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## ENERGY PRICES

# No adjustment until global market stable

### Says PM's energy adviser

**UNB, Dhaka**

Prime Minister's Energy Adviser Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury has said though the prices of petroleum and gas are declining in the international market, the government would not go for downward adjustment in power and gas tariffs until a stable situation is created.

He made the remarks while unveiling a publication titled Empowering Bangladesh by Forum for Energy Reporters Bangladesh (FERB) at DPDC Conference Room in Biduyt Bhaban in the city yesterday.

"It's not clear how long such a declining trend in fuel prices will continue. But if a stable situation comes only then the government would think of downward adjustment," he told reporters.

He, however, said the government has been overcoming the dollar crisis as export earnings and inflow of remittances are increasing.

"The inflow of remittances shows a positive trend while exports are rising," he added.

With FERB president Shamim

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With excavators, the BIWTA is dredging the Turag river in the capital's Gabtoli to improve navigability. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## METRO RAIL

# It'll run for 2 more hrs from April 5

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The metro rail will operate from 8:00am to 2:00pm starting April 5 as the authority has decided to increase operation time and begin full-fledged operation in July.

Currently, the metro rail services are available from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, revealed this information at a press conference at the DMTCL office in the capital yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Uttara South and Shewrapara stations will be open to the public from today, the managing director added.

He also said the performance test on the viaduct from Agargaon to Motijheel will start in July and they were hopeful about meeting their target to start operation of this section of the MRT Line 6

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## Govt using DSA to gag the media

### Alleges Fakhrul

**UNB, Dhaka**

Voicing deep concern over journalists getting sued one after another, including Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, under the Digital Security Act, BNP yesterday said the government was carrying out extreme repression using the "black law" to gag media.

In a statement, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam demanded the immediate repeal of the DSA and the withdrawal of all cases filed against journalists.

After law enforcers picked up Prothom Alo reporter Samsuzzaman Shams early Wednesday, Fakhrul said a DSA case was filed against the editor of the newspaper, Matiur Rahman.

Besides, he said a Jubo League leader filed another DSA case against Daily Jugantor's Special Correspondent and former general secretary of Crime Reporters' Association Mahbub Alam Lavlu in Chattogram.

The BNP leader strongly protested and denounced the filing of DSA cases against the journalists on "false charges".

"Filing of cases one after the other

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## BATTLE FOR BAKHMUT

# Ukraine admits Russian gains

### Moscow detains US reporter on espionage charges

**REUTERS, Kyiv**

Ukraine acknowledged some Russian gains inside the eastern battlefield city of Bakhmut, while insisting yesterday that it was inflicting greater losses on the Russian attackers than its own forces were taking in defence.

In a potential escalation of Russia's diplomatic feud with the United States, Moscow's FSB security service said it had arrested an American reporter for The Wall Street Journal, Evan Gershkovich, on suspicion of spying for Washington.

The newspaper denied the allegations and demanded the immediate release of "trusted and dedicated reporter" Gershkovich. There was no immediate response from Washington.

Gershkovich, a 31-year-old who has worked in Russia as a journalist for six years, is the highest-profile American arrested there since basketball star Brittney Griner, who was freed in December after 10 months in jail on drugs charges.

The FSB said it arrested Gershkovich

in the Urals industrial city of Yekaterinburg. He was brought to Moscow, where a court at a closed hearing ordered him held in pre-trial detention until May 29.

The TASS state news agency said he pleaded not guilty. The authorities released no evidence publicly, and TASS said the case had been marked "top

**"Enemy forces had a degree of success in their actions aimed at storming the city of Bakhmut."**

General Staff of the Ukrainian armed forces

secret". Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he believed Gershkovich had been "caught red-handed".

The small mining city of Bakhmut has been the site of the bloodiest infantry battle in Europe since World War Two as Russian forces have sought their first victory since mid-2022 in a huge winter assault.

## GOVT HOSPITALS

# 51 begin serving outpatients after working hours

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A total of 51 public hospitals have started serving outpatients after regular working hours in exchange for fees, read a press release.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque inaugurated the new service -- Institutional Practice -- from his office at the Secretariat through videoconferencing yesterday noon.

