

# Power, gas to get pricier next month

Single gas burner Tk 600, double burner Tk 650

STAR REPORT

Retail customers will have to spend on average 2.93 percent more on electricity and Tk 200 more on gas from this September.

"We have closely examined the logic behind the hike in gas and power tariffs. We have kept the rise to a minimum level," said AR Khan, chairman of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), while announcing a new tariff structure at his office yesterday.

From now on, the more one consumes, the more he or she pays, he added.

Under the new rates, which take effect on September 1, households using a single burner will have to pay 50 percent more with the monthly gas price going up to 600 from Tk 400. For double burner users, the tariff has been raised to Tk 650 from Tk 450 a month.

Industries that turn gas into electricity

ELECTRICITY PRICE IN TAKA, PER KILOWATT HOUR		
SLABS	EXISTING	NEW
1-75 units (life line)	3.33	3.33
1-75 units	3.53	3.80
76-200 units	5.01	5.14
201-300 units	5.19	5.36
301-400 units	5.42	5.63
401-600 units	8.51	8.70
Above 600 units	9.93	9.98

through generators will see gas tariff double -- Tk 8.36 from Tk 4.18 per cubic metre.

"Unlike in many countries, gas price is too low in Bangladesh. Hiking the gas price became inevitable. Our gas price was one-third of what it should be," said the BERC chief.

This is the first hike in gas tariff since 2009 though CNG prices went up twice in

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Two boys frolicking in the driving rain on a bicycle at TSC on the Dhaka University campus. A sudden rain yesterday afternoon not only gave some an excuse to get drenched but also cooled off the sultry weather.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# 1,100 died in sea in 18 months

Victims were from Bangladesh, Myanmar, says UNHCR report on human trafficking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 70 people are estimated to have died of starvation, dehydration, disease and abuse by the crews at sea on ships abandoned in May this year, said the UN Refugee Agency yesterday.

With the new figure, the UNHCR estimates that over 1,100 people (Bangladeshis

and/or Rohingyas of Myanmar) died between January 2014 and June 2015.

Additionally, there were reports of drowning while disembarking, and many remained missing, the UNHCR said in a quarterly report of April and June.

Following the Asian migrant crisis, CARAM Asia, a regional NGO based in

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## Pro-AL panel sweeps Bar Council polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League-backed lawyers' panel won a landslide victory in the Bangladesh Bar Council elections, defeating the pro-BNP-Jamaat panel.

Sammilito Ainjibi Samannoy Parishad secured 10 out of 14 executive member posts.

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## 'CREATING GROUNDS FOR AUG 15 TRAGEDY' Unease among AL allies over JSD role

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

While Awami League's allies see the spat over Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal's role in creating the grounds for Bangabandhu killing as a plot to split the 14-party alliance, some AL leaders maintain they were simply pointing out the "historical facts".

"The incidents between October 31, 1972 and August 15, 1975 come up naturally if

we discuss the assassination of Bangabandhu," said AL Organising Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim.

On Sunday, AL Presidium Member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim alleged that anti-liberation forces would never have dared to attack Bangabandhu if the JSD had not created the circumstances by carrying out robberies and killings.

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TOP QUOTE

"The Awami League forged an alliance with the JSD, knowing full well its past. So, the ongoing debate is totally undesired."

JSD GENERAL SECRETARY SHARIF NURUL AMBIA ON SOME AL LEADERS' ALLEGATION THAT THE JSD CREATED GROUNDS FOR AUG 15 TRAGEDY

PART-3

India doesn't export and Bangladesh doesn't import, yet the age-old cattle trade goes on and it accounts for nearly \$1 billion business a year. Up against cow slaughter, the ruling BJP in India has recently choked the illegal supply channels to Bangladesh. New dynamics that followed: RSS guarding the borders, border guards becoming suddenly reluctant to be partners in the crime and smugglers looking for other goods. With the clandestine business almost coming to a grinding halt, The Daily Star, in its 3-part series, focuses on the impact on life and livelihood across the border.



Hides being processed at a Hazaribagh tannery in the capital. The tanners may face a supply shortage of rawhide as India has stepped up measures to stop cattle smuggling into Bangladesh ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. PHOTO: FILE

CATTLE SHORTAGE DURING EID

# Rawhide market braces for crisis

Leather product manufacturers see 'limited impact' as they have stock from last year's purchase

SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

With Indian cattle supply drying up the local leather industry is feeling nervous about a short-term crisis in rawhides.

Even though they depend largely on local rawhides, yet tanners fear that they won't be able to get even half of their requirements this year.

The shortage is likely to result from fewer Indian cattle coming to the Eid market.

"We are anticipating that there will be a shortage for

20 to 25 lakh cattle during this Eid, and we won't be able to collect those rawhides," said Md Shaheen Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Tanners Association.

Mazakat Harun Manik, senior vice-chairman of Bangladesh Tanners Association, said, "It means price of local cows will go up in the Eid market and rawhides prices may increase locally."

If the prices upswing is abnormal, then it might create a crisis in the industry, he said.

Ali Hossain, chairman of Bangladesh Hide and

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