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Let's make things better



Ganges Barrage

From Page 1
for International Cooperation of Japan said, "We recognise the need for constructing the barrage but we could only finance the barrage as part of a World Bank consortium."

More than 150 experts on water resource management from home and abroad at the seminar discussed socio-economic and environmental status of the Ganges dependent area and its options for development.

In the opening presentation of the four part session, the Nepalese Secretary of Water Resources Ministry, Dr Dwarika Dhungel, while sharing his country's experiences, said, "Although Nepal possesses abundant water resources, the level of its utilisation has been minimum. The vision of water resource development as an 'engine of growth' is derived from the fact that this sector has the potential to offer benefits not only to Nepal but also to its neighbours."

He said, "It has not been possible to utilise seasonal flow of river water because of high costs required to construct diversion structures across the rivers. There are immense prospects for contributing to lean season flow if high dams are constructed."

Held at the International Conference Centre, the seminar was organised by the Ministry of Water Resources in collaboration with WB, ADB and the Japanese government.

Presenting his paper at the seminar, ADB's Senior Project Engineer Jeremy D Bird said, "For a project (Ganges Barrage) of this magnitude it is essential that the first step be such a broad area-based analysis."

He said, "We consider that a study, like that conducted for the north-west region of the country, but with greater linkages to cross-border potential, should be undertaken prior to

pre-feasibility or feasibility level investigations of a Ganges Barrage."

Presenting his paper on "Ganges Water Sharing Treaty and the Resulting Opportunity," Professor Ainun Nishat of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) said, "Both India and Bangladesh agreed for a solution to increase dry season flows of the Ganges and referred the questions to experts in the Indo-Bangla Joint Rivers Commission (JRC)."

He further added, "There were several proposals from both sides. Bangladesh's proposal was constructing 22 new dams in India and seven in Nepal that would regulate the monsoon flows and provide a dry season flow of 4,600 cubic meter per second, sufficient for both countries. But no consensus emerged on the plan."

He pointed out that "distribution of Ganges flows into the Ganges Dependent Area appears to be the answer. Although a barrage solution would be expensive, it appears to be one of the few feasible economic alternatives to permanently restore flow in the quantities needed."

Among others who presented their papers at the seminar were, M N Siddiqui, a former member of Water Development Board, Dr Kholiuzzaman Ahmad, Chairman of Bangladesh Ummanay Parishad, Masood Ahmad, Senior Irrigation Engineer, WB, Molar Singh Monga, Director of Policy and Planning Division, Mekong River Commission, Bangkok, Dr Masato Uwagawa, Professor of Department of Natural Sciences, Kamazawa University, Japan.

On the concluding day today, experts will suggest Plan of Actions. The session will be chaired by the Secretary of Ministry of Water Resources, Dr ATM Shamsul Huda.

Speaker orders probe

From Page 1
Sangsad Bhaban yesterday morning by one Mozammel Haq, who identified himself as political secretary to ruling Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumdar. He sought redress from the Chair."

Later, Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Opposition Chief Whip Khondakar Delwar Hossain, and Kamal Ahmed Majumdar also took the floor to give their versions on the issue.

After listening to all, the Speaker told the House that the incident of assault was a grave one and that on his instruction, an investigation had already begun.

"I'll let you know about the investigation and assure you that proper steps would be taken against persons responsible," he said.

Earlier, referring to his previous day's statement on an incident involving an MP from Mirpur area, Faruq alleged, "Though I did not mention the name of any MP yesterday, I became prey to assault today."

Majumdar, however, said

that he had no political secretary and he was necessarily dragged into this incident.

Khondakar Delwar demanded exemplary punishment to those involved in assaulting Faruq.

At this point, Badruddoza Chowdhury exhibited a visitor's pass issued for Mozammel Haq on the reference of Majumdar and said, "It's a disgrace that now he is saying he doesn't know Mozammel." Recalling that in past, four other BNP lawmakers were assaulted, Prof Chowdhury wondered how could lawmakers speak for the people when their lives were at stake.

Zillur Rahman said the incident of assault might have been a preplanned one and asked "How could Mozammel's pass reach you (Prof Chowdhury's) hand?" He, however, expressed his sorrow if any such incident had taken place.

Prof Chowdhury then said that his party colleague Abdul Mannan would explain how the pass reached BNP's hand.

But, without allowing this debate to continue further, the Speaker informed the House about his instruction for investigation into the incident.

One stabbed to death by muggers in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 9: Muggers stabbed a passerby to death and snatched Tk 8,000 from him this morning near Almas cinema hall.

Police said the victim was identified as Nurul Alam, 40. He came under attack at around 7:30 am today while traveling with the money on the Almas cinema hall road. A case was filed with Kotwali thana in this regard. None was arrested so far.

Bookbinder beaten to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

A middle-aged bookbinder was beaten to death allegedly by his younger brother on Madan Saha Lane under Shatrapur thana in the city yesterday afternoon.

Police identified the dead as Taheruddin, 40, son of late Shukuruddin.

He was killed allegedly by his younger brother and also his business partner, Shahannuddin, following a dispute related to their business. The younger brother has been absconding since the incident, police said.

None was arrested till filing of this report in connection with the incident. Shatrapur police were preparing to lodge a case in this regard.

TV coverage

From Page 1

the House.

In this regard, Rahman also reminded the Speaker that the recent AL-BNP agreement provides for neutral coverage of the JS proceedings.

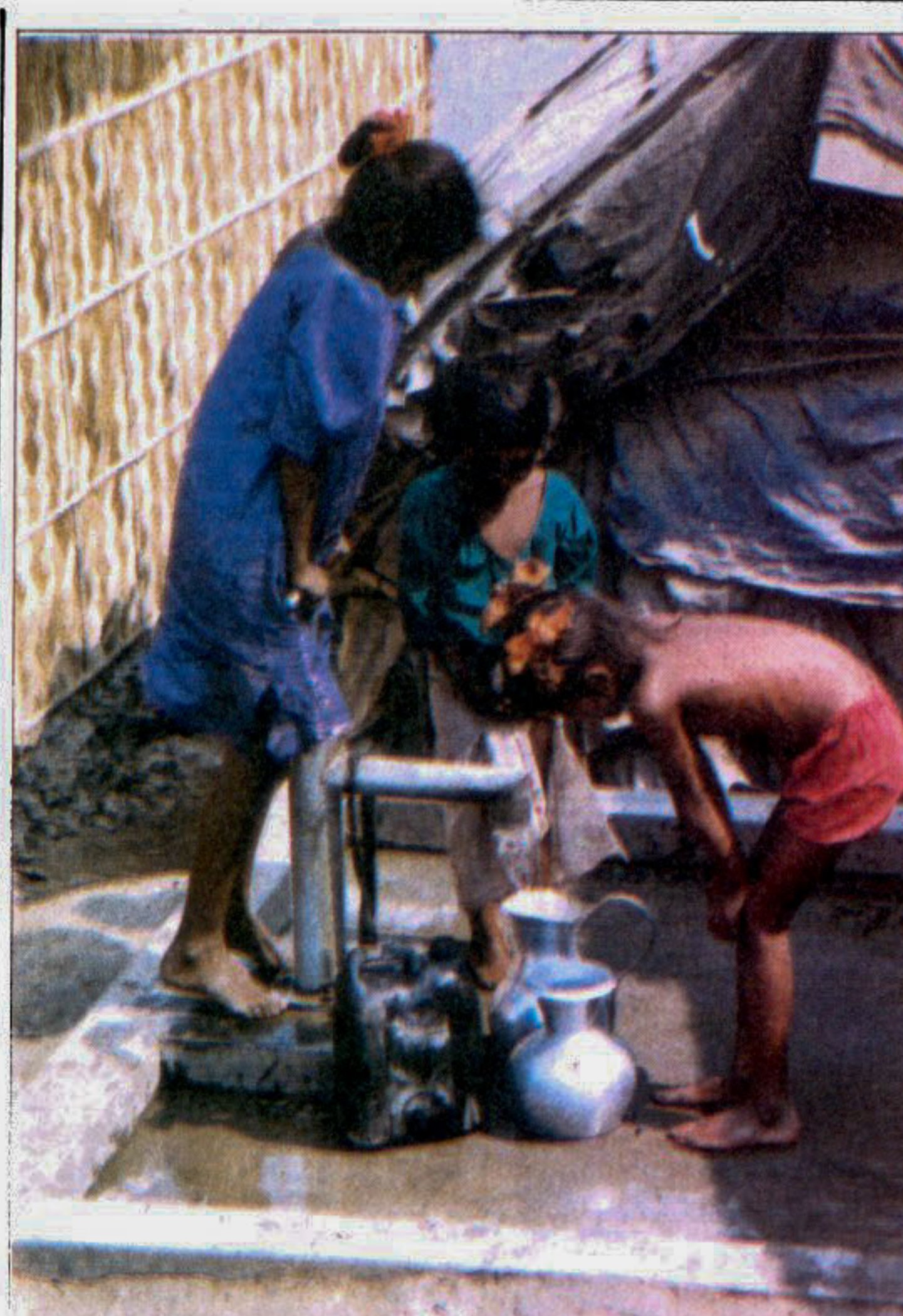
Another BNP lawmaker, MK Anwar echoed Rahman's sentiment and added that the 10 pm English bulletin also covered the report on records of rape in the country in a biased manner.

Explaining, he said the news bulletin mentioned the records of alleged rape cases during the BNP rule from 1991 to 1996 while blacked out those during the 1996-97 period under the present AL government.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed rose to say that no exception was made to the agreement as yet. The TV and the radio were covering the Sangsad neutrally as per the agreement. The deliberations by lawmakers of both the Treasury and the Opposition benches in the House were not telecast by the BTV on Sunday while radio broadcast live the entire proceeding on the day, he added.

Referring to the AL-BNP agreement, Tofael said the JS Business Advisory Committee would decide on measures to telecast live the general debate in the House.

Speaker Humayun Rashid Choudhury, who brokered the agreement between the two sides, told the House they should evolve a mechanism for BTV coverage of JS proceedings and take necessary steps for its implementation.



A new type of tubewell is becoming popular day by day. This picture was taken from a city slum yesterday. —Star photo

Kerb market traders

From Page 1

accused by the Securities and Exchange Commission of manipulating the market in the wake of a boom in late 1996.

The all-share price index of DSE rose to 3642 points in November 1996 and yesterday, it declined to 630.47 points, the lowest in 46 months.

Yesterday's trouble began at 11:45 am and Salman along with his company officials left under escort at about 2 pm, witnesses and police said.

The youths set on fire a red carpet rolled out in honour of Salman, who was accompanied by Beximco executives, witnesses said.

Police, who normally guarded the DSE entrance, were withdrawn earlier last week.

Witnesses said a group of 12 to 15 youths rushed into the DSE building, chanting slogans against the chairman and other DSE officials.

They went up to the trading floor on the seventh floor of the building adjacent to the DSE building and demonstrated there. They came down when stopped by DSE guards.

The meeting was arranged as part of DSE's current effort to revive the flagging market, discussing the way out with financial institutions, listed companies and government officials.

While group meetings, dominated the public relating of DSE, yesterday's meeting was exclusively meant for Beximco, DSE officials said.

Meanwhile, a DSE press release, said "A group of armed miscreants entered the trading floor with the intention of looting. When they were stopped, they came down and entered the DSE office. They took away some articles and set fire to those on the street. They also damaged vehicles plying on the street. Later police brought the situation under control. Police is investigating and DSE authorities have demanded exemplary punishment to them."

In a separate press release, DSE said its chairman Rakibur Rahman held a meeting with the vice chairman of Beximco, managing director and directors. At the outset of the meeting, he briefed them on the reforms DSE had made to boost the market. The company executives urged all to work together to overcome the crisis in the capital markets. The meeting suggested more transparency in the activities of companies stressed introducing central depository system, the press release said.

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Gas shortfall

From Page 1

Replying to a barrage of questions, Noor Uddin said the government has no plan to export gas to India.

He said the demand for gas has been increasing by about 9 per cent per year. With the present demand rate, the stock of 10.76 trillion cft of gas in the existing 11 gas fields will be exhausted by the year 2020.

The Minister said the Sangu gas will be supplied to northern districts and used to set up power stations at Sirajgonj and Baghabari. If possible, the gas will also be applied to set up another power station at Naogaon, he added.

Responding to Nazimuddin Alam (BNP-Bhola), Khan told the House that the government has an ambitious plan to develop the Shabbazpur gasfield in Bhola.

He said that under the plan, a 20 MW power station will be established in Bhola, a 20 MW station in Gopalganj, 145 MW station in Barisal and 145 MW station in Khulna. Besides, a fertilizer factory will be set up in Bhola.

In reply to Abdul Latif Mirza (AL-Sirajgonj), the Energy Minister said a plan is under consideration to set up a 300 MW combined cycle power plant at the western side of the Bangabandhu bridge over Jamuna river. Pre-selection of the entrepreneurs are now under process.

Replying to Srimati Bharati Nandi Sarkar (AL), he said the country's power deficit about 20 to 250 MW. The government has taken certain measures to produce 800 MW of electricity to meet the power shortage.

Bangabandhu

From Page 1

ber 3, 1975.

