



BERC PUBLIC HEARING

LPG selling above fixed price, yet fresh hike sought

ASIFUR RAHMAN

A technical committee of BERC has proposed raising the price of a 12kg liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder by 7.6 percent to Tk 1,976, following a review of the margins for bottlers, distributors and retailers.

We demand that BERC first investigate the artificial shortages, hoarding and overcharging, and take effective action against those responsible.

Khalilur Rahman, an adviser to CAB

The proposal, however, came under scrutiny at a public hearing yesterday, where consumers questioned why the regulator should consider higher charges when LPG is being sold at Tk 2,200 to Tk 2,400 per cylinder in the market -- well above the fixed price.

"We demand that BERC first investigate the artificial shortages, hoarding and overcharging, and take effective action against those responsible," said Khalilur Rahman, an adviser to the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, at the hearing held at the BIAM auditorium in the capital.

The committee proposed increasing the charge for storage and bottling to Tk 282 per cylinder, a 40.3 percent rise from the existing Tk 201. The importers sought the charge to be between Tk 331 and Tk 443.

It also proposed raising the distribution charge by 60

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NATURE QUEST



IN THE CONCRETE JUNGLE

Perched atop a pillar, a rhesus macaque nibbles on fruit at Sadhana Aushadhalaya in Old Dhaka's Gendaria. Distinguished by its pinkish face and brownish-grey fur, the species is among Dhaka's few surviving urban wildlife. These intelligent, adaptable primates have inhabited Old Dhaka for generations, with a tradition of feeding and sheltering them dating to 1914. They navigate rooftops, buildings and crowded neighbourhoods searching for food. However, rapid urbanisation, disappearing trees and dwindling food sources threaten their survival. Once common across Dhaka, their numbers have declined as concrete replaces greenery, leaving increasingly little room for the city's original wild inhabitants.

PHOTO: **PALASH KHAN**

Over 45% women face tech-facilitated violence: study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 45.5 percent of women surveyed faced technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), with 34.2 percent experiencing two or more overlapping forms of abuse and 14.8 percent reporting three or more, according to a study launched yesterday.

The study also cited 2025 data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and UNFPA, which showed that 8.3 percent of women surveyed had experienced TFGBV at some point in their lives.

76.7% of university-educated women faced abuse

56% of abuse reports to platforms went unaddressed

67% received no formal online safety training

The findings were presented by Abdullah Titir, head of research at Digitally Right Limited, and Afroja Arman, senior training and research officer at Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, during a discussion titled "Abuse Beyond the Screen: A Study on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence in Bangladesh" at Sufia Kamal Bhaban in Dhaka.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Digitally Right Limited jointly conducted the study with support from the Embassy of Sweden.

The mixed-method study, conducted from January 7 to 13, surveyed 521 women and girls aged 15 and above in Dhaka, Chattogram, Barishal, Rajshahi and Sylhet. The respondents were divided into five age groups: 15 to 24 (29 percent), 25 to 34 (27.8 percent), 35 to 44 (20.3 percent), 45 to 54 (14.8 percent), and 55 and above (8.1 percent). It also included four key-informant interviews and eight in-depth interviews with survivors.

Among active internet users surveyed, 63.7 percent reported experiencing

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Spoiler glitch delays PM's flight from Japan by nearly 5hrs



TASNEEM TAYEB

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's return flight from Japan was delayed after the Biman aircraft carrying him and his entourage developed a fault in its spoiler system before takeoff at Narita International Airport yesterday -- the first day of the national carrier's newly introduced Thursday service.

The aircraft later took off from Narita at 7:55pm Bangladesh time, nearly five hours after its scheduled departure, Biman Bangladesh Airlines said in a press release last night.

The flight is expected to land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at 3:00am today.

Earlier on October 24, Md Ashraful Alam, Biman's director of marketing and sales, said the airline would increase its weekly flights between Dhaka and Narita

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3 tankers ablaze after hitting Hormuz mines

Say Iran Guards; Saudi coalition downs Houthi missile

AGENCIES

- Saudi strike kills 12 in Yemeni residential area: Houthis
- US fires top army general in latest ouster: media
- IDF launches interceptor at suspected target in Lebanon

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said yesterday three oil tankers had caught fire after hitting mines while attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz.

"Over the past 24 hours, three violating oil tankers exploded and caught fire after striking mines while attempting to pass through the unauthorised southern route of the Strait of Hormuz," the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said in a statement.

The vessels had "switched off all their radar and navigation systems" and disregarded warnings from the IRGC navy, the statement said. It was not immediately clear when the incidents occurred or which flags the tankers were flying.

Meanwhile, the Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Houthis said yesterday it had intercepted a ballistic missile fired by the group at the kingdom's eastern region. The Iran-backed group also said that a Saudi strike on a residential area in Yemen's western Taiz province killed 12 people, reports AFP.

Iran's armed forces have repeatedly accused US Central Command (CENTCOM), which oversees US military operations in the region, of encouraging vessels to use a southern corridor near the Omani coast that Tehran considers unauthorised.

Netanyahu bloc targets Arab parties after election gains

Alleges foreign funding as kingmaker factions gain ground

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc yesterday piled pressure on Israeli Arab leaders over unproven accusations of foreign funding, in a push to neuter parties that made strong gains after an otherwise indecisive election.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, a far-right firebrand with a history of attacks on Palestinians, went so far as to encourage Israel "immediately" to order the arrests of Arab party leaders.

Israel was nearing the completion of ballot-counting from Tuesday's election in which neither Netanyahu nor the opposition bloc led by former military chief Gadi Eisenkot looked able to secure a majority in the parliament known as the Knesset.

With nearly 93 percent of the vote counted, Netanyahu's bloc was at 53 seats and the opposition forces led by Eisenkot had 48 -- both well under the 61 needed to form a government. The two main Arab formations were on track for an unprecedented 19 seats.



Buses and trucks burn in the compound of a transport company hit by a Russian drone strike in Kharkiv, Ukraine, yesterday. PHOTO: **REUTERS**

NEWS IN FOCUS

Hanif sentenced to death for crimes against humanity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday sentenced Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif to death for crimes against humanity over the killing of six protesters in Kushtia during the July 2024 mass uprising.

Three other convicts, Awami League Kushtia district and city unit leaders Sadruddin Khan, Azgar Ali and Ataur Rahman Ata, were sentenced to imprisonment for the remainder of their natural lives for their involvement in the killings.

All four were tried in absentia as they remain absconding.

The three-member tribunal, headed by Chairman Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury, delivered the verdict over the killings on August 5, 2024, the day the Sheikh Hasina-led

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NOV 17-18 DIALOGUE

Dhaka to seek Hasina, Kamal's extradition at talks with India

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will press India to extradite ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and the alleged killers of Sharif Osman Bin Hadi at the fifth Consular Dialogue in Dhaka on November 17-18, diplomatic sources in Dhaka and New Delhi told The Daily Star.

It will be the first time Dhaka raises the issue at such a formal meeting since the July uprising in 2024.

Bangladesh first sought their extradition through a diplomatic note verbale in December 2024 and renewed the request after Hasina and Kamal were sentenced to death in November 2025.

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