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REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XX No. 213

DHAKA WEDNESDAY AUGUST 18, 2010

www.thedailystar.net

BHADRA 3, 1417 BS

RAMADAN 7, 1431 HIJRI

24 PAGES PRICE: Tk 10.00

Gas there, not linked to supply network

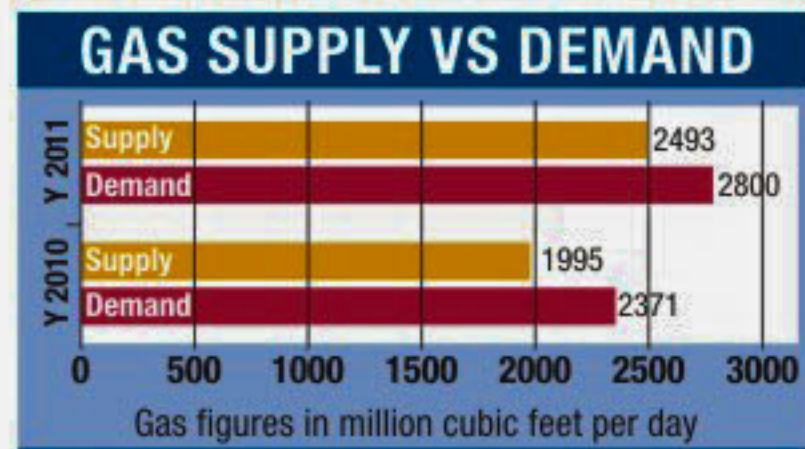
\$900m investment needed to set up pipelines, double gas production

SHARIEF KHAN

Experts have found out that the country's existing gas crisis was created due mainly to lack of adequate pipeline system, not necessarily for unavailability of enough gas.

In a study submitted to the energy ministry late last month, the experts have pinpointed the need to take up a dozen pipeline projects urgently to evacuate gas from upcoming gas production in next five years.

Of these projects, two or three pipelines are cross-country and highly critical.



Without these projects, all bids to reduce the country's gas crisis would fail.

These pipeline projects would need around \$900 million investment till 2015, says the study prepared by Petrobangla, Gas Transmission Company Ltd (GTCL)

and Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution System Ltd (TGTDC).

The country's present gas consumption is 2,000 million cubic feet per day (mmcf), with a short supply of 400 mmcf. Of this gas production, foreign oil companies produce a little bit more than the national companies do.

One of the experts noted that if there were adequate pipelines, at least 130 mmcf gas could have been supplied to the national grid from Jalalabad and Bibiyana gas fields as of today. He added the Jalalabad field has the capability to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

HC circuit bench to be set up in Ctg

Says law minister
BSS, Chittagong

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Shafique Ahmed yesterday said that a circuit bench of the High Court division will soon be set up in Chittagong for speedy disposal of the pending cases in the region.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already consented and the process for setting up of the Bench is waiting for final approval of the chief justice and the president.

The law minister said this while exchanging views at a meeting with the leaders of Chittagong District Bar

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

SUGAR, EDIBLE OIL

Prices found spiked before, after drive

WASIM BIN HABIB

Manik was sealing packets of sugar with the heat of candlelight in his tiny shop at Hatirpul kitchen market when a group of strangers came up and asked how much it costs.

Manik said Tk 50 a kg, Tk 3 more than the government set price.

"We lose sugar of a good amount when we pack the loose sugar," he explained when one of the strangers asked him why the difference. "Moreover, we have to adjust the transportation cost while pricing."

Unfortunately for Manik, the man asking questions was Commerce Secretary M Golam Hossain. And he was being accompanied by a government team that spent its first day monitoring prices of sugar and edible oil in different kitchen markets of the city.

The result: Manik's shop was fined Tk 20,000

on the spot for charging more than the government set prices.

Manik was not alone. The inspection teams yesterday assessed Tk 2.74 lakh in fines against food merchants in Hatirpul, Karwan Bazar, New Market and Kalmilata market yesterday.

But the teams hardly made a dent in the higher prices. A spot check before and after their sweeps in kitchen markets found sugar and edible oil prices higher than permitted.

The price of non-branded sugar hovered between Tk 49 and Tk 50, compared to the government's mandated Tk 47. And the price of super palm oil was as much as Tk 78, two taka more than the legal amount. Soya bean oil prices, however, were under or at the government limit of Tk 80 a litre.