Replying to queries, Abdul-lah said he was second secretary of Bangladesh mission in Abu Dhabi during the period from August to December 1975. "Relations between the two countries at that time was cordial," he said.

The witness denied a defence suggestion that the Foreign Ministry unexpectedly took part in the investigation of the Bangabandhu murder case. He said it is not known to him whether the Foreign Ministry was involved in any other case during the last 28 years.

He said he didn't attend any meeting between the Home Ministry and Foreign Ministry regarding the case. "I don't know whether any inter-ministerial meeting was held in this regard. I also don't know if there was any exchange of letters between the ministries on the matter."

The witness was cross-examined by Khan Saifur Rahman, counsel for accused Col Farooq Khan, and Sharfuddin Mukul for Taheruddin Thakur.

The hearing was adjourned till 9:30 am on March 16.

pression would only expedite the fall of the government, he added.

Bhuiyan said the government has proved its failure in running the country. Trade and commerce have been destroyed, anarchy has gripped the educational institutions and people are scared of "terrorist acts" of Chhatra League cadres, he said.

He said BNP with the support of the people would resist the Awami League rule.

After taking part in the discussion on the President's address, Akbar Hossain was seen sitting in the Treasury Bench and talking to Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Nooruddin Khan. Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq, who was then calling upon the freedom fighter BNP lawmakers to decide on their suitable camp in national politics, said in a lighter vein: I see, Mr Akbar has realised he was in the wrong place. That's why he has crossed the floor to join the stronghold of freedom fighters — the Awami League.

This prompted Akbar to jump on his feet and rush to his own seat in the Opposition Bench.

A smiling Speaker then told Nooruddin Khan, "Honourable minister, why didn't you keep the member (Akbar) busy for some more time?"

Going back to his own seat, the BNP MP retorted: "We had been there (Treasury Bench) and we'll be back there too. I just visited the Treasury Bench to check my seat there."

Shamsuddin Ahmed, a BNP member from Naogaon, repeatedly failed to get the floor during the question-answer session. "I did not get the floor for a single day since the current parliament was elected 20 months ago. Now, I would like to know if my name is there in the list of MPs?" he told the Chair, without getting the microphone.

The Speaker then announced the aggrieved opposition member's name, but untimely, just before allowing AL member Jalaluddin Talukdar to make a supplementary on his question.

Requesting Shamsuddin to wait for a moment, the Speaker said: "I was so eager to give you the floor that I did the mistake."

Two hurt as Ctg Jail inmates clash

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 9: Two groups of prisoners were locked in a skirmish inside Chittagong Jail this afternoon that left two of them injured, police and jail sources said.

The trouble began at around 5:30 pm today following altercation between two under-trial prisoners, they said.

However, the jail security personnel dispersed the clashing prisoners and brought the situation under control immediately, the jail sources said.

50 shops gutted in Habiganj

From Our Correspondent

HABIGANJ, Mar 9: Fifty shops were gutted and property worth about Tk 60 lakh were damaged in a fire that broke out at a market adjacent to Shayastaganj Railway Junction this afternoon.

Fire fighting units from Habiganj and Sreemongal rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze.

Local people said the fire originated from an unauthorised petrol shop.

Transport workers go on strike in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Mar 9: The Transport Workers' Association went on a wildcat strike here today, disrupting road communication between Rajshahi and Dhaka.

The workers began strike this morning for an indefinite period protesting a decision of the Bus Owners' Association.

The two associations came into conflict after the Natore Bus Owners Association ordered that two minibuses that were plying the Natore-Pabna route be withdrawn as those were not registered with the owners' association.

Jail inmate

From Page 1

Jail sources said Daulat was shifted from Kishoreganj to the Dhaka Central Jail due to his mental illness.

Lablagh police said they had heard about the incident but could not provide details about the prisoner's death. Daulat's body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Earlier, Mong, 45, a national of Myanmar, suffering from AIDS died at the Chest Disease Hospital and Dulal, 30, allegedly committed suicide at the jail premises on Saturday.

Sitaram Kesri resigns

From Page 1

elections and is likely to be called by President KR Narayanan later this week to form a new government.

The BJP has criticised the Congress for promoting an Italian-born woman, even though she took Indian citizenship after her husband became prime minister in 1984.

"It is a tragedy that they (Congress) are asking her to become leader of party," said Jay-alalitha Jayaram, leader of a powerful south Indian party allied with the BJP.

"Could an Indian become the prime minister of Italy, or France or Britain. With 980 million people in this country we can come up with a good capable Indian as a prime minister," she said.

