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TURMOIL IN TUNISIA

Ashfaqur Rahman discusses Africa's possible reactions to the latest developments

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Earth 'to get second sun'

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THRU' BANGLABANDHA

The land port opens up for trade with India

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Gas prospects made gloomy

Fingers pointed at tardy Petrobangla

SHARIER KHAN

The country will continue to suffer from gas crisis for the next few years as Petrobangla has failed to increase gas production and its capability to supply gas in line with the rising demand.

The shortfall in gas supply now stands at around 500 million cubic feet a day (mmcf), sufficient to generate power to meet one third of the country's electricity demand.

Domestic users need 130-140 mmcf gas in the capital but its supply now hov-

ers around 110 mmcf, said officials of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd.

Titas has been trying to improve gas supply by replacing old and narrow gas lines.

It has replaced around 56 kilometres of pipelines in the city. But there will not be any big improvement in supply unless gas production increases, said an official asking not to be named.

"But we don't see any realistic projection of increased gas supply," the official said.

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All the gas burners of this house at Moghbazar are of no use as the gas supply has gone out around noon yesterday and the women resort to wood-fuelled earthen stoves. Residents of the area suffer gas outage every day from 7:00am till evening.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Gas crisis changes city life

HELEMUL ALAM

Ananya Begum, a resident in the city's South Kafrul, wakes up around 5:00am every day. She hurriedly prepares breakfast and lunch, as gas supply runs out in two hours.

Ananya has been doing it for more than a month, as she cannot afford to spend on a kerosene stove.

Many others in the area also face gas outage every day from 7:00am till evening.

For Moghbazar resident Fatima Akhtar Bristi, the

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Steel will

Briton in wheelchair sets out for a 5,000-mile journey to raise fund for CRP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Peter Donnelly, a spirited 24-year-old from St Helens in Liverpool, who is paralysed from the neck down, started rolling back towards his hometown in his wheelchair yesterday.

Donnelly, a volunteer for the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), will travel across 14 countries in two continents to raise funds for the organisation.

His 5,000-mile journey began at the National Monument in Savar, where the organisation is headquartered.

Four years ago, just days before his 20th birthday, Donnelly suffered a critical spinal injury in a motorbike accident and lost ability to walk.

The Briton will make his journey by bus and train across India, Nepal, Tibet, China, Kazakhstan, Russia,

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Peter Donnelly

Railway to offer 25 new services

Says communications boss, opens commuter train services on N'ganj route

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an effort to ease traffic hold-ups, Bangladesh Railway yesterday launched two new commuter train services on the Dhaka-Narayanganj route.

The services have been introduced to facilitate more people using the route, railway officials said adding, it would also provide over five thousand people a safer and more convenient mode of transport.

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain inaugurated the new services at Kamalapur Railway Station.

The minister said the government is working to procure another 30 pairs of Diesel-Electrical Multiple Units (DEMU) -- multiple unit trains with multiple carriages powered by one or more on-board diesel engines.

These DEMUs will run on Dhaka-Joydevpur, Dhaka-Mymensingh and Dhaka-Narayanganj routes as commuter services, he added.

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Free upazila from fetters

Chairmen, deputies blame MPs, bureaucrats for making local bodies ineffective

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Upazila parishad chairmen and vice-chairmen and leaders of different political parties yesterday blamed lawmakers and bureaucrats for making the local bodies weak and ineffective.

They demanded that the upazila parishad be made autonomous and freed from the control of bureaucrats and lawmakers.

They said this at a hunger strike until death at the city's Muktangan to press home their 10-point demand marking two years of upazila

parishad elections.

Hundreds of upazila chairmen and vice-chairmen, led by Bangladesh Upazila Parishad Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen Oikya Parishad President Abdul Mazid

Photo and General Secretary

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GRAFT IN JUDICIARY CJ may pick probe team today

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The chief justice is likely to form a five-member probe committee led by an Appellate Division judge today to identify corrupt people in the judiciary.

Four judges of the High Court Division will complete the probe body, Supreme Court sources said.

Chief Justice Khairul Haque has lately decided

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1 dies at fake doctor's clinic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested a fake doctor and a landlord in connection with the death of a patient at Kalabagan in the capital.

Relatives of deceased Belal Hosain, 33, of the city's Zoo Road in Mirpur, said Belal was taken to Bangladesh Piles Niramoy Kendra on Friday. Belal's landlord Nurul Islam suggested taking him to that particular clinic. Nurul even made a surgery deal with "doctor" Habibur Rahman, 70, for Tk 20,000.

Habibur performed the piles surgery Friday night and Belal died around 4:00am yesterday.

Following complaint from relatives, police arrested Habibur and Nurul around 11:00am.

Habibur, also the owner of the clinic, told reporters

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Stock loser kidnaps student

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a private tutor here yesterday for kidnapping a girl student, which he said was an attempt to recover his loss due to the recent stockmarket plunge.

The arrestee, Abdul Mazid, 24, hails from Kutubdia upazila of Cox's Bazar.

Mazid kidnapped his student Naima Kaiser, 8, on Thursday on her way back home from school,

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