



Smiling passengers board a waterbus, first of its kind in Bangladesh, at Swarighat in the city yesterday. This service was launched along the Gabtali-Sadarghat route on Saturday to ease the city's nagging traffic situation.

Urea production at Ashuganj suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Urea production at Ashuganj Fertiliser and Chemical Company Limited (AFCL) in Brahmanbaria has remained suspended since Saturday due to technical glitch in the factory.

Managing Director of AFCL Md Osman Gani said the factory units got overheated due to technical faults in the cooling tower, decreasing the urea production.

The factory's production dropped to 1110 metric tonnes (MT) from 1350 MT, and the authorities had to stop the production to repair the faults that would take four to five days, he said.

Earlier on August 7, the AFCL authorities halted productions due to similar reasons.

The MD said the boiler tubes and heater cells of the factory are being blocked frequently with silica and mud of Meghna River, causing the tubes to get over heated.

Narayanganj people cry for gas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Several hundred agitating locals laid siege to the regional office of Titas Gas Distribution and Transmission Company Ltd at Chashara Balur Math in Narayanganj yesterday demanding solution to persisting gas crisis.

Later, they held a rally in front of Narayanganj Press Club in support of their demand.

Speakers at the rally said even though the Titas Gas authorities were informed of the crisis several times they did not take any actions. They also threatened to launch a tougher movement if their demand is not met immediately.

People from Paikpara, Deobhagh, Beparipara, Tanbazar, Bangla Bazar, Baurail, Bhuiyan Para, Nama Para, Naya Para, Bou Bazar and Jallarpar area participated in the agitation in front of Titas Gas

office.

Among others, local leaders Abdul Kadir and Selim Bhuiyan spoke at the rally.

They said if no action are taken immediately the crisis for gas will worsen in the coming winter season.

General Manager of Titas Gas Distribution and Transmission Company Ltd Narayanganj office Mujibul Haque could not be contacted over phone despite several attempts.

Bangabandhu's ideals always inspire to build country

President tells memorial lecture

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday said Bangladesh would have become a developed country like Singapore and Malaysia many years ago if there was continuity of the implementation of Bangabandhu's dream and programmes.

The president made the remark while addressing a function titled 'The Bangabandhu Memorial Lecture' at Osmani Memorial Auditorium organised by Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research.

Siddhartha Shankar Ray, a veteran Indian Congress leader and also former chief minister of West Bengal, was scheduled to deliver the memorial lecture but could not attend the function due to illness. However, his address recorded in DVD was presented at the function.

Zillur said the nation got rid of the stigma somewhat with the execution of the death sentence of the killers of Bangabandhu and his family members.

He said "Bangabandhu is no more among us but his ideals will always inspire the posterity in building the country."

The president said there are only a few political leaders in the world with the stature of Bangabandhu considering the height of their patriotism

and human values.

"His lifelong dream, devotion and politics were for the welfare of the distressed, deprived, oppressed, neglected, illiterate, and rural poor people."

He recalled that Bangabandhu was always active against all sorts of injustice and said, "Bangabandhu was expelled from Dhaka University for joining the rights movement of the fourth class employees, but chose not to compromise with injustice."

He also recalled that while returning to Bangladesh on January 10 in 1972, Bangabandhu had categorically asked Indira Gandhi, the then Indian prime minister, when the Indian forces would be completely withdrawn from Bangladesh.

The president said although Indira Gandhi, who offered all possible Indian assistance during the War of Liberation, became somewhat embarrassed over the question, but Bangabandhu got the reply he wanted.

"Bangabandhu's role was that of a statesman, as people's interest was embedded in it," he said.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury presided over the function while MA Monayem Sarker, director general of Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research, gave the address of welcome.

IER NEW ADMISSION SYSTEM Protest continues

VC, director differ policy's outcome

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Dhaka University students of Institute of Education and Research (IER) yesterday continued their protest for the third day against the new admission policy for the first year students of the institute.

The Academic Council, a body of DU professors, at a meeting on Wednesday decided that students to B Ed (Bachelor of Education) courses at the IER can gain admission through 'Kha' and 'Gha' unit admission tests this year instead of arranging separate test under the institute.

DU officials said the new policy will cut the expense and ease sufferings of the admission seekers.

Agitating students at a press conference on the IER premises yesterday, however, demanded cancellation of the new admission policy saying the institute might not get qualified students through it.

Asked by the reporters, they could not reply as to why they are demonstrating when the teachers of the institute have yet to make any formal move.

After the press conference, they also brought out a procession on the IER premises to press home their demand.

Campus sources, wishing to remain unnamed, said some teachers and senior students of

the institute are instigating the agitating students to continue the movement for their financial gain.

Talking to The Daily Star, IER Director Prof Salma Akhter also said they will not get qualified students through the new admission policy.

However, she denied involvement of any teacher of the institute with the students' agitation saying they were demonstrating from their own point of view.

"Teachers themselves are enough for discussing with the high-ups of the university the new policy," she said.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said the teachers of the institute will be engaged in the process of preparing questions for Kha and Gha units, so there is no chance of getting unqualified students.

In past years, successful HSC and its equivalent examinations students got admission to the institute through a separate test held by the institute. The institute authorities usually arrange the test when admission tests for the other faculties are over.

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