



Qazi Shahana Parveen, Farzana Hussain Soma and Sabrina Sultana of Bangladesh, who won the Sixth SAF Games 50m standard rifle team event gold medal at the Gulshan shooting Range Wednesday. The result was confirmed only yesterday due to a technical hitch. — Star photo.

## Indians march on

From Page 1 Col 7  
Pakistan were in a bit of a soup from the onset and yesterday saw them putting an end to their gold drought. Their young swimmers brought them the maiden gold of this meet in a relay event.  
Hosts Bangladesh made rather nebulous progress with another gold in addition to their previous collection of five confirmed Tuesday.  
They now have six golds and cling to the third position with total of 20 medals. Yesterday, a silver medal came Bangladesh's

way' from judo. The country's bronzes suffered no rearrangement in number. The hosts can look forward to one or two golds from the remaining swimming and shooting events. But our punchers offer more reassurance of silvers in the boxing events to come. Two of them have passed the semifinal barriers and whatever happens in the final, they should bring two more silvers. Not very rosy, but then better something than nothing!

## Khatme Nabuyat firm to hold confce today

Tahfuze Khatme Nabuyat, a collection of various religious groups, will hold its planned conference at Manik Mia Avenue here today despite a government request to postpone it in view of the SAF Games, reports UNB.

Leaders of the alliance told a rally in front of the National Press Club yesterday that they had decided to hold the conference after Juma prayers at a special council session earlier in the day.  
Khatme Nabuyat leaders, including the Khatib of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque Obaidul Haq and Khelafat Majlis chief Shaikhul Hadith Moulana Atzur Rahman addressed the rally.  
Earlier, an official handout said leaders of the Tahfuze Khatme Nabuyat met with the Home Minister Wednesday night and decided to postpone their scheduled rally.

## US visa

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tailing the procedure may be published in newspapers any time in 1994.  
Bangladesh Bank today said, as no fees will be required for submitting applications, remitting money for the lottery for the purpose of visa and co-operation from any individual or firm in the USA is also not necessary.

Sources in the central bank say, they are apprehending that a large amount of US dollar has already left the Bank's coffers to reach the US lawyer. The Bank, however, is not yet aware of the exact amount.  
According to sources, the amount might have run into several millions in US dollars because in the last OP-1 lottery, there were about 7.5 lakh applicants.

The central bank would also request the commercial banks to discourage clients from sending money for the lottery.  
The sources said that following the foreign exchange liberalisation in the country, the BB has no role other than requesting the Banks to restrict the remittance of foreign exchange.  
The bank itself cannot impose any restriction.

Meanwhile, the sources in the US embassy in Dhaka say the lawyer had cleared the advertisement with the embassy here before publication of the advertisement in the newspapers.

They said, they should not prevent the publication of the advertisement as there was nothing illegal about it. But at the directive of the embassy, the Advertiser asked the people not to go to the US embassy for any query, the sources added.

## Govt to do all to protect tribal culture: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday opened here a fortnight long special exhibition on the culture and heritage of the tribal people of Bangladesh, the first of its kind in the country, reports BSS.

She said the exhibition, portraying the lifestyle, culture and heritage of the tribal people, would consolidate the bond of our national unity.

The Prime Minister said the tribal people had been maintaining their existence with their own characteristics and lifestyle and added her government would do everything possible to flourish and protect the tribal traditional way of life and culture.

Begum Zia said Bangladesh is known as the country of peace and amity from time immemorial and the people of different religions, caste and culture are living here without any discrimination.

There is neither enmity and difference nor any cultural conflicts among the members of different communities, she said adding all we live here are Bangladeshis.

Organised by Bangladesh National Museum, the exhibition displayed homes traditional costumes, household articles and weapons of about 26 tribes of Bangladesh.

There are now about 20 lakh people of 30 tribes living in Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Bogra, Rangpur, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Cox's Bazar, Patuakhali, Barguna, Sylhet, Rangamati, Mynmensingh, Kushtia, Jamalpur and Tangail.

The Prime Minister said specific programmes had been taken for the welfare of the tribal people.

