



LPG PRICES Fixed but not enforced

AKANDA MUHAMMAD JAHIID

Consumers are being compelled to buy liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) at a much higher price than the one set by the regulator.

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) on April 29 re-fixed the retail price of 12kg LPG cylinders at Tk 906 each for the current month and directed distributors and retailers to implement the new price.

But even a week after the regulator's decision, the new prices have not been implemented. Defying the directives given by the BERC, retailers were selling LPG at at least Tk 100-250 more than its fixed price.

A 12kg LPG cylinder was being sold between Tk 1,050-1,150 at different retail points across the country. As a result, ordinary and low-income people, who have already been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, are struggling to buy LPG.

Aggrieved consumers alleged that the commission ended its responsibility only by fixing the price of gas without any visible supervision to execute the new price rate, they said.

They also expressed concern over the implementation of the new price as the regulatory body could not execute the previous price rates set for April.

Earlier, the regulatory commission fixed the retail price of 12kg LPG cylinder at Tk 975 for April this year. But the distributors and retailers did not follow the price due to the commissions's failure in terms of execution, said Nazrul Islam, a consumer.

Again, the commission fixed the price for the current month, which had still not implemented in the last eight

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A security worker announcing health guidelines with a handheld microphone and urging customers to maintain physical distancing and wear masks while shopping at the New Market in the capital. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO:
PALASH KHAN

Daily deaths top 4,000 in India

Deadly fungal infection cases add to Covid concerns

AGENCIES

Daily Covid-19 deaths surged past 4,000 for the first time in India yesterday, as Europe passed the ball back to Washington in a debate over Covid vaccine patents, pushing the US for a concrete proposal and a commitment to export much-needed jabs.

The call for waivers has gained momentum after the United States announced its surprise support for such a scheme to enable adequate vaccine supplies to fight the raging pandemic.

India now accounts for nearly half of the world's new known cases according to an AFP database, and it reported a national record 4,187 new deaths yesterday.

The surge has forced new restrictive measures in India.

Tamil Nadu, known for its automobile manufacturing including BMW, Daimler, Hyundai, Ford, Nissan and Renault, said it would move from a partial to a full lockdown tomorrow, shutting public transport and state-run alcohol retailers.

Neighbouring Karnataka state extended a total shutdown late on Friday. The state capital Bengaluru is a major tech hub, home to major offices of companies including Google, Amazon and Cisco.

India is yet to impose a national lockdown as it did during its first wave last year, but around half of all its states have

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Pakistan's sinking economy



A portrait of Rabindranath Tagore was garlanded inside the Bangladesh Mission in Kolkata on May 9, 1971. Pictures of Kazi Nazrul Islam and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were also seen flanking Rabindranath's portrait.

MAY 9, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

PAKISTAN WEIGHS DEVALUING RUPEE

The Pakistan government was reported ready to carry out recommendations of the United States, the World Bank, the international Monetary Fund and other international donors for a 100 percent devaluation of its currency, from 4.6 rupees to the dollar to more nearly 9, 10 or 11. While promising to devalue, it avoided doing so three times in the last year, sources said.

Pakistan sent senior economist M Ahmed to Washington to persuade the Nixon administration to resume economic aid suspended on March 26 when the war erupted. United States

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Waive charges, save airlines

Experts urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Covid-19 second wave has ravaged the commercial aviation at a time when it was trying to bounce back, braving the financial losses caused by the first wave, aviation experts and top airlines officials said yesterday.

They also said the second wave came as "the final nail in the coffin" for some airlines and demanded that the government waive different aeronautical, non-aeronautical and other charges for now so that the airlines can survive.

They made the demand at a webinar titled "Bangladesh Aviation Sector Amid Pandemic: Challenges and Way Out", organised by Aviation and Tourism Journalists' Forum.

The speakers said 10 airlines went out of business over the years and two others were somehow continuing it despite facing various obstacles.

