

## 1. Introduction

Gas leakage is a serious problem and nowadays it is observed in many places like residences, industries, and vehicles like Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), buses, cars, etc. It is noticed that due to gas leakage, dangerous accidents occur. The Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), or propane, is a flammable mixture of hydrocarbon gases used as fuel in many applications like homes, hostels, industries, automobiles, and vehicles because of its desirable properties which include high calorific value, less smoke, less soot, and meager harm to the environment. Liquid petroleum gas (LPG) is highly inflammable and can burn even at some distance from the source of leakage. This energy source is primarily composed of propane and butane which are highly flammable chemical compounds. These gases can catch fire easily. In homes, LPG is used mainly for cooking purposes. When a leak occurs, the leaked gases may lead to an explosion. Gas leakage leads to various accidents resulting in both material loss and human injuries. Home fires have been occurring frequently and the threat to human lives and properties has been growing in recent years. The risks of explosion, fire, suffocation are based on their physical properties such toxicity, flammability, etc. The number of deaths due to the explosion of gas cylinders has been increasing in recent years. The Bhopal gas tragedy is an example of accidents due to gas leakage.

The reason for such explosions is due to substandard cylinders, old valves, no regular checking of gas cylinders, worn out regulators and a lack of awareness of handling gas cylinders. Therefore, the gas leakage should be detected and controlled to protect people from danger. An odorant such as ethane thiol is added to LPG, so that leaks can be detected easily by most people. However, some people who have a reduced sense of smell may not be able to rely upon this inherent safety mechanism. A gas leakage detector becomes vital and helps to protect people from the dangers of gas leakage. A number of research papers have been published on gas leakage detection techniques [1–8]. K. Padmapriya et al. proposed the design of a wireless LPG monitoring system. In this paper,

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the user is alerted about the gas leakage through SMS and the power supply is turned off [6]. Meenakshi Vidya et al. proposed the leakage detection and real time gas monitoring system. In this system, the gas leakage is detected and controlled by means of an exhaust fan. The level of LPG in cylinder is also continuously monitored [7]. Selvapriya et al. proposed the system in which the leakage is detected by the gas sensor and produce the results in the audio and visual forms. It provides a design approach on software as well as hardware [8]. In the existing method, different gas sensing technology is used.

In this paper a low-cost advanced sensor-based gas leakage detector, alert and control system is proposed and discussed. The system is very efficient, user friendly, portable, small in size and cost effective. It will cost only 917 Bangladeshi taka which is equivalent to ten USD.

## 2. Method and Materials

In this paper, semiconductor sensors are used to detect LPG gas. An MQ6 semiconductor sensor is used. Sensitive material of the MQ-6 gas sensor is SnO<sub>2</sub>, which has lower conductivity in clean air. When the target combustible gas exists, the sensor conductivity increases along with the rising gas concentration. The MQ6 gas sensor has a high sensitivity to Propane, Butane and LPG, and response to Natural gas. The sensor could be used to detect different combustible gasses, especially Methane; it has a low cost and is suitable for different applications. The MQ-6 can detect gas concentrations anywhere from 200 to 10,000 ppm. The sensor's output is an analog resistance. Figure 1 shows the block diagram of the gas leakage detection and alert system.

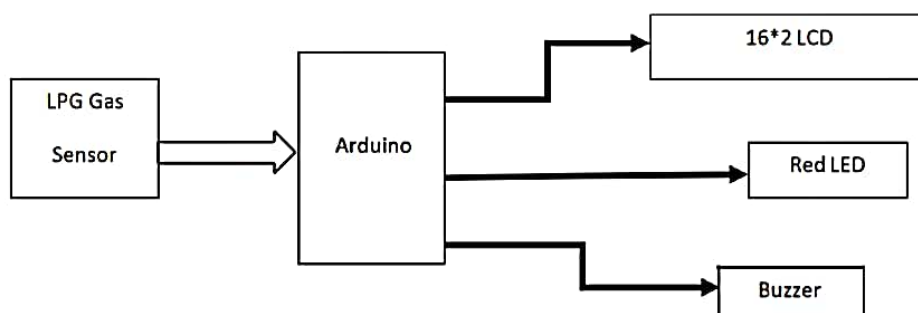


Table 1. List of required hardware opponents, quantity and price in Bangladeshi Taka.