Top officials of the health ministry, health directorate and the hospitals also joined the event.

Of the healthcare facilities, 12 were district hospitals and 39 upazila health complexes.

Addressing the event, the minister said, "We think the introduction of this system will benefit mass people. So, we have started piloting it in 51 hospitals. If people like it, we will expand it to all public hospitals within this year."

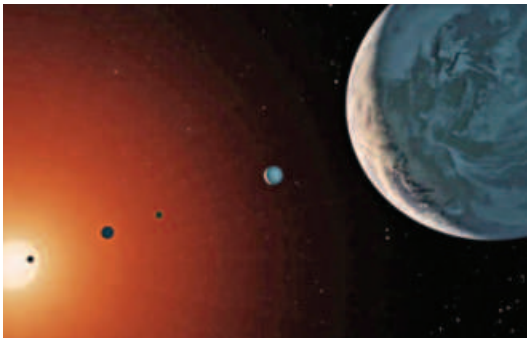
He also informed that the new system will operate in accordance with a protocol which has already been adopted.

"The protocol has every detail of how a healthcare staff will work in this afternoon service," the minister said.

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## Earth-sized planet devoid of atmosphere

### Finds Webb telescope



**INDEPENDENT.CO.UK**

The new James Webb Space Telescope observations of a far away solar system thought to have water found that its innermost planet is devoid of atmosphere, an advance that could lead to better ways of determining whether such celestial bodies host life.

An international team of scientists behind the discovery said the results mark an important step in determining whether planets orbiting small active stars can sustain atmospheres needed to support life.

The findings, published in the journal Nature, indicate that the dayside of the exoplanet Trappist-1b -- about 40 light years from Earth -- has a temperature of about 500 kelvins, or 450 degrees Fahrenheit, and suggests that it has no significant atmosphere.

The study also marks the first detection of any form of light emitted by an exoplanet as small, and as cool as, the rocky planets in our own solar system.

"These observations really take advantage of Webb's mid-infrared capability. No previous telescopes have had the sensitivity to measure such dim mid-infrared light," study co-author Thomas Greene said.

Astronomers discovered the planet system orbiting an ultracool red dwarf star (or M dwarf) in 2017.

Later observations revealed that its innermost planet Trappist-1b has an orbital distance about one hundredth that of Earth's, receiving about four times the amount of energy that Earth gets from the Sun.

While trappist-1b is not within the system's habitable zone, researchers say observations of the planet can provide important information about its sibling planets, as well as those of other M-dwarf systems.



**OF GOLDS AND GREENS ...** A golden-fronted leafbird perched on a flowering plant in Habiganj's Satchari National Park. These bulbul-sized birds' range extends from the Indian subcontinent and south-western China to south-east Asia and Sumatra, and they generally prefer tropical areas as their habitat. Tiny but territorial, golden-fronted leafbirds will not tolerate other species in their zone. They prefer being in the comfort of their own kind and tend to stay in pairs. What makes them striking is the various colours in their plumage -- the green feathers extending to the dark face bordered with a yellow throat, a blue chin, and a spectacular orange finish on the forehead, for which they are called "golden-fronted". Their calls are like fluid chirps -- if you can mimic it, they will chirp right back at you!

PHOTO: MD RIDWANUR RAHMAN

## SUU KYI'S PARTY

# US, allies concerned over its dissolution

**REUTERS**

The United States, Britain, Japan and Australia on Wednesday expressed their concern over the dissolution of Myanmar's former ruling party and urged a more inclusive process to return the country to democracy.

Myanmar's ruling junta on Tuesday disbanded Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) and 39 other parties over their failure to meet a deadline to register for an election that is set to extend the army's grip on power.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since a military coup in early 2021 that upended a decade of tentative democracy, with a bloody crackdown on protests giving rise to an armed struggle against the junta. More than a million people have been displaced by fighting, according to the United Nations.

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Today is the 52<sup>nd</sup> Death Anniversary of  
**S N H Rizvi**



We request all relatives, friends  
and well-wishers to remember him in their  
prayers and to pray for eternal peace of his soul