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PHILIPS

Meter reading & bill collection in Khulna

2 pvt firms lose rights as their bid falls flat

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Feb 13: All functions relating to meter reading and bill collection have been taken over by the head office of PDB from two private firms "Messrs Consortium of Bangladesh Engineering & Technological Services Ltd (BETS) and Techno Index Ltd (TIL)."

The action was taken following "total failure" of the two private firms in reducing growing system loss and increasing revenue income through realisation of current and all outstanding bills, said an official source at PDB Khulna zone.

The system loss has increased by at least 30 per cent after the two private firms were given full responsibility. To improve the situation by removing all loopholes concerning meter reading and bill collection from areas under Division 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Khulna circle of PDB, the source further said.

BETS and TIL took up the job in March last year through tender in the face of stiff opposition by officials of the four division offices under Khulna circle of PDB.

Denying this charge, a top official of the local PDB office directly brought allegation of politicisation of the two private firms by manning with non-technical and unskilled hands.

Instead of ensuring better services to the consumers, officials and employees of BETS and TIL embezzled huge amount of money collected against bills, the PDB official alleged.

Muggers kill British citizen in city

By Staff Correspondent

A Bangladesh born British citizen was killed by muggers yesterday afternoon.

The dead was identified as Abdul Mannan, 35, son of late Abdul Razzaq of village Goalpara under Sylhet sadar thana, police said quoting relatives.

Mannan came under attack by a gang of muggers when he was returning to Fakirporel after meeting his relatives at Darshgat in the city.

The gang intercepted Mannan in front of the Baldia Garden at about 1:30 pm and asked him to hand over his valuables. As he refused to do so, the gang hurled home-made bomb at him. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition where he died at about 3:00 pm.

The incident took place on broad day-light when the Dhaka Metropolitan Police was carrying out a special drive against miscreants in the city.

A case was filed with Sutrapur thana in this connection but police could not arrest any one of the muggers.

Indians kidnap 5 Bangladeshis

By Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 13: Leaders of the trade union bodies at Chittagong port boycotted today the meeting at the port office on a German proposal for a management contract at Chittagong port's container terminal, port sources said.

A team from Hamburg Port consulting firm accompanied by German Ambassador to Bangladesh, held the meeting with Chittagong port officials which was attended by port users, port sources said.

In the meeting, the team highlighted its experience in raising efficiency in container handling operation, sources added.

Hamburg Port consulting firm gave the proposal last year to reach a management contract for Chittagong port's container terminal in a bid to raise its handling capacity with modernisation, port sources said.

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The detail study about the total reserve in these fields as also the other aspects of the gas drilling, was in progress, sources told PTI.

Agartala dome has very good potential and for Trichna the study is one, they said.

From Staff Correspondent

AGARTALA, Feb 13: The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has found reserve of natural gas in two new fields in Tripura, ONGC sources said here today, reports BSS.

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Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board Special Notice for Call Barring in Digital Telephones

This is for kind information of the valued Digital subscribers that, to avoid trouble of misuse and excess bill the facilities of call barring and cancellation process are available without any charge in digital telephones. Using this call barring process, subscribers can lock all type of calls from their telephone sets such as (a) All call, (b) Both NWD and ISD call, (c) Only NWD call, (d) Only ISD call and (f) Only local call. Subscribers can also make necessary call using the cancellation process whenever they like.

This process is being published every month on the overleaf of the telephone bill for information of the valued subscribers. Some subscribers may not have noticed this matter and come to the BT&T Board with the complaint of excess bill without executing call barring process. The BT&T Board does not accept the complain of excess bill of digital telephone because the subscriber can control any type of call from his telephone at his house and office.

The call barring and cancellation process is given below for the convenience of the valued subscribers:

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Call Barring code: Following any type of call the subscriber can bar