At the height of its power 12 years ago, Congress had 452 seats in the 545-member lower house of parliament. This time the party won 141 seats, marginally better than at its low ebb in 1996 when it won 138 seats.

Kesri was also widely blamed for miscalculating when he forced an early election by withdrawing support from the minority government of the 14-party United Front coalition.

The BJP and its allies control 258 seats in Parliament, 15 seats short of a majority. They are negotiating with other parties for support.

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)

বিশেষ দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তিতাস গ্যাস কোম্পানীর গ্যাস পরিবহণ ও বিতরণ নেটওয়ার্ক ঢাকা মহানগর ও শহরতলীসহ বৃহত্তর ঢাকা জেলা, বৃহত্তর ময়মনসিংহ জেলা ও ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া জেলা পর্যন্ত বিস্তৃত। মাটির নিচে স্থাপিত বিভিন্ন ব্যাসের গ্যাস পাইপ লাইন কোন কারণে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হলে স্বাভাবিকভাবেই গ্যাস প্রবাহ বিঘ্নিত হয় ফলে গ্যাস বিতরণ ও সরবরাহ সমস্যা দেখা দেয়।

গত ৫ই মার্চ '৯৮ রামপুরা টিভি ভবনের পাশে আবাসিক ভবন নির্মাণ কাজের পাইপাইং করার সময় ভূ-পৃষ্ঠের ২২ ফুট নিচে স্থাপিত উচ্চচাপসম্পন্ন গ্যাস বিতরণ মেইন লাইন ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হলে ঢাকা শহরের বহুলাংশে গ্যাস সরবরাহ ব্যাহত হয় বা বন্ধ হয়ে যায়। তবে আশুভ না লাগার কারণে জানমালের কোন ক্ষতি হয়নি।

দেশের সর্বত্র জনবসতি এলাকা বাড়ছে এবং সড়ক জনপথের বিস্তৃতি ঘটছে। ক্রমবর্ধমান উন্নয়নের ধারায় নতুন নতুন শিল্প কারখানা ও প্রতিষ্ঠান গড়ে উঠছে। কোথাও কোন প্রকার স্থাপনা নির্মাণ পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণের পূর্বে সেখানে গ্যাস লাইন আছে কিনা, গ্যাস ভিত্তিক প্রতিষ্ঠান স্থাপনের পূর্বে গ্যাস সংযোগ পাওয়া সম্ভব কিনা ইত্যাদি বিষয়াদি নিশ্চিত হওয়ার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সরকারী/বেসরকারী সংস্থা, প্রতিষ্ঠান ও ব্যক্তিবর্গকে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। অন্যথায় যে কোন দুর্ঘটনা ও ক্ষয়ক্ষতির জন্য কোম্পানী দায়ী থাকবে না।

গ্যাস একটি অপরিহার্য দাহ্য পদার্থ। গ্যাস ব্যবহারের নিয়ম-কানুন মেনে চলুন এবং গ্যাস লাইন রক্ষণাবেক্ষণে সহায়তা করে জানমালের ক্ষতি রোধ করুন।

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ/৯২/৯৭-৯৮
জিডি-১৮৩

কর্তৃপক্ষ

Jatiya Sangsad tidbits

From Page 1

should lose membership on grounds of morality, decency and parliamentary convention though the relevant law does not cover the issue properly.

There are many things that can't be covered by law, he said and cited an example: If I enter the House wearing only an underwear, not to speak of something worse, can you stop me Mr Speaker, citing constitutional provisions? You simply can't. Because, there is nothing in the Constitution in this regard. But I know how people will react to such an incident.

Anyone, wearing only an underwear, can go to the sea beach but cannot come to the Sangsad. Because, it's a matter of decency and morality.

Similarly, he continued, the AL claim that Dr Alauddin and Hasibur Rahman Swapna have become ministers in the government of national consensus as representatives of the BNP

Debate on CHT

From Page 1

treaty with the tribal leaders of Chittagong Hill Tracts by giving self-rule to the tribals. "But we have not done what BNP had wanted to do," he said.

Referring to the Ganges water sharing treaty with India, he said the 30-year accord has given a permanent solution to the long standing problem of water. Terming the accord a historic one, he said the treaty has ensured availability of 35 thousand cusec of water during lean period.

Listing the achievements of the present government, he said steady supply of fertilizer to farmers and keeping its price within limit bear testimony to its success. Everybody knew how the farmers had suffered for want of fertilizer during BNP rule. As many as 18 persons had died for fertilizer, he said.

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