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Your Right to Know

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YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Gas to become 22.7pc costlier

First phase hike from next month, second phase from June

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A household will have to spend Tk 150 more on monthly gas bill from March 1, as the energy regulator yesterday raised gas prices for all consumers by 22.7 percent.

Households using double burners have to pay Tk 800 each from next month compared to Tk 650 now, while those using single burners have to pay Tk 750 each against Tk 600.

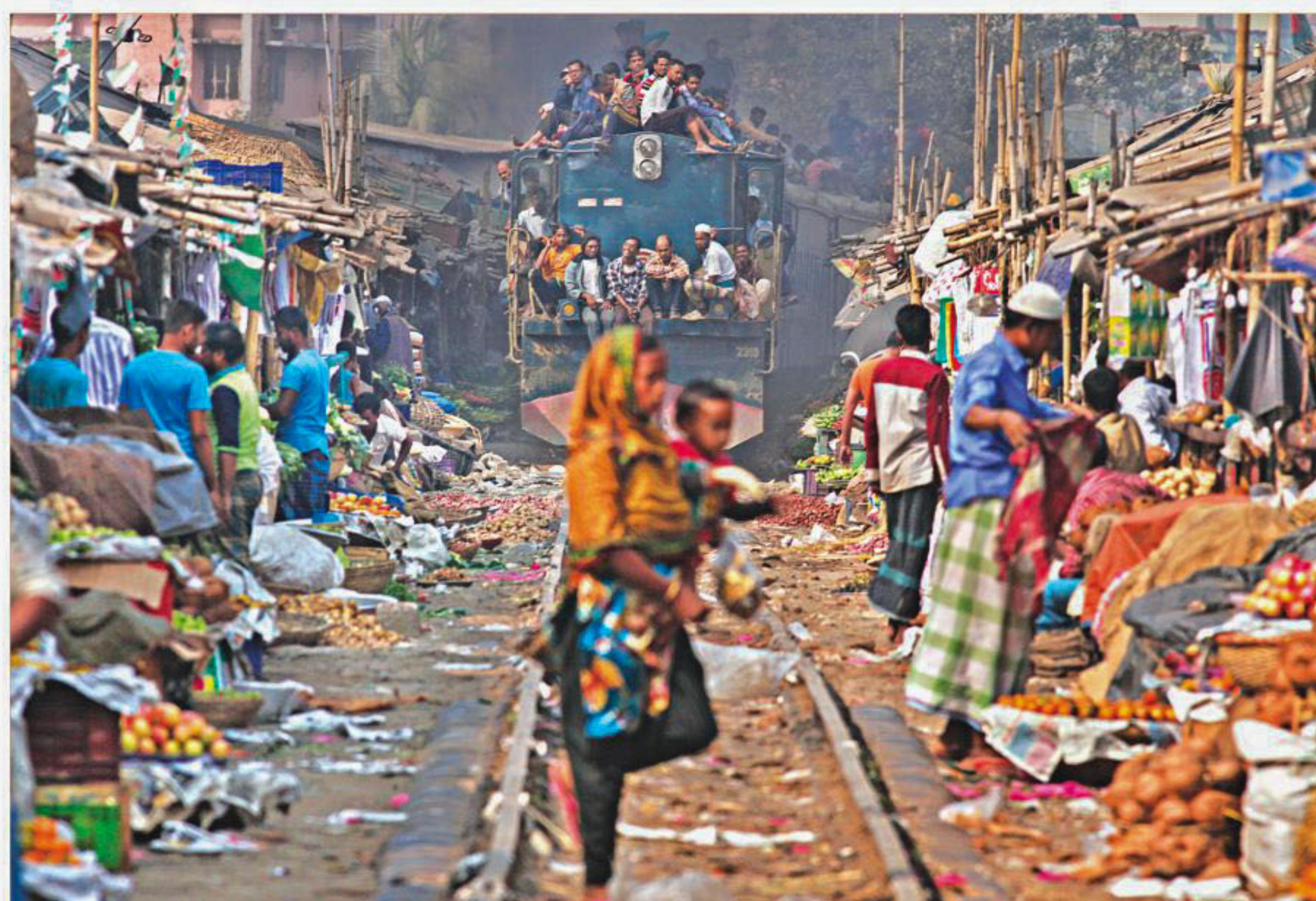
The prices would be increased again on June 1 by another Tk 150 for each gas stove, as Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) yesterday decided to implement the hike in two phases.

From June, the monthly gas bill for a double burner will be Tk 950 and for a single burner Tk 900.

CONSUMERS	CURRENT TARIFF	TARIFF FROM MAR 1	TARIFF FROM JUN 1
Household: one burner (monthly)	Tk 600	Tk 750	Tk 900
Household: two burners (monthly)	Tk 650	Tk 800	Tk 950
CNG (per cubic metre)	Tk 35	Tk 38	Tk 40
Commercial user (per cubic metre)	Tk 11.36	Tk 14.20	Tk 17.04

"The prices are being increased in two phases so that consumers don't feel a sudden pressure on their purchasing power," BERC Chairman Monowar Islam said after announcing the decision at a press conference.

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Holding a child on her lap, a woman crossing a railway line while an overcrowded train is approaching them in the capital's Jurain recently. Traders sell goods at a makeshift market set up right along the tracks every day, putting lives in danger.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



BUILDING BLOCKS OF TOMORROW

The second part of our 5-segment special supplement series, titled **LIVING AND LIFESTYLE** is out today.

Make sure you get your copy of this supplement **free of charge** from your hawker. Stay tuned for **FROM EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT** which comes out tomorrow.

Expatriate real estate agent killed in NY

STAR REPORT

A

Bangladeshi expatriate real estate businessman was

stabbed to death right in front of his 12-year-old son in New York City's Bronx on Wednesday.



Zakir Khan, 44, owner of Parkchester Real Estate New York, Inc, was killed

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BNP's terror link now proved

PM says referring to a Canadian court observation; BNP terms it a conspiracy

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said a Canadian court's recent verdict has proved that "BNP is actually a terrorist party".

She made the comment at a meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban last night, party insiders said.

Lawmakers during a House session yesterday also blasted

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

PM's India trip in April

Indian foreign secy meets Hasina

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will go on a state visit to India in April.

This was disclosed after visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Subrahmanyam Jaishankar called on her at her parliament office yesterday evening.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, PM's Deputy Press Secretary Nazrul Islam said the reciprocal visit of Prime Minister

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Special police unit for VIP protection

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and SHARIFUL ISLAM

The government is going to form a special police unit for the protection of VIPs, including ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers and judges.

The police headquarters in January submitted a proposal to the home ministry for this. The ministry is currently working on it.

The unit -- to be named "Guard and Protection Police" -- will have an administrative and operations wing and three battalions -- Protection Battalion, Guard Protection Battalion and KPI (key point installation) Battalion.

Four superintendents of police (SPs) will lead the wing and the three battalions. A deputy inspector general (DIG) will be the chief of the total unit, which will have 3,188 members, according to the proposal.

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SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

What's on your table?



**gourmet
bazar**

NOW OPEN!

Organic, Fair Trade, or Farm-Direct?

Fresh-cut cheese, morning-caught fish, or dry-aged beef?

Meals crafted by local chefs, or quinoa biscuits with marmalade?

What's on *your* table?

We have curated the brands and cuisine you long for.

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