

Why MP-led dev work not illegal

HC asks govt to explain within 4 weeks; it is job of local govt, says a 2006 judgment of the court

SHAKHAWAT LITON and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court yesterday asked the government to explain why granting Tk 15 crore for each constituency for rural infrastructure development prescribed by lawmakers should not be declared unconstitutional.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) on March 9 approved the five-year-long project of Tk 4,691 crore to carry out development work in 300 constituencies.

Following the guidelines of the LGRD ministry, legislators have already sent their proposals to the ministry for development work they want done in their constituencies. Local Government Engineering Department of the LGRD ministry was supposed to start implant-

ing the proposals from this fiscal year.

Representatives of local government bodies, particularly those elected to upazila parishads, expressed grievances over the government decision, as it ignores the local government bodies' constitutional authority to conduct those development work.

Anwarul Haque Bablu, chairman of Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat, yesterday filed a writ petition with the HC challenging the legality of the government decision.

In response, an HC bench of Justice Mohammad Anwarul Haque and Justice Syed Abu Kowser Md Dabirush-shan issued the rule upon the government asking it to respond within four weeks.

The bench also stayed the Ecneec's decision

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Queued drives are trying to cope with CNG filling station employees at the capital's Moghbazar as it closes at 3:00pm for the next six hours.

PHOTO: STAR

Partial closure of CNG filling stations causes sufferings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The partial shutdown of CNG filling stations began yesterday as part of the government plan to ease the country's severe power shortage by diverting gas to power plants.

The move is expected to save nearly 40 million cubic feet of gas daily, which can generate up to 200 megawatts of electricity. Country's daily power shortage now ranges between 1,200 and 1,500 megawatts, for which shortage of gas is one of the main reasons.

The city dwellers yesterday suffered from transport crisis, the result of the closure of CNG filling stations from 3:00pm to 9:00pm.

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL Provisions of law challenged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two detained top Jamaat-Islami leaders yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) challenging the First Amendment to the Constitution and some sections of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973 under which the war crimes trial is being held.

Jamaat senior assistant secretaries general Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul

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Constitution awaits another add-on

JS body suggests inclusion of father of the nation provision in charter

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The special parliamentary committee will propose inclusion of a provision in the constitution declaring Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as Father of the Nation.

Bangabandhu has already been mentioned as the father of the nation in the fourth amendment act passed in 1975, but the provision was not incorporated in the constitution as an article.

Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair of the special

committee for constitution amendment, told The Daily Star yesterday, "A new article in this regard might be included in article 3 or 4 of the constitution."

The two articles deal with state language, national anthem, flag and emblem.

In its report to the parliament, the committee will recommend necessary amendments to the constitution.

Section 34(b) of the 1975 fourth amendment

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MANIKGANJ CRASH Bus driver's licence found fake

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The driver of the bus, which was involved in an accident claiming the lives of two government high officials on July 31, carries a fake licence, a Bangladesh Road Transport Authority official said yesterday.

The Druti Paribahan bus's fitness certificate had also expired on June 20 this year, said Assistant Director Abdul

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Cops block filing of murder case

Victim's wife points at MP Shaon, police say investigation on as per rule



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rina Islam, wife of Awami League activist Ibrahim Ahmed who died on Friday in a mysterious incident, has alleged that police are not recording a murder case in this connection.

She went to Sher-e-Bangla Police Station to file a murder case accusing Kamal Hossain Kala, driver, and Delwar,

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Power supply improves

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Country's power situation has slightly improved as the authorities have diverted more gas to the power stations from the first day of Ramadan.

According to the daily power generation data of the Power Development Board (PDB), the level of "official" load shedding that hovered around 1,200 to 1,500 megawatts every day came down to around 800 to 900 MW last week.

As a result, the frequency of daily power outages in the city reduced significantly. During

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