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"People's lives will become more difficult due to the illogical price hike of kerosene and diesel."
JATIYA PARTY CHAIRMAN GM QUADER AT A PROGRAMME IN THE CAPITAL.



"Europe is standing with you... in the defence of freedom and the defence of rule of law and human dignity."
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATION LEADER FRENCH MEP RAPHAEL GLUCKSMANN TELLS TAIWAN'S PRESIDENT TSAI ING-WEN



"These summits resemble those in Davos... Enough hypocrisy and fad. We must fight the massive monstrous inequality that exists in the world, that's what I will tell the UN."
MEXICAN PRESIDENT MANUEL LOPEZ OBRADOR SLAMS COP26 HYPOCRISY

IMPACT OF FUEL PRICE HIKE

Living now even harsher for poor

SOHEL PARVEZ, TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and SUKANTA HALDER

No one knows how the poor man dines, says a Russian proverb that now seems all too fitting in light of the government's decision to hike the prices of diesel, kerosene and liquefied petroleum gas.

Fuel prices feed into the prices of other goods and services, meaning the energy ministry's move will have an extensive impact on the cost of living and consumption of the poor and the middle-classes, who are still reeling from the blow dealt by the pandemic and already combatting inflation.

One such person is Billal Hossain, whose livelihood is dependent on kerosene.

The stove in which he churns out gallons of tea at his makeshift stall in the capital's Mirpur each day is fuelled by kerosene, and a Tk 15 hike in each litre of the fuel from yesterday means his overhead has shot through the roof.

Unfortunately, he cannot pass on the

- LPG price hiked again
- Transport leaders demand fare hike
- Owners, workers of goods-laden vehicles called indefinite strike from today
- Irrigation, farm machinery cost to rise

surge in overheads to his customers, who are charged Tk 5 for a cup of tea.

"Will anyone come to my stall if I charge Tk 10 from today? Do the government ever think of low-income people like us?" asked Hossain, who is still paying off the loan he took to make ends meet during the

pandemic lull.

If the price of the cup of tea that the ordinary citizens enjoy by the roadside does not go up, the prices of rice and other crops will definitely surge.

In Bangladesh, almost all the ploughing and irrigation are mechanised and powered by diesel, whose price has gone up by Tk 15 a litre too to Tk 80 from yesterday.

So, the production cost of dry season crop boro, which makes up more than half of the country's total rice production, will increase by about 15 percent and will most definitely be passed on to consumers.

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Need to change 'traditional lens'

PM for reset in UK-Bangla relations as she addresses British Parliament



BSS, Glasgow

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called for a "reset" in Bangladesh-UK bilateral relations as she addressed the British Parliament.

"We need to change the traditional lens we use to view our partnership," she said.

The PM also sought an active role of the international community in repatriating the Rohingyas to their homeland Myanmar, ensuring their safety

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PRE-POLLS CLASHES

4 more die, more violence feared

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Four people, including a woman, were killed and 50 others injured in a clash between two groups of Awami League supporters in Narsingdi yesterday, ahead of the second phase of the union parishad polls on November 11.

Police and admin officials have meanwhile warned the Election Commission about more violence in seven districts of Dhaka and Khulna divisions centring on the polls.

At a meeting yesterday, a high official of police told the EC that there were possibilities of violence in some 90 unions in Dhaka Division -- in Narsingdi, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Faridpur districts.

Besides, the officials informed the EC that a sufficient number of police members and executive magistrates should be deployed to maintain law and order during the election, but they were facing a crisis of manpower.

With the four dead in Narsingdi, at least 19 people have been killed across the country in violence centring on the staggered UP polls, which began in June.

The clash took place in Alokballi union of Narsingdi Sadar yesterday morning between supporters of Delwar Hossain Dipu, AL chairman candidate in the union, and Asad Ullah, who has withdrawn from the election race upon instruction from AL high-ups. Asad is the general secretary of the party's union unit.

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DSA CASE

Journos won't be arrested just after its filing

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists will not be arrested immediately after a Digital Security Act case is filed against them, said Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday.

Police will not record a case under the DSA straight away, he told reporters at his Secretariat office.

The filing of the case will be subject to satisfaction of a cell, earlier created for Information and Communication Technology Act.

Huq has spoken to the home minister on the matter and his counterpart has replied in the positive.

