

## Fuel prices hike again

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bowing to the donors' pressure, the government has decided to raise the prices of octane, diesel, kerosene and petrol to adjust them global market prices. The new prices come into effect from today.

A highly placed source in the energy ministry yesterday said the prices of octane, diesel, kerosene and petrol would be increased by Tk 4 to Tk 30 per litre. The prices of petrol and octane are going to be hiked by Tk 6 and Tk 7 to Tk 42 and Tk 45, the source added.

"The decision to raise the fuel prices has been finalised. But what the prices would be is yet to be finalised. It will be decided and the increased price would be effective from Sunday," Energy Adviser Mahmudur Rahman told news agency BDNEWS yesterday.

This is the eighth instance the  
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## 6 'robbers' lynched in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mob lynched six alleged robbers and wounded another in Patiya following a series of robberies in three villages in neighbouring Anwara upazila in the early hours yesterday.

The killed robbers are Nasir, 28, Nazim, 31, Harun, 34, Alok Barua, 28, Ranajit Barua, 30, and Ilias, 30. Police and witnesses said a band of about 15 armed men started their mission in Khashkhama, Bhingrole and Hetikhaine villages at around 1:00am.

The robbers broke into five houses and looted at gunpoint

valuables worth about Tk 3 lakh including 20 tola gold ornaments and Tk 85,000.

The robbers also shot and stabbed Haresa Begum, wife of Joynal Abedin, in Khashkhama during the three-hour operation.

They robbed the houses of Kala Mia Chowdhury, Joynal, Sekander Ali of Khashkhama, Abdus Sattar of Bhingrole, and Ahmed Safa of Hetikhaine.

The witnesses said the gang after committing the robberies fled the villages in two groups.

One group disappeared with the looted goods, while the other group of about 10 robbers took a boat and

reached Noyhat in Kashiash union, Patiya through Chapakhali canal at around 4:00am.

The affected villagers chased the boat and surrounded the robbers with the help of the residents of Noyhat.

The agitated people held seven robbers, while the rest – two of them were reportedly identified as Sanju and Babu – managed to slip through the net.

The angry villagers beat up the robbers and killed five of them on the spot. Another robber died on way to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital at around 7:00am.

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## Agora fined for selling stale food

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday fined Tk 50,000 to Agora super shop at Rifles Square in Dhanmondi for selling rotten fish and flour, mustard oil without expiry date, and internationally banned unhygienic juices.

The mobile court led by Magistrate Md Rokan Ud Doulah also raided four canteens of Fazle Rabbi Hostel and Shaheed Dr Milon Hostel, dormitories of internee doctors of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, and arrested three managers of those canteens for keeping unhygienic and sub-standard foods.

The court sentenced them to one month's imprisonment and fined Tk 1,000 each and one more month's

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Stale fish and prawn seized by a mobile court during a raid on Agora superstore at Rifles Square in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## GUNRUNNING Two more BDR battalions for Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) is going to deploy two more battalions soon at the border along Bandarban to prevent infiltration of criminals and arms dealers.

The decision came as two BDR battalions are overstretched in guarding the 288km Naikkhanchhari-Thanchi border. The 176km-long border lies unguarded as BDR men

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## Women MPs furnish 'dubious' info with EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 36 candidates, who were declared elected to the women's reserved seats in parliament yesterday, have furnished the election commission (EC) with incomplete and misleading personal information while the High Court wants the commission to have detailed information.

Mohammad Zakoria, Joint Secretary of EC secretariat and the

returning officer (RO) for the election to women's reserved seats, said he does not have the jurisdiction to seek further details from the candidates.

In this situation, he yesterday unofficially declared the candidates elected uncontested and sent their list to the EC for gazette notification.

Going through the information submitted by the candidates and disseminated by the RO, it was

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## Moudud against ban on hijab in France

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said public opinion should be created worldwide to resist western intolerance of hijab (veil).

