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# LNG supply issues fixed

Gas likely to reach Ctg through undersea pipeline on Thursday

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MOHAMMAD SUMAN

People of Chittagong could be using Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) this week as the authorities have finally been able to pump the imported LNG, on a ship anchored in the Bay, into the Matarbari reservoir in Moheshkhali of Cox's Bazar through an undersea pipeline.

An official of Rupantara Prakritik Gas Company Ltd (RPGCL) said the LNG might be supplied to Chittagong on Thursday through the 91km undersea pipeline of Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Ltd (KGDCCL) linked to the grid in Chittagong's Anwara.

The government high-ups may inaugurate this formally on that day after a delay of three months due to adverse weather and technical issues.

Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, told The Daily Star yesterday that the gas had already arrived at Matarbari land terminal and gas pressure was being tested. He said if everything went well, the gas would be supplied to the pipeline.

The RPGCL official said the LNG was taken to the Matarbari reservoir from the LNG tanker -- Excellence -- anchored in the Bay of Bengal through the undersea pipeline on Sunday.

The ship carrying Bangladesh's first imported consignment of 1.37 lakh cubic feet of LNG from Qatar anchored in the Bay on April 24. Since then several deadlines had expired for gas transmission to the reservoir due to technical issues.

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Opposition chief whip Tajul Islam no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Opposition chief whip Md Tajul Islam Choudhury passed away last night at a city hospital. He was 73.

He breathed his last at 11:41pm at the Intensive Care Unit of United Hospital. He had been admitted to the hospital on Sunday with heart complaints, said officials there.

The Jatiya Party lawmaker from Kurigram-2 had also been suffering from various age-related complications, including kidney issues, they said.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter, said his personal aide Aminul Islam Rasel.

A resident of Sabujpara

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY IN 1971 5 Patuakhali men get death penalty

Tribunal convicts them for their role in the killing of 17, rape of 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday found five Patuakhali men guilty of committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971 and sentenced them to death.

The five, who were members of notorious Razakar force, were given the punishment for participating and assisting the Pakistan army in the killing of 17 people, rape of 15 women and torture of several others in Itbaria village of Patuakhali Sadar upazila in May of 1971.

"The accused persons in exercise of their affiliation with the locally formed Razakar Bahini deliberately collaborated with the Pakistani occupation army in accomplishing the monstrous crimes as arraigned in both the charges framed," the tribunal said.

The convicts are Esahaq Shikder, 83, Abdul Goni Hawlader, 72, Md Awal alias Awal Moulavi, 69, Abdus Sattar Pyada, 65, and Solaiman Mridha, 86. All of them hailed from Patuakhali Sadar and are behind bars.

Tribunal Chairman Justice Md Shahinur Islam and members Justice Amir Hossain and Justice Md Abu Ahmed Jamadar read the summary of 159-page judgement in presence of the convicts and their family members, the prosecution and the defence.

All the convicts were involved with Convention Muslim League, an anti-liberation political party, and joined locally formed Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistan army, to commit the crimes.

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## Free Shahidul immediately

UN rights experts urge Bangladesh authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

UN human rights experts yesterday urged Bangladesh to immediately release photographer Shahidul Alam, who had allegedly been tortured in custody.

"The arrest and alleged ill-treatment of Alam is extremely worrying and takes place in a general context of a crackdown against young students and others calling for better public governance, reforms and justice in Bangladesh, including media workers and other civil society," said the UN rights experts in a press statement issued in Geneva yesterday.

Also yesterday, the Supreme Court dismissed a petition filed by the government seeking stay on a High Court order that directed the authorities concerned to send the detained photographer to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University for treatment and medical check-up.

The UN expert statement said, "We urge the relevant authorities to immediately release Alam and to take effective measures to have all allegations of torture

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## First space sculpture prepares for launch



MAIL ONLINE

The world's first space sculpture will orbit the Earth for three weeks this autumn - but can only be seen four times a night.

Named, the Orbital Reflector, the installation is the length of a football field and will be launched on one of Elon Musk's SpaceX Falcon 9 rockets.

In the shape of an elongated diamond, it will be seen floating around the planet once every 90 minutes, 350 miles from the surface.

The satellite will be visible in Britain about four times a night as the sun reflects off its shiny surface.

It was created by US artist, Trevor Paglen, whose work seeks to highlight mass surveillance and data protection.

He wants people to consider their place in the universe when looking up at the night sky.

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Police didn't ask for help from anyone

Says IGP about people seen with police during action against protesters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police Mohammad Javed Patwary yesterday said they did not ask anyone to take part in police action during the recent student protest as the force was capable of maintaining law and order under any situation.

He was responding to a journalist's query about the identities of helmeted youths who wielded machetes, iron rods and sticks on several occasions during the protest.

"We never asked anyone to join us. If needed, we will call upon the law-abiding people to join us," he said.

Speaking at a press briefing at the Police Headquarters, Javed avoided answering a question about the identities of the youths.

The briefing was organised to inform the media about the law and order on the occasion of the National

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Hopeful, but not too soon

Foreign secretary on Rohingya repatriation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque sees some progress with regards to the repatriation of Rohingyas although no date has been fixed yet for starting the process.

"I would say something has been done," he told reporters when asked about Myanmar's preparedness to take back its nationals from



PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 14

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-41 8-00  
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-44 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Loaded trucks parked near Shimulia Ferry Ghat in Munshiganj's Louhajang upazila yesterday. Several hundred heavy vehicles remained stranded there as the ferry service was disrupted on Shimulia-Kathalbari route for the third straight day yesterday due to poor navigability in a stretch of the Padma.

SHIMULIA-KATHALBARI  
Heavy vehicles stranded for disruption in ferry service

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Munshiganj

More than 500 heavy vehicles remained stranded at the Shimulia-Kathalbari terminals as ferry service had been disrupted for the third straight day yesterday due to poor navigability in a stretch of the Padma.

While normally, 21 ferries operate through the Shimulia-Kathalbari river-route, only eight small ferries -- Ketoki, Kakoli, Kasturi, Kapoti, Kishori, Dhaka, Comilla and Faridpur -- were being used to carry small and light vehicles.

The ferries were moving through a naturally formed channel marked by Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) beside the main Louhajang channel.

The Louhajang channel and its alternative channel were being dredged continuously, using seven

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