





A joint eviction and waste-removal drive is carried out in Islambagh along the Buriganga yesterday. The drive, involving the Dhaka district administration, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Department of Environment and Dhaka South City Corporation, follows a High Court directive. It comes after The Daily Star published a photo on August 19 highlighting the growing plastic waste collection and recycling business along the river, which pollutes the water and threatens its natural flow, ecosystem, and overall environmental health. PHOTO: **MEHEDI HASAN**

LPG prices still high despite improved supply

Traders announce nationwide shutdown demanding better cuts

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Consumers are still paying at least Tk 2,200 for a 12kg liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder, Tk 363 above the regulator-set price, despite improved supply, while traders have announced a two-day nationwide shutdown this week demanding higher commissions.

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) raised the price of a 12kg cylinder by Tk 252 to Tk 1,837 on October 4. Yet, a survey of 10 randomly selected retailers in the capital yesterday found cylinders selling for no less than Tk 2,200.

Supply has improved, with only one retailer reporting no stock, compared with eight in a similar survey on October 4. The eight had received no cylinders since September 20-22. At the time, available cylinders were selling for Tk 1,900-2,250 against the regulated price of Tk 1,585, suggesting retail prices have risen alongside the official rate.

Retailers in Nikunja, Mohammadpur, Shyamoli, Shyambazar, Kunipara, Khilgaon and Mirpur reported improved availability but said they could not sell at the regulated price.

A retailer in Shyambazar quoted Tk 2,300, saying he bought cylinders at Tk 2,150 each from distributors. "We also have other expenses, including shop rent and delivery charges, so we cannot sell them below that price," he said.



Another retailer in Nikunja, selling BM Energy, Jamuna and Petromax cylinders, quoted Tk 2,200 each.

The only retailer without stock, on Green Road, said he could arrange a cylinder from a shop across the road. "It would cost Tk 2,400. I would have to get it from that shop," he said.

Meanwhile, the LPG Traders Cooperative Society Ltd yesterday announced a nationwide shutdown of LPG sales outlets on October 15 and 16, demanding higher commissions, an end to alleged arbitrary fines and police harassment, and steps to address supply problems.

At a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, the society outlined seven demands and cited rising operating costs and persistent supply disruptions.

It demanded an increase in the distribution charge for a 12kg cylinder from Tk 50 to Tk 150, or 7 percent of the retail price, citing higher fuel prices, licence fees, loading and unloading costs, and losses from idle cylinders.

It also demanded that companies revising prices more than once a month do so only through BERC announcements.

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Skies over Riyadh largely empty

AGENCIES

The skies over the Saudi capital Riyadh were virtually empty yesterday as authorities extended the suspension of operations at the city's international airport after deadly weekend attacks by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis.

Authorities of King Khalid International Airport, Saudi Arabia's second-busiest airport after Jeddah, cancelled 82 percent of all scheduled flights, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium, which said the final number may be higher.

Cancellations across all Saudi airports reached 46.4 percent, Cirium said.

"The General Authority of Civil Aviation has announced the extension of the suspension of operations at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh in order to complete the necessary procedures to verify the safety of the facilities and their operational readiness," the authority said in a statement, without specifying when operations would resume.

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WORK ON STABILISATION

Americans Hall, Woodford win Nobel economics prize

REUTERS, *stockholm*

US academics Robert Hall and Michael Woodford won the 2026 Nobel economics prize yesterday for decades of work developing ground-up models currently used by central banks and finance ministries across the world to stabilise economies.

"With them, we are better equipped to deal with shocks in the economy, such as energy crises or sudden changes in how much households consume," John Hassler, Chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences, said in a statement.



Robert Hall



Woodford

Woodford and Hall are frequently name-checked by the world's top central banks which, after a 2022 inflation surge in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, are currently grappling with the energy shock triggered by the Iran war.

One of the laureates' key insights is that economies could only be kept on an even keel by taking into account the millions of decisions made at a micro-level by households and businesses, rather than by using top-down theories of how economies work.

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Garment workers block the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Azampur in Uttara yesterday, demanding higher wages amid rising prices of essentials. Workers from several factories in the area joined the protest before police dispersed them. PHOTO: **STAR**

CUET IN FOCUS

Students lock new VC in his office

Teachers call for work stoppage, noncooperation

ARUN BIKASH DEY *and* **FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN,** *Chattogram*

Tensions at Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET) escalated yesterday after demonstrating students locked newly appointed Vice-Chancellor Professor Sheikh Shariful Alam inside the administrative building, demanding his resignation.

They also cut power and water supplies to the building, a move that comes on the 21st day of the campus-wide shutdown demanding the reinstatement of former vice-chancellor Professor Dr Abu Sadat Muhammad Sayem.

Compounding the crisis, CUET's teachers, officers, and staff associations announced a complete work stoppage and all-out non-cooperation in the afternoon, bringing academic and administrative operations at the university to a standstill.

The confrontation flared up around 9:00am when the VC arrived on campus for the first time since his September 21 appointment in a microbus. According to university sources, he entered through the main gate after identifying himself as a "teacher."

Accompanied by some faculty members, officials, and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders, Professor Alam proceeded to the VC office and broke open padlocks previously placed on the doors by protesting students, said sources at CUET.

As the news spread, hundreds of students gathered in front of the building, chanting slogans such as "We reject the new VC" and demanding his immediate

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