Begum Zia underlined the need for carrying out more research on the tribal people's history, culture and heritage. Measures have been taken to preserve their cultural identity, she said.

## Tragic!

By DMCH Correspondent  
Participation in a 'dress as you like' competition proved fatal for a 12-year-old girl Salma in the city yesterday.

Salma, who put on a saree to take part in the Victory Day Dress As You Like competition, caught fire in the kitchen before going to school on December 17.

Seriously injured by the fire, Salma was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where she died yesterday after fighting with death for seven days.

## AL may nominate Hanif for DCC mayor

Awami League Presidium yesterday held a meeting discussing matters relating to the forthcoming city corporation elections and party nominees, reports UNB.

Sheikh Hasina president of the Awami League and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, chaired the meeting at 29 Minto Road.

Sources said the meeting asked the Dhaka City Awami League to submit a list of probable candidates for the posts of Mayor and Ward Commissioner today.

They indicated that Awami League is expected to field Mohammad Hanif, President of City Awami League, to contest election of Dhaka City Corporation Mayor.

December 29 has been set as the date for filing nomination papers by candidates for the Dhaka City Corporation. Voting will take place on January 30.

## BSRS role remains undefined

From Page 1 Col 4  
sick industries identified by the Sick Industries Revival and Rehabilitation Cell. The Cell also identified the reasons for their sickness, which include high rate of interest on loan, delay in completion of the projects due to bureaucratic tangles, over saturation of sectors, high rate of gas and electricity, political unrest, deteriorating law and order situation, frequent changes in the government policies, lack of coordination among the concerned ministries, non-availability of working capital, instability in the market, defective and unrealistic financial appraisal prepared by the banks and financing institutions and natural calamities.

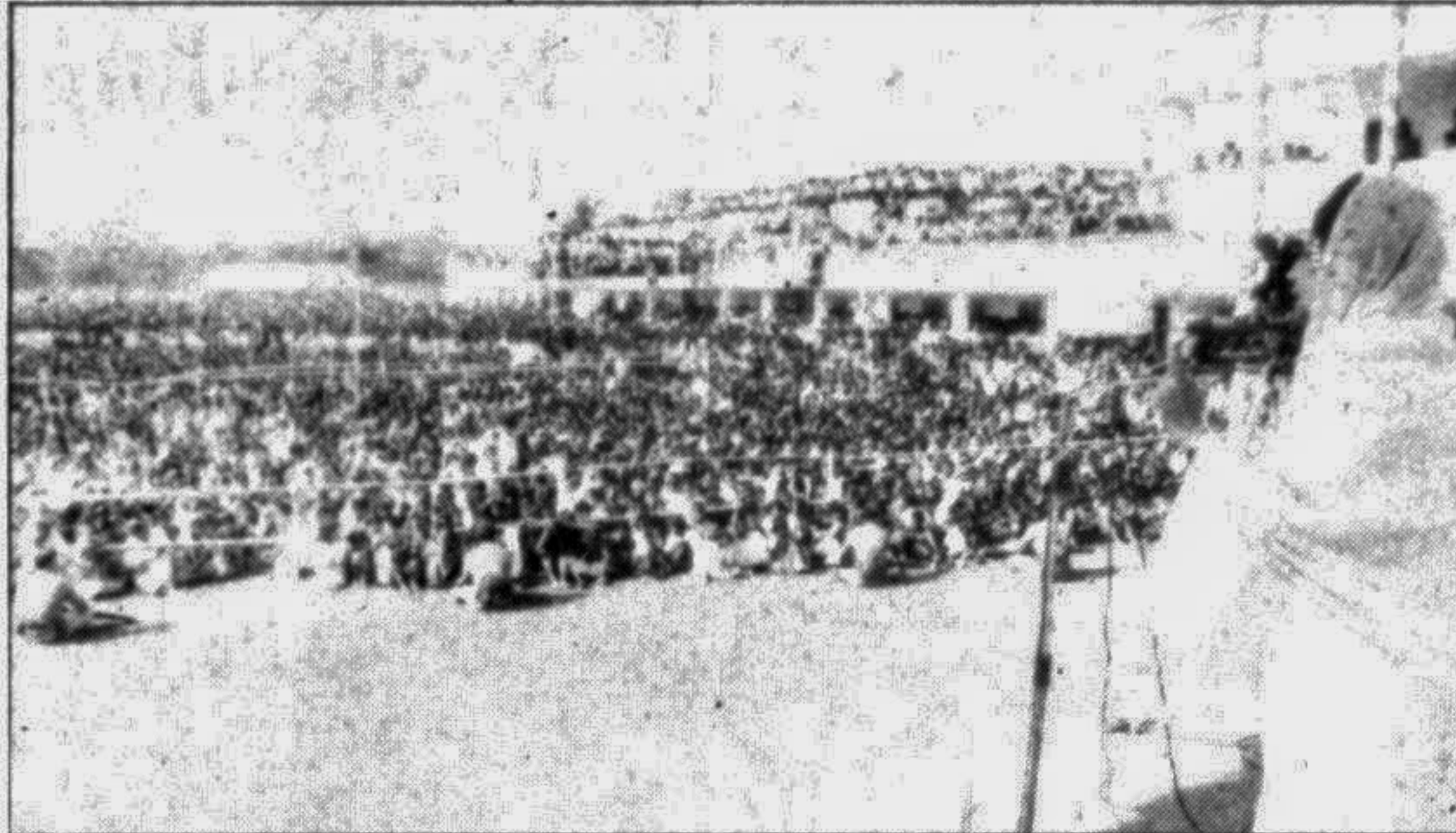
After submission of the report of the Cell, the government directed the banks and financing institutions to rehabilitate the sick units and suggested that the rehabilitation would be on the basis of bank-client relationship.

