



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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FOR THE KIDS

Novo Nordisk opens a diabetes clinic

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MARQUEE BATTLE

India take on archrivals Pakistan in the Asia Cup today

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ANTI-SUDAN PROTEST

Actor George Clooney is arrested in Washington

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Govt's LP gas for cheats

Racketeers eat up Tk 50cr subsidy, pocket up to Tk 160cr a year by spiking prices

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

At a time when consumers are grappling with soaring prices of liquefied petroleum gas, unscrupulous traders with the help of some government officials are making crores of taka by selling subsidised LP gas at more than twice the government-fixed rate.

The racketeers not only eat up nearly Tk 50 crore in subsidies intended for consumers, but also pocket another Tk 128-160 crore every year by overcharging consumers.

State-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) produces 20,000 tonnes of LP gas a year, enough to fill 16 lakh cylinders with 12.5 kilograms of LP gas each. The gas is produced as a by-product at the Eastern Refinery in Chittagong and the Kailashtila gas field in



Sylhet. The BPC has a one-fourth share in the country's LP gas market, according to industry players.

A cylinder of BPC-produced LP gas is priced at Tk 700 at the end-consumer level. But this subsidised gas is traded for Tk 1,500-1,700, almost the same prices charged by private companies.

"It is an open secret that no consumer gets the BPC-produced gas at the government-fixed price. In Chittagong, it is sold for a minimum of Tk 1,500 a cylinder," said Fazlur Rahman, deputy general manager of LP Gas Ltd, a state-run organisation that packages LP gas before it is marketed by four other government companies.

"A ring of dealers and traders is depriving consumers," said Rahman.

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The first nor'wester of the season hit Dhaka yesterday evening. The meteorological department recorded a rainfall of 36mm until 7:30pm. The photo was snapped on the city's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

SEA LIMIT ROW WITH INDIA

Delhi now keen to resolve bilaterally
Envoy tells press after meeting Dipu Moni

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India, which had earlier chosen to settle its maritime boundary dispute with Bangladesh through UN arbitration, is now willing to discuss and resolve the issue bilaterally.

Pankaj Saran, the Indian high commissioner in Dhaka, expressed this willingness on New Delhi's part when he called on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at the latter's office yesterday.

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It's mere rumour
Nasaka refutes troops build-up report

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Myanmar border security force Nasaka yesterday denied troops mobilisation along its border with Bangladesh terming the allegation a "mere rumour".

Nasaka made the claim at a flag meeting with Border Guard Bangladesh

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BNP refutes ISI fund reports
Alleges AL took money from India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has never taken any funds from abroad to contest polls, the party's acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

Rather, he alleged, it was the Awami League that won the 2008 general election by dint of "bags of cash" from India.

His comments came three days after a former chief of Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence told the Pakistan Supreme

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BNP MAY JOIN JS TODAY

No plan to propose interim govt model

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

On returning to the Jatiya Sangsad, the BNP-led opposition is very likely to demand a restoration of the caretaker government system rather than propose a new model for a non-partisan election-time government, which the ruling party had been asking for.

Opposition parliament members belonging to the BNP,

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and Bangladesh Jatiya Party are expected to join the House today after staying away from it for 78 consecutive sittings since March last year.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her colleagues in the cabinet and the Awami League have been rejecting the opposition's demand for a restoration of the caretaker

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Green signal for Operation Searchlight

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

On March 18, 1971, the Pakistan military junta initiated preparations for what would euphemistically come to be known as Operation Searchlight. Unknown to Bengalis and to the world at the time, General Yahya Khan gave

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PHOTO: STAR

A dazzling performance by little stars at a programme arranged in the port city yesterday as part of The Daily Star Odmmo Chattagram festival and to promote Bangla culture.

Past of Ctg holds hope for economy

Scholars tell The Daily Star -Heritage Chatigram History Conference about heritage, prospect of the region

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong holds the potential to reveal its richness dating from the pre-historic era if archaeological studies and research are conducted here, academics have said.

Scholars participating in the two-day "The Daily Star-Heritage Chatigram History Conference" from home and abroad yesterday emphasised effective steps from the government for a proper



preservation of the historical findings of different ages.

They said it would help the next generation easily know about the culturally rich past of the country.

The Daily Star and Heritage Chatigram jointly organised the conference at held at Theatre Institute, Chittagong, in preparation for "The Daily Star Odmmo Chattagram" festival to be

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PROTHOM ALO'S CASE Press Council serves notice on Daily Sun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A case has been filed with Bangladesh Press Council against three people including the editor and publisher of the Daily Sun for publishing false and fabricated reports about the Prothom Alo and its editor.

Matiur Rahman, editor and publisher of Bangla daily Prothom Alo, filed the case on March 8.

In response, the press

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Congratulations

Mr. Syed A. K. Anwaruzzaman, the Honorable Managing Director of RAK Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd has been selected as the Commercially Important Person (CIP) by the Ministry of Commerce.

Employees of RAK Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd. express their heartiest congratulations to Mr. Syed A. K. Anwaruzzaman for his glorious achievement.



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