



**FASTBUILD**  
PROVIDES RODS OF ANY SHAPE AND SIZE AS PER DESIGN

BSRM  
building a safer nation

**DHAKA METRO RAIL**

Proud Construction Partner



**SHAH CEMENT**

## Gas supply resumes in Ctg, pressure low

Poor supply leads to load-shedding; residents, businesses, industries suffer throughout the day

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

A technical glitch at a floating LNG terminal in Moheshkhali was fixed on Friday night, but the gas supply to Chattogram remained spotty until last evening due to low pressure in the pipeline.

Power generation also fell, leading to load-shedding in many places yesterday, because of poor supply of liquefied natural gas.

Till the evening, the country faced up to 700MW load-shedding, according to the data of the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh.

"Gas supply from the terminal resumed Saturday [yesterday] morning after engineers fixed the glitch," said Gautam Chandra Kundu, general manager (marketing) of Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited.

"The pressure did not reach the expected level immediately. It has been increasing gradually, and we expect households, businesses, and industries in Chattogram to get gas supplies by noon," he told The Daily Star last morning.

However, gas did not reach the majority of the port city's households until late at night, exacerbating the suffering of residents, businesses, and industries throughout the day. Residents in most parts of the city struggled to cook meals for the second consecutive day due to the crisis.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Shakib Al Hasan wears a wry smile while Tamim Iqbal looks stonefaced as they shake hands at the end of a Bangladesh Premier League match between Rangpur Riders and Fortune Barishal at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The frosty relationship between two of the best cricketers of the country has provided for ample news fodder in the past few months and may yet continue as Tamim, captain of winners Fortune Barishal, said after the match that there was no exchange of words between them during or after the match.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## JP to be opposition in new JS

Hopes GM Quader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Jatiyo Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said he was hopeful of his party becoming the opposition party in the new parliament.

Speaking to journalists in Ramgaur city's Senpara in the afternoon, he said the JP was the opposition party of the last parliament.

"We always played the role of the opposition party for the welfare of the country and the nation. We did constructive criticism of the government, highlighted irregularities and corruption in it and made recommendations. We are still doing this politics," he said.

Quader said there are mainly two parties in the new parliament — the Awami League and the JP.

He said the AL formed the government after winning majority seats and the JP is a separate political party with 11 MPs.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

## Butcher slain for 'selling beef at cheaper price'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A butcher was stabbed to death allegedly by some of his fellow traders in the Arani Bazar area of Rajshahi's Bagha upazila yesterday morning.

The family of the victim, Al Mamun, 38, alleged that he was killed for selling meat at a cheaper price.

Mamun started selling beef at the weekly market for Tk 600 per kg about six months ago, Tk 100 less than the other traders, said his brother Manik Ali.

This angered some traders, who recently threatened Mamun over the price issue, he added.

Md Sujon, a meat trader of the market, said, "Al Mamun was murdered for selling meat at a lower price."

He said some traders, including Al Mamun's cousin Mizanur Rahman Khokon, rebuked him yesterday morning for selling beef at a lower price.

Around 10:30am, a customer went to Khokon's shop to buy meat. Unhappy with the price offered, he went to Mamun's shop, which made Khokon furious, said Sujon.

At one stage, Khokon and some other traders attacked Mamun with sharp weapons used for cutting meat, he added.

Mamun died on the way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, said Aminul Islam, OC of Bagha Police Station.

The victim was stabbed thrice in the chest and abdomen, said doctors at the RMCH.

His body was sent to the medical college morgue for an autopsy.



Al Mamun

## 'ISRAELI STRIKE' ON DAMASCUS

# Iran intel official among 10 killed

Tehran says it reserves right to avenge

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday blamed Israel for a strike on Damascus, saying it "reserves the right to respond" after the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said four of its members had died.

Foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said Tehran would respond "at the appropriate time and place", and condemned "frequent violations of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity and an escalation in aggressive and provocative attacks" by Tehran's arch-foe Israel.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said 10 people were killed in the Israeli strike on the Mazzeh neighbourhood of the capital.

In recent weeks, Israel has been accused of intensifying strikes on senior Iranian and allied figures in Syria and Lebanon — backers of the Palestinian group Hamas — raising fears the Gaza conflict could expand.

