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Low gas pressure hits port city

Fall in LNG supply main reason; authorities blame each other

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, *Chattogram*

For the last one week, dwellers in various parts of the port city have been experiencing low pressure of gas in their burners due to the inadequate LNG supply.

The crisis is hampering the daily lives to a great extent while the state-owned companies for gas supply and distribution are busy blaming each other for the trouble.

"It has made our life chaotic. The pressure of gas in the morning is too low to cook, forcing us to buy unhealthy food from outside," said Nuran Akther, a resident of West Khulsi.

"I usually avoid buying restaurant foods for my child, but I am helpless now," she added with a sigh of disappointment.

Similar situation prevails in Halishahar, Chawk Bazar, Bakalia and Akbar Shah areas.

Mohona Akther, a resident of Bogor Bill area in Bakalia, said low pressure persists at least for eight hours every day -- usually from 6:00am to 2:00 pm.

"It's really tough to prepare food for my family in such a low pressure as it takes much time. If I make them wait for food, they will be late for office," she added.

Officials of Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KGDCL) and Petrobangla blamed inadequate supply of LNG for the suffering. But Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Limited (RPGCL), the company designated for LNG supply, is claimed that there was no shortage of supply.

Contacted, Khaiz Ahmed, managing director of KGDCL, said that normally they receive 350 MCF (million cubic feet) of LNG a day from the Petrobangla, but the amount dropped down to 250 MCF last week, causing the crisis.

The port city consumes 400 MCF of gas a day, he said, adding that they did not know why the supply was short.

Contacted, Managing Director of RPGCL, Kamruzzaman said there is no shortage of supply. We supply gas as per the demand of Petrobangla which

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Thanks to construction projects, a thick cloud of dust reduces visibility even in broad daylight yesterday on Dhaka-Mawa road in the capital's Jurain area.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Unbearable loss strikes twice

Couple loses 16-day-old son months after daughter's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kabir Hossain and his wife Laizu Begum were still reeling from the shock of losing their eleven-and-a-half-year-old daughter Anila, who passed away around eight months ago after battling kidney diseases for long.

And yesterday, another tragedy struck the couple.

Their sixteen-day-old son, Mohammad Abdullah, died after he fell on the ground from his aunt's arms being hit in the face by a piece of brick on Jonaki Road in the capital's Mirpur-1.

Holding Abdullah, his aunt Tamim Sultana was standing in an alley in front of their tin-shed house when a three-and-a-half-year-old child accidentally dropped a brick from the roof of an adjacent three-storey building, said Dadon Fakir, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station.

The accident happened around 10:00am when the child was playing with another boy on the roof, he said.

Sultana is a ninth grader at a school in

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Trump renews threat over wall

Says he might use emergency powers to bypass Congress; govt shutdown nears record length

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump, facing the prospect within days of the longest US government shutdown in history, was considering declaring a national emergency that would likely escalate a policy dispute with Democrats over his proposed US-Mexico border wall into a court test of presidential power.

To escape a political trap of his own making, Trump suggested strongly on Thursday that he might declare an emergency so that he can bypass Congress to get funding for his wall, which was a central promise of his 2016 election campaign.

He originally pledged Mexico would pay for the wall, which he says is needed to stem the flow of illegal immigrants and drugs. But the Mexican government has refused. Trump is now demanding that Congress provide \$5.7 billion in US taxpayer funding for the wall.

That is opposed by Democrats in Congress, who call the wall an ineffective, outdated answer to a complex problem. The standoff has left a quarter of the federal government closed down and hundreds of thousands of federal employees staying home on furlough or working for no pay and set to



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Nepal pitches for Saarc summit

