



THE KANCHPUR-MEGHNA-GUMTI BRIDGES ARE BEING BUILT WITH HIGHLY DUCTILE GRADE 420 BSRM ULTIMA BARS



HIGHEST SELLING 12 CEMENT for more than years



GLITCH IN LNG SUPPLY LINE Gas crisis to stay for at least another week

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The ongoing gas crisis is likely to linger for at least another week as engineers are finding it difficult to fix the technical problem in an LNG supply line in Cox's Bazar.

Households and businesses across the country are experiencing supply shortages since Saturday night, when a valve of the off-shore LNG terminal at Matarbari stopped functioning properly.

Gas supply from the reservoir, which has a supply capacity of 500 million cubic feet a day (mmcf), remains suspended since then, leaving the distribution system in chaos.

Engineer Monjurul Hoque, general manager (operations) of Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Ltd (KGDCL), said they were facing a number of challenges to mend the broken pipeline.

"The valve is 120 feet below water. Also, the water there [in Moheskhal] is murky. So it is taking time for divers to reach the supply line," he said.

He could not say exactly long they will take to fix it. "It's hard to say. It may take seven, eight or even ten days."

However, Engineer Md Kamruzzaman, director (operations & mines) of Petrobangla, said they would be able to solve the problem by November 15.

In the meantime, people are experiencing serious supply shortages.

"There is no gas after 8:00am until around 4:00pm. It stays for about two hours and then the pressure gets low till

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A trader ties up a crab with plastic rope before packing it in a box in Chattogram city's Uttar Kattali area. Local traders buy the sea animal from fishermen at Tk 20 to Tk 60 each depending on their size and sell it in Dhaka and Chattogram at Tk 30 to Tk 100 each. The photos were taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

No need to return Tk 615cr to 17 firms, businessmen
SC stays its earlier verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed its earlier verdict that directed the government to return Tk 615 crore to 17 companies and several businesspeople that had been forced to deposit the amount with Bangladesh Bank as tax on their alleged hidden money during the last caretaker government's tenure.

The apex court also allowed the government and the BB to move separate appeals before it against the High Court judgments that had also ordered the government to return the money.

A seven-member bench of the SC's Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain came up with the order after hearing an appeal and 13 review petitions filed by the government and the BB challenging its earlier verdict and a

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Where no party has complete grip

Polls records show Barishal remains a swing division

STAR REPORT

Like Khulna division from which it was carved out, Barishal has been a swing division since 2001.

Records also show that since the 1996 polls, the first after Barishal became a division, the party that bagged the most seats there, won the national polls.

In the 1996 election, no parties had thumped supremacy there. The AL won the election nationally and had secured 11 seats out of 23 in Barishal. The BNP and the Jatiya Party had five seats each.

In 2001, the BNP-led four-party alliance had a landslide victory nationally and Barishal swung towards the alliance. The alliance grabbed 18 seats while the AL got two.

The AL with its alliance bounced back in the 2008 election and Barishal swung towards the AL giving it 18 seats out of 21 while the BNP-led alliance was able to obtain only three.

With the BNP not in the picture, AL got 16 seats in the 2014 polls.

Jatiya Party has lost ground in Barishal over the years. It bagged five seats in 1996, but failed to secure any seat in 2001. Forging alliance with the AL, the party was able to obtain two seats in 2008 and 2014.

The division was formed in 1993 with Barishal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, and

BARISHAL DIVISION

1996	2001	2008	2014
AL-11	AL-2	AL-16	AL-16
BNP-5	BNP-18	BNP-2	
Jatiya Party-5		JP-2	JP-2
Jamaat-1	Jamaat-1		WPB-1
Islami Oikya Jote-1	JP (Manju)-1	Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP)-1	JP (Manju)-1
	Independent-1		Independent-1

Barishal division was formed in 1993. Before this, districts of this division were under Khulna Division.

The division had 23 constituencies in 1991 and 1996 elections.