"The Revolutionary Guards' Syria intel chief, his deputy and two other

Guards members were martyred in the attack on Syria by Israel," Iran's Mehr news agency said, quoting an informed source.

In a statement, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) confirmed it lost four of its members in the strike that it



accused Israel, its regional arch-foe, of carrying out.

The Guards' Sepah news agency said the "evil and criminal Zionist regime (Israel)" killed four of its military advisers. It identified them as Hojatollah Omidvar, Ali Aghazadeh, Hossein Mohammadi and Saeed Karimi.

The mid-morning strike, which caused a large plume of smoke to billow into the sky, was also reported by Syrian state media.

The war-torn country's official news agency, SANA, said a residential building in Damascus' Mazzeh neighbourhood had been targeted in what it called "an Israeli aggression".

The Syrian defence ministry said the strike killed "a number of civilians".

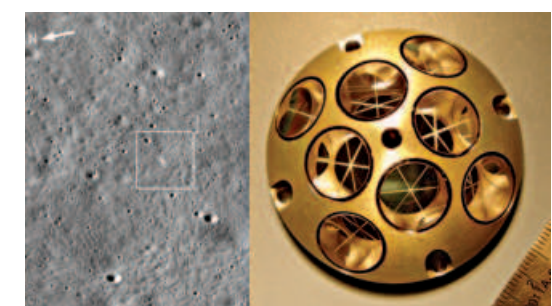
An AFP journalist at the scene said the building had been reduced to a heap of debris. It was cordoned off with ambulances, firefighters and Syrian Arab Red Crescent teams on site as rescuers searched for survivors.

"I heard the explosion clearly in the western Mazzeh area, and I saw a large cloud of smoke," a resident told AFP, requesting anonymity for security concerns.

"The sound was similar to a missile explosion, and minutes later I heard the sound of ambulances," he added.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## Nasa laser bounces off India's Vikram moon lander



OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A spacecraft of Nasa, orbiting the moon, sent laser beams which successfully bounced off a tiny mirror-based instrument on board the lander that is now on the lunar following India's landmark moon mission last year.

Nasa's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), which has been going around the Moon since June 2009, did the laser beam experiment on December 12 last year and both Nasa and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) made public the result on Friday.

The experiment thus positions ISRO's Vikram lander on the moon a landmark in the south pole region on the lunar surface.

The beams sent by LRO came off the Laser Retroreflector Array (LRA), a two-inch wide dome-shaped instrument studded with eight finely-polished mirrors, which are designed to tap and reflect light coming in from any direction, the two

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

## Framework to stop spread of rumours on the cards

Says state minister for information

UNB, Dhaka

The government is considering an effective framework to hold those spreading disinformation and rumours accountable.

"A framework on how to hold those who spread disinformation and rumours accountable is under consideration," State Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Mohammad A Arafat, said yesterday.

In preventing propaganda, he said, the government is ensuring that freedom of expression and the media is not hindered.

The information state minister made the announcement on X (formerly known as Twitter). On January 14, Arafat made the same remarks about formulating a framework to combat disinformation and rumours.



As the service hours of the metro rail's Agargaon-Motijheel section have been extended till 8:40pm from yesterday onwards, the number of commuters increased significantly with many jobholders using the metro to get home after work. The photo was taken from the Farmgate area around 8:00pm. Story on Page 3.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Dhaka, Delhi ties deepening

Jaishankar tells Hasan Mahmud

UNB, Dhaka

Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar yesterday said Bangladesh-India relations are growing from strength to strength.



Jaishankar

Hasan Mahmud

Jaishankar said he was glad to meet his new Bangladeshi counterpart, Hasan Mahmud in Kampala, Uganda, on the sidelines of the 19th NAM Summit.

"I congratulate him [Hasan] on his appointment and wish him all success," said the Indian External Affairs Minister.

Both ministers discussed various issues of mutual interests and ways to carry forward the existing excellent bilateral relations between the two countries, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

They also discussed Hasan's upcoming visit to New Delhi.

Hasan Mahmud led the Bangladesh delegation to the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held on January 19-20.

He will also lead the third South Summit of the G77 and China scheduled to be held on January 21-22.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen, Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN Muhammad A. Muhith, and Bangladesh High Commissioner to Kenya

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4