



Wasa won't dig roads anymore

Introduces new tech to install water pipes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) has introduced a new technology "trench-less system" to install or replace water pipes without digging roads in a bid to reduce public sufferings.

Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam inaugurated it on a pilot basis on Old Elephant Road yesterday.

Now only two small sections on the road at both ends of a 150-metre pipe have to be dug. The pipe will be inserted through one section after boring by a drill machine, while another machine will drag it for installation.

In case of replacing old pipes, a sharp cutter will be used to cut the old pipe

underground.

The system is the part of a Tk 1,465 crore project styled "Dhaka Water Supply Development Project" financed jointly by the Asian Development Bank and the government.

Around 3,481 kilometres of water lines will be replaced and extended under the project, which is scheduled to be completed by 2013.

Project Director Syed Kamrul Ahsan said the "trench-less system" or "no dig system" is being used on a pilot basis on Old Elephant Road and Gulshan Road 103. They will apply the system to other important roads if they get effective result.

Terming "trench-less" or "no dig" the modern most system in the world, the

project director said Wasa has taken the initiative to introduce it as the old "open-cut system" in installing water pipelines creates problems for the city dwellers.

Speaking as the chief guest, LGRD Minister Ashrafur Islam after inaugurating the system said the waters of the Turag, Buriganga and Shitalakhya have become untreatable due to excessive pollution.

Industrial zones around the city, tannery industry and dyeing factories are responsible of polluting the rivers, he said. The government has taken initiatives to save the rivers around the city, he added.

"We will reduce dependency on groundwater for supplying drinking water and we will increase use of surface

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Naser Rahman acquitted in extortion case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday acquitted former BNP lawmaker Naser Rahman, son of former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, of extortion charges for which he was earlier sentenced to nine years imprisonment.

The HC bench of Justice Md Arayesuddin and Justice Md Abu Tariq also acquitted two former engineers—Shafiqul Islam and Abdul Khaleque—of Roads and Highways Department of the same charges. They had been each sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

After hearing three separate appeals by the accused against the lower court judgment the HC bench delivered the verdicts.

Defence lawyer Rehan Hussain told The Daily Star that the HC bench acquitted

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100 more suspected BDR mutineers held

50 others remanded; army probe body places report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty more Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans were placed on a five-day remand each for mutiny at Pikhana headquarters while 100 more suspected BDR mutineers were arrested at Cox's Bazar battalion headquarters yesterday.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka issued the order of remand after the Criminal Investigation Department, which is investigating the case, produced the BDR jawans before it with a prayer for seven days' remand for each of them.

Meanwhile, the 20-member army probe committee on BDR carnage submitted its report to the Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed on Sunday without making any official announcement for public knowledge.

Sources said the report would not be made public but a copy of around 300 pages of the report would be handed over to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as she is also in charge of the defence ministry.

News agency UNB adds: The official enquiry committee on the BDR carnage is likely to submit its report today, said State Minister for Home Affairs Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj.

"It may be submitted tomorrow," he told reporters at the home ministry yesterday after a meeting on law and order in Dhaka and its adjoining areas.

Different sources said the army probe body narrated the two-day mutiny and carnage at the Pikhana BDR headquarters.

The committee in its report also mentioned the background of the mutiny and how it was being developed gradually.

The committee described the carnage based on the accounts of dozens of BDR personnel who had vital role in killing, looting and torturing in Pikhana on February 25-26 during the bloody mutiny that killed 74 people including 57 Army officers.

The committee also recommended formation of border guard force, strengthening functions of intelligence and compensation to the

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Workers' death not unusual

Says JS body

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary standing committee yesterday observed that recent death of Bangladeshi workers in different countries is 'not unusual' as such number of deaths occurred in previous times, too.

The standing committee on expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry said they would look into the matter and, if necessary,

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Dhaka College students clash with cops

10 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The students of Dhaka College yesterday clashed with police in front of the college leaving at least 10 people, including two policemen, injured.

Witnesses said the agitating students blocked the road in front of the college around 11:00am to press home their demand for declaring the college a full-fledged university.

Several hundred students

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AL men clash over tender

20 hurt in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 20 people were injured, two of them critically, in a clash between upazila unit Awami League (AL) and Jubo League on Raiganj upazila engineer's office premises yesterday over a tender manipulation incident.

