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No need for gas price rise if graft curbed

HC tells Petrobangla, Titas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There would have been no need to increase the gas price even if half of the corruption in Petrobangla and Titas was reduced, the High Court said yesterday.

The gas price should increase or decrease according to the international market, the court said while hearing a writ petition challenging the legality of Bangladesh Energy Regularity Commission's (BERC) public hearing for a gas price hike.

The court also asked why Bangladesh should purchase the gas for \$10 while India purchased the same quantity for \$6.

Expressing anger over the Anti Corruption Commission's role in fighting corruption in Petrobangla and Titas, the court said the commission had not taken any effective action against their corruption. The ACC is an independent commission empowered to taken stern action against corruption, it added.

The commission should quit if it cannot work independently.

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader asked the BERC to submit a report about the gas price before it.

Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua represented the writ petitioner and deputy attorney general ABM Abdullah Al Mahmud Bashir the government.

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) Convener Mubassher Hossain submitted the petition on March 12, seeking stay on the process of gas price hike.

The HC fixed March 31 to deliver its order on the petition.

BERC started the public hearing on March 11 on the proposals placed by distribution companies Titas, Bakhrabad, Jalalabad, Pashchimanchal, Karnaphuli, and Sundarban for the price hike.

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Shopkeepers of fire-ravaged DNCC market scuffle for metal objects yesterday afternoon. Below left, women buying partially damaged kitchen utensils at throwaway prices. Below right, a man waits for customers in front of his shop.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Of resilience and strength

DNCC kitchen market shopkeeper opens store with new supplies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Milon Miah is probably the only shopkeeper at the now devastated Gulshan DNCC market, who could get himself to bring new supplies for his poultry shop and open the store yesterday.

Most traders appeared to be assessing their losses or trying to sell partially damaged goods at whatever prices anyone was offering.

"I have no other way to survive," said the 62-year-old man as he opened the shutters.

There is tough competition market and I have regular customers, he said. "If I fail to supply once, the next order may go to someone else."

He added that he had been in the business for 40 years. "I have four employees. There's my family. I had to open it taking loans from my relatives."

The man also remembered that he had to suffer a huge loss in the fire that razed the market in 2017 because he didn't open his shops immediately after the fire.

A total of 248 shops of Dhaka North City
SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Cops seize huge amount of medicines in Bogura

Meant for govt hospitals, those drugs were illegally stored in pvt building

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Police yesterday seized huge amount of medicines and held a man for storing those illegally in Bogura.

More than 100 types of medicines and different medical equipments, worth more than Tk 1 crore, were illegally stored at a residential building in Bogura town's Mofiz Paglar Mor, said police, adding that the medicines were meant to be distributed at free of cost among patients at different government hospitals.

The list of medical equipment that were seized from the building includes surgical instruments, pathological kits, saline,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

SUPROBHAT PARIBAHAN 90pc buses ran without papers

BRTA committee says about the bus company involved in Abrar killing

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Around 90 percent buses of Suprohat Paribahan had been operating without having necessary clearances that include route permits, fitness certificates and professional licences of the drivers, found a probe committee.

Only 18 out of 163 buses of the company have all the required documents that are valid, said the probe report of the committee formed by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

The committee also found only 13 out of 29 buses of Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan to have all the necessary documents.

BRTA on March 21 formed a five-member committee, led by its director (training), to check documents of all buses of the two companies amid protest over the death of a university student in the capital's Bashundhara area.

Abrar Ahmed Chowdhury, a student of Bangladesh University of Professionals, was run over and killed by a bus of Suprohat Paribahan on March 19.

On July 29, last year, two college students were run over and killed by a bus of Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan, triggering an unprecedented agitation for safe roads. In both cases, the buses were being driven recklessly.

BRTA on March 20 suspended operation of all the buses of the two companies and formed the committee on the following day.

"We have submitted our report to the chairman [of BRTA] on March 27.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Six killed in road crashes

Father, 3-yr-old daughter among them

STAR REPORT

At least six people, including a man and his three-year-old daughter, were killed in separate road accidents in Chattogram, Satkhira, Faridpur and Sherpur yesterday.

In Chattogram, Abdul Aziz, 50, and his three-year-old daughter Afifa were killed and two others were critically injured when the government jeep of Bandarban district's Lama Upazila Chairman collided head on with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Rangunia upazila yesterday morning, police said.

Aziz's wife Tahera Begum and CNG driver Kanchan Das, 24, were undergoing treatment at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH), said Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Alauddin Talukdar of CMCH Police outpost.

Intiaj Md Ahsanul Quader Bhiyan, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Rangunia Police Station, told The Daily Star, "The accident took place in front of Selima Quader College road linked to the Kaptai route around 10:30am"

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Fossils shed light on dinosaur extinction



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A fossil site has captured the moments just after the asteroid thought to have wiped out the dinosaurs collided with Earth, palaeontologists have claimed.

The remains of fish and trees unearthed at a "graveyard" site called Tanis in North Dakota provide evidence for a series of deadly events that played out in the immediate aftermath of the impact.

Within minutes, the scientists think earthquakes and sea surges swept sea creatures inland, burying and preserving their bodies in sediment.

At the same time, glass beads formed from molten rock spraying into the sky would have pelted down onto the fish, choking them as their gills became clogged.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Brexit in meltdown

May under pressure from rivals to forge softer deal

REUTERS, London

Britain's exit from the European Union was in disarray after the implosion of Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit strategy left her under pressure from rival factions to leave without a deal, go for an election or forge a much softer divorce.

After one of the most tumultuous weeks in British
SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 1

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	4-40	12-45	4-45	6-21	7-45
JAMAAT	5-15	1-15	5-00	6-24	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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Saudi team got training in US

Report reveals new elements in death of journalist Khashoggi

AFP, Washington

Members of the Saudi team that killed journalist Jamal Khashoggi received training in the United States, the Washington Post has reported, revealing other new elements in the death of the newspaper's former contributor.

A critic of the Saudi regime, Khashoggi was killed and dismembered October 2 in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul by a team of 15 agents sent from Riyadh. His body has never been recovered.

After having denied the murder, Saudi Arabia said the operation was carried out by agents who were out of control. A trial of 11 suspects opened earlier this year in Saudi Arabia.

But much of the case remains shrouded,



beginning with the role of Saudi Arabia's powerful crown prince and de facto ruler, Mohammed bin Salman.

The US Senate, after a closed-door briefing by the CIA, adopted a resolution naming the crown prince as "responsible" for the murder, while President Donald Trump has refused to publicly take a stand.

According to Washington Post columnist David Ignatius, a Saudi who closely read the transcript of a recording from a bug placed in the consulate by Turkish intelligence said it indicates the plan was to kidnap Khashoggi and bring him back to Saudi Arabia for detention and interrogation.

A note in the transcript says an injection was administered to Khashoggi, which the
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রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ

রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা

জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা রাজউকের আওতাধীন এলাকার সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা শহরের ১০ তলা ও তদূর্ধ্ব যে সকল ভবন রয়েছে রাজউক পরিদর্শন টিম কর্তৃক ০১/০৪/২০১৯ইং তারিখ হতে সেগুলো পরিদর্শন করা শুরু হয়েছে। পরিদর্শনের সময়ে ইমারত মালিক/ডেভেলপার/প্রতিষ্ঠান মালিককে রাজউক এর পরিদর্শন টিম এর নিকট প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য ও রাজউক অনুমোদিত নকশা প্রদর্শন করে পরিদর্শন কাজে সহযোগিতার করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

সুশান্ত চাকমা
সচিব
রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ, ঢাকা

জিডি-৫৯৫