

Debate over definition of gas reserve

UNB, Dhaka
The National Committee on gas reserve yesterday debated definition of the stock of the natural resource trying to prepare a correct report taking into account actual needs of the country.

Several members of the committee in a meeting said that the reserve should be calculated on the basis of P1 (proven) theory. But others opposed the idea, saying that the international standards of determining the reserve are P1, P2 (probable) and P3 (possible).

Sources close to the meeting said the committee observed that they would not be able to submit its report even by the end of March.

The committee was given one-month timeframe that expired last month. But the work period of the committee is yet to be extended by the energy ministry officially.

It will need one month to review the Norwegian study, report of which is yet to reach the committee. The committee repeatedly asked the Petrobangla to provide the full report.

A source close to the meeting said some confusion cropped up among the committee members on recovery factor in Habiganj. There are differences between the Norwegian study and a French study on the matter that was discussed in the meeting.

Committee chief and BUET Vice Chancellor Prof Nooruddin Ahmed presided over the meeting at the Petrobangla headquarters. It was his last meeting before he

leaves the country to perform Hajj. During his absence, the committee will sit twice.

Meanwhile, the national committee will ask the Planning Ministry to let it know the country's target of achieving per capita income by 2050 to determine amount of energy intensity for growth of per unit GDP.

Abducted boy rescued in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Women Lawyers' Association yesterday rescued a seven-year-old boy who was abducted by a gang of traffickers planning to take him to the Middle East as a camel jockey.

Acting on information, the Mirpur police raided a residence at East Manipur in the city and rescued the boy, Sohel. They also arrested Mohammad Yunus, Matir Rahman, Abul Kalam, Mostafa Kamal and Mahima Begum from the house in this connection.

Salma Ali, executive director of the Association, told The Daily Star that they were closely watching the gang who were collecting kids from different parts of the country to smuggle them to Middle East as camel jockey.

Police said that the organised gang abducted the boy from Dhaka International Trade Fair premises recently.



Opposition Leader and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina speaking at a 'Political workshop' organised by the Bangladesh Chhatra League at the party's central office in the city yesterday.

BCRA protests home minister's comment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association yesterday protested a comment by home minister for pointing at the senior reporter and the former president of the association Parvez Khan on February 9 at a discussion meeting at a city hotel.

The executive committee of the association at a meeting yesterday unanimously adopted a resolution terming the minister's comment 'unfair'.

Help maintain communal harmony: Bhuiyan

UNB, Dhaka

IGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday called upon all to extend cooperation to the government in maintaining communal harmony in the country.

"Bangladesh is a unique example of communal harmony. We'll continue the efforts to maintain it at any cost," he said while talking to a delegation of Bangladesh Christian Welfare Association.

The delegation led by association president Luis A Costa met with the minister at his secretariat office.

The minister said a vested quarter was engaged in a conspiracy to divide the nation in the name of minority and majority soon after the general election but failed to get people's support.

"The peace-loving people of the country did not allow them to make their conspiratorial plan a success," he said.

The minister reiterated that the government is pledge-bound to ensure equal rights to all citizens of the country. "There is no question of minority or majority here," he commented.

The delegation also included association general secretary Barister Albert Baroi, vice president Mickey Daves, Montu Peter Rozario, Paul Gonzalves, Smriti Halder and Thomas Biswas.

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The minister said a vested quarter was engaged in a conspiracy to divide the nation in the name of minority and majority soon after the general election but failed to get people's support.

Journalists and employees of the Dainik Prabhat formed a committee yesterday to realise their demands.

The committee styled as 'Dainik Prabhat Sangbadik, Sramik, Karmachari Oikya Parishad' was formed at a meeting of Dainik Prabhat unit of Dhaka Union of Journalists with Anis Ahmed as its convenor.

The meeting demanded payment of arrears and festival bonus before the Eid-ul Azha.

It also condemned the government for not allocating enough government advertisements for the daily.

How many people have access to electricity?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The percentage of people having access to electricity is still unknown. Some say 30 per cent while others put the figure at 20 per cent.

Even the state minister for power is confused about the capacity of electricity network of power generation and distribution agencies of the government.

"In the 21st century, we do not know specifically how many people of the country have access to electricity", state minister Iqbal Hasan Mahmood admitted while addressing a seminar on "Operation and maintenance in distribution and total quality management" at a city hotel yesterday.

According to the Power Division of the Ministry of Energy and

Mineral Resources, about 30 per cent of the country's total population have access to electricity while power sector experts say the figure will not exceed the 20 per cent-mark.

Some of them are more cautious as they estimate that nearly 18 per cent of the population enjoy electricity facilities.

Jointly organised by the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the seminar was also addressed by Japanese ambassador Jiro Kobayashi, power secretary Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, resident representative of JICA Takashi Sakamoto and chairman-in-charge of PDB Harun-ur-Rashid.