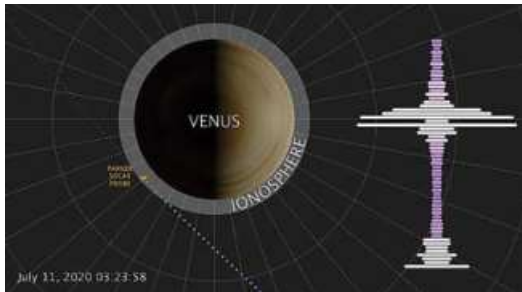
Novoair Managing Director Mofizur Rahman said, "The second wave of the Covid-19 has hit the aviation sector like the last nail in its coffin."

But different

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Venusian Radio!

Nasa probe captures eerie sounds from Venus



MAIL ONLINE

Nasa has captured haunting sounds coming from the upper atmosphere of Venus during a close flyby of the Parker Solar Probe launched to study the sun.

The natural radio signal is helping scientists study the atmosphere of 'Earth's less hospitable twin', according to the Nasa team responsible for the probe.

The space agency captured the sounds while the Parker probe was making its 'closest-ever flyby' of the planet, travelling at just 517 miles above the surface.

Nasa's Goddard space centre is running the solar probe, which made its third flyby of Venus on July 11, 2020, when it detected the radio signal and its eerie soundtrack.

The radio signal was detected during the Venus flyby while the probe was on its way back to study the sun, coming closer to the planet than on any of its previous flybys.

The Parker Solar Probe was launched by Nasa in 2018 to study our star and come within 4.3 million miles of the centre of the sun by 2025.

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Holy Shab-e-Qadr tonight

BSS, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Qadr, also known as Lailatul Qadr, will be observed across the country tonight.

On this night, the first verses of the holy Quran were revealed to Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH).

Muslim devotees will pass the night offering special prayers, reciting the holy Quran, holding zikr and other religious rituals, seeking blessings of almighty Allah for long life, peace and progress for themselves, their families, relatives, friends as well as the nation and the Muslim Ummah.

According to the holy Quran, the night is better than 1,000 nights as the angels and the spirit descend therein, by the permission of almighty Allah with all decrees.

This is one of the holiest and most blessed nights which is likely to occur on one of the odd number nights in the last 10 days of Ramadan and most likely to be the 27th of the holy month.

Devotees, on the nights, usually visit graveyards to seek eternal blessings for the departed souls of their near and dear ones.

For Muslims, the entire month of Ramadan is a period of spiritual training. Besides fasting, they devote themselves to praying, reciting the holy Quran and offering charity.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greeted

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 9

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 3:55 12:45 5:00 6:35 8:00
JAMAAT 4:05 1:15 5:15 6:45 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN MAY SEHRI IFTAR
26 9 6:35
27 10 3:50 6:35
28 11 3:49 6:36



Underprivileged women, whose income shrank during the pandemic, waiting for eid gifts at a programme funded by State Minister Kamal Ahmed Mojumder in Mirpur in the capital yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO:
RASHED SHUMON

Ex-MP sent to jail over Hefajat mayhem

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Maulana Shahinur Pasha Chowdhury, former MP from Sunamganj-3, was sent to Brahmanbaria Jail on Friday in a case filed over Hefajat violence in late March.

A CID team from Dhaka arrested him around 1:15am Thursday in Sylhet.

Shahinur is the legal affairs secretary of now-dissolved central committee of Hefajat-e-Islam and vice-president of Jamiat-e-Ulama-e-Islam.

He is accused of vandalism and arson at Brahmanbaria Sadar Upazila Land Office and other places in the district from March 26-28, said Shahriar Rahman, superintendent of police of Brahmanbaria CID.

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Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

CHEHLUM



Eminent Banker and Social worker Shahzada Syed Nizamuddin Ahmed Shahib left us for eternal abode on 30 March Tuesday at 9:30am (Inna Lillahi Wainna Ilaihe Rajعون). He was grandson of Hazrat Syed Gulamur Rahman (K) known as Baba Bhandari. He served Lionism for long fifty years and was a past district governor of Lions District 315 A1, Bangladesh.

His Chehlum will take place today Sunday 9 May at Chattogram Maizbhandar Darbar Sharif (Darbare Gausia Rahmania Nizamia Bhandaria).

His relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray to Almighty Allah Subhanu Tala for the salvation of the departed soul.

Rashida Begum and her Affectionate Children and son in laws