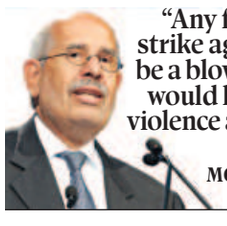
DHAKA TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2026



"Any further American strike against Iran would be a blow of madness and would lead only to more violence and destruction."

Nobel peace laureate
MOHAMED ELBARADEI

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The Daily Star

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Consumers squeezed again as BERC caves

12kg LPG official price now Tk 2,060

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has given into the pressure from market stakeholders and jacked up the retail price of LPG, putting consumers in more trouble as they already pay way above the government-set price.

Instead of ensuring businesses comply with the regulated price, the regulator yesterday increased the official price of a 12kg LPG cylinder by Tk 223 to Tk 2,060 for the month of November.

This is the first time the official retail price went above Tk 2,000.

However, people have been paying between Tk 2,000 and Tk 2,200 for 12kg of LPG since March.

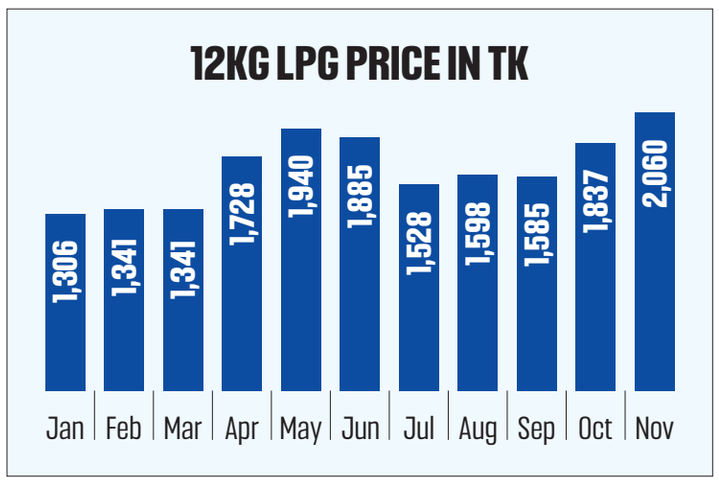
The Daily Star has reported repeatedly on the market situation since September, finding that 12kg cylinders were selling at prices ranging from Tk 1,900 to Tk 2,500, while the official rates during that period ranged between Tk 1,585 and Tk 1,837.

The latest adjustment means the official price has increased by Tk 475, or nearly 30 percent, over just two months.

The development has raised questions about BERC's regulatory role, particularly whether it is giving priority to the LPG businesses or protecting consumers.

The price increase also comes after LPG traders threatened a nationwide shutdown of sales and distribution, secured a public hearing on their demands, and pressed for higher commissions and other charges.

Under the new price structure, charges have increased in all three stages of the LPG supply chain.



Storage and bottling charges have risen by 40 percent to Tk 23.48 per kg from Tk 16.74, while distributors' charges have increased by 70 percent to Tk 7.08 from Tk 4.17 per kg.

Retailers' charges have also gone up by 55 percent to Tk 5.83 per kg from Tk 3.75.

For a 12kg cylinder, distributors will now receive Tk 85 in charges, up from Tk 50, while retailers' charges have risen to Tk 70 from Tk 45.

The new structure does not include a fixed home-delivery charge, which could have protected consumers from overcharging.

Consumers, who have cylinders delivered to their homes, would probably have to pay a lot more than Tk 2,060, provided they are sold at the new

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Traffic on the way to the capital grinds to a halt on the Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road in Fatullah yesterday as readymade garment workers stage a third day of demonstrations demanding a minimum monthly wage of Tk 30,000. PHOTO: **STAR**

Owners to reopen RMG factories today

Worker, trade union leaders call for an end to unrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid protests by garment workers demanding higher wages, apparel manufacturers yesterday urged the home ministry to ensure security and restore normalcy in industrial zones.

The unrest entered its third consecutive day yesterday, forcing 414 factories to remain closed, according to Industrial Police data.

Leaders of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) made the appeal during an emergency meeting with Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed at his office.

They briefed the minister on the situation in Mirpur, Ashulia, Gazipur, Savar,

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Clashes, blockades continue on 3rd day of RMG unrest

Over 400 factories remain closed; 82 held in Gazipur, Mirpur

STAR REPORT

Garment workers demanding a minimum monthly wage of Tk 30,000 continued their demonstrations for the third consecutive day yesterday, blocking highways and clashing with police in Savar and Gazipur.

Protests also disrupted traffic in the capital's Mirpur and Narayanganj.

Amid the unrest, 264 factories in Savar-Ashulia and 150 in Gazipur declared holidays or suspended operations for the day, said police officials.

Protesters torched two vehicles in Gazipur, including a police vehicle, and a lorry in Savar.

The intensity of violence, however, appeared lower than on Sunday.

Police filed three cases in Gazipur against 4,000 and four in Mirpur over the violence against 11,000. At least 82 people were arrested in the areas.

Some factory owners, including former ministers and lawmakers, and individuals operating under the banner of labour organisations were instigating the unrest.

Home Minister
Salahuddin Ahmed

The last minimum wage increase, from Tk 8,000 to Tk 12,500, took effect on December 1, 2023.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday warned of stern legal action against those involved in violence and attempts to create instability in the garment sector.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with BGMEA and BKMEA leaders at the Secretariat, he alleged that some factory owners, including former ministers and lawmakers, and individuals operating under the banner of labour organisations were instigating the unrest.

The government has identified some of those involved and collected audio and video evidence of violent incidents. Law enforcement agencies have been instructed to deal firmly with further violence, he added.

CLASHES, ARSON

In Gazipur, workers blocked several points along the Dhaka-Tangail highway for over six hours from

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A woman lights candles on the grave of a deceased family member at Holy Rosary Church in Tejgaon, Dhaka, yesterday, marking All Souls' Day. Members of the Christian community observe the occasion by offering prayers, lighting candles and placing flowers on the graves of their loved ones. PHOTO: **PRABIR DAS**

Call from Mushtaque cleared the way

Court verdict recounts chain of events in Dhaka Central Jail on Nov 3, 1975

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The execution had already been approved. It came from the highest authority of the country. All the assailants had to do was pull the trigger, and they announced their mission with chilling candour.

Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansur Ali, and AHM Qamaruzzaman -- leaders who had guided Bangladesh through the darkest days of the Liberation War, held together the government-in-exile in 1971, and steered the struggle for independence.

JAIL KILLING DAY

Their targets were four of the most important figures in Bangladesh's history, and the location was one of the state's most heavily guarded institutions -- the Dhaka Central Jail.

The victims of this despicable conspiracy were Syed Nazrul Islam,

The national tragedy that unfolded inside the jail in the early hours of November 3, 1975, was not an isolated act of violence.

It took place amid a fierce

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