Jubo League men also vandalised the furniture of the office and kept confined its

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Govt to probe 'crossfire' during 4-party rule: minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Home Affairs Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj yesterday said the government will conduct investigations into the incidents of crossfire between law enforcers and alleged criminals during the rule of BNP-led 4-party alliance government.

He also said steps will be taken against the persons who were responsible for

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Brick kilns have resumed business on the banks of Buriganga despite being shut down during a BITWA drive earlier in the year. People say, these kilns near the second bridge on Buriganga are owned by 'influential' people.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Lankan war zone hospital hit again

50 killed; UN doubts govt's no shelling claim

AP, Colombo

Shells hit the only hospital in Sri Lanka's northern war zone yesterday, killing at least 50 people in the second such attack in two days, a doctor said, as a human rights group accused the government of breaking its pledge not to fire artillery into the tiny coastal strip.

The military has denied firing any heavy weapons in recent weeks as it pushed to finish off the Tamil Tiger rebels, but Human Rights Watch says both sides are using the estimated 50,000 civilians packed into the last rebel-held territory as "cannon fodder."

Military spokesman Brig Udaya Nanayakkara denied troops were responsible for any shelling. He said the war zone had grown too small for the use of such weapons and rebel booby traps might be exploding by accident.

The UN has cast doubt on the government's claim.

"The government have said they are not using heavy weapons, but the evidence suggests that they are continuing to do so, at least to some extent," UN humanitarian chief John

Holmes said.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross said one of its workers was killed in the shelling yesterday.

The Tamil Tigers are cornered in a five square-kilometre pocket of land. The military said it pressed ahead with its offensive into that strip, capturing one of the rebels' heavy guns and fending off a suicide attack launched by the group's naval wing.

Also yesterday afternoon, the area around the hospital came under heavy shell attack, Dr V Shanmugarajah told The Associated Press by telephone the third time it has come under fire this month and just one day after the last attack. One shell landed in an administrative office of the hospital, while another hit a ward filled with patients already wounded by previous shelling, he said.

Dr Thurairaja Varatharajah, the top health official in the war zone, said the attack killed at least 50 people, including patients, relatives and a health aide, and wounded about 60 others.

He said heavy shelling continued throughout the day.

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Woman killed, her 2 kids kidnapped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals strangled a woman to death and kidnapped two of her daughters in the city's Turag early yesterday.

The victim is Khaleda Begum, 32, wife of Sumon Miah of Fulbaria area. Her kidnapped daughters are Shukti, 10, and Shuvra, 8.

Locals said they thronged the spot early in the morning as Khaleda's youngest daughter Shoshi, 5, came out of their house screaming. They found Khaleda's body on the bed.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Khandaker Rezaul Hasan of Turag Police Station told The Daily Star that the body had

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Prayer Timing		
May 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Manpower export shrinks alarmingly

JS body recommends urgent steps

RASHIDUL HASAN

Bangladeshi labour market has shrunk alarmingly in the recent months due to global recession posing serious concern about manpower export that has played a pivotal role in gearing up country's economy and foreign exchange reserve.

The manpower export in the first three months of 2009 dropped by a staggering number 85,465 compared to the corresponding period in 2008.

Against this backdrop a parliamentary standing body on expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry yesterday recommended the government takes immediate measures to tackle the decline in manpower export.

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India's marathon polls end

2 killed on last day

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The curtains came down yesterday on the world's longest and biggest polling exercise with a 62 percent turnout in the fifth and final round of Indian parliamentary elections amidst indications of a badly fractured mandate and a tight race for cobbling a power-winning coalition.

Two persons were killed—one in a clash between supporters of West Bengal's ruling CPI (M) and Trinamool Congress at Baliguri on the outskirts of Kolkata, the other in Tamil Nadu.

Counting of vote will take place on May 16.

Political negotiations by both congress and BJP have already begun to cobble a working and stable alliance.

Even before the first vote in the final round of month-long polling was cast, there were signs of realignment of political forces with cracks appearing in the "Third Front" spearheaded by Left parties with two of its constituents indicating their willingness to desert the ranks.

