DHAKA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2026

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The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



"The Stock Market crashed today because the Dumocrats had a big Tuesday – So sad to see, you only have yourselves to blame!"
DONALD TRUMP



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LPG now way too costly in Bangladesh

Consumers pay up to 45% more than those in neighbouring countries

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Consumers in Bangladesh are paying around 30 to 45 percent more for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) than the official or published retail rates in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

The official retail price of LPG in Bangladesh has risen by nearly 52 percent since February, just before the outbreak of the Iran war, as the disruption of Middle Eastern supplies forced importers to turn to more distant sources, pushing up freight costs and premiums for securing cargoes.

The price increased from Tk 113 per kilogram in February to Tk 171.68 in November.

Over the same period, the converted official retail price rose by around 34 percent in Pakistan, 12 percent in Sri Lanka and 7 percent in India, while Nepal's latest available rate was about 6 percent higher than its February price.

At the November rate, LPG cost around Tk 132 per kg in Pakistan, Tk 130 in Sri Lanka and Tk 119 in Nepal, according to calculations based on the respective countries' published prices and exchange rates.

These comparisons, however, do not necessarily reflect actual market prices in Pakistan, as local newspapers report that the market price is nearly double the official rate.

In India, household consumers pay the equivalent of around Tk 87 per kg, but the rate is not directly comparable with Bangladesh's because the Indian government subsidises domestic LPG.

Commercial LPG in Delhi costs around Tk 194 per kg, which is higher than Bangladesh's regulated retail price.

Comparisons with India often overlook the difference between household and commercial LPG prices, said Jalal Ahmed, chairman of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC).

India's household consumers pay less because the government absorbs a substantial part of the cost, while commercial users pay a market-linked rate.

Pakistan's official notified price is far below what some consumers pay in the open market, and Nepal depends on supplies from India, he said.

The prices nevertheless show that Bangladesh's regulated retail rate has risen more sharply than those in several neighbouring markets.

Pakistan and Sri Lanka, unlike landlocked Nepal, have deep sea ports that allow them to receive larger LPG vessels, Jalal said.

He identified three structural disadvantages for Bangladesh: its relatively small purchasing volume, dependence on spot market purchases and the additional cost of transferring LPG from mother vessels to smaller vessels.

"Bangladesh is a much smaller buyer than India," he said.

Indian buyers can purchase around 1 lakh tonnes in a single vessel, while Bangladeshi companies typically buy much smaller quantities.

When both countries approach suppliers in the same international market, sellers naturally prioritise larger buyers, giving them stronger bargaining power.

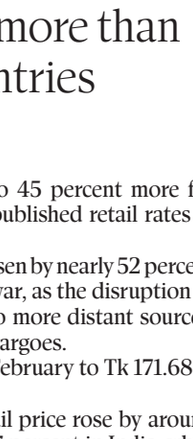
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OFFICIAL LPG PRICE BY COUNTRY (IN TAKA PER KG)

COUNTRY	FEBRUARY	NOVEMBER	RISE (%)
Bangladesh	113	171.68	52
Pakistan	99	132	34
Sri Lanka	117	130	12
Nepal	112	119	6
India	81	87	7

*CALCULATIONS BASED ON RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES' PUBLISHED PRICES AND EXCHANGE RATES

*INDIA SUBSIDISES HOUSEHOLD LPG







EVERY STEP A RISK

Residents carefully navigate a broken bamboo footbridge over the Baromasia river in Kurigram's Phulbari upazila, risking serious injury at every step as the dilapidated structure remains the only link between eight villages and their unions and upazila headquarters. *Inset*, as the bridge has become largely unusable, women wade through the river carrying belongings on their heads. The photos were taken recently at Kishamat Shimulbari in Naodanga union. PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

90m displaced people at risk from climate threats: UN

Three-quarters of them live in climate-vulnerable countries like Bangladesh

REUTERS, *Geneva*

Nearly 90 million forcibly displaced people are living in countries increasingly exposed to climate-related droughts, floods and extreme heat, the UN refugee agency said yesterday, warning ahead of the COP31 climate summit that more funding is needed to help vulnerable communities adapt.

UNHCR called on governments and climate-finance institutions meeting at COP31 to increase funding for climate adaptation.

Nearly three-quarters of the world's forcibly displaced people are living in countries such as Afghanistan and Bangladesh that are exposed to severe climate-related risks, according to the report by the agency, known as UNHCR, published ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference in Antalya, Turkey.

The findings show the overlap between conflict, displacement and climate change, the report said. "Climate adaptation in fragile and displacement-affected areas is a matter of survival," said Anton Leis Garcia, UNHCR's assistant

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HISTORIC NOVEMBER 7

National Revolution and Solidarity Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country is set to observe National Revolution and Solidarity Day today commemorating the 51st anniversary of the historic events of November 7, 1975.

On the eve of the day, President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman issued separate messages.

In a message, the president called upon all to stay united in commitment to safeguarding national independence and

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How Zia rose to the centre of power

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR



Adjutant General Moinul Hossain Chowdhury woke up to shrill ring of the telephone that had shattered the silence of the night around 4:30am on November 3, 1975.

Half-awake, he picked up the receiver. An anxious woman's voice came from the other end. "Brother, what is going on here? Officers and soldiers are taking [her husband] from our bedroom."

Before he could ask for details, the call ended mid-sentence. Initially, Moinul wondered whether Raushan Ershad was calling. But her husband was away in India for training.

Then the telephone rang again.

"Brother, Zia has been taken from the bedroom and locked in the drawing room."

The voice was unmistakably urgent. It was Khaleda Zia, wife of the army chief, Ziaur Rahman.

"I will try to come to your house," Moinul replied before hanging up.

At Ziaur Rahman's residence, he saw a captain standing

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Bangladesh fast bowler Hasan Mahmud appeals for a West Indies wicket on Day 2 of the second and final Test, in Sylhet, yesterday. Hasan picked up six wickets to help bowl the visitors out for 356 in their first innings, setting a national and a world record in the process. The hosts were 88 for three at stumps, trailing by 268 runs. Story on Page 11. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

MIDTERMS ROUT

Trump retains grip on foreign policy

REUTERS, *Washington*

President Donald Trump emerged weakened at home after Republicans suffered sweeping midterm losses, but analysts say he is likely to retain broad authority over US foreign policy during the final two years of his presidency.

Democrats, who captured both chambers of Congress, have pledged greater oversight of Trump's agenda and efforts to curb what Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer called the president's "chaos at home and abroad." Their priorities include ending the Iran war, restoring support for Ukraine and reassessing US policy toward Israel.

However, foreign affairs remain one of the areas where presidents wield extensive constitutional powers. "A Democratic Congress has the ability to stop Trump's domestic legislative agenda, but it doesn't have much ability to stop a president from exercising his powers as commander-in-chief," said William Wechsler, senior director of

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