

DHAKA

Govt to fix prices
of 9 commodities
in next seven days
Says commerce minister

STAR REPORT

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi yesterday said the government will fix the prices of nine basic commodities within the next seven days to check the irrational price hike of essentials in the local markets.

Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission (BTTC) was assigned to fix the prices of nine products within 15 days but the deadline ended Thursday.

It may take seven more days to fix the prices of nine widely-consumed commodities for the local markets, Munshi told journalists after a discussion at the 16th biennial conference of the National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF) held at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka.

The commerce ministry assigned the BTTC last month to fix the prices of nine commodities including rice, lentil, flour, atta and onion as well as mild steel products and cement within 15 days.

Meanwhile, leaders and activists of garment workers organisations demanded formation of a new wage board, introduction of rationing system and maternity leave at the conference.

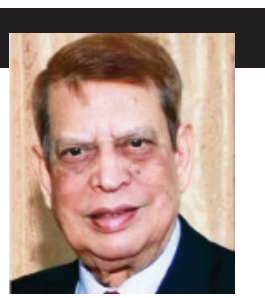
At present, the prices of essential commodities have increased, but the wages of garment workers have not,

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Taking the opportunity of almost vacant streets on Fridays, youths engage in a spirited game of cricket in the capital's Dilkusha area yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Abul Hasnat
passes away

UNB, Dhaka

Barrister Abul Hasnat, the first mayor of Dhaka City Corporation and a founding member of BNP, passed away yesterday at his residence in London. He was 82.

Hasnat breathed his last around 5:00am local time due to old age complications, said his son Rajib Hasnat.

He left behind his wife Nasreen Begum, a son and a daughter.

Hasnat, a senior Supreme Court lawyer, went to the UK in 2019, but could not return to the country due to Covid-19 pandemic.

He served as the first mayor of Dhaka City

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'We are
connected
at heart'
Doraiswami says in
farewell speech

UNB, Dhaka

Outgoing Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami has said Bangladesh-India relationship is a "train" that must keep moving to do more great things together.

"That energy needs to be carried through," he said, adding that there are many great things that the two countries have achieved together in the past decade, which should be celebrated.

Speaking at a reception at the High Commission of India in Dhaka on Thursday evening, Doraiswami said people of Bangladesh and India are connected through hearts and souls; and it is stronger than blood relations.

The Indian diplomat said, the most important aspect of Bangladesh-India ties is: "We are your relatives and you are our relatives." Therefore, he said, expectations from each other can sometimes be unrealistic. "We have, of course, things that we need to do together," he said.

Doraiswami said there are many kinds of honour that one has in life but serving in a country like Bangladesh – the country that is of such significance

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Dhaka under one roof

How a private facility preserving the capital's history

DIPAN NANDY

What will you do if you want to research the history and traditions of Dhaka – the ever growing capital of Bangladesh.

After reading this article, you might want to visit a three-storied building standing on Mohini Mohan Das Lane in Farashganj, Old Dhaka.

For over two decades, Dhaka Kendra, situated on the second floor of the building, has been a go to place for researchers and academics, as the facility famously assembled the city's history and traditions, all under one roof.

In 1997, Mohammad Azim Buksh, son of former Panchayat Sardar Mawla Bakhsh, established the Mawla Buksh Sardar Memorial Trust on his own initiative.

It included five projects, including a cultural centre and hospital. Dhaka Kendra is one of them.

At first glance, the square-shaped building,



which also attracts visitors for its creative architectural pattern, will appear as an old structure in need of renovation.

But the real magic's hidden on the second floor.



PHOTO: STAR

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw that the floor housed a library with 6,000 books related to the history and heritage of Dhaka. Besides, various materials used by Old Dhaka residents, pictures, historical documents, maps, and colorful monuments of the city on the banks of Buriganga can be found there.

The library has some rare collections of books, written in English by British and Indian writers back in the days.

Patrick Geddes's Dhaka: A Study in Urban History and Development, written in 1917, Abdul Karim's "Dhakai Muslin", Abu Joha Noor Ahmad's "Unish Shotoker Dhakar Somaj Jibon", Kedarnath Majumder's "Dhakar Bibaran a Dhakar Brahma Somajer Itihas", Nazir Hossain's "Kingbodontir Dhaka", Nirmal Gupta's "Dhaka Katha", Jatindramohan Roy's 'Dhakar Itihas', Rafiqul Islam's "Dhakar Katha", Satyen Sen's "Sohorer Itikatha" and Haridas Bose's "Dhakar Katha" are only a glimpse of the historical books that can be found here.

