

## Are we using LPG safely?

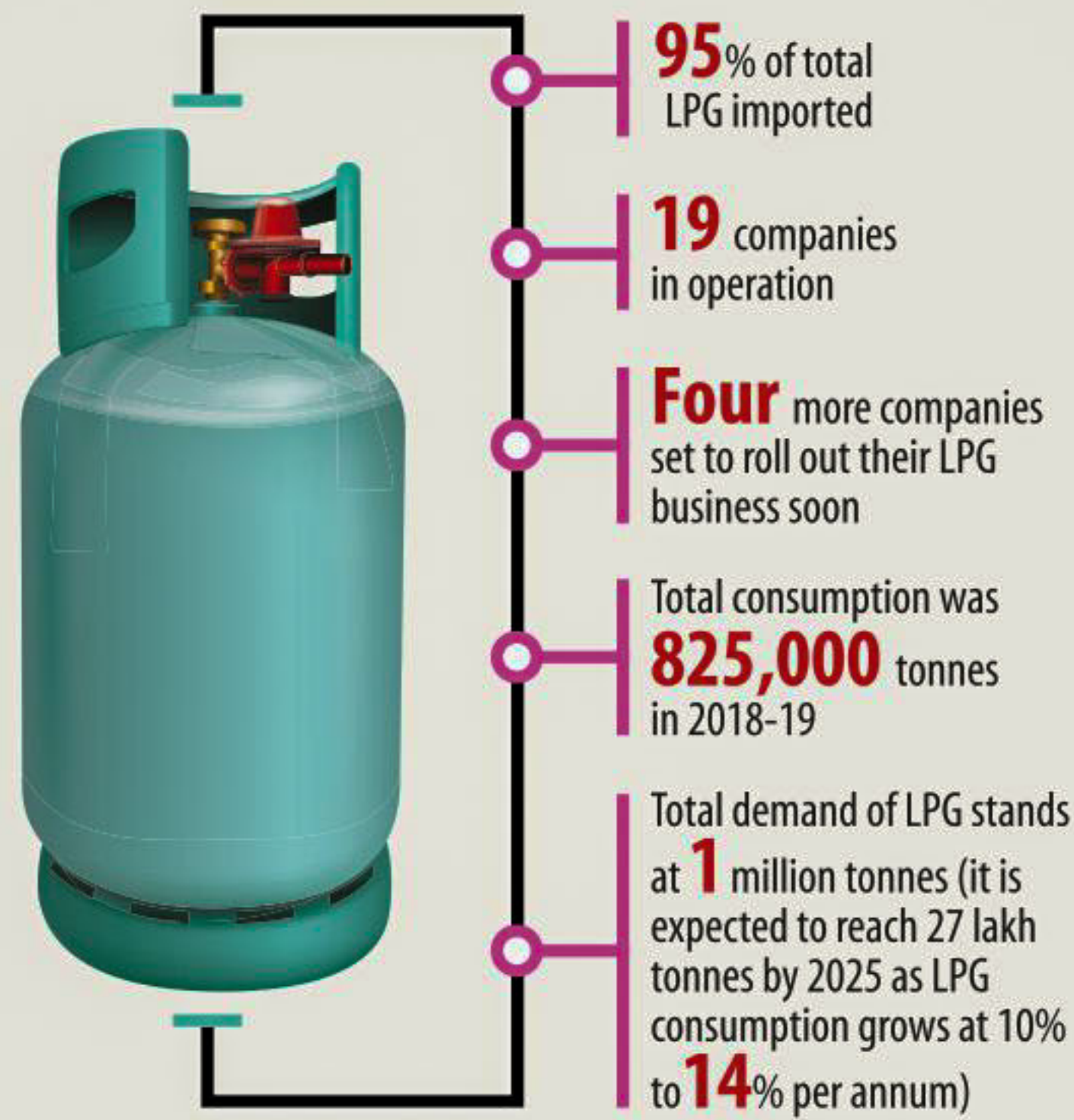
MAISHA ZAMAN

While the use of LPG is growing exponentially in Bangladesh, it is now more important than ever to handle this flammable product safely. Portable and refillable cylinders of different sizes are designed for household, commercial or industrial settings. Flawed use and lack of maintenance of these cylinders often cause explosion taking severe toll on life and property. Mohammad Yasin Arafat, Director of Jamuna Gas, states, "Most accidents are occurring due to negligence in usage rather than faulty manufacturing. We always ask users to turn off the regulator after usage. However, people tend to turn off the stove instead of the regulator which leads to chances of gas leakage. Moreover, food spills over the knob of the stove while cooking so even though it may seem that it is turned off, sometimes it is in fact, turned on. The gas tends to slip out from inside."

