

Gas to be supplied from Simutang for Ctg units

Says industry minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Industry Minister Dilip Barua at a discussion yesterday said the government has taken an initiative to extract gas from Simutang gas field under Manikchhari upazila in the hill district to ensure its smooth supply to all industries in Chittagong.

The government has also taken some important initiatives to make Chittagong Hill Tracts rich through setting up of more industries, he added.

The minister said this as the chief

guest at the discussion at International Buddha Bhabna Kendra under the same upazila with lawmaker Jatindra Lal Tripura in the chair.

Criticising the BNP-Jamaat regime, Dilip said they were engaged them in looting state property. They also repressed the people of CHT areas.

The government has a strong determination to make a digital Bangladesh ending all sorts of discrimination, the minister said, adding that it has designed an industry plan to make the country more prosperous and make its people

proud.

The government has been taking preparation to set up some agro-based industries in CHT areas to beat unemployment problem and remove poverty, Dilip mentioned.

Deputy Commissioner AKM Khairul Alam, Police Super Md Qaiumuzzaman Khan, Khagrachhari Hill District Council Chairman Ruhity Karbari and ADC Md Khalilur Rahman also spoke.

Later, the minister visited Tintahary High School.

'Monpura' to be released Feb 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The romantic film 'Monpura' will be released on February 13 at Balaka and Star Cineplex cinema halls in the city.

It was announced at a press conference at Hotel Sheraton yesterday.

Gias Uddin Selim directed the film. Chanchal Chowdhury, Farhana Mili, Fazlur Rahman Babu, and Manunur Rashid performed in it.

Poet Lutfur Rahman Riton, Maasranga Productions Ltd Director Ajoy Kumar Kundu and Sabir Ahmed from Radio Foorti were present at the press conference.

Police assault Rajshahi journo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Members of the Detective Branch (DB) of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) assaulted an on-duty journalist at Ganakpara in the city yesterday.

M Masud, a reporter of the local daily Raj Barta, was beaten up mercilessly when he was collecting information after raid of the DB men at a city hotel at noon.

A policeman asked Masud's identity and as soon as he was identified as a journalist they started beating him. Mahfuzur Rahman, assistant commissioner of the DB at RMP, was present on the spot.

When Masud's colleagues and locals came forward protesting the beating, the policemen left the scene.

Mahfuzur Rahman told reporters that the constables who were unaware about journalists assaulted Masud. "We are taking action against these responsible persons."

Preparation for filing a general diary was on when this report was filed yesterday.



Students of Daffodil International University demonstrate on Mirpur Road in the city yesterday protesting attacks by local traders. (Story on Page 2)

'Re-examine managing body ordn'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE), a platform of eleven teachers organisations, yesterday placed a proposal to re-examine the Managing Committee Ordinance-2009 for non-government educational institutions.

Leaders of the NFTE proposed that one person should not be the president of managing committee in more than three educational institutes and the tenure of the committee should be limited for three years.

A team of the NFTE led by Prof Quazi Faruque Ahmed made the proposal during a meeting with Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid at the ministry.

They also suggested the minister for incorporation of a sub committee for finance and examination in every non-government educational institution.

The education minister said they will discuss it with all stakeholders before making the ordinance into law.

BSF returns body of Bangladeshi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Border Security Forces (BSF) of India returned the body of a Bangladeshi cattle trader after a company commander-level flag meeting with Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday.

The victim was identified as Rafiqul Islam, 23, son of Mansur Chukidar of Mushribhuza village of Bholahat upazila in the district.

BAIL PETITIONS OF POLITICIANS Acting AG to make submission today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court (HC) bench yesterday asked the Attorney General's office to place its submissions today on the bail petitions filed by some politicians who were earlier convicted in absentia in criminal cases.

Acting Attorney General M Enayetur Rahim will make submission on behalf of the state before the HC bench of Justice Syed AB Mahmudul Huq and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury, as the bench concluded hearing on arguments made by the petitioners' counsels yesterday.

The politicians, including

former Awami League lawmaker Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju, former BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa and former BNP minister M Saifur Rahman's son Shafiu Rahman Babu, filed the bail petitions.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed appeared for former BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa while Advocate Habibul Islam Bhuiyan for Shafiu Rahman Babu.

Earlier, Barrister Rafique-ul Huq, Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam, Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder appeared for other petitioners.

Matrihabasa Festival Feb 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Swabhumi, an organisation of writers and artists, will organise the 'Matrihabasa Festival 2009' on February 20.

Music, dance, recitation, and play of Bangla, Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Khasi, Hajong, Garo, Shantal community will be performed at the festival.

A 31-member committee was also formed yesterday at a meeting of Swabhumi to organise the festival. Mujtaba Ahmed Murshed and Sheikh Milan were made the convener and member secretary of the committee.

Ramendu Majumdar, poet Asad Chowdhury, journalist Abed Khan, cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu and Haider Akbar Khan Juno, AFM Shamsul Arefin and Sanjeev Drona are the advisers of the festival committee.

3rd S Asian confce on autism held

METRO DESK

The Welfare of Autistic Children (SWAC), the pioneer institution in Bangladesh to fight autism, organised the 3rd South Asian Regional Conference on Autism recently.

The theme of the two-day conference was 'Support through Understanding'.

The conference was held at the Social Services Department in the city, says a press release.

Minister for Social Welfare Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid was present as the chief guest and Prem Chand, general manager of Nokia EA, special guest.

Experts from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan presented papers on different areas of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at the conference.

Specialists on autism from US and Finland also joined this conference to share their experiences and knowledge with the regional experts. The areas ranged from early interventions to employment prospects of adult with autism.

Parents of autistic children, teachers, doctors, and other professionals working with disabilities also attended the event.

The conference, the first of its kind in Bangladesh, was supported by Brac Bank Ltd, Nokia EA and Exim Bank while Radio Today was the media partner.



Gias Uddin Selim speaks at a press conference at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday. On his left is Ajoy Kumar Kundu and on his right are Malik MD Syeed and Lutfur Rahman Riton.

Call to implement Women Development Policy '97

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) leaders yesterday urged the government to implement the Women Development Policy of 1997 as soon as possible to ensure gender equality politically, socially and economically for establishing the rule of law in the society.

A 10-member delegation lead by BMP President Ayesha Khanam and General Secretary Maleka Banu made the appeal after placing a 13-point demand before Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed at his secretariat office yesterday morning.

State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Quamrul Islam was also present at the meeting.

The law minister assured the women leaders that this ministry will extend all cooperation in this regard, adding that he would discuss the issues with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who is in charge of the Woman and Children Affairs Ministry.

Shafique Ahmed also said that the government is very sincere with the issues of development of women and children.

Implementation of Woman Development Policy of 1997 and restoration of 1972 constitution were on the top of their list, he added.

Their other demands include reform of prejudice family laws to reduce disparity between men and women in the society, including discrimination in marriage, divorce, post-divorce compensation and guardianship rights over children.

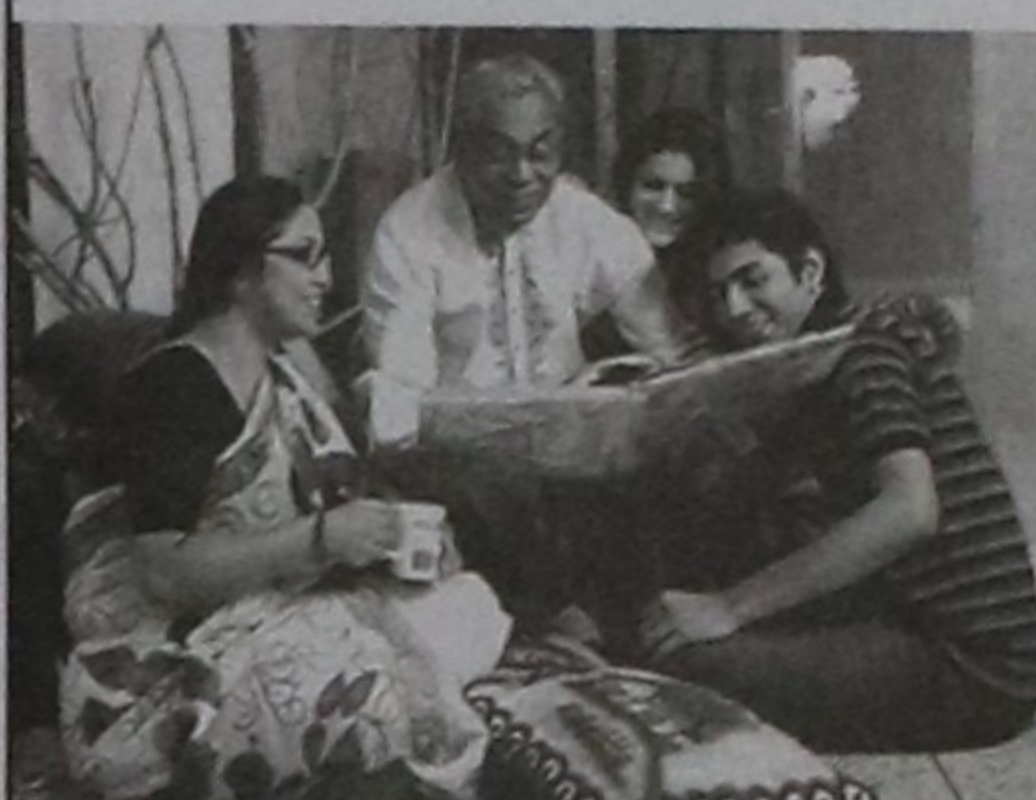
The top women leaders of the country also stressed the need for finalising policy against sexual harassment in universities and all other higher educational institutions.

Following the meeting, Ayesha Khanam told The Daily Star that the BNP-led alliance government did nothing except dillydallying, they neither cancelled the Women Policy '97 nor did they accept it.

"The present government is very sincere regarding empowering the women and we hope that the women issues will be given more preference," she added.

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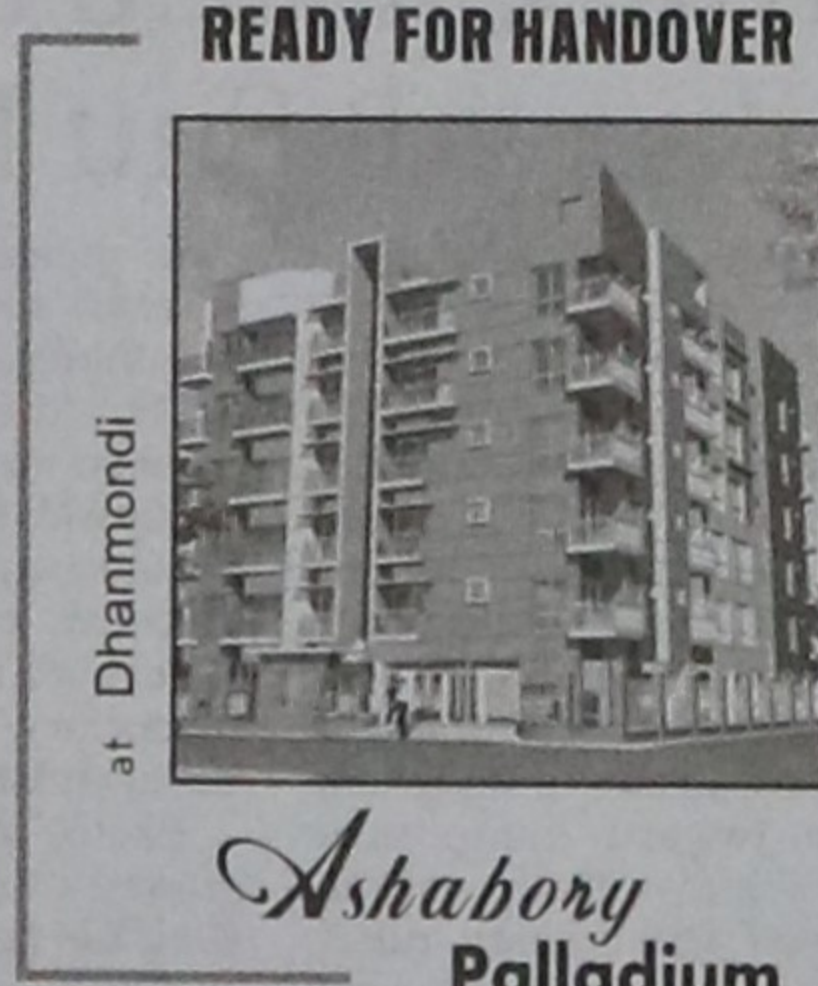


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