

Joint operation today to fix damaged gas pipe under Turag

By Staff Correspondent

The Fire Brigade divers and a Titas gas technical team will conduct a joint operation today to repair the damaged 12-inch diameter gas pipe under the Turag river near Mirpur bridge.

The gas line, connecting the capital with Aminbazar main supply line was damaged when a mechanised boat carrying huge stone chips hit it on Tuesday.

Managing Director of the Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company (TGTDC) yesterday visited the spot and gave direction to take steps to avert any accident.

"There is no chance of accident as we have closed the valves at the both ends of the pipe," the Titas MD said.

"However, we are supplying a little amount of gas in the line so that water could not enter through the leaks," said Sekendor Hayat, the MD of the Titas Gas company.

The bubbles were still rising up from the pipe, but these are negligible.

Titas gas authority has deployed four guards in the area to ensure security.

Omor visits National Memorial at Savar

The visiting South African Law and Justice Minister Dr. Abdullah Omor yesterday paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the country's liberation war by placing wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar here, reports BSS.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru was present on the occasion. Later, the South African minister attended a workshop on "Access to Justice" as the chief guest at the British Council auditorium.

The visiting South African minister also visited the Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD) at Comilla in the afternoon.

He will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad today. He will hold talks with Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru and will visit the Bangabandhu Museum at Dhanmondi today.

UNB, Antara agree to exchange news, information

United News of Bangladesh (UNB) and Antara — the official news agency of Indonesia have agreed to exchange news and information between the two news agencies, reports UNB.

The agreement was reached during a visit of Amanullah Khan, Chairman of UNB to Indonesia on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of Antara.

Khan called on Hadi Parni, the Managing Director of Antara at his office and held talks on cooperation between the two agencies. A formal news exchange agreement will be signed shortly.

During his stay in Jakarta, Khan also attended a party hosted by BJ Habibie, Indonesia's President for the visiting journalists from around the world at the Presidential Palace.



Traffic police totally lost control of the situation at Fulbaria in the city yesterday for indisciplined vehicular movement. — Star photo

'AL starts game of hijacking leaders to prevent fall'

Sadeq Hossain Khoka, MP, president of BNP Dhaka city unit, yesterday termed the present government as "a totally failed, servile and hijacker government" and called upon the city dwellers to build up a mass movement against it, reports UNB.

Awami League has started the game of hijacking opposition political leaders. It reflected the desperate effort of the party to prevent its imminent fall," Khoka said while speaking at a meeting of Bangladesh Railway Sramik O Karmachari Dal in the city.

He said the residents have been passing a miserable life with vexing traffic jam, garbage and mosquito menace and unending rise of crimes like killing and hijacking.

But, Khoka said, the government and the Mayor are not taking these problems into their serious consideration, rather they are busy with making their own fortune.

Referring to the abnormal price hike of essentials, Khoka said Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed had declared in Parliament that he would resign if the price of onion go beyond Tk 50 per kg. Though only a day after that speech by the minister, onion was sold at Tk 65 per kg, he did not resign.

Price hike of essentials have been forcing the poor people to fast in the month of Ramadan without any food, he observed and warned the government of serious consequences if it failed to arrest the price hike.

One killed in Sylhet

SYLHET, Dec 26: A man was killed and five others were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Aarkona village in Jagannathpur thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the clash took place following the dispute over demarcation of boundaries of their residences.

The deceased was identified as Arab Ali, 35. The injured were admitted to the local hospital. A case was filed with the police.

Grameen Court Bill to be placed in JS soon : Khasru

nominated by the respective district judge.

"At present, the lowest stratum of the judiciary is at the district level," he said. "But for most of the population, it is very difficult to come to the district headquarter for justice at the doorsteps of the poor," report agencies.

"Access to Justice is a precondition to ensure fundamental rights of the people. If the vast majority of masses, owing to poverty or remoteness of judicial institutions, cannot avail the opportunity of seeking redress against wrongs, then the fundamental human rights will be denied to them," he said.

The law minister was inaugurating a day-long workshop on "Access to Justice: Towards a People-friendly Legal System" at the British Council in the morning.

Visiting Law and Justice Minister of South Africa Dr Abdullah M Omor was the guest of honour at the workshop, organised jointly by the British Council and the Law Ministry.

Justice Dilip Kumar Basu, a former judge of Calcutta High Court, presented a keynote speech on "Dispute Resolution Through Pre-litigation Counselling and Resolving Litigation Through Non-formal Mechanism".

The Law Minister said the government has taken initiative for establishing Grameen Courts as a pre-trial settlement forum throughout rural Bangladesh to ensure easy access of poor people to institutional judicial forum to seek justice in respect of petty civil and criminal disputes. "I hope, I will be able to introduce a bill in the House (Parliament) soon that will be a major innovation in the legal system of Bangladesh."

Providing legal aid to the poor and the needy in securing

redress of their grievances in courts is also a major requirement for ensuring human rights of the people," the Law Minister said.

He informed that his ministry has already finalised a legislative bill in this regard and hoped the bill would be placed in the next session of parliament.