| Equipment                | Quantity | Price (BDT)      |
|--------------------------|----------|------------------|
| Arduino Uno R3           | 1        | 420/-            |
| MQ-6 LPG gas sensor      | 1        | 160/-            |
| 16*2 LCD                 | 1        | 124/-            |
| Buzzer                   | 1        | 15/-             |
| Male to male/female wire | 40       | 60/-             |
| 9 V Battery              | 1        | 40/-             |
| Gas Lighter              | 1        | 35/-             |
| 10 K Variable Resistor   | 1        | 8/-              |
| Mini Breadboard          | 1        | 55/-             |
|                          |          | Total Taka-917/- |

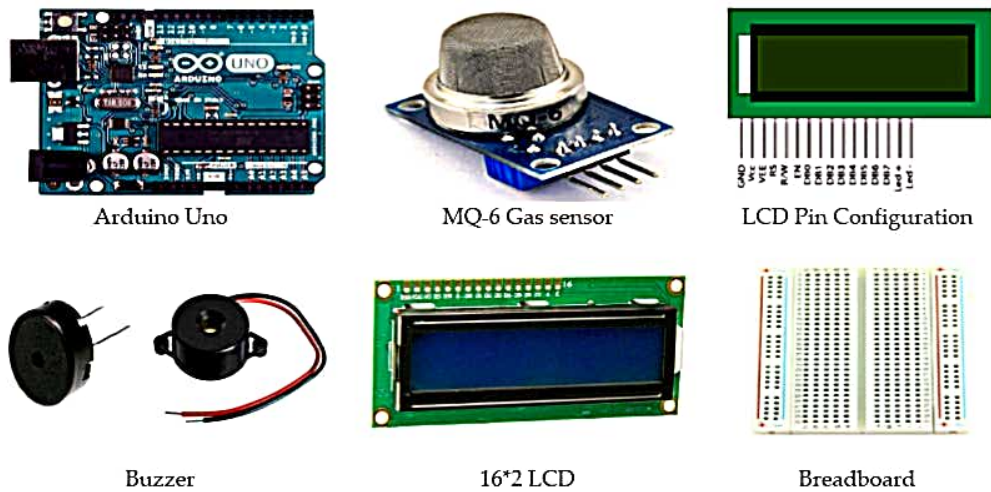


Figure 2. Some important components that are needed to design the gas leakage detection and alert system.

### 3. Results and Analysis

The Proteus Design Suite is a proprietary software tool suite used primarily for electronic design automation. The software is used mainly by electronic design engineers and technicians to create schematics and electronic prints for manufacturing printed circuit boards. Figure 3 shows the circuit diagram that was designed using Proteus libraries. This system is based on Arduino UNO R3 and MQ-6 gas sensor. When the sensor detects gas in atmosphere, it will give a digital output of 1 and if gas is not detected the sensor will give a digital output of 0. Arduino will take the sensor output as the digital input. If sensor output is high, then the buzzer will start tuning and the LCD will show that "Gas detected: Yes". If sensor output is low then the buzzer will not be tuning, LCD will show that "Gas detected: No". The detector incorporates a MQ-6 sensor (with gas detection range of 300–10,000 ppm) as the LPG gas sensor, PIC16F690 microcontroller as the control unit, LCD for displaying gas concentration, a buzzer as an alarm and a number of LEDs to indicate the gas leakage status. The microcontroller senses the presence of a gas when the voltages signal from the MQ-6 sensor goes beyond a certain level and gives an audiovisual alarm.



