He, however, asked them to

It directed to strengthen the

Minister

against

Salahuddin

submit reports with pictures on

the damaged highways to the

railway lands. Otherwise, punitive

Ahmed, Deputy Minister Asadul

and planning ministries, Planning

and BRTA attended the meeting.

Commission, RHD, Railway, BRTC

ministry to ensure transparency

and accountability.

Tongi Bypass Bridge

the next month to ease pressure encroachments on RHD and

meeting of the ministry that the concerned engineers, it

The minister revealed it at a measures would be taken against

The minister directed the Habib Dulu, Communications

engineers of Roads and Highways Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat and

Department (RHD) to repair the representatives from the finance

एक व्यक्ति : कॅनिक्नि, ) निनकूना वा/०., जका, वालारमन, रक्त : २००२२०), २००२२२७, १-प्राहेन: purbani @ bangla.net

শে কম : টোনটুনি,৫৯/২১-২৪ পাটুয়টুলী, সুগছা প্রাজা (দোতালা), দোবান নং-৭ ঢাকা-১১০০

cautioned.

State

by August

Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday

reviewed various development

national and regional highways

affected in the recent flooding and

নতুন আর পুরাতনের সম্মিনে টোনাটুনির এক গুচ্ছ উপহার

projects taken under the Annual

Bridge would be constructed by eviction

Development Programme (ADP) Communications

said Tongi Bypass Highway-cum-

on the gateway to the capital.

BSS, Dhaka

Communications

for the last fiscal.

# METROPOLITAN

## Khoka pledges to free city from pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor occupied parks soon. adeque Hossain Khoka yesterday pledged that he would take all-out steps to free the city from all kinds of environmental pollution to system, which would be make the capital city liveable.

He also disclosed that the DCC DCC. would also launch a massive drive to save the river Buriganga from is also the Minister for Fisheries the land grabbers.

Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) at environmental situation through his office, the Mayor said the city their writings among the citycorporation would continue the dwellers. drive to evict the illegal occupiers until the river is free from the Chairman Quamrul Islam encroachers.

eye on illegal encroachers and protect the environment. conduct the drive once a month so that none could occupy the river

Khoka further said the DCC would do everything to improve the environmental situation in the

## 12 arms recovered

BSS, Dhaka Police recovered 12 firearms, 15 other weapons and 15 bullets from across the country during the last

24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday. They also arrested 1498 people, including four identified criminals, during the period, a police headquarters press release said.

Of the arrested, 775 are police wanted and 726 accused in different cases under investigation.

capital city and would take effective steps to recover the

He said the DCC is also examining the waste management projects and would soon adopt a sustainable and viable for the

Sadeque Hossain Khoka, who and Livestock, called upon the Talking to the members of the environmental journalists to raise awareness about the degrading

The FEJB delegation led by its Chowdhury assured the mayor of "The DCC would also keep an all-out support for the steps to

### Khaleda greets Dutch PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has congratulated Jan Peter Balkenende on his assumption of the office as the new Prime Minister of the Netherlands.

In a message, Khaleda expressed her delight on the victory of Christian Democratic Party (CDA) as the single largest party in the country's parliamentary elec-

She also expressed her confidence that the excellent relations between the two countries will be further deepened and widened during the tenure of Balkenende.

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ALCWC meets

An emergency meeting of the

Awami League Central Working

Committee (ALCWC) will be held

at the party's central office in the

Acting president of the party

Abdus Samad Azad MP will pre-

side over the meeting, says a press

Also, the central leaders of AI

Among others, Abdur Razzak

will visit the residence of slain

Krishak League leader SM Azam at

MP, Mohammad Nasim MP, Mo-

tia Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan,

Hazi Rashed Mosharraf and Abdul

Matin Khosru will be in the AI

Azam was killed allegedly by

During the visit, the AL leaders

BNP men while reciting the holy

will offer prayers at the mazar of

Azam and address a public meet-

Special prayers

for early recovery.

A milad mahfil and special prayers

for early recovery of Shehabuddin

Ahmed Nafa, Special Correspon-

dent of The Daily Star, was held at

Sanghai First Hospital in China.

the seminar room of the daily's

He underwent surgery at the

Shehabuddin fell seriously ill

while on a visit to China. He went

there on July 14. Still under treat-

ment, he will undergo another

All staffs of The Daily Star at-

tended milad and prayed for early

recovery of Shehabuddin Nafa.

ing, said a press release.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

of Nafa

office yesterday.

operation soon.

Quran in a Hefzkhana recently.

Simabari in Bogra today.

today

UNB, Dhaka

release.

city at 11am today.

Prof Mahmuda Islam speaking at a publication ceremony of a journal titled 'Phire Dekha', containing write-ups on human rights movement of the sex workers, at the National Press Club auditorium in the city yesterday. The Sanghati organised the event. From right are Senior Assistant Editor of The Daily Star Afsan Chowdhury. Mahmuda Chowdhury and Sanghati president Mahbuba Mahmud. On extreme left is Dr Mahbuba Nasreen.

### Titas Gas arrears

## Govt to settle cases through negotiations

UNB, Dhaka

government yesterday decided to settle all pending cases regarding Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company through negotiations with parties concerned to realise a big sum of

Tk. 9,600

Tk. 10,800

arrears in tariffs.

The step will enable the government to realise bills from Titas subscribers to the tune of about Tk 500 crore overdue for long due to lengthy legal process of disposal of cases.

Officials at the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry said at present some 1,300 cases related to gas bills were pending. Of those, customers filed 400 while the Titas authorities 900.

They said a high-level meeting of the ministry with State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain decided to form some teams for negotiations with the subscribers.

The teams comprises legal experts who will hold talks with the parties concerned and try to convince them to settle the cases bypassing the drawn-out judicial

billing Regarding the procedure, the ministry decided to bring a change in the system to make it more transparent. The new system will enable the customers to know latest state of

HARVARD

The meeting also decided to ease the process of getting gas connections from Titas or other distribution companies, including Jalalabad and Bakhrabad Gas Systems.

Presently, a willing subscriber has to go hopping over 20 documentation procedures in complex system. The simplified system will allow a person to get gas connection in the shortest possible time.

Another decision taken in the meeting was restructuring all rules and regulations of corporations under the ministry in regard to purchase, sale and procurement.

"If necessary, we will appoint experts and consultants for restructuring the procedures. We will take all the rules to public for transparency," Mosharraf told UNB after the meeting.

The meeting also decided to expedite the activities of the ministry, including instant confirmation of receipt of any dispatch from anywhere.

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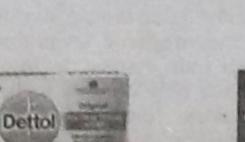
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