The number of constituencies came down to 21 in 2008 and 2014 elections due to demarcation of constituencies.

Barguna districts.

Like other parts of the country, intra-party rivalry in the AL and the BNP is prevalent in Barishal.

At least 70 AL and 50 BNP leaders are vying for party tickets in the constituencies, reduced to 21 after the electoral map was redrawn ahead of the 2008 polls.

The aspirants are busy campaigning, lobbying, and putting up banners, festoons and posters.

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JMB leader killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

The chief coordinator of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Shibganj upazila early yesterday.

Police identified the dead as Khorshed Alam alias Salim alias Master, 33, son of Abdul Khalek, of Ghonar Para village of Sarishabari upazila in Jamalpur.

Bogura police officials claim Salahuddin Ahmed alias Salehin is mainly the ameer of mainstream JMB. But, as he is believed to be hiding in India, Khorshed used to lead the Bangladesh chapter of the outfit.

As per the police records, he was the mastermind of killing blogger Shahjahan Bachchu and was the main planner of snatching three important JMB leaders from a prison van on February 23, 2014 at Trishal in Mymensingh.

"Alam was the most wanted JMB leader, who played a key role in organising the outfit," said a high official of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit. "We were looking for him for a long time."

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China unveils new space station



AFP, Zhuhai

China yesterday unveiled a replica of its first permanently wowed spectators as they zoomed across Zhuhai's sky. Back inside, the country displayed its fleet of drones and other military hardware.

Crowds gathered around the cylindrical space station module representing the living and working

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Turkey won't abide by US sanctions on Iran: Erdogan

REUTERS, Ankara

President Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday Turkey would not abide by the renewed US sanctions on Iran's oil and shipping industries, adding that they were aimed at "unbalancing the world".

The comments came a day after Washington re-imposed sanctions on Iran, abandoning a 2015 deal between world powers and Iran over its nuclear programme. The US measures temporarily allow some major customers, including Turkey, to continue buying Iranian crude.

Speaking to reporters in parliament, the Turkish president attacked the sanctions.

"These are steps aimed at unbalancing the world. We don't want to live in an imperialist world. These issues will be put on the

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France arrests six over plot to attack Macron

REUTERS, Paris

French police yesterday arrested five men and a woman, all from the radical far right, suspected of plotting to attack French President Emmanuel Macron, an official close to the investigation said.

The source said France's domestic spy agency (DGSI) ordered the raids in three different regions after obtaining intelligence that raised suspicion of an "imprecise and loosely-formed" plan for "violent action" against the president.

Police sources said the six were members of the radical far right in France.

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A man votes at the Greenspring Retirement Centre during the mid-term election day in Fairfax, Virginia in the USA yesterday.

US votes in midterm polls

Democrats likely to take the House, GOP to retain senate; Trump says American dream at stake after a divisive campaign

AGENCIES

After a divisive campaign marked by fierce clashes over race, immigration and other cultural issues, Americans yesterday voted to determine the balance of power in the US Congress and shape the future of Donald Trump's presidency.

The first national elections since Trump captured the White House in a stunning 2016 upset will be a referendum on the polarising Republican president and his hardline policies, and a test of whether Democrats can turn the energy of the liberal anti-Trump resistance into victories at the ballot box.

Striking a dark tone at a rally in Indiana on Monday evening, Trump accused Democrats of "openly encouraging millions of illegal aliens to break our laws, violate our borders and overrun our country."

All 435 seats in the US House of Representatives, 35 US Senate seats and 36 governorships are up for grabs in elections focused on dozens of competitive races from coast to coast that opinion polls show could go either way.

Democrats are favored by election forecasters to pick up the minimum of 23 House seats they need for a majority, which would enable them to stymie Trump's legislative agenda and investigate his administration.

Republicans are expected to retain their slight majority in the US Senate, currently at two seats, which would let them retain the power to approve US Supreme Court and other judicial nominations on straight party-line votes.

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 7
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-00 12-45 3-45 5-25 7-00
JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-30 7-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION