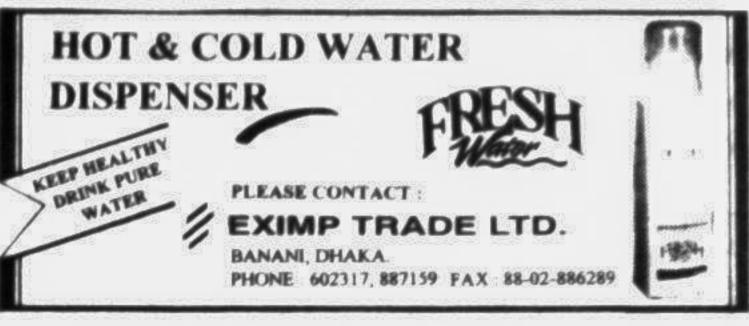
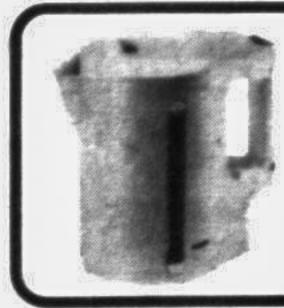


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DHAKA TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 1996

The Baily Star____

World leaders greet Hasina

12 The Baily Star

Presidents and Prime Ministers of different countries yesterday felicitated Sheikh Hasina on her assumption of the office, reports BSS.

Ryutaro Hashimoto

In a message Japanese prime minister Ryutaro Hashimote said, 'I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to you (Hasina) with my best wishes that your sustained efforts toward political and economic stability should contribute to further development of your country.'

Benazir Bhutto

Pakistan prime minister Benazir Bhutto said, 'It affords me particular pleasure to congratulate you on your assumption of office of prime minister of Bangladesh

"We in Pakistan are committed to expanding and further strengthening the excellent relations that so har this exist between our two broth erly countries. My government is ready to cooperate with you government to work towards this laudable objective for the mutual benefit of our two countries and peoples."

Maumoon A Gayoom Maidives president Mati

moon Abdul Gayoom wished Sheikh Hasina every success in discharging the great responsibilities of her high office.

Sher Bahadur Deuba

Nepalese prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba said " take this opportunity to express my best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Bangladesh under you able leader ship. I am confident that the close and friendly relations so happily existing between our two countries will be further strengthened during your

Hasina meets prominent

tenure of office.

citizens Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina vesterday informally met with a group of prominent citizens and discussed different issues related to welfare of the people and priorities of

the government, reports BSS. The citizens congratulated Sheikh Hasina on her assumption of the office of the Prime Minister and suggested different measures to be taken to improve law and order and other areas of vital interest to the citizens.

Those present on the occasion include former cabinet secretary Mujibul Haq, Poet Shamsur Rahman, FBCC President Salman F Rahman. Shamsul Haq Chowdhury of Lawyers Coordination Council, Lt. General (retd) Atique Rahman, former adviser Anisuzzaman, Syed Hasan Imam, Principal Ahad Chowdhury, industrialist Abdul Awal Mintoo, former secretary Harun-ur Rashid, writer Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, former secretary Asafuddowla, ATAB chairman Dr Iqbal, MP, traders association's Haji Salim MP and Khandker Rashiduzzaman Dudu of the FBCCI

Sheikh Hasina is expected to meet more such people in the near future.

PM: Diplomats

From page 1

Hasina hoped that all would render support to her during the tenure of her office and for her government in carrying out the difficult tasks of na-

tional reconciliation and nationbuilding. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury Kaiser, Principal Secretary Syed Ahmed and Secretary to the PM Mohiud-

din Khan Alamgir were pre-



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the officials to render their sincere and dedicated services to translate into reality the hopes and aspirations of the people in its true perspective.

reports BSS. "While carrying out the responsibility of the republic. please do consider that you are the servants of the people and not their masters". Hasina told this while addressing, for the first time, the officers of the Prime Minister's Office at

Referring to the commitment and pledges made by her to the people. Sheikh Hasina

Criminal convicted in absentia held

By Staff Correspondent A criminal convicted in ab-

sentia was arrested from near the 'Joykali Mandir' in the city late Sunday night. According to police, Liagat

was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment in a case filed un der the Anti-terrorism Act. He is also wanted in more than 15 other cases, including the Ja trabari bus fire case. A Noakhali-bound bus

caught fire on December 4. 1995 at about 11:30 pm soon after it had left the Savedabad terminal with 31 passengers on board. The incident left at least 12 persons dead. Police had earlier arrested

some notorious criminals including Abed and Sentu-According to a police press release. Liagat who had fled to a neighbouring country during the period of the caretaker government, had returned only

two days ago.

withdrawn.