A Review Committee was also formed under the chairmanship of Mir Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment, to look into the cases of those industries who would be denied of fresh loans for rehabilitation.

Accordingly, a number of BSRS-financed projects applied to the Review Committee after their disagreement with the conditionalities imposed by the DFI for rehabilitation.

The BSRS proposed for rehabilitation of a project only if the entrepreneurs agree to accept two directors in the company nominated by the BSRS. The quorum of any meeting of the company shall not be formed if one of the two directors nominated by the corporation remains absent in any meeting.

Moreover, according to the terms of rehabilitation, a portion of interest waivable would constitute the equity of the nominated directors. vis-a-vis, BSRS which is more than 50 per cent of the paid up capital of the company.  
The leaders of the BSRS Entrepreneurs Forum, talking to The Daily Star termed the conditionalities 'peculiar and unethical' and said these are contradictory to the government directives and the Companies Act, 1913. These are also against the smooth running of the industries, they added.  
They alleged that instead of working normally in line with other banks and DFIs, the BSRS by 'unilateral and mala fide' ap-



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at the Hajji Korap Ali Memorial Degree College ground at Kamarkhand thana in Sirajganj district yesterday. — PID photo

## Sarbahara activities

From Page 1 Col 7  
Party. Purbabanglar Sarbahara Party, Purba Banglar Communist Party and the Ganabani of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD).

The area was once a stronghold of the JSD since 1974 but its activities became weaker in the mid-80s and have been totally eliminated.

The Purbabanglar Sarbahara Party (Kamrul) started open politics and has now disowned the armed Sarbaharamen still active in the region. Kamrul was killed in a cross-fire in Barisal from where he had marched towards the Jessore region in 1987.

The Purbabanglar Communist Party spread in the area in 1990 but its cadres are now active only in some small, isolated armed bands, local political sources said.

Only the Bangladesh Biplobi Communist Party, led by Abdul Huq, remains active in the areas. In addition to its traditional armed struggle, the party has

## A large number of RAW agents held: Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Dec 23: Pakistan said today it was holding a large number of Indian intelligence agents sent into the country on sabotage missions, reports Reuters.

The Foreign Ministry said agents of the Indian intelligence organisation 'Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)' had been arrested 'over a certain period of time.' He did not say how many.

'We have arrested a large number of RAW agents in Pakistan and we call upon the government of India to halt the nefarious activities of this agency in our country,' a Ministry spokesman said.

The Pakistani spokesman accused Indian authorities of trying to defame Pakistani intelligence agencies, particularly Islamabad's Inter-Services Intelligence.

