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**GAS PRICE HIKE**

# Textiles, ceramics may suffer a blow

**SAJJADUR RAHMAN and REEYAT ULLAH MIRDHA**

The latest gas price hike may not push up the electricity price at the moment, but the move will hit some industrial sectors, including textile spinning and ceramics, as their production cost will rise significantly, industry insiders said.

A rise in transportation cost due to hike in CNG price, though only by 7.5 percent, may also increase the prices of commodities. Eating out at hotels and restaurants may also become costlier because of a nearly 35 percent hike in gas prices for commercial use.

Irfan Uddin, general secretary of Bangladesh Ceramic Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said their production cost would rise by 4.54 percent on average due to the increase in gas price. "But we won't be able to pass the increased cost on to our buyers for at least next six months."

Ceramics is predominantly a gas-run industry and one-tenth of its total production cost is spent on gas bills, said Irfan, also the managing director of Farr Ceramics Ltd, an export-oriented business.

"We set prices for our products at the beginning of the year. We cannot change the price in the middle of the year, no matter what happens," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Prices of both gas and electricity impact different manufacturing industries as they directly affect the production costs of factories and their competitiveness. In addition to low labour costs, Bangladeshi manufacturers' energy costs were competitive compared to some other countries such as China and India.

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**Ramu, a gateman, stands in front of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw to prevent it from moving ahead as a train passes through an unprotected level crossing in the capital's Shaympur area yesterday. Locals pay the man, who is in his 50s, Tk 6,500 every month for the job.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**FIGHTING IN LIBYA**

## 30 stranded Bangladeshis return today

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Some 30 Bangladeshis, who got stranded in the turbulent Libyan capital of Tripoli and its suburbs, are returning home today.

They flew for Dhaka yesterday morning in a Turkish Airlines flight and are scheduled to arrive in the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport early today via Istanbul, said ASM Ashraful Islam, labour counsellor of Bangladesh embassy in Libya.

Besides, 35 more were scheduled to fly yesterday evening and arrive in Dhaka tomorrow (Wednesday).

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**RIFAT MURDER**

## Cops yet to trace key accused

**STAR REPORT**

Although six days have passed since Rifat was killed in Barguna, the three main accused in the murder case were yet to be traced.

His family members are frustrated as the three -- Sabbir Rahman Nayon, Rifat Farazi and Risan Farazi -- are still absconding.

"I am frustrated as the main accused have not been arrested till now. I urge the law enforcement agencies to arrest all the accused as soon as possible," said Abdul Halim Dulal Sharif, the victim's father.

"We demand immediate arrest of all the accused to give us relief from worry," said Mozammel Haq Kishore, the victim's father-in-law.

Meanwhile, two arrestees in the case yesterday afternoon gave confessional statements before a court about their involvement in the murder.

They are Oli, an FIR-named accused, and Tanvir, who was arrested on

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**GAS PRICE HIKE**

## Left parties call hartal for July 7

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Left Democratic Alliance has called a half-day hartal across the country on July 7 to protest the gas tariff hike.

Following an emergency meeting at the capital's Mukti Bhaban yesterday, left-leaning political parties made the announcement.

Left Democratic Alliance (LDA), a coalition of eight left-leaning political parties, comprises Communist Party of Bangladesh, Socialist Party of Bangladesh, Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh, Ganasamhati Andolan and Ganatantrik Biplobi Party.

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# 630 women raped in last 6 months

*Says Ain o Salish Kendra; 37 of the victims killed after rape*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

On an average, more than three women were raped every day in the last six months in the country, says rights body Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK).

At least 630 women were raped and 37 of them killed after rape. Seven others died by suicide following rape. There were also rape attempts on 105 others, it said citing media reports.

The number of rape victims was 427 in the same period last year, according to ASK.

Rights body Manusher Jonno Foundation recently expressed grave concern over the increase in rape incidents.

Incidents of violence against women and children have become frequent due to the culture of impunity, it said.

Rights activists and psychologists said diminishing social values and religious practices, easy availability of porn, and a culture of impunity were the primary reasons behind the rising of rape incidents.