Highlights

From page 1

reports freely. * Subsidy to agriculture sector and farmers, if needed. * Repressive laws to be

 Public service sectors to be freed from nepotism, corruption and abuse of power. * Full support to free mar-

ket economy. * Fixing minimum wage for workers.

* Womenfolk to feel secure on the streets and at workplace; mugging, repression on women to be dealt with iron hand.

* Government officials to perform responsibilities in a free atmosphere and without interference; officials of the republic to be given promotion only on the basis of professional efficiency and compe-

* Establishment of corruption-free society. Action against those who have in-

dulged in corruption. Dream of Sonar Bangla not to be confined to the national

sent during the meeting. anthem only.

BNP shadow cabinet From page 1 spond to the call by the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in governing the country on the basis of national consensus. Prof Choudhury said. "It's still ambiguous to us whether Sheikh Hasina has formed a coalition government or a government of national consensus. We'll re-

spond to her call only after this ambiguity is over." Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, talking to newsmen at his Sangsad chamber, said he was now only a custodian of the office he is holding and was awaiting his successor. He also expressed his satisfaction over

his role as the Speaker saying. "I did my best ... I'm happy." Replying to a question, the Speaker said that, in his view, the constitutional provision and the laws relating to the election of 30 reserved seats for women were contradictory. He said the relevant laws provided for all the 300 MPs to take part in the election of the reserved seats for women while by-elections to the seats vacated by the MPs who won from more than one seat would

have to be completed before

going for the election of the

female MPs Talking to newsmen former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said he wished

success of all in the new government On his winning from two constituencies, a confident Saifur said it was the result of his hard work as far as election campaign was concerned and his role as the Finance Minister. He also claimed that he

was 'forced' to concede defeat from the third seat. About the former BNP government's role, particularly in the economic field, Saifur

Rahman claimed it had put the national economy on a solid basis and said it was the duty of the new government to further strengthen the economy. Oli Ahmed, another BNP

lawmaker and a former minister, observed that the new government was a coalition government and not a government of national consensus.

KM Obaidur Rahman, former secretary general of the BNP, remarked that it would be easier for him to identify the mistakes committed by the 1973 Awami League government since he was a minister of that government.



said that she had taken the

task of running the govern-

ment only to "work for the

people." "It's a hard job" she

said adding "We want to ren-

der our services to the welfare

of the people shunning all

kinds of party and ideological

followed by her in running the

country's affairs. Sheikh Hasina

said that no real development

of the country could be made

without achieving the eco-

nomic emancipation of the

people. She advised the offi-

cials to extend their services

through a "team-work" so that

they could reach the desired

the country sought allout and

sincere cooperation from offi-

cials in rank and file so that

the government could fulfil its

pledges to the nation. Sheikh

Hasina also said that she would

listen and look after properly if

there was any problems of the

Ahmed in his introductory

speech assured allout coopera-

tion and services of the offi-

From page 1

The new prime minister,

who changed their lot

plundering the resources of

who took over Sunday, how-

ever, assured that no action

would be taken against anybody

just only to take revenge or to

to uphold the rights and dig-

nity of humans in every sphere

and establish Insaf as a

cornerstone of the sate man-

agement," she said, calling

upon the countrymen to boy-

cott socially the corrupt peo-

wanted to make the Jatiya

Sangsad the centre for resolv-

ing and discussing all prob-

lems, allowing the parliament

to be a sovereign organ in true

ernment decisions exchanging

views with all," she said and

called upon all political parties

and Members of Parliament to

take the Sangsad to that envi-

action on prioritising mainte-

nance of law and order. Hasina

said all crimes and terrorist

activities, including extortion-

ism, murder, snatching, re-

pression on women, would be

dealt with an iron hand and il-

sary bill to ensure the inde-

pendence of the judiciary will

be introduced in parliament in

Turning to politicisation of

the administration. Hasina said

from now on all appointments

and promotions of employees

of the republic would take

place on the basis of profes-

sional efficiency and eligibility.

not on the loyalty to the party

She referred to the coun-

try's Constitution which de-scribes the employees of the

Republic as servants of the

people, and said her govern-

ment was determined to im-

chain of command in every tier

of the administration to make

Bank, the Asian Development

Bank, all foreign and bilateral

development partners that all

the accords and understand-

ings signed by the past gov-

ernment would be honoured

Pointing out her commit-

ment to set up and flourish ru-

ral-based cottage industry, she

said privatisation process in

industrialisation would be con-

tinued while the government

involvement be reduced gradu-

. In trade and commerce, the

government would continue to

omy, Hasina said, adding that

they would keep an eye so that

local industries with their

support the free market econ-

for the 'sake of continuity.'

"We want to establish the

Hasina assured the World

plement this objective.

it effective," she said.

order to establish justice and

the rule of law in the country.

Moreover, she said, neces-

Referring to her initial re-

ronment and possibility.

legal/arms be hauled up.

"We want to adopt key gov-

sense.

Hasina said her government

"We are firmly determined

the country and its people.

harass anybody illegally.

cials to the government.

Principal Secretary Syed

The new Prime Minister of

benefit to the people.

Explaining the outlook to be

differences

officers.

during the movement. The cabinet laid emphasis on the need for making utmost efforts to implement Annual Development Programme (ADP) to infuse vigour into the

economy At the beginning of the meeting, members of the cabinet stood in silence for one minute to pay tribute to the memories of Bangabandhu, his wife and other family members assassinated on August 15 in 1975, four national leaders -Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Mansur Ali and Md Qamruzzaman — killed in jail custody and for the martyrs of all democratic movements since the historic Language

Movement of 1952. BNP MPs visit

Zia's mazar Parliament members of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) after taking oath at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday afternoon visited the mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and placed wreaths there, according to a party source. The MPs were led by party leaders AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury

and Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

Hasina's address to nation

products can compete with

workers would be ensured so

that they can lead an improved

life while sound labour policy

integrating the workers and

employers be formulated, she

her government policy, the lo-

cal government system would

be strengthened further and

made dynamic, building a local

government structure with

elected representatives

through a democratic process.

media, she said radio and tele-

vision are people's property

and these could not be the

personal property of any indi-

radio and television would be

given autonomy so that these

could not become only the

propaganda machine of the

government. "The real picture

of our glorious tradition of

ment, advancement, hopes and

aspiration, art, literature and

cultural flourishment will be

projected on the national

broadcasting media," she said.

ter said, state-owned newspa-

pers would be privatised as

soon as possible. "In such a

way, we want to ensure further

free flow of information to the

people," said Hasina, who led

her Awami League party to

victory in June 12 general

paying deep respect to father

of the nation Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Sher-

e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque, Hos-

sain Shaheed Suhrawardy.

Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan

Bhasani, Syed Nazrul Islam,

Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansur Ali

tyrs of the Language Move-

ment, 6-point and 11-point

movement, mass movement in

1969, the War of Liberation

and on August 15, 1975, and

in different movements for

establishing the rights of the

Allah for allowing Awami

League, which secured major-

ity in the parliamentary elec-

the nation.

tion, the opportunity to serve

expressed her gratitude to the

people of Bangladesh who lent

their massive support to her

party to help it form govern-

"It's the victory of justice

and true struggle over injus-

tice. It is the triumph of the

desire of the people of

Bangladesh. Vengeance, snob-

bery, corruption and misrule

have been defeated through

Election Commission, all re-

turning officers, presiding offi-

cers, polling officers and offi-

Hasina appreciated the

ment after long 21 years.

this election," she said.

The prime minister also

Hasina thanked Almighty

those who sacrificed their lives

She also recalled the mar-

and AHM Kamruzzaman.

Hasina began her address

Moreover, the Prime Minis-

struggle, national develop-

She said both the state-run

vidual.

election.

On the state-run electronic

Also, she said laying down

Minimum wages for the

goods from abroad.

kinds of sufferings during the recent movement. It also decided to review the cases filed

Directive

Russia starts pullout from Chechnya Friday

MOSCOW, June 24: The commander of Russian forces in Chechnya said today he would begin pulling troops out of the region at the end of this

week, news agencies reported says Reuter. Itar-Tass and Interfax quoted Lieutenant-General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov as saying the 245th mechanised infantry regiment, one of the main federal army units in the breakaway region, would begin

to withdraw on Friday. He told a news conference in the Chechen capital Grozny that the move was unilatera and imposed no new conditions on the separatist guerillas who have fought the army for 18 months. "Now the ball is in their court, Interlax quoted

Chechen separatists and the Russian government agreed at peace talks earlier this month that a withdrawal of Russian forces should be completed by August 30 with the rebels lay ing down arms at the same The two sides also agreed

him as saying.

to exchange prisoners and are currently trying to settle on lists of those believed held. Russia has previously an nounced plans to withdraw in

cials and employees involved

with the election, and the

members of the all forces for

adviser and other advisers of

the caretaker government and

the President, and hailed the

political parties, irrespective

of winner and losser, for their

role in consolidating the

making the country free from

terrorism and illegal arms she

said: "We want a terrorism-free

society, secure life and sound

and gentle atmosphere where

teachers-students will estab-

lish a congenial environment

tion of general people in estab-

lishing their franchise, she an-

nounced that her government

had already directed the con-

have also been directed to

withdraw false cases filed

against those who took part in

the recent movement while

necessary treatment will be

given to those injured in the

great responsibility to run the

country at a crucial time. It is

not possible to perform this

duty alone," Hasina said, call-

ing upon the people of all

walks of life to lend their sup-

port and cooperation to her

and her government in carry-

ernment would be able to

translate the dream of Banga-

bandhu Mujib into reality.

turning Bangladesh into a self-

reliant country fulfilling the

Some changes

in admin

sioner to Singapore Moham-

mad Abdul Malik, who re-

turned home on completion of

his assignment, has been ap-

pointed as officer on special

duty (Secretary) of the Estab-

lishment Ministry, reports

naging Director of Bangladesh

Biman Corporation Lt Col

(retd) Mohammad Joynul

Abedin, the present Chairman

of Bangladesh Handloom

Board, has been placed under

the Civil Aviation and Tourism

Ministry to send him back to

the Corporation, said a PID

sain, deputed to Bangladesh

Silk Board as Secretary, has

been appointed as Deputy Di-

rector (Admin) of Bangladesh

Defence, the handout said.

Mohammad Mosharraf Hos-

handout last night.

The service of Deputy Ma-

Bangladesh High Commis-

basic needs of the people.

She hoped that her gov-

ing out their responsibilities.

"You have given me the

Highlighting the contribu-

Stressing the need for

democracy

for learning

down their lives.

movement.

She also thanked the chief

holding the polls neutrally.

The withdrawal announced by Tikhomirov is likely to boost President Boris Yeltsin's re-election prospects in a run off for the presidency against Communist Gennady Zyuganov

dividual units from parts of

Chechnya or beyond the re-

gion's borders, but it is not

clear that troops numbers

have been reduced

estimated at around 40,000 -

on July 3. Yeltsin has been under pressure from political rivals, whose support he is seeking in the second round of voting

to end the conflict which has

cost more than 30,000 lives.

Khulna dist, city BCL committees dissolved

KHULNA, June 24: The Khulna district and city committees of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) have been dis-

From Our Correspondent

The dissolution of the two committees was ordered by the party's central committee on Saturday

Meanwhile, according to a BCL press release, a 21-member convening committee has been formed to run the affairs of the party till August this

No reason has been given for the dissolution of the committees.

PM's working day

AK Fazlul Haq.