Four teams from the Ministry of Commerce and two teams from Directorate of National

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

CHEMICALS WAREHOUSES SHIFTING Deadline widens to Sept 30

Taskforce to conduct drive in Old Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday decided to extend the deadline for shifting warehouses that store combustible chemical in Old Dhaka till September 30.

Considering the month of Ramadan, the government has made the decision, said Industries Minister Dilip Barua after a meeting of the national Productivity Organisation (NPO) at the ministry.

The earlier deadline expired yesterday.

"A taskforce will carry out a drive against storage of 20 selected flammable chemicals in the area from September 20 to 30," said the industries minister, adding that a joint team comprising of local members of parliaments, representative of Dhaka district administration and the taskforce will monitor the relocation process.

The government has declared residential areas off limit for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

A chemical warehouse at a residential area on Sharat Chandra Road in Old Dhaka. Following the Nimtoli fire, which claimed more than 120 lives, the government ordered relocating those warehouses storing flammable chemicals from the old part of the city by August 17 (yesterday). The deadline has now been extended to September 30. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



AUG 17 BOMBINGS Culprits to be brought to book: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that all the culprits behind the country-wide serial bomb blasts of August 17, 2005 will be found out and brought to book.

"Militancy will be rooted out from Bangladesh," she said, reiterating her government's strong stand against militancy and all types of terrorism.

The premier made the remarks while addressing a function at the National Academy for Educational Management (Naem) in the morning.

Hasina said there was patronisation by the state itself behind

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Ecneec okays purchase of 17 dredgers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to purchase 17 dredgers at a cost of Tk 1,949 crore for the development of the country's river routes.

Some 21,600 cubic kilometre river routes will be dredged a year under this river dredging project. A high-powered committee headed by the Prime Minister has been formed earlier to implement the project.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Stalkers attack cops, 4 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of stalkers at Nikunja in the capital's Khilkhet last night hacked four policemen to injuries and snatched a pistol from one of the law enforcers.

Police said they went to Nikunja area around 9:00pm after a local Awami League activist informed them that a group of youths were stalking his niece, Sakira Nasreen Mitu, a class X student of Open University.

As police arrested one of the stalkers -- Rajib -- from an under-construction building, his accomplices swooped on them leaving the four injured.

The injured -- Khilkhet Police Station Operation Officer Deen-e-Alam, 43, Sub-Inspector Habibur Islam, 43, Constable

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Ensure security to Gulshan sisters

HC asks cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday directed the police to immediately provide security to the daughters of Sadequr Rahman and Romana Nargis who were killed by miscreants in March at Gulshan in the capital.

It asked the Officers-in-charge (OC) of Gulshan and Badda police stations to give security to Sumaiya Yasmin Bithi and Nilufar Yasmin Iti

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Girl run over by reckless bus

Driver arrested as the 4-year-old dies on the spot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-year-old girl died on the spot after being knocked down by a bus at the capital's Boxnagar yesterday.

Following the death people vandalised five buses including the one that ran over the kid.

Police seized the bus and arrested its driver, Babul Mian, 41.

The deceased, Lamia Akhter Brishti, was the daughter of van puller Babul Khan and sweater

factory worker Julekha Begum.

Shah Ali Police Station Sub-Inspector Abdul Latif said a New Vision Paribahan bus hit the girl while she was crossing the Chiriakhana Road around 1:00pm.

He added the girl suffered severe head wound and bled to death on the spot.

Babul Khan told The Daily Star, Julekha, while at work, used to keep Brishti at a day care facility of the sweater factory every day. Yesterday she

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Jubo League leader, top criminal killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police recovered bodies of two youths from a marsh along Bogra-Natore road in Singra upazila of Natore early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Iqbal Hasan, a Jubo League leader of Pabna, and Khorshed alias Shawon, a suspected criminal of the capital.

Natore Jubo League vice president Yahia Chowdhury

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

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HITTING THE NEWS STAND SOON

We Mourn
We are deeply shocked at the sudden and premature demise of Mr. Atif Rahman, Director of the company. He expired on 16-August-2010 at 3:25 a.m. (Bangladesh time) at Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore. (Inna Lillahe.....Rajeun). He was only 40.
Mr. Atif was an epitome of humility & a man of amiable disposition. His eternal journey has left a permanent void in the minds of all who were associated with him.
We express our heart-felt condolences and sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and pray to Almighty Allah for the eternal peace of his departed soul.
Members of the Board of Directors, Management & Employees
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