	27,983	 Over 80pc drug addicts are aged between 21 and 25
2020	496	14,952	
2021	608	19,208	

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Children's substance abuse has increased exponentially in the ten years since 2012 an alarming development for the society.

In 2012, four children took treatment at the government rehabilitation centre, according to a statistic from the Department of Narcotic Control (DNC). In 2021, that number reached 608.

Another estimation shows an equally worrying trend.

Before the pandemic, 25-30 children would visit the "dropping centre" of the Bangladesh Rehabilitation and Assistance Centre for Addicts (BARACA) on an average each day.

That number almost doubled to 45-50 a day last year, according to BARACA officials.

The DNC should take initiatives

lack of monitoring are the prime reasons behind the rise in addiction among children, according to Mahmood.

The majority of the addicts are gluesniffing street children, said officials and

Popularly known as dandy, the adhesive glue, used by shoe repairers, contains toluene, a sweet-smelling and intoxicating hydrocarbon.

The solvent dissolves the membrane of brain cells and causes hallucinations as well as dampens hunger pangs.

"We rarely get children with addiction to Yaba or high-priced drugs as they are not able to afford those," said Shoyebur Reza Chowdhury, chief consultant of Central

Drug Addiction Treatment Centre. A small tub of glue, which is available in all hardware and paint shops, cost only Tk



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