Hasina entered her chamber at the Prime Minister's Secretariat at around 10 am and later chaired the first meeting of the new Cabinet at

In her office, she first read the day's newspapers for sometime and then addressed the officials and employees. Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen

Mahbubur Rahman, Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Jamaluddin Ahmed and Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Nurul Islam called on the Prime Minister at her office. Diplomats had a goodwill

cerned authorities to provide meeting with Sheikh Hasina at adequate compensation for the her office in the afternoon. families of those who laid Sheikh Hasina, who began The concerned authorities

her day's programme from her Dhanmondi residence was scheduled to spent last night at the same house before she shifted to 'Korotoa', previously state guest house, and now refurbished as Prime Minister's Official Residence, said sour ces concerned. Meanwhile, a strong secu-

rity-blanked manned by Special Security Force (SSF) was seen around Hasina's Dhanmondi residence yesterday.

The Midnight Eile

Clinton reassures Arafat of full support

GAZA CITY, June 24: President Bill Clinton reassured Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat today of his full support for the Palestinian authority and the peace process with Israel, a Palestinian official said. In a written message transmitted to Arafat by Edward Abingdon, the US consul-general in Jerusalem Clinton "reaffirmed the United States commitment to the pursuit of the peace process," said Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rudeine, reports AFP.

Sunday's police action

Hasina regrets, asks all concerned to be very careful

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed sorrow for the police action on photo journalists who went to the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on Sunday to cover the swearingin ceremony of the newly elected members of Parlia-

ment, reports BSS The Prime Minister expressed her heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the untoward incident and instructed all concerned to be very careful in their dealings with public and journalists.

Heavy rains in Rangpur low-lying areas flooded

From Our Correspondent RANGPUR, June 24. Low 'y ing and char areas in the district have gone under water following heavy rains and a rise in the Teesta, Ghagot and other rivers during the last one week. Standing crops and homesteads along the banks of the rivers have also been inun gaten Road links in the flood

Garments From page 1

The victims were trapped

than three hours to extinguish the fire. Rescue operations by the fire brigade continued till last night.

hit areas have been disrupted.

inside the factories as all the gates were locked at the time Some of the workers, however managed to escape to an adjacent building, witnesses said. The extent of damage could

not be estimated immediately. Witnesses and some local people alleged that the main gates of the building could not

be unlocked immediately as the guards were not seen there at the time. A female worker of Trimode France Ltd told this correspondent that normally the gates were locked during the lunch break from 1 pm to 2 pm. At the time, most of the

workers go out of the factory

while those who bring their

food with them stay inside.

Around 1000 workers, mostly

female, work in the two garments factories, she added. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Home Minister Mai (rtd) Rafigul Islam visited the

spot last night. Meanwhile, police were deployed at the spot. A case has been filed with Pallabi thana in this connec-

EC: Returns From page 1

years, the EC sources pointed

Priority to the June 12 elections, the EC had to issue reminders to many candidates who failed to submit the statements on sources of their electioneering funds. It was reported that about

700 candidates, including some prominent leaders, had failed to submit the statements on sources of funds.

Noajesh new

GM of BTV

By Staff Correspondent Noajesh Ali Khan has replaced Mustafizur Rahman as the General Manager of the Bangladesh Television, accord-

ing to official sources. Mustafiz has now been made Director (Training). TV

The changes were made by the caretaker government on Sunday, the official sources

added. The newly appointed General Manager had earlier

served BTV as Director, Film Unit of the development related programmes. Ctg-Cox's Bazar

road link yet

to be restored From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, June 24: The road communication between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar remained snapped for the fourth day today. Three bridges on the highway collapsed following the onrush of water

from hills on Friday night. Two bridges have meanwhile been repaired.

Wreaths

From page 1

ficed their lives in the Liberation War. I pray to the Almighty that their sacrifices do not go in vain." Earlier in the morning.

Sheikh Hasina along with the ministers went to the Central Shaheed Minar where she placed wreaths in memory of the martyrs of the historic Language Movement.

The Prime Minister also went to the mazars of Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy and Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haq and placed wreaths there. The Prime Minister and members of her council of ministers offered special munajat seeking the blessings of the almighty for the eternal peace of the departed souls.

