



# Star BUSINESS

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## LPG price shoots up in Rajshahi

Consumers warn of tough movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) shot up by Tk 35 overnight in Rajshahi yesterday, prompting immediate protests from consumers and a social body.

All the 19 government-nominated LPG dealers in the divisional headquarters were selling a cylinder at Tk 555, Tk 188 higher than the government-fixed price.

The dealers said the price became effective from Friday midnight following a supply crisis.

With the latest price escalation, the LPG prices went up thrice in last two months. A cylinder was sold at Tk 450 before Ramadan which rose to Tk 475 with the onset of the holy month and reached Tk 520 on November 2.

The latest rise has sparked protest from consumers who are holding a section of dealers, suppliers and government officials responsible for creating an artificial crisis.

Consumers were seen protesting before LPG dealers' outlets at Shaheb Bazar, Upashahar and Shabagan.

Rajshahi Rakha Sangram Parishad, a social organisation

advocating development of Rajshahi, in a statement asked the government to bring normalcy for concerted efforts from shrimp sector stakeholders to achieve the goal of 'Vision 2008', a target to export frozen foods worth Tk 10,000 crore annually by 2008.

He made the call at a discussion organised by Bangladesh Shrimp Development Alliance (BSDA) held in Dhaka on Friday, according to a press statement.

He also said establishing PCR lab will be made compulsory to ensure virus-free shrimp production at hatcheries.

Former commerce minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury was also present at the meeting presided over by BSDA President Nizam M Selim.

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### New MD of National Bank



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### Preparation needed to face post-MFA

BSS, Dhaka

Business leaders at a function yesterday underscored the need for immediate preparations of a strategy for the garments sector to face the challenges of globalisation with the phasing out of the quota facilities just after a month.

Bangladesh needs massive preparations to conduct garments exports, the largest foreign exchange earner of the country, in the changed situation because time is running out very fast, they told a training course on "Industrial Sewing Machine Maintenance Technology" at Spectra Convention Centre in the city.

The business leaders said with the expiry of Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) from January, 2005 Bangladesh would have to face competition from many Asian garment producing and exporting countries in getting the market share in the global arena. So long it has been enjoying quota facilities in the USA, Canada and the EU under MFA.

The forum meeting took place before the 29th OIC ministerial meeting on economic and commercial cooperation held on November 25.

Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) of Japan organised the six-day training programme in cooperation with JUKI Corporation Japan, JUKI Singapore and JUKI Bangladesh. Forty-five engineers and technicians from different garment industries from in and around Dhaka city are participating in the course, being conducted by two JUKI experts -- M. Yoshitomi and M. Tanaka.

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played in the fair.

Speaking at the press conference, Rezaul Haque, head of Contract Services and Logistics of MGH Group, said the local companies will get an idea on how to decrease the time span from getting order to delivery of products from this show.

The fair will also enable exporting firms of Bangladesh, especially RMG industries, to know about the global standards of logistics systems thereby help compete with the other RMG exporting companies, Haque added.

Local companies, representatives from Australia, Austria, Belgium, China, Finland, France, Germany, India, Korea, Pakistan, Spain, Taiwan, the UK and the USA have confirmed their participation in the fair, the organisers said.

Managing Director of Cems Meherun N Islam and Executive Director of MGH Group Shahed Shams signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) after the press conference regarding the sponsorship of the fair.

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