The library stays open from 4:00pm to 7:00pm every day except for Thursday, but researchers can stay at the facility for longer hours by the authority's permission.

"Farashganj is the oldest area of Dhaka. Once it was full of life, but those days are long gone. However, if this centre is of little benefit to someone, Old Dhaka's legacy will live on for a long time... that's my motivation," said Dhaka Kendra Chairman Mohammad Azim Buksh.

There's also a small museum next to the library. It has a land deed made in 1896. The novelty of its language is an attraction for interested researchers.

Apart from this, parts of the first motor repair factory established in Dhaka, ancient maps, and brick designs of old buildings can be found there.

There's also a separate gallery of some socially important families of Old Dhaka. All the rare artifacts used by these families, including, drinking bowls, cooking pots, hookahs, saris, fabric and salt containers can be found here.

"Researchers still flock to our library although the overall readership has declined...," Azim Buksh added. "My father wanted to create a place where people from all across the city would come and study about our city's rich history. This is his legacy, and I will carry it forward."

'We will not
back down'Says Fakhru on BNP's
ongoing movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday issued a note of warning to the ruling party saying that it would not be possible to stop their movement by attack and arrests.

"When we were taking preparation for holding a rally in Pallabi, Awami criminals with arms attacked our leaders and activists. It was also reported in the media. I want to say clearly that by killing, arresting, filing false cases, it would not be possible to keep BNP away from the street and movement," said party secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir. He came up with the warning at a press conference at party chairperson's Gulshan office.



I want to say clearly that by killing, arresting, filing false cases, it would not be possible to keep BNP away from the street and movement.

"It is a matter of great sorrow that when our leaders and activists were resisting the attackers, police charged batons and lobbed tear shells at us and even opened fire. We repeatedly said the role of police should be neutral but they are working in favour of Awami League and its criminals."

Fakhru announced that BNP will stage demonstrations in all the cities, districts, and upazila headquarters on Sunday to protest the attack on a party programme in Mirpur.

He said the demonstration in Dhaka will be held in front of the party's central office in Nayapaltna at 3:00pm.

JP not with
any alliance
Says GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said his party does not belong to any political alliance.

"Jatiya Party had no alliance with Awami League in the last election either. In the last election, there was an electoral understanding in some constituencies.

At that time, our constituency-based leaders and workers had worked for Awami League and their men had worked for Jatiya Party. That is why we have a friendly relationship with them," he said.

GM Quader, also deputy leader of the opposition in parliament, said this while speaking at the representative conference of the Hindu Mohajot at city's Mohanagar Natta Mancha.

The JP chief said, "We can form alliance with Awami League if they do good work. But if Awami League loses the trust of people, then we may not be with them in the future."

He also said people do not want EVMs in elections. "We are against EVM from the beginning. Because EVMs are peaceful rigging

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OPULENCE OF ORCHIDS

Bangladesh Orchid Society hosts its annual show

LS DESK

In the city of Dhaka, one can find and be a part (with effort) of any niche club. Bangladesh Orchid Society is one such club that hosts an annual event that showcases orchids of different varieties.

This year, the two day event started yesterday. Flower enthusiasts can visit the show from 10:00am to 6:00pm at Nasheman House CENC 2, Road 95, Gulshan 2.

At the show, visitors will find orchid breeds they've never seen before. Orchid society members usually utilise this event to showcase their collections, exchange or give their favourite orchids to fellow members in an attempt to fill their balconies and terraces.

The event was led by Naseem Iqbal, president of orchid society.

"We take care of orchids all year round as we believe in the flower's preservation. We even hold a monthly meeting where



enthusiasts can gather and share their knowledge on how to take care of their flowers and get tips on what makes them more vibrant. This is a great platform for like-minded enthusiasts to come together to share their love for orchids," said AMM Iqbal Ali, a member of orchid society.

The organisation began its journey in the late 80s and has loyal members both in the country and abroad. There's always something new every year at the show. The variety of orchids here does not just come from nurseries, but also around the world brought by orchid lovers.

MIRPUR CLASH
Eight BNP
men held,
225 sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least eight activists of BNP have been arrested and 225 others sued, including 75 named, in a case filed over a clash between the party and ruling Awami League activists and police in Mirpur two days ago.

"Drives are ongoing to arrest the other accused," said Parvej Islam, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station. According to the case filed by SI Saiful Islam, the law enforcers fired 68 rounds of shotgun bullets. Besides, they lobbed 25 rounds of teargas shells to disperse the activists.

The BNP activists and supporters vandalised a police vehicle at that time, said the case in which

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