



## WORLD'S HIGHEST TAXPAYER

It's the ICT sector in Bangladesh, says US research organisation

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## BELGIUM SUFI NIGHT

Laon singer Farida Parveen and Tuntun Baul mesmerise the audience

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## 'GOD ISN'T A MAGICIAN'

Pope backs Big Bang and evolution, says God had no magic wand

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# Energy security at a high cost

*Unsolicited liquefied natural gas deal awaits govt approval*

REZAUL KARIM BYRON and SHARIER KHAN

The energy ministry has sought the government's approval to build an LNG terminal, and import gas for \$17.1 per million cubic feet (mmcf), 10 times the national gas sales price.

Though very costly, the import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) would ensure the country's energy security in the long run.

If LNG is mixed with local gas, the average cost of gas will rise to \$4.39 per mmcf from \$1.7 now, implying that the government will have to hike gas prices in future.

The ministry last week sent a proposal to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for approving an unsolicited deal with American-Singaporean consortium of Astra and Excelerate (AEC) under the government's special act for quick supply of power and energy, 2010.

Once the committee approves the ministry's proposal, Petrobangla will sign an agreement with the AEC for setting up the terminal.

The AEC would install the terminal in Maheshkhali to facilitate LNG import from Qatar with which Bangladesh signed a memorandum of understanding in 2011.

The government would have to spend around \$2.7 billion annually for importing 500 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) LNG and using the floating terminal.

For the last one decade, the country faced a shortfall of around 500 mmcf gas. As per the forecast, this would persist even if the country adds new gas to the national grid from its own resources in the coming years.

The AEC and two other companies -- Hiranandani Electricity Private Ltd, India and Samsung C&T Corporation, South Korea -- submitted proposals to Petrobangla through an open tender more than three years ago for building the terminal.

However, Petrobangla's tender evaluation committee found all the proposals "non-responsive", said energy ministry officials.

Though the LNG terminal is among the

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Govt to spend \$2.7 billion annually for LNG imports from 2016

Average national gas price will go up to \$4.39 per unit from present cost \$1.7

Though costly, this will offer new option for gas-starving regions to be energized



Maheshkhali LNG terminal to receive, store the fuel & convert it to natural gas at Maheshkhali



Bangladesh to import 500 mmcf LNG from Qatar at \$17.1 per unit

*Congratulations*



We convey our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Abdul Momin Mondol, Managing Director of MONTRIMS LTD. (a sister concern of Mondol Group) who has been selected as

Commercially Important Person (CIP-2012) by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for his outstanding contribution in Export & National Economy

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People queue up to get on a bus almost on the middle of a road near Banani Railway Station in the capital yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Not just a mugging

*Woman dies, dragged along road by criminals snatching her handbag*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman lost her life as muggers from a microbus dragged her 50 yards along Mirpur Road while snatching her handbag in the capital's Sobhanbagh yesterday.

The victim, Ayesha Akter Ripa, 27, was on a rickshaw and had the handbag's strap knotted around her hand.

The mother of a six-year-old girl was going to her sister's house at Lalmatia early in the morning, said police.

It was around 6:40am when a mugger from the moving microbus on her right pulled her handbag, said Sub-Inspector Nurul Islam of Dhanmondi Police Station. Three to four muggers were inside the microbus.

"She had the strap of her bag tangled around her hand. As a result, she fell down from the rickshaw," the SI quoted a witness as saying.

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## NIZAMI'S WAR CRIMES TRIAL

# Verdict today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 is set to deliver the long-awaited verdict in the war crimes cases against Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami today, more than four months after the deferment of the judgment in June.

The alleged chief of the infamous Al-Badr force is facing 16 charges, including his role in eliminating the Bangalee intelligentsia just before Bangladesh's victory on December 16 in the 1971 Liberation War.

To ward off violence centring the pronouncement of the verdict, authorities yesterday deployed paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) at different parts of the country including the capital.

The judgment is going to be delivered nearly a year after the completion of the trial proceedings, which went through different hurdles, including tribunal reconstitution, rehearing of closing arguments and deferment of the verdict.

The prosecution sought capital punishment for Nizami claiming that they had been able to prove 15 out of 16 charges. The defence, however, termed the case "politically motivated" and appealed for Nizami's acquittal, saying the prosecution couldn't prove any charge.

If convicted, the 71-year-old might have to walk the gallows. However, Nizami, Jamaat Ameer since November 2000, has already been given death penalty in the sensational 10-truck arms haul case in January this year.



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Modi plans ratifying LBA by year end

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi plans to pass the long-pending constitution amendment bill to put into effect India's Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) in the month-long winter session of parliament beginning on November 24.

A decision to recommend passage of the bill on the LBA was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) convened by Home Minister Rajnath Singh in Delhi on Monday.

The LBA bill is among the 30 legislations the Modi government hopes to pass in the winter session, CCPA sources said.

The LBA bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha, upper house of Indian parliament, in late 2012 and

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## 'India unearths JMB plot to kill Hasina'

*Khaleda also on hit list, reports Reuters citing Delhi officials*

STAR REPORT

India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) has uncovered a suspected plot by banned militant group Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to assassinate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and carry out a coup, three senior Indian security officials told Reuters yesterday.

Dhaka did not comment directly on the assertions that Hasina had been the target of a plot, but said it had tightened security on the border with India, the news agency reported from New Delhi.

The outlawed JMB also planned to assassinate BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, said the Indian officials requesting anonymity. They did not explain how the militants planned to carry out the assassinations.

"The strategy was to hit the political leaders of the country and demolish the democratic infrastructure of Bangladesh," said a senior Indian Home (interior) Ministry official on condition of anonymity.

"This was all being planned on Indian soil and we could have been blamed if there was an attack."

India has arrested at least six people tied to the coup plot, according to the NIA, the agency investigating the October 2 Burdwan blast case.

New Delhi has also sought information from Dhaka about two JMB militants -- Asif Adnan, 26, and Fazle Elahi Tanjil, 24 -- who were arrested in Dhaka recently, reports

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## IN FOND MEMORY



One more year has passed since you left us and our hearts are still beyond repair. The part of us that left with you is still hopelessly lost. Our world even now fails to turn. We miss every single moment, the precious gems you spent with us in your ephemeral life. We do still cherish every fleeting shadow you have draped around us as your blessings. We believe that Allah (SWT) is taking good care of you and pray to Him that you may have eternal peace.

- Your family

We ask all friends and well-wishers of Mr. Imtiyaz Husain to pray for his departed soul and remember him fondly for the good deeds he has done and the hearts he has touched.

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