"Hijab should be given a modern interpretation rather than basing it on outdated notion," he said at a discussion on hijab organised by the Assembly for Protection of Hijab, Bangladesh at the National Press Club to mark the International Hijab

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## AUG 17 SERIAL BLASTS Huge sums drawn from Ctg bank for buying explosives

SHARIFUL ISLAM

A huge sum of money was spent on buying explosives used in the August 17 blasts and it was drawn from a personal account with a Chittagong branch of Islami Bank, said an investigator in Dhaka.

One Mohammad, chief of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) of Chittagong region, collected the money after it was sent from the Dhaka chapter of JMB to the Agrabad branch of Islami Bank, a top official of the bank seeking anonymity said.

News Agency UNB reports: Sadrul Alam, foreman of TSP Complex, was suspended from his job yesterday for alleged links to

militancy and the countrywide blasts. He is a nephew of detained Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh (Ahab) chief Asadullah Asadullah at Galib. The TSP authorities ordered the suspension after the local JIC team found 'his involvement in the blasts'.

At the helm of Chittagong JMB, Mohammad (believed to be a pseudonym) is a student of Islamic Studies Department in Dhaka University. Hailed from Cox's Bazar, Mohammad also functions as the treasurer of an Ahle Hadith Mosque in the port city.

Mohammad and some other JMB

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## Tengratila, Feni gas fields wrongly abandoned

Terms of accord with Niko go against nat'l interest: Probe report

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The process of declaring the Tengratila and Feni gas fields abandoned was faulty, says the report of a three-member enquiry committee.

The committee observed that the conditions in the framework of understanding (FoU) signed with Niko were against the interest of Bangladesh.

The matter of signing the agreement between Niko and Bapex (Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited) later became inevitable for the faulty FoU, according to the report submitted yesterday.

The enquiry committee was formed on August 16 to probe the deal with Canadian Niko Resources Limited for developing the "so-called" abandoned gas fields.

The committee submitted its report yesterday, two days behind schedule, to Energy Adviser Mahmudur Rahman.

The terms of reference for the committee were: 1) On what basis Feni, Kamta and Chhatak gas fields were declared abandoned; whether there was any flaw; 2) The framework of understanding (FoU) with

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## BNP holds big rally to mark founding day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling BNP yesterday brought out a grand rally in the capital, marking its 27th founding anniversary which was observed on September 1.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan along with party Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman led the colourful rally organised by the city unit of BNP.

Several thousand leaders and workers from different BNP units of the city gathered in front of the party central office at Naya Paltan in the afternoon.

Starting from the party central office at 5:00pm, the rally ended at

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PHOTO: STAR

Ruling BNP takes out a colourful rally marking the party's 27th founding anniversary yesterday, blocking the entire lane of a busy thoroughfare in Kakrail in the city yesterday.

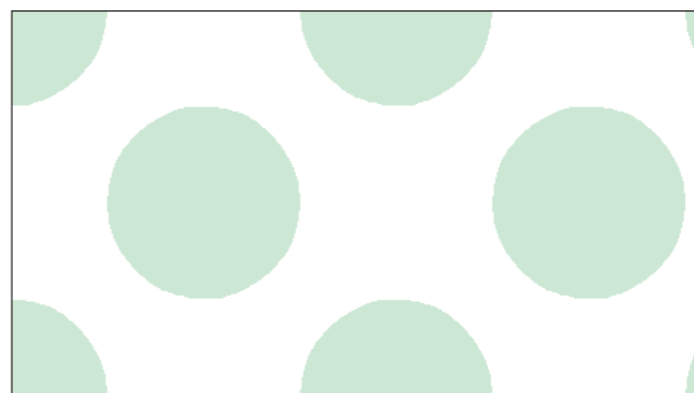
## Thus spake 2 BNP MPs!

STAR REPORT

Two lawmakers of the ruling BNP have blasted journalists in Patuakhali and Jhenidah.

BNP lawmaker Shahidul Alam Talukdar uttered abusive words against journalists and threatened them at a public meeting in Baufal Bandar Bazar under Patuakhali

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## Tigers play for pride today

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

With the one-day series already lost, Bangladesh will be left with only pride to play for in Sunday's third and final game against Sri Lanka.

The match at the Premadasa Stadium, which begins at 10 am, will be shown live on Bangladesh Television and satellite channel TEN

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