He said Grameen Court is going to be established at the villages with an ambitious hope for dispute resolution through conciliation and arbitration.

It is mainly a concept of compromise between parties who wish to live as good neighbours settling their disputes locally avoiding the troublesome, expensive and time-consuming legal formalities in traditional court, the Law Minister said.

People in the legal profession should be sensitised to the pulse of the society. If the individual in the system can become people-friendly, legal system is not barrier."

The Law Minister said pre-trial settlement of disputes is an important aspect of the American judicial system, where about 80 per cent cases are disposed of by amicable settlement.

He said the main strength of Lok Adalat and Samjatha Adalat is the participation and spirit of the society. A culture of settlement has been created through the activities of these courts.

These courts have a success rate of nearly 70 per cent. The Lok Adalat deals with pending cases while the Samjatha Adalat both pre-trial and pending cases," said the former judge of Calcutta High Court.

Law Commission member Justice Naimuddin Ahmed also addressed the inaugural session as special guest.

Tom Cowin and Farah Kabir of British Council took part in the discussion.

What's on today

Ifter party: Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists will host an Ifter party. Venue: National Press Club.

Rotary club meet: The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka will be held. Venue: Officers' Club, Baily Road. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary club meet: The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka will be held. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 5 pm.

Weather

No change in temperature

Weather may remain dry over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country during the period, according to the Met Office.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 29.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakunda and the lowest 11.00 degree Celsius at Dainapur and Srimangal.

The sun sets today at 5:12 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.2	12.9	74	79
Chittagong	28.3	15.8	60	90
Khulna	27.6	14.4	75	63
Rajshahi	26.4	13.2	71	—
Barisal	27.5	12.5	88	—
Sylhet	28.5	14.2	65	62
Cox's Bazar	28.6	17.0	70	63

Anti-govt campaign

BNP adopting falsehood to find issues, says Zillur

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 26: LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman today accused the main opposition BNP of adopting falsehood in its "desperate efforts to find issues" for its anti-government campaign, reports BSS.

"Since the 1996 elections the BNP has been desperately trying to find issues for its anti-government campaign," he told a public meeting at Bhairob MP High School ground here.

He said the opposition has now put in its all out efforts to mislead people and tarnish the image of the independent and neutral election commission towards that end.

Rejecting the opposition demand for mid-term polls and city corporation and upazila elections under caretaker government he urged the people to

DU library automation project opens today

The inaugural ceremony of the automation project of the Dhaka University Library will be held today, reports UNB.

Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury will inaugurate the project at 2 pm at the Central Library of the university.

With the inauguration, DU library will be linked with other libraries of the world.

The automation is the part of a project, titled Dhaka University Library Automation Project (DULAP), which has been taken up by the authorities at a cost of Tk 1.24 crore. The work on the project started in July last and is expected to be completed by 1999.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided a financial assistance of Tk 87 lakh in the project while the government and the University Grants Commission (UGC) are shared the rest Tk 37 lakh.

The snatchers intercepted the autorickshaw carrying the employees of Nahar Traders near the Poura library area on the Bangabandhu Sarak and took away the money at gun point. Huge people at the crowded and busy area of the town witnessed the incident as the victims cried for help.

The snatchers later fled the scene at ease.

No case was filed till writing of this report at around 10 pm.

Owner of Nahar Traders Anwar Hossain told reporters that he got frustrated about filing case as the terrorists dared to commit such crime in broad daylight.

The snatchers later fled the scene at ease.

In observance of the day, leaders and workers of Jasas will place wreath and offered fatih at the mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman at 1:30 pm today, said a press release.

A discussion meeting, which will be followed by an iftar party, will be held at Ramna Restaurant at 3 pm. Opposition Leader Begum Khaleda Zia will attend the discussion meeting as chief guest.

Meanwhile, a discussion meeting organised by Jasas drama unit was held yesterday afternoon marking the 20th raising day of the organisation.

Presided over by Aktheruzzaman Babul, it was addressed, among others, by BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Jasas president Rezabuddullah Chowdhury, Chowdhury, Chowdhury, MA Malek and Sadiqur Rahman.

Another release said: BNP will hold a joint meeting today at 11 am at party's central office. BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will preside over the meeting.

Joint secretary generals, presidents and general secretaries of front organisations, Dhaka city BNP convenor and joint convenors have been requested to attend the meeting.

DMP's appeal to city dwellers

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka Metropolitan Police has advised the city dwellers to file a general diary (GD) before employing any domestic help or driver.

In a press release issued yesterday, the DMP pointed out that a number of crimes have been committed by the housemaids. But they easily go into

hiding as the employers or the police don't have any record about them, the press release added.

Police requested the residents of the metropolitan area to submit bio-data and one copy photograph of the domestic help or the driver prior to their employment.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



'Good men must die, but death cannot kill their names.'

In loving memory of Major General (Retd) Abdul Mannan

Our guide and mentor.

May his soul rest in peace.

From Staff and students of Sunbeams

27 December 1998

D-668

শতাব্দীর শেষ বছরটি কেমন যাবে
দেখে নিন নব বর্ষে প্রবেশ মুহূর্তে



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