All Call-01 NWD and ISD Call-02 NWD Call-03

ISD Call-04 Local Call-05

Cancellation process: Lift the handset and press the buttons accordingly

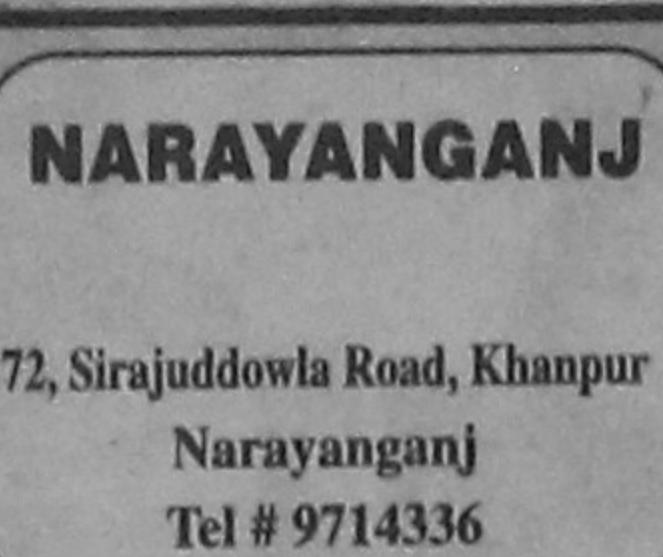
3 4 * Pass word

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Crackdown on illegal immigrants

Bangladeshis detained in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 13: Malaysia has detained 295 people in intensified measures to seek out illegal immigrants following violent clashes between foreign workers last weekend, media reports said today, according to Reuters.

Mostly Indonesians and Bangladeshis, they were detained yesterday at locations around the capital Kuala Lumpur in this year's biggest sweep against illegal immigrants.

On Friday, five Sri Lankans and a Malaysian in northern Penang state were detained on suspicion of forging local identity cards and passports, while three Thais without documents were seized on a train bound for Kuala Lumpur from the north-eastern state of Kelantan.

Officials said the moves were spurred by clashes among ethnic Indonesian groups just over a week ago near Malaysia's new administrative capital of Putrajaya, which resulted in the arrest of 156 illegal immigrants.

The fight, between Indonesians originating from the Madura and strife-torn Aceh regions, had erupted after an argument over a stolen mobile telephone.

Police said one person was injured and makeshift housing for 200 workers in the nearby Cyberjaya high-tech zone was torched.

Cyberjaya is at the core of the so-called Multimedia Super Corridor, a 15 km by 50 km (9

— Star photo

Fresh voters' list by Oct this year

PM opens Cub Camporee

GAZIPUR, Feb 13: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced today the National Scout Training Centre at Mouchak would be developed into an international level Adventure Centre so other youth organisations could utilise it for their purposes, reports BSS.

She was inaugurating the fifth National Cub Camporee at Mouchak in Gazipur. Nearly six thousand cubs and leaders from across the country are participating in the event.

She asked the scouts to submit a project so the government could make the necessary arrangements.

Hasina said children from primary schools and bhetdai madrasahs would be integrated into the scout movement by expanding Cub projects. "If needed, we will also extend the duration of the project," said Hasina. "More funds will be spent for primary education."

Sheikh Hasina said the country needed efficient, strong and dynamic leadership for the future. The younger generation would be able to provide that leadership by utilising their talents and perseverance, she said.

The Prime Minister lauded the role the scouts played during the devastating floods in 1998. She said people from all walks of life provided invaluable services during that period. She said her government was going to introduce prize for the best scout at the national level.

Some students used the day to focus on serious issues. Dhaka University students against sexual harassment dressed in black and chanted slogans calling on the government to crack down on sexual abuse.

In addition to unveiling 29 new books, including works by Abdulla Al Mutta Sharifuddin and Shahriar Kabir, the fair featured a discussion on "Bangladesh in the 20th Century: Evolution of Newspaper," which was chaired by Prof. Obaidul Haq.

Renowned journalist A.B.M. Musa presented the keynote paper, while Rahat Khan, Bazlur Rahman and Abed Khan took part in the discussion.

The fair should also be busy today, since couples around the world celebrate Valentine's Day, or Bhalobashor Dibash.

Many arrived early to sing and dance at the Institute of Fine Arts Bakul Tola as part of Bashanta Utsab celebrations.

Dhaka University's Joyabdhan and the National Council for Spring Festival Celebrations also held Pahela Falgoon

— From page 1
for three months.

Thus, the meeting on January 23 focused on the central bank's delays, and not the case of a particular borrower.

The finance minister's press statement on this issue is also not correct," stated the release. "The committee feels that Bangladesh Bank has committed irregularities by not approving Sonali Bank's decision, even after 74 days."

The release also said the Speaker rules when contradictions arise in the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure.

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Undesired interference

From page 1
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OBITUARY

Our beloved Managing Director- **Mr. Murad Abdullah** son of Dr. Mohammad Abdullah breathed his last early in the morning of February 13, 2000 at a clinic in Calcutta. (Innalillahe Razeun).

His Namaz-e-Janaza will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque on February 14, 2000 after Asar prayer and thereafter be buried at Banani Graveyard.

Your attendance and prayers are solicited.

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