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If Russia is not stopped, its war machine will sooner or later turn against us.

FRIEDRICH MERZ German chancellor while visiting Ukraine

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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Homes take another hit

12kg LPG cylinder now Tk 1,837; consumers already paying Tk 1,900-Tk 2,250 amid supply crunch

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Household budgets are facing another squeeze. Barely two weeks after transport fuel prices rose, the cost of cooking gas has jumped, with the price of a 12kg LPG cylinder rising by Tk 252 to Tk 1,837 yesterday.

Meanwhile, many households are already paying much more than the regulated rate amid a supply crunch.

The new price took effect at 6:00pm, but finding a cylinder at the official rate has become increasingly difficult. Of 10 retailers contacted by The Daily Star in the capital, eight said they had not received any cylinders since September 20-22.

The two retailers who had cylinders said they had only one brand each. One was selling a 12kg Jamuna cylinder for Tk 1,900, while another was asking Tk 2,250 for a United Aygaz cylinder.

That means consumers could be paying up to Tk 413 more than the newly fixed price.

The situation was similar even before yesterday's hike. On September 30, The Daily Star found 12kg cylinders being sold for Tk 2,000-2,200 when the regulated price was Tk 1,585.

On September 21, transport fuel prices were raised by Tk 20 a litre across the board, adding another burden on households already facing higher everyday expenses.

The latest LPG hike comes just three months after the price fell by Tk 357 to Tk 1,528 in July, the lowest since the supply crunch began on the international market. Since then, the official price has increased by Tk 309.

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) attributed yesterday's increase to higher international prices of propane and butane, the two main components of LPG, as well as higher shipping costs.

The average import cost of propane and butane has risen to $712 per tonne from $593 in July. Shipping costs, including premiums, have also increased to $250 per tonne from $160, according to BERC.

In 2026	12-kg Cylinder	Increase/Decrease Tk
October	Tk 1,837	Tk 252 ↑
September	Tk 1,585	Tk-13 ↓
August	Tk 1,598	Tk 70 ↑
July	Tk 1,528	Tk-357 ↓
June	Tk 1,885	Tk-55 ↓
May	Tk 1,940	Tk 212 ↑
April	Tk 1,728	Tk 387 ↑
March	Tk 1,341	Tk 0
February	Tk 1,341	Tk 35 ↑
January	Tk 1,306	-----



LPG supply in the local market has reportedly fallen since mid-September, with retailers saying importers and wholesalers have reduced supplies.

The shortage is particularly significant for households, which account for around 80 percent of Bangladesh's LPG consumption. Restaurants and tea stalls also rely heavily on LPG cylinders.

Despite the reported shortage, Bangladesh imported 1.58 lakh tonnes of LPG last month, almost unchanged from 1.57 lakh tonnes in August.

BERC Chairman Jalal Ahmed said the import figures did not indicate a supply problem at the import level.

Industry sources, however, said some operators had reduced market releases while waiting for BERC to raise the regulated price, creating an artificial shortage.

The shortage and price gap have already affected consumption.

When LPG reached Tk 1,940 in May, one distributor told The Daily Star that his daily sales had fallen from around 60 cylinders to 35.

Industry estimates put monthly demand at around 1.3 lakh tonnes, down from about 1.5 lakh tonnes earlier, with some households switching to induction and infrared cookers.

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WORLD TEACHERS' DAY



Altaf Hossain Dukhu Miya, 58, teaches a class at the kindergarten he founded on his ancestral land in Paachdona, Narsingdi, back in 2007. Born without arms, he has overcome a lifetime of discrimination and hardship. He was denied admission to a local madrasa because of his disability and later struggled to find work despite having a degree. Now to ensure others do not face the exclusion he endured, Dukhu Miya offers free education to children with disabilities.

PHOTO: **MEHEDI HASAN**

Govt employees will get hiked pay this month, MPO teachers won't

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Government officers and employees will receive four months' salary under the new pay scale, including three months' arrears, in the last week of this month, but teachers and staff under the MPO scheme, along with judges and judicial service employees, will have to wait longer.

Implementing the new pay scale for MPO teachers and employees, as well as judicial staffers, could take until November or December, The Daily Star has learnt from finance ministry officials involved with the proceedings.

The ministry has already issued a circular making the new pay structure for public servants effective retroactively from July, updating the iBAS++ software accordingly.

Typically, public servants receive their monthly salaries on October 23 or 24.

Once the respective ministries, divisions and subordinate offices enter the approved schedule into the software, the updated salaries alongside arrears will be processed and disbursed with October's pay.

Finance ministry officials attributed

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Dead-end jobs, meagre pay for makers of nation-builders

Govt primary teachers often placed on lower pay grades

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Despite their pivotal role in shaping future generations, government primary schoolteachers remain among the lowest-paid staffers, a disparity that many educators say is reflected in the level of respect they receive.

Teachers are often placed on similar pay grades (grade 13) as those of drivers, clerks, and stenographers, even though teachers require higher educational qualifications for entry into service. This indicates a persistent undervaluation of their profession, teachers said on the eve of World Teachers' Day today.

For example, the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission issued a recruitment circular in 2025, putting technician-1 in grade 13, which requires HSC or SSC qualifications in science with at least six months' experience.

Primary assistant teachers, by contrast, must have a bachelor's degree. The requirement has been in place for both men and women since 2019.

> **"If capable and talented people are wanted in the teaching profession, the comparison should not be with the lowest level of civil service."**
>
> **Manzoor Ahmed,** professor emeritus at BRAC University

The government has admitted the need to reconsider the grade and is reviewing proposals for a new career structure, but no decision has been made.

This lower entry grade results in pay which many teachers struggle to make ends meet.

The monthly vehicle allowance for a deputy secretary provides for a stark comparison. The Tk 50,000 allowance is almost double a primary teacher's gross starting salary.

Under the new pay scale, government employees in grades 10 to 20 will receive a 50 percent increase in their basic salaries in the first phase. As a result, the basic salary of a primary teacher will rise to Tk 17,500 from Tk 11,000. Teachers said that with house rent, medical allowance, and other benefits, their monthly gross salary would go up to only Tk 25,230.

Once the pay structure is fully implemented in July 2027, a teacher's basic salary will be Tk 24,000 under grade 13.

Academics said the low pay and status often keep meritorious students away from the teaching profession.

"If capable and talented people are wanted in the teaching profession, the comparison should not be with the lowest level of civil service," Manzoor Ahmed,

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