He adds, "We also tend to keep the hose pipe bent which increases the chances of gas leakage after a certain period of time. In such a scenario, if we still don't turn off the regulator and turn off the stove only, the gas will continue to leak. These are the main causes of accidents. However, the effects can be neutralised if such incidents occur near an open window. Unfortunately, in many cases, the windows are closed, leading to major accidents. Thus, such accidents are less common in rural areas and occur more in urban areas." Engr Md Jakaria Jalal, General Manager (Sales) of Bashundhara LP Gas Ltd, suggests, "The cylinder cannot be placed sideways, or upside down; the cylinder should not be placed in a confined area." Shamsul Haque Ahmed, CEO of Omera Petroleum Limited, emphasises upon taking individual care according to usage.

"Each segment has its own way of ensuring safety."

SEE PAGE S3



WASIM BIN HABIB and  
MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM  
MOLLA

Gone are the days when cooking meals twice a day used to take a toll on Nasrin Akter.

Starting from lighting the *chula* (traditional wood-fired stove) to sitting by the clay stove amid smokes and heat, the housewife in a village in Sakhira's Kaliganj upazila would spend nearly four hours to prepare food for her six-member family.

"My eyes would sting when the smoke spewed from the stove. But what got us more worried was collecting firewood. My children often used to collect the firewood," said the 38-year-old mother of two.

But now, Nasrin cooks almost all the food on her modern stove using the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder.

"The gas cylinder has made my life easy. The smoke and the tension of collecting firewood have gone away," said a smiling Nasrin, who uses it once a day.

Like Nasrin's family, a large number of semi-urban and rural households in Bangladesh are gradually moving away from traditional fuels (wood/teak) and rapidly adopting LPG cylinders as LPG

makes cooking faster and healthier.

Till last year, the number of LPG consumers was 38 lakh against 2.5 lakh in the year 2009, according to the annual report of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) of 2018-19.

LPG, a green and clean hydrocarbon fuel, is a mixture of propane and butane that becomes

demand for LPG. It not only offers portability and convenience, which traditional fuels cannot, but also helps prevent air pollution and the health hazards caused by burning of woods, said industry insiders.

They said apart from households, LPG is also being used in restaurants and in different township projects with local industries also gradually

In order to promote the use of LPG, the government has favourable policies. Depleting natural gas reserve, unavailability of firewood, rising income of consumers and rapid urbanisation are increasing the demand for LPG.

liquid under pressure, which can then be stored in pressurised containers for use.

It is relatively new in Bangladesh and the demand for LPG is growing exponentially in the country. In order to promote the use of LPG, the government has favourable policies.

Depleting natural gas reserve, unavailability of firewood, rising income of consumers and rapid urbanisation are increasing the

shifting towards LPG for an uninterrupted gas supply.

Nowadays, many vehicles are being converted into LPG from CNG because of availability. LPG enables the scope to expand industries in the areas where there is no access to natural gas, they said.

LPG was first introduced for domestic purposes by state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Company (BPC)

SEE PAGE S3



১০০% বিস্ফোরণরোধী  
স্মার্ট সিলিন্ডার™  
আপনার জন্য specially

অর্ডার করতে  
কল করুন  
১৬৫৬৫

facebook.com/bexlpg/  
www.beximcolpg.com



স্টিল সিলিন্ডারের তুলনায়  
প্রায় অর্ধেক ওজন



গ্যাসের লেভেল  
বাইরে থেকে দেখা যায়



মরিচা পড়ে না,  
মেঝে থাকে পরিষ্কার



বিস্ফোরণরোধী