



THE KANCHPUR-MEGHNA-GUMTI BRIDGES ARE BEING BUILT WITH HIGHLY DUCTILE GRADE 420 BSRM ULTIMA BARS



PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE

# Gas price may go up very soon

PM's energy adviser says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The energy regulator may soon increase gas prices for industries, power stations, filling stations, fertiliser factories and tea estates as the government is set to pass the price of imported liquefied natural gas on to users.

Prime Minister's Energy Adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury yesterday said the supply of the imported LNG has started. So, the gas price will be hiked very soon.

But the government has asked the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) to keep the price at a tolerable level.

In June, the BERC held hearings about raising gas prices for consumers except for households. Prices may be raised for industries, power stations, filling stations, fertiliser factories, and tea estates.

Last time, the BERC raised the gas price in March last year. It also raised the price in June the same year, but the decision was later withdrawn following a High Court order. Under the law, the BERC cannot enhance gas price twice in a single fiscal year.

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# When teachers are grabbers!

Shopping Centre on Debottor property of a century-old Hindu temple



A multi-story shopping centre is being constructed on the property of Madan Gopal Dev Mondir in Modhupur on Tangail-Mymensingh highway. Inset, the facade of the century-old temple, which is being encroached on by a local teachers' association.

PHOTO: TAWFIQUE ALI

TAWFIQUE ALI

A local teachers' association is building a multi-storey shopping centre on a Debottor (endowed) property of a century-old Hindu temple in Modhupur defying a court order.

Modhupur Prathamik Shikhhak Samity, the association, with the backing of a local ruling party leader, is going ahead with the construction work on the temple -- Madan Gopal Deb -- at Mondirat Modhupur Bazar on the Tangail-Mymensingh highway, said locals and officials.

"Apart from occupying the temple's property, the teachers' association is building the structure illegally without a building approval," said Modhupur municipality Mayor Md Masud Parvez.

"We want the Debottor property to be protected in the interest of the temple and we will extend all-out cooperation if the administration

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# JS committee recommends some changes

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A parliamentary committee yesterday finalised its report on the much-talked about proposed Road Transport Act, 2018, recommending some changes in the proposed law.

It, however, did not address criticisms against the act, including the "lenient" nature of punishment over deaths caused by reckless driving.

Scrutinising the bill, the standing committee on road transport and bridges ministry at a meeting decided to recommend changes to sections 25(2), 43(4) and 54 of the proposed law, meeting participants said.

AKMA Awal, a member of the committee, confirmed the decisions to this newspaper without giving details.

Meeting sources said the

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ROAD TRANSPORT ACT 2018

# Ensure passenger representation

Road safety campaigner Mozammel urges PM's intervention, says a vested quarter wanted him in jail till JS passes the bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity yesterday demanded the prime minister's intervention to include passenger representatives in the committees to be formed under the proposed Road Transport Act-2018.

"If the passengers have no representation in the committees, sixteen crore passengers would be deprived of their right and the proposed law would only serve the interests of transport owners and workers," the passengers' welfare platform said.

Mozammel Hoque Chowdhury, secretary general of the Samity, made the demand in a statement yesterday, two days after he was released from jail on bail in an extortion case, a lawsuit he termed "false".

The road safety campaigner said he was a victim of vengeance of a vested quarter in the transport sector, who wanted to keep him behind bars until the parliament passes the proposed law.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Mozammel said a group of transport owners and workers feared that he might wage a movement against the proposed law to ensure representation of passengers, which might harm their interest.

He alleged that OC Dadan Fakir of Mirpur Police Station misbehaved



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# MURDER OF 3 YOUTHS Nothing known, none arrested

Families suspect law enforcers' hand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are yet to find any clues to the murder of the three youths whose bullet-hit bodies were recovered from Purbachal in Rupganj on Friday. They are also yet to arrest anyone in connection with the murders.

Rupganj Police Station OC Maniruzzaman said they could not know who was responsible for the murders and they were still investigating the matter. He added that a case was filed over the murders on Friday night.

The victims' relatives, however, suspect that some men from a law enforcement agency were involved with the murder.