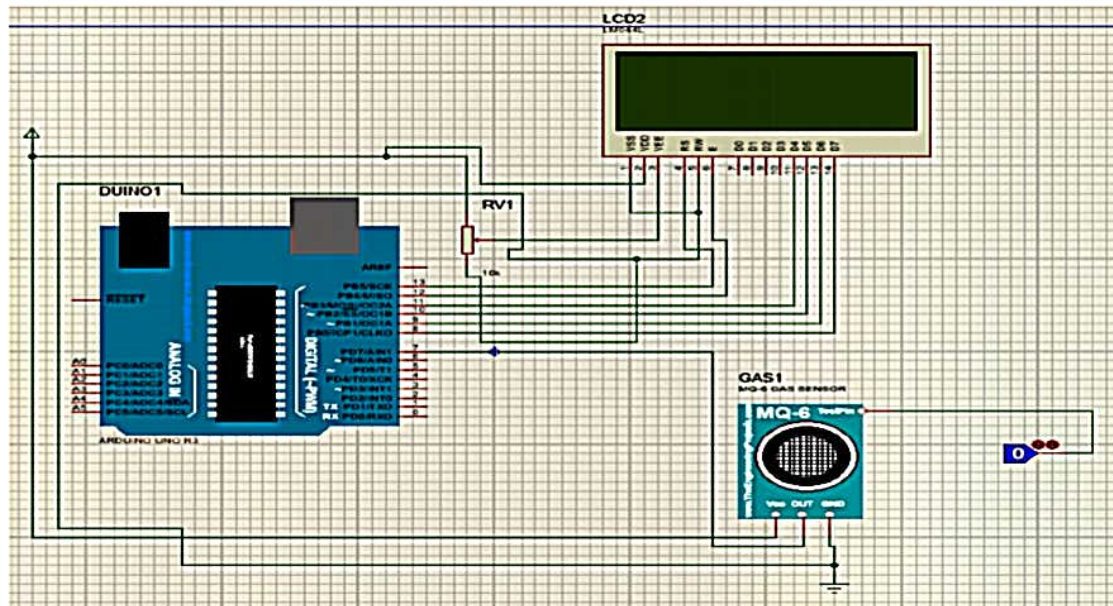


Figure 3. Circuit diagram that was designed using Proteus libraries.

Figure 4 shows the circuit diagram of the MQ-6 gas sensor connected with Arduino.

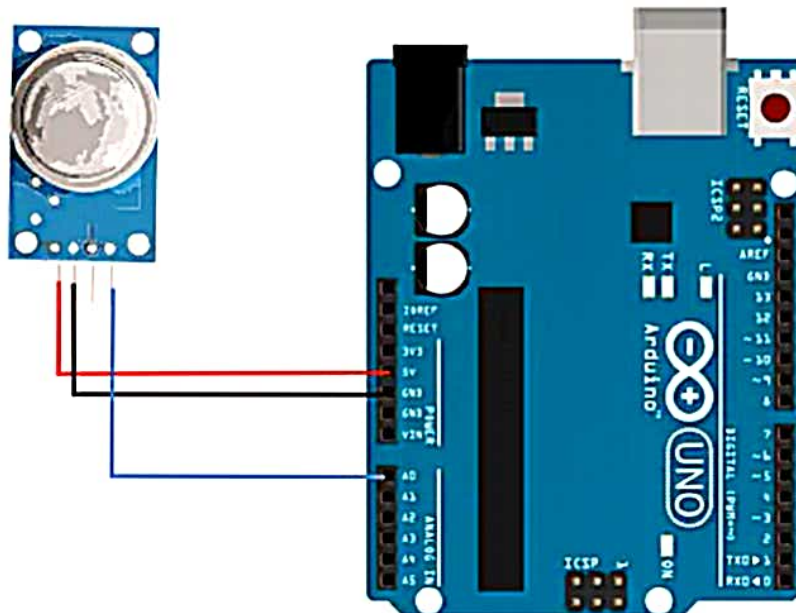


Figure 4. Circuit diagram of MQ-6 gas sensor connected with Arduino.

If the system detects the level of gas in the air that exceeds the safety level it will activate the alarm which includes the buzzer to alert the users at home of the abnormal condition and to take any necessary action. The most tell-tale sign of a leak is the smell of gas in the home. However, in the case of a carbon monoxide leak, there are also particular physical symptoms you may suffer from if there is a leak. The output result of this paper is that the leakage will be detected and stopped within 2 s after the leakage starts. This system can even detect the level of gas leakage. This is an efficient method for automatically detecting and controlling the gas leakage. Moreover, the fire accidents are also prevented by switching off the power supply. The idea for gas detection and control can be implemented at a large scale for various industries. This system can be installed in a kitchen, at a hostel cafeteria, and any other areas. This can be helpful in reducing accidents caused by gas leakage