While Telangana Rashtriya Samiti (TRS), a regional outfit in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, switched over from Third

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3 robbers held after looting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

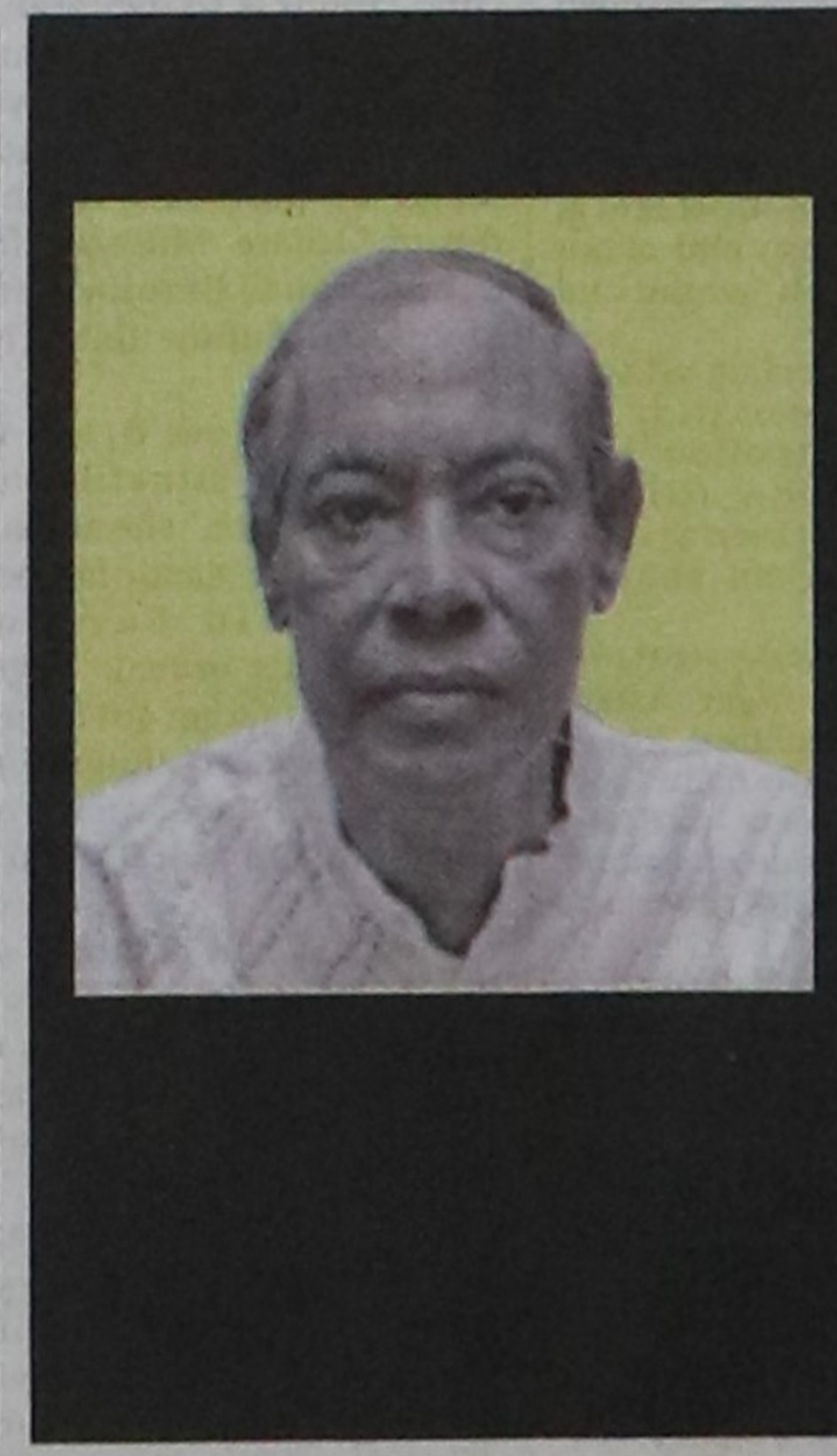
Police arrested three escaping robbers after they looted a house in the city's Pallabi last night.

The owner of the house, postmaster Zahirul Islam, 57, and robber Shahjahan, 55, of Patuakhali were injured in the incident. The law enforcers recovered a pistol from the scene.

Deputy Commissioner Imtiaz Ahmed of Mirpur Zone told The Daily Star that a gang of six robbers entered Zahirul's house on avenue-5 at Pallabi at around 9:30pm and looted valuables.

One of the robbers shot Zahirul in the leg as he tried to

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We Deeply Mourn

We are deeply shocked at the sad demise of

Dr. M.A. Wazed Miah

an eminent nuclear scientist, an educationist and husband of Sheikh Hasina, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. May Allah the Almighty bless his departed soul with eternal peace.

We also extend our heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

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