BNP MPs-elect From page 1

swearing-in of 106 MPs of the BNP at the Committee Room No 1 of the Sangsad Bhaban at 5:36 pm.

He also separately conducted the oath-taking of the former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at his chamber at 7:30 pm after he notified the Parliament Secretariat on his decision of retaining the Moulvibazar-3 seat and vacating the Sylhet-4 seat.

Both Begum Zia and Saifur Rahman were present during the swearing-in ceremony of other MPs-elect of their party. Prior to taking his oath

another BNP MP Oli Ahmed retained the Chittagong-14 constituency while vacating the Chittagong-13 seat. Earlier on the day, the Speaker also conducted sepa-

rately the swearing-in of MPs-

elect Ali Asraf (Comilla-6) of the Awami League and Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad (Comilla-3) of the Jatiya Party. Until yesterday, 283 of the 300-member parliament had

been sworn-in as members of

the new parliament.

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এড ডিষ্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)

ফোনঃ ৯৫৬৩৬৬৭, ৯৫৬৩৬৬৮, ৯৫৬৩৬৭০, ৮১২১৩৫-৪২

মেসার্স পিপল্স গ্লাস ইভাষ্ট্রিজ লিমিটেডের বিরুদ্ধে অবৈধভাবে গ্যাস ব্যবহারের অভিযোগে স্থায়ীভাবে সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন ও মামলা দায়ের

গত ২২-৬-৯৬ইং তারিখে গাজীপুর জেলা প্রশাসন ও পুলিশ প্রশাসনের সহযোগিতায় একজন প্রথম শ্রেণীর ম্যাজিস্টেটের নেতৃত্বে গাজীপুর জেলার কোনাবাড়ীস্থ মেসার্স পিপল্স গ্লাস ইভাষ্টিজ কর্তৃক অবৈধভাবে নির্মিত গ্যাস লাইন অপসারণ করিয়া গ্যাস লাইন সংযোগ স্থায়ীভাবে বিচ্ছিন্ন করা হইয়াছে এবং গ্রাহকের বিরুদ্ধে অবৈধভাবে গ্যাস ব্যবহারের অভিযোগে স্থানীয় থানায় মামলা দায়ের করা হইয়াছে

ইতিপূর্বে উক্ত কারখানার গ্যাস মিটার ও রেগুলেটর (আরএমএস) বাইপাস করিয়া হুস পাইপের মাধ্যমে অবৈধভাবে গ্যাস ব্যবহারের ঘটনা কোম্পানীর জয়দেবপুরস্থ আঞ্চলিক বিক্রয় অফিস কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক হাতে নাতে ধরা পড়ে এবং গত ২৪-১১-৯৫ইং তারিখে নিয়মানুযায়ী আরএমএস খুলিয়া গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন করা হয়। কিন্তু ২৬-১১-৯৫ইং তারিখে গ্রাহক কোম্পানীর বিরুদ্ধে একটি মামুলা দায়ের করিয়া গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন না করার উপর নিষেধাজ্ঞা লইয়া গ্যাস পুনঃসংযোগ গ্রহণ ব্যতিরেকেই অবৈধভাবে সরাসরি গ্যাস লাইন নির্মাণের মাধ্যমে কোন নিয়ন্ত্রক ছাড়াই বিপদজনকভাবে গ্যাস ব্যবহার করিতে থাকে। এরপ সংবাদ প্রাপ্তির ভিত্তিতে তিতাস গ্যাস কোম্পানীর উর্ব্বতন কর্মকর্তাগণ গত ২৮-১১-৯৫ইং তারিখে কারখানাটি পরিদর্শনে গেলে গ্রাহক পক্ষ বাধা প্রদান করে এবং মারমুখী হইয়া **আক্রমণ করে। যাহাতে নিশ্চিত হও**য়া যায় যে কারখানাটিতে **অবৈধ লাইনের** মাধ্যমে গ্যাস ব্যবহার হইতেছিল এবং মিথ্যা মামলা করিয়া এই অবৈধ গ্যাস ব্যবহার দীর্ঘায়িত করার চেষ্টা করা হইতেছিল।

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