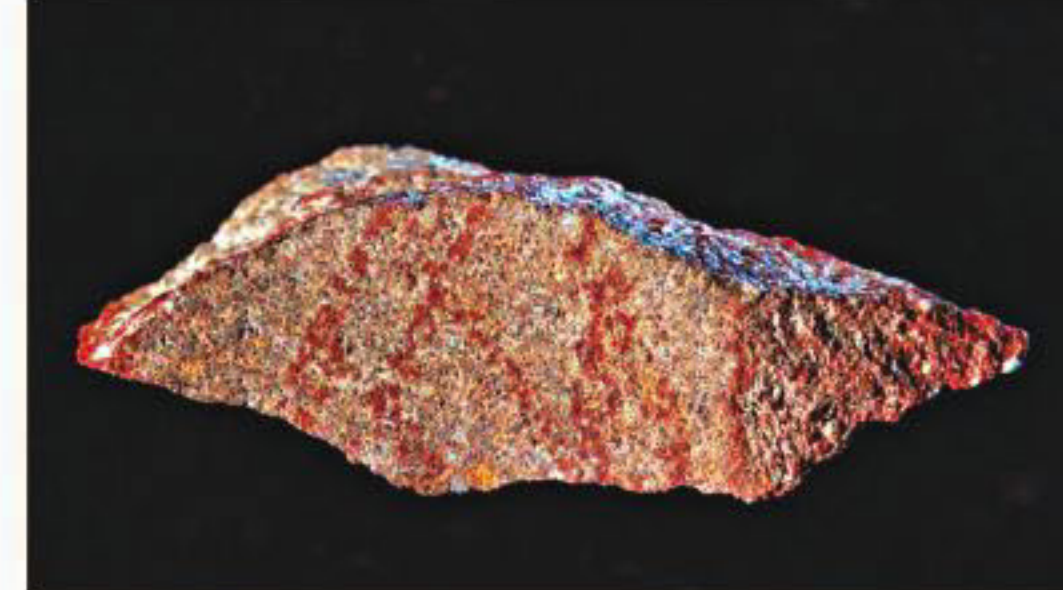
Family members said the three men were returning to their Dhaka homes from Jhenidah by a bus when they last contacted them.

Staffers of the bus told them that around 15 to 20 men in vests emblazoned with the letters DB picked them up from the bus which was near Paturia Ferry Ghat of Manikganj at that time.

They added that the victims did not

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# 'Hashtag' drawing world's earliest



CNN ONLINE

Scientists have found the oldest known drawing in history -- and it looks familiar.

The 73,000-year-old red cross-hatch pattern looks just like a hashtag, also recognizable as the US pound sign, the number sign or the hash symbol. The six-by-three-line pattern was drawn on a flake of silicrete, which forms when sand and gravel cement together.

The discovery could change how researchers perceive early humans, because the drawing predates other art found in Africa, Europe and Southeast Asia by 30,000 years.

The flake was found in Blombos Cave, east of Cape Town on the southern coast of South Africa. This cave is a well-known site for archaeologists where some of the oldest evidence for early human activity has included artifacts between 70,000 and

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# Jubo League man heaps scorn on journo

Video goes viral

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A video clip of Jubo League central committee Organising Secretary Abu Ahmed Nasim Pavel demeaning journalists and journalism as a profession has recently gone viral on social media.

"Become the organising

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SIBL Social Islami Bank Limited

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 16

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-30 6-09 7-45

JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-45 6-12 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# UP CHAIRMAN KILLING Mob 'snatches' suspect from police, beats him to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

The prime suspect in Krishnanagar union parishad Chairman KM Mosharof Hossain murder case was beaten to death allegedly by locals at Krishnanagar Bazar last night.

Locals snatched away Abdul Jalil Gain, a member of the union parishad, from police custody and gave him a thrashing. He died on the spot, claimed Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kaliganj Police Station.

The OC said police took Jalil to Krishnanagar to recover illegal arms.

On September 8, Mosharof, 48, also the assistant organising secretary of district Jatiya Party, was gunned down by unidentified criminals in Krishnanagar Bazar area.

Jalil had been on the run after the killing but locals

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ZEBRA CROSSING

NOT NEEDED?

A traffic police box is being built right on the end of this zebra crossing in front of Kakrail church in the capital. This will make it harder for pedestrians to use the crossing, forcing many of them to either go around it or jaywalk. Although there have been recent efforts to enforce traffic rules, such oversight only encourages rules violations.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Super typhoon hits Philippines

8 killed, tens of thousands forced to shelters; Tropical Storm Florence brings catastrophic floods in US, killing 5

AFP, Tuguegarao

Super Typhoon Mangkhut smashed through the Philippines yesterday, as the biggest storm to hit the region this year claimed the lives of its first victims and forced tens of thousands to flee their homes.

Roughly four million people -- a quarter of whom live on a few dollars a day -- were in the path of destruction that the storm slashed through the northern tip of Luzon island, leaving at least eight dead.

"As we go forward, this number will go higher," Ricardo Jalad, head of the national civil defence office, told reporters, referring to the death toll.

In US, Tropical Storm Florence trudded inland yesterday, flooding rivers and towns, toppling trees and cutting power to nearly a million homes and businesses as it dumped huge amounts of rain on North and South Carolina, where five people have died.

As Mangkhut left the Southeast Asian archipelago and barrelled towards densely populated Hong Kong and southern China, Philippine authorities began sending search teams to remote areas hit by communication and power outages.

The extent of the storm's destruction was only beginning to be known, with reports of dozens of rain-soaked hillsides collapsing, torrents of out-of-control floodwaters and people being rescued from inundated homes.

More than 105,000 people fled their homes in the largely

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