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## No hiccup in hajj flights

*Biman high-up says 99pc tickets sold*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Biman Bangladesh Airlines is not afraid of the cancellation of hajj flights this year as the national airliner has already sold about 99 percent tickets of its 365 pilgrimage flights, starting from July 4.

Mahbub Jahan Khan, marketing and sales director of the national flag carrier came up with the remarks at a press briefing at Biman's headquarter in the capital.

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## BRTA starts registering ride-sharing firms

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The BRTA yesterday started registering ride-sharing app services, but the option to dial the emergency hotline using the app has been kept optional instead of mandatory.

The registration began 18 months after the formulation of the guidelines for it.

The Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) gave the enlistment certificate to Pickme Limited after all their papers were found to be in order, Lokman Hossain Mollah, director (engineering) of BRTA, told The Daily Star last night.

"We have given the approval through a cent percent online process. This is a memorable day for Bangladesh," he said, adding that they would gradually give enlistment certificates to other companies.

Shariful Islam Tareq, senior manager, business operations, of Pickme Ltd, said the authority gave them the approval for one year, after which it would have to be renewed.

The BRTA has asked all registration-seeking companies to file an online application again, he added. There are 16

ride-sharing companies operating in the country.

The mandatory provision for getting the licence -- the ability to dial 999, the national emergency helpline, using the ride-sharing apps -- was made optional, as the police were not ready to deliver the service.

A BRTA official told this correspondent that even though the service providers were almost ready to provide the dial 999 service, the police were not.

"So, use of 999 was made optional until the police are ready to provide the service," he said.

Mostafizur Rahman, an additional superintendent of police, who is working on the issue at the Police Headquarters, told this correspondent last month that it might take another two months to complete the work at their end.

App-based ride-sharing services were launched in Dhaka in May 2015, with more than two dozen service providers now operating in the city.

The cabinet in January last year approved "Ride-Sharing Service Guideline 2017",

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**PRAYER TIMING JULY 2**

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-10	12-45	5-00	6-55	8-17
JAMAAT 4-45	1-15	5-15	7-00	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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লিংক [www.dscc.gov.bd](http://www.dscc.gov.bd)

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন (ডিএসসিসি) এলাকার ব্যবসা, বৃত্তি, পেশা ও শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানের ট্রেড লাইসেন্সধারী এবং যারা ভবিষ্যতে এ ক্যাটাগরির নতুন ট্রেড লাইসেন্স গ্রহণ করবেন তাদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ডিএসসিসি কর্তৃক ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থবছর থেকে অন-লাইনে ই-ট্রেড লাইসেন্স কার্যক্রম পুরাতন ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়ন এবং নতুন "ই-ট্রেড লাইসেন্স" প্রদান করা হবে।

এ লিংক [www.dscc.gov.bd](http://www.dscc.gov.bd) ব্যবহার করে পুরাতন ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়ন ও নতুন ই-ট্রেড লাইসেন্স গ্রহণ করা যাবে। অন-লাইনে ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়নের জন্য [www.dscc.gov.bd](http://www.dscc.gov.bd) লিংক ব্যবহার করে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে নির্বাহিত হতে হবে। প্রাথমিক পর্যায়ে সহজে ও নির্ভুলভাবে অন-লাইনে ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়নের সুবিধার কথা বিবেচনায় রেখে প্রত্যেকটি আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয় ও প্রধান কার্যালয়ের সংশ্লিষ্ট অঞ্চল ও শাখায় হেল্প ডেস্ক খোলা হয়েছে।

অন-লাইনে নতুন ট্রেড লাইসেন্স গ্রহণ করার ক্ষেত্রে প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র এবং পুরাতন ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়ন করার জন্য নিম্নোক্ত কাগজপত্রসহ প্রয়োজন হলে হেল্প ডেস্কসমূহে উপস্থিত হয়ে সহায়তা নিতে পারবেনঃ

(ক) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্মানিবন্ধন সনদ/পাসপোর্ট এর ফটোকপি, (খ) এক কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজ ছবি, (গ) মূল লাইসেন্স বহি ও ফটোকপি (নবায়নের ক্ষেত্রে), (ঘ) মোবাইল নম্বর এবং (ঙ) ই-মেইল ঠিকানা (যদি থাকে)।

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