He said Islamabad had 'full information' about RAW's activities abroad, particularly in Pakistan and other neighbouring countries.

## Bangladeshis

From Page 1 Col 8  
lal, Dr Sajed Kamal, Dr Gulshan Ara Kazi among others.  
The committee intends to inform the people from different sectors on Farakka through seminars and meetings.

It would also mobilise opinion to pressurise Bangladesh and India to resolve the crisis and pursue the US Congress and Senate for exerting their influence over the two countries.

## Govt determined

From Page 1 Col 7  
for protecting the local industries and urged upon all to identify the smugglers to bring them to boom. 'It will be very difficult to protect our industries if smuggling is not curbed.'

The local leaders and MPs informed the Prime Minister of various problems of their areas, including the displacement of people due to river erosion.

Begum Zia said the Cabinet has recently approved the amendment of a law allowing the owners of char land to retain its ownership and informed that a bill in this regard will be placed in Parliament in the next session.

The law was amended in 1972 creating a provision that any land devoured by the river will be declared khas land.

The Prime Minister assured the local people of looking into their problems. More roads and bridges will be constructed in the thana and educational institutions will be provided with additional financial support, she said.

Responding to the demand of students of a local college, she said, the college will be nationalised as per the government policy, but 'before that I want you to free it from violence.'

Earlier, Begum Zia planted a 'neem' sapling at the college premises. After the meeting she distributed poultry and cattle among the distressed women.

## Two mayors

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ference 'I have decided to resign to ensure an impartial election, as well as to meet the requirement of the law for the January 30 polls.'

'Right now I will leave the office of the Chittagong City Corporation since I have resigned,' he told newsmen at the conference room of the Corporation.

Mir Nasiruddin was appointed Mayor on May 12, 1991 while the three others in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna were appointed on May 17, 1991.

Meanwhile, candidates have already submitted their nominations for the three city corporations elections in Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna while nominations for the polls in Dhaka will be submitted on December 29.

## Nusrat: Benazir

From Page 1 Col 4  
before he was executed in 1979 by the late military president General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq on controversial charges of conspiracy to murder.

She charged her daughter with usurping the party leadership that she said should have been inherited by her sole surviving son, 39-year-old Murtaza Bhutto.

Nusrat's support for Murtaza in October's elections triggered the family feud and the rift has widened since Murtaza Bhutto returned last month from Syria after 16 years of self-imposed exile and was arrested on terrorism charges.

Murtaza won a seat in the provincial assembly of southern Sindh in the elections and is now in a Karachi jail, facing four charges ranging from insurgency to attempting to topple the government by force in the 1980s and carrying the death penalty.

However, Nusrat said she had accepted an invitation from her daughter to accompany the Prime Minister on a visit next month to Davos, Switzerland, to attend the 24th session of the World Economic Forum and would take the opportunity to discuss the family differences.

The Prime Minister has tried to play down the family feud, saying that she loves her brother and hopes that as the law takes its course he will clear his name.

Brother and sister have yet to meet since his return to Pakistan.

Allowed out of jail to attend a session of the provincial assembly in Karachi, Murtaza this week criticised his sister's government saying she had failed to implement the party manifesto and calling on her to reinstate her mother.

## The Midnight File

### Conte re-elected President

CONAKRY, Dec 23: Guinea's military leader General Lansana Conte was re-elected President in the country's first multiparty poll, the Interior Ministry announced today, but his main opposition rival said the result was a 'coup d'etat'. Conte, who came to power in April 1984 in a military coup a month after the death of dictator Ahmed Sekou Toure, was re-elected after winning 50.93 per cent of the vote after the first round on Sunday, ahead of Alpha Conde of the opposition Guinean people's rally with 20.85 per cent, the ministry said, reports AFP.

### Algeria commutes death sentence of Frenchman

ALGIERS, Dec 23: The ruling council Thursday commuted a death sentence issued to Frenchman for aiding Muslim militants in an insurgency against Algeria's military-backed government. In place of the death sentence, the council imposed a life prison term on Roger-Didier Guyan, the Foreign Ministry said in a communique. It noted that the French government had appealed for clemency. Guyan, a convert to Islam, was arrested in June 1991 while transporting firearms, explosives and guerrilla-war instruction manuals in his vehicle, reports AP.

## Population growth

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years) are: 5,50,25,958 of which 2,81,01,467 are men and 2,69,24,491 women. They constitute 49.37 per cent of the total population.

According to the 1991 census, the State Minister said, country's literacy rate is 32.4 per cent of which men make up 38.9 per cent and women 25.5 per cent. The literacy rate is 27.9 per cent in rural area, 57.0 per cent in poura area and 40 per cent in other urban area.

The literacy rate was 24.62 per cent in 1981.

In 1991, enrolment of students in the 5-24 age groups was 36.5 per cent which was 21.9 per cent in 1981. Of them, boys constitute 40.7 per cent and women 32.2 per cent.

Dr Khan said 4.14 per cent 5 year plus population passed at least class one in 1991 against 32.7 per cent in 1981.  
Of the total population, 88.3 per cent are Muslims, 10.5 per cent Hindu, 0.6 per cent Buddhist, 0.3 per cent Christian and others 0.3 per cent.

## Castro's daughter

From Page 1 Col 5  
'very symbolic of the national consensus in Cuba.'

Fernandez has long been a critic of the Cuban government and once described Castro as a 'tyrant' to a reporter.

A former model, Fernandez has said that her main memories of Castro are from her childhood when the Cuban leader visited the apartment she shared with her mother, still a supporter of the revolution.

Until recently, she lived in a relatively wealthy section of Havana with her own daughter.

Fernandez has refused to use Castro's surname and the Cuban leader has not acknowledged her as his daughter. She has said that she has not spoken with him in years.

Fernandez once married a Mexican, but Cuban authorities denied her permission to emigrate with him to Mexico. He eventually left Cuba without her.

**বকেয়া আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান**

প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের ব্যবহার মূল্যবান বন সম্পদ রক্ষা করে পরিবেশের ভারসাম্য রক্ষায় সহায়তা করে। গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ করে পরিবেশ সুরক্ষণে এগিয়ে আসুন।

গ্যাসের সঠিক ব্যবহার মূল্যবান বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা সাধন করে অর্থনীতিতে সমৃদ্ধি আনে।

বকেয়া আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে তিতাস গ্যাস আওতাভুক্ত সকল এলাকায় সরকারী ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানসহ সকল খেলাপি গ্রাহকের গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান ১৭ই অক্টোবর '৯৩ থেকে পুনরায় শুরু হয়েছে। ১৯৯৩-৯৪ অর্থ বৎসরের উক্ত দ্বিতীয় বিশেষ অভিযানে ২২-১২-৯৩ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত মোট ১৭২৭টি গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন করা হয়।

সকল সম্মানিত গ্রাহককে অবিলম্বে বকেয়া গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করে সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকারী দলকে গ্যাস ব্যবহারের স্থানে বকেয়া পরিশোধের রশিদ প্রদান করার অনুরোধ জানানো হল। সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকৃত গ্রাহক বিকাল ৫-০০ টার মধ্যে কোম্পানীর সংশ্লিষ্ট জোন/অফিসে পরিশোধিত বিলের রশিদ দেখাতে পারলে তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে পুনঃ সংযোগ প্রদানের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন ও (বিল) মাসের মধ্যে পুনঃ সংযোগ না নিলে গ্যাস সংযোগ স্থায়ীভাবে বিচ্ছিন্নকরণসহ গ্যাস সরবরাহ চুক্তি বাতিল করা হবে।

বকেয়া আদায় এবং গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ ও সুরক্ষণকরণে সকলের সহযোগিতা আমাদের একান্ত কাম্য।

**তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড**  
(পেট্রোলিয়ামের একটি সার্বস্বত্বকারী কোম্পানী)  
ফোনঃ ২০২২০০, ২০২১৭২, ২৪৪৪৬২, ১১২১০৪-৪২

"গাছ লাগান, গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান" — প্রধানমন্ত্রী

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