Action will be taken against those who misuse or abuse the Digital Security Act.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Covid-19 creates 3.24cr new poor

PPRC-BIGD survey finds more people pushed into poverty due to second wave

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of new poor in August reached 3.24 crore, which is 19.54 percent of the population, after the second wave of the pandemic, according to a survey.

Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and Brac Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) released the findings at a virtual press conference yesterday.

In March, before the lockdown was announced amid rising numbers of new cases of Covid-19 and deaths from the disease, the percentage of people counted as new poor was 14.75, according to an earlier edition of the study.

Since April last year, PPRC and BIGD released four editions of the study titled Trends in Covid Impact on Livelihood, Coping and Recovery. The first round was conducted in April, 2020, the second one in June, 2020, the third one in June this year, and the latest one between August 21 and September 8 this year.



The latest findings were announced after surveying 4,872 households from August 21-September 8.

"Poverty has risen again from the shock of the second wave of the pandemic," PPRC Executive Chairman Hossain Zillur Rahman told the briefing.

He added that recovery from the impact of last year's shutdown of the economy has been fragile.

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CLIMATE SUMMIT 2021

Coal era ending

Says COP26 host Britain as 77 countries sign up to reduce coal use; CO2 emissions almost back at pre-pandemic level

REUTERS, Glasgow

UN conference host Britain said 77 countries had pledged to phase out coal, dirtiest of the fossil fuels that drive global warming, as a study showed the carbon dioxide they release into the atmosphere had rebounded to near pre-pandemic levels.

"We were expecting to see some rebound," said the study's lead author Pierre Friedlingstein, a climate modelling researcher at the University of Exeter. "What surprised us was the intensity and rapidity of the rebound."

Alok Sharma, British president of the COP26 conference in Glasgow, said the two-week meeting was on its way to gradually ending use of the world's most widely used fuel - for which demand is set to hit a new record this year.

He yesterday said 77 countries had signed a pledge to phase out coal-fuelled power plants - which produce more than 35% of the world's electricity - and stop building new ones.

"Today I think we can say that the end of coal is in sight," Sharma told the conference.



But the list published yesterday left out both India and China, which is home to almost half the over 2,600 coal-fired plants operating or under construction around the world.

It also contains no commitment to stop financing new plants.

Many developing countries, not least China, India and Indonesia, rely on cheap, accessible coal and other fossil fuels to grow, despite their costs to the environment and health.

Britain had said on Wednesday it expected 190 nations and

organisations to sign the non-binding pledge, in which richer countries would phase out coal power before 2040, and poorer countries before 2050.

Poorer countries say they need financial help to end their reliance on coal - and richer countries have failed to meet a promise of providing \$100 billion a year in "climate finance" by 2020.

"We need to have funding to retire coal earlier and to build the new

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1 man, 3 cases, and 'sentiment'

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Lawyer Imrul Hasan has filed an application with a court, seeking withdrawal of the case he filed against members of popular band Meghdol, just five days after the filing.

He recently hogged the headlines for filing the case against the band, who performed at the "Concert Against Violence" in Dhaka University's TSC on October 22. The concert was organised as a protest against the recent communal attacks on the Hindu community.

In the case statement, Imrul said he watched the performance on YouTube and alleged it "hurt religious sentiment".

It touched off a maelstrom of criticism online.

Then on November 2, he filed the application for withdrawal of the case. The magistrate recorded the complainant's statement

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HEARTIEST FELICITATION



In recognition of special contributions to the Industrial Development and National Economy of Bangladesh 'IT Consultants Limited' has recently been awarded with 'PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT 2019'. On the morning of last Thursday Mr. Salahuddin Alamgir CIP, Vice-Chairman of IT Consultants Limited, Chairman of Labib Group & Vice-President of FBCCI received the Award from Osmani Memorial Auditorium, Dhaka where Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid, Hon'ble President, People's Republic of Bangladesh delivered his virtual Speech and Mr. M. A. Mannan MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Planning, Mr. Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Industry, Mr. Kamal Ahmed Majumder MP, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Industry and Mr. Kazi Saifuddin Munir, Managing Director of IT Consultants Limited along with other distinguished guests were also present and graced the ceremony. We are proud of this prestigious achievement of IT Consultants Limited.

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