Says dialogue key to address differences

PTI, New Delhi

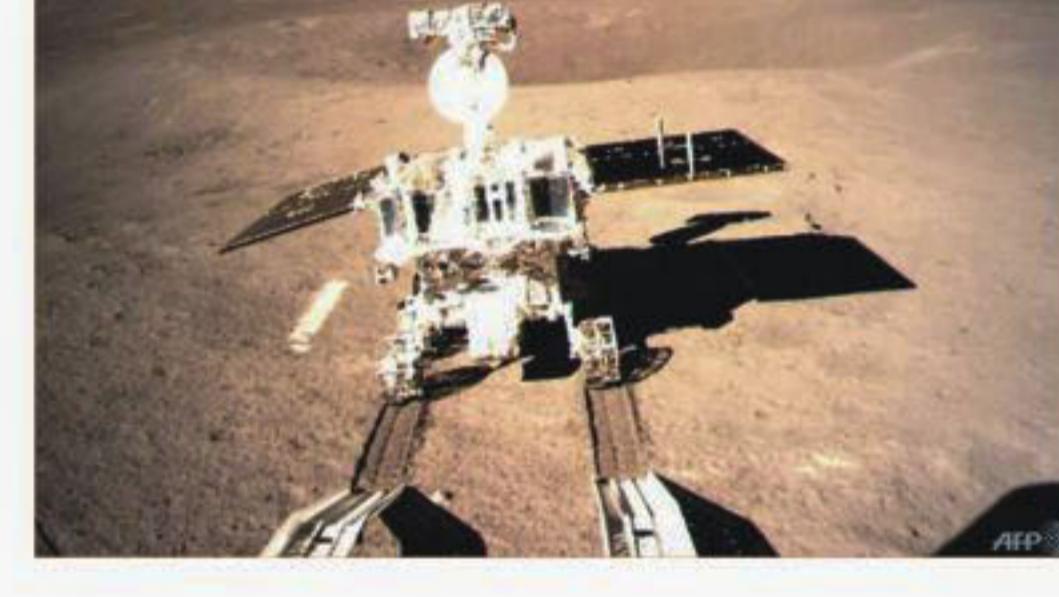
Nepal yesterday strongly pitched for convening of the Saarc summit, saying differences should be resolved through dialogue and the grouping should collectively deal with terrorism and other key challenges facing the region.

Nepalese Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali also cited last year's historic talks between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Singapore, saying dialogue was the only way to address differences.

"If US President Trump and North Korea's Kim can meet, then why not (leaders of) other countries," he

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China moon rover wakes from nap



AFP, Beijing

China's lunar rover got back to work on the far side of the moon Thursday after waking from a five-day hibernation, its official social media page announced.

"Afternoon nap is over, waking up and getting moving," the Yutu-2 (Jade Rabbit-2) posted on the Twitter-like Weibo.

The rover on last Saturday went into standby mode to protect itself from temperatures reaching towards 200 degrees Celsius (390 degrees Fahrenheit), the China Lunar Exploration Program under the China National Space Administration (CNSA) said.

The 140-kilogram (308-pound) rover has since resumed activities, which will include taking a

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'Robber' killed in 'gunfight' with police

UNB, Kishoreganj

A suspected robber was killed in a "gunfight" with police at Bajitpur upazila in Kishoreganj yesterday.

The dead is Arshaf Uddin, 30, of the district's Bhairab upazila. He was accused in multiple robbery cases.

Shariful Islam, additional superintendent of police in Kishoreganj, said one of their teams raided Bajitpur's Ujanchar Beelpar area around 2:30 am on information that a drug dealing was taking place there.

"Our team came under fire as soon as it reached the spot," he said, adding, "Arshaf was killed during a 'gunfight' that followed."

Police claimed to have recovered a shotgun, 100 yaba tablets, 15 bottles of Phensedyl and five bullets from the spot.

IEP TERROR INDEX Bangladesh moves four steps up

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has improved four notches to the 25th place among 163 countries with a score of 5.697 in the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2018 of the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).

Last year, the country scored 6.181 and ranked 21st according to IEP, a global think-tank headquartered in Sydney, Australia.

Bangladesh is among the four nations in South Asia that have experienced decline in terror attacks

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 12
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:00 5:36 7:00
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:40 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Crowds throng an entrance of the International Trade Fair yesterday. The number of visitors multiplied on the weekend.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Reuters journos to remain in jail

Myanmar court rejects appeal against 7-yr sentences; ruling decried as another injustice

REUTERS, Yangon

A Myanmar court yesterday rejected the appeal of two Reuters reporters sentenced to seven years in jail on charges of breaking the Official Secrets Act, saying the defence had not provided sufficient evidence to show they were innocent.

Wa Lone, 32, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 28, were convicted by a lower court in September in a landmark case that has raised questions about Myanmar's progress towards democracy and sparked an outcry from diplomats and human rights advocates.

"It was a suitable punishment," said High Court Judge Aung Naing, referring to the seven-year prison term meted out by the lower court.

The defence has the option of making a further appeal to the country's supreme court, based in the capital Naypyitaw.

"Today's ruling is yet another injustice among many inflicted upon Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo. They remain behind bars for one reason: those in power sought to silence the truth," said Reuters Editor-in-Chief Stephen J. Adler in a statement.

"Reporting is not a crime, and until Myanmar rights this terrible wrong, the press in Myanmar is not free, and Myanmar's commitment to rule of law and democracy remains in doubt."

In their appeal arguments last month, defence lawyers

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