The state minister identified 'lack of proper management' as

one of the main reasons behind the failure of state-owned enterprises (SOE). "The entire power sector is in a very bad shape."

Referring to the 110-MW Haripur power plant, he said the situation in the plant got better after it was placed under a proper management.

With the assistance of JICA, the combined cycle power plant was turned into a Strategic Business Unit (SBU) in January 2000.

Japanese ambassador Jiro Kobayashi said that the power generating capacity of the Haripur power plant has increased by 80 per cent after it was made a SBU.

The ambassador also said that Japan has been considering development of power sector in Bangladesh one of the priority areas of assistance.

CU standoff Hunger strike observed in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chhatra Parishad (CP) of Chittagong University (CU) observed a token hunger strike and book reading programme at the port city yesterday demanding an end to the standoff at the university.

Several hundred students joined the programme at the local press club at 10 am.

Later they also held a rally. The speakers at the rally blamed the government, university authorities and the student organisations for the deadlock.

The speakers said they made hostage the students of the university for their own interest.

They also demanded of the authorities concerned to resolve the crisis immediately through discussion among the student organisations and ensure security of the general students.

Presided over by Anwar Hossain Kiron, president of CP CU unit, the rally was conducted by M Saifuddin, general secretary of the organisation.

1278 more held

BSS, Dhaka

Police arrested 1278 people including seven identified terrorists from across the country and recovered nine firearms, one other type of arms and 16 rounds of bullets during last 24 hours ending 6:00 am yesterday.



Admiral James Metzger, Commander of the 7th Fleet, US Navy, was greeted with a bouquet on his arrival at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the city on Saturday.

কুলখানি

দেওয়ানগঞ্জ নিবাসী জনাব লেঃ কর্ণেল (অবঃ) মাহমুদ হোসেন গত ০৮/০২/২০০২ ইং তারিখ শুক্রবার সি.এম.এইচ. ঢাকাতে রাত ২টার সময় ইন্তেকাল করেছেন। তাহার কুলখানি আগামী ১১/০২/২০০২ ইং তারিখ বাদ আছর তাহার নিজস্ব বাসভবন, "বোনাস" বাড়ী নং ৯০/এ, ব্রক-বি, রোড নং-১৪, বনানীতে অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে। তাহার সকল আত্মীয়, বন্ধু-বান্ধব এবং শুভাকাঙ্খীদের উক্ত লেওয়া মাহফিলে শরিক হয়ে তার আহার মাগফেরাত কামনা জন্য উপস্থিত থাকতে অনুরোধ করছি।

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ADMISSION NOTICE (RESCHEDULED)

The date of submission of application for admission into 1st year MBBS class of Jalalabad Ragib-Rabeya Medical College, Sylhet for session 2001-2002 is extended up to 27th March 2002.

Revised scheduled is as follows:
The last date for submission of application is 27th March 2002 (before 10:00 AM).
Written examination will be held on 27th March 2002 at 11:00 AM in the College.
Viva-voce examination will be from 28th March 2002 (From 9:00 AM).

THE ELIGIBILITY OF THE CANDIDATES ARE AS PER RULES LAID DOWN BY THE GOVT. OF BANGLADESH.

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Representatives from UTS and Insearch will be conducting interviews for prospective students in Dhaka on **Wednesday 20th February 2002, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

To make an appointment to attend this interview program, please contact :
Australian Centre for Education - IDP Education Australia,
CWN (A) 12, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212
Tel: 605673, 9883545, 606829, 606224 Fax: 8823343, 8828737 E-mail: ldpbd@treximp.com

Notice

Our valued subscribers are hereby informed that due to the countrywide municipality elections at the following municipalities of Shonargaon in Narayanganj, Akhaura in Brahmanbaria, Choumuhuni in Noakhali, Parshuraam & Dagonbhuiyan in Feni, Baraiyarhaat & Rangunia in Chittagong and Maheshkhali in Cox's Bazar; the above mentioned sites will be down for 24 hours, in accordance with Government orders, starting from 6 a.m. of 12th February to 6 a.m. of 13th February 2002.

As a result, our mobile and fixed phone (Handset & FWT) services will not be available during these hours at the above mentioned localities and their periphery.

We would request you to kindly bear with us.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concern that the schedule property is mortgaged with Credit Agricole Indosuez (the Bank) previously Banque Indosuez, 47, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka on 22.03.1988 against the various credit facility availed by Sea Trade and Construction Limited. It is further notified that the Bank has filed Title Suit No. 85 of 1994 in the Court of Sub-Judge and Artha Rin Adalat No. 3 at Dhaka on 24.08.1994 for recovery of dues of Tk. 5,83,47,456.33 (Taka five crore eighty three lacs forty seven thousand four hundred fifty six and paise thirty three) only as on 31.03.1994 plus interest and other charges by sale of the said property. The suit which is pending for hearing and in the meantime the said property, has been attached by the Court on July 09, 2001.

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