

Rajshahi gas

FROM PAGE 20
Gate Station of Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (PGCL) at Kharkhari area in the city.
"We are ready to start whenever the government gives the go-ahead," said Rezaul Karim, general manager (marketing) of PGCL.
Contacted, Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman said gas supply is likely to start in a month or two.
The Tk 112 crore Rajshahi gas supply project was approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council in July 2006. The expenditure was later revised to Tk 105 crore.
Although the project was initially scheduled to complete by June 2009, it took longer due to delay in release of funds and complexities related to installing gas pipelines in rivers. Finally it was completed last year.

Jamaat man

FROM PAGE 1
Rajshahi city BNP, announced the programme at a press briefing in the evening.
Witnesses said Shafigue was hit by a bullet when police, under attack, opened fire on the violent activists of Jamaat and Islami Chhatra Shibir around 4:45pm.
M Obaidullah, commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, said they were yet to know how the man was killed. He claimed that police fired rubber bullets and shotgun shells only to scatter the rioting party men and that they had targeted nobody.
"Moreover, the killing took place when the law enforcers already started falling back," he added.
The RMP commissioner also claimed that gun-wielding Jamaat-Shibir activists fired at police.
Following the clashes, some 53 people were arrested from different parts of the city.
At least 19 policemen were injured as Jamaat-Shibir men hurled brick chips and lobbed cocktails, witnesses and RMP officials said.
The injured, including inspectors Tofazzal Hossain of Detective Branch and Khan M Shahrir of Boalia Police Station, were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.
Yesterday, huge contingents of police were deployed at different points, including Saheb Bazar, Rajshahi College and Shah Makhdom College, in the city from 3:00pm as the four-party alliance was set to hold agitations.
Around 4:00pm, BNP leaders Mizanur Rahman Minu and Nadim Mostafa brought out separate processions from Lohkath School and Rajshahi College points.
Police soon intercepted Nadim's procession while Minu and his men marched to Bhubon Mohon Park and held a rally there.
Later at about 4:30pm, a big procession of Jamaat and Shibir marched from Hatim Khan to Lohkath School but was stopped by police at the northern corner of the school.
Enraged, Jamaat-Shibir men started pelting law enforcers with brick chips and stones. The area was engulfed in smoke as they exploded three cocktails.
The activists chased the cops twice up to the Rajshahi College point.
After reinforcement, police chased the Jamaat-Shibir men, firing rubber bullets and tear-gas canisters.
At one stage, Shafigul was found lying "unconscious" on the road and minutes later, a police van took him to hospital, witnesses said.
Shafigul was seen throwing brickbats at police moments before a bullet hit him, they added.
The disturbances lasted till 5:00pm when the law enforcers brought the situation under control.
"Hatim Khan area is a bastion of Jamaat-Shibir. Police had to retreat thrice during the clashes as they ran short of teargas canisters and bullets," said Additional RMP Commissioner M Moniruzzaman.
Tension ran high in the city with shops keeping their shutters down and roads being almost empty.
Emaj Uddin Mondol, the city unit Jamaat assistant secretary, said some 60 Jamaat-Shibir activists were injured in police action and many of them were bullet hit.
They were taken to Islami Bank Bangladesh Hospital and different clinics.
Law enforcers had shot into the Jamaat procession without any provocation, he claimed.
Islamic Chhatra Shibir, a pro-Jamaat student body, condemned the killing and also "police brutality".
Meeting sources said

7 BCL men

FROM PAGE 20
The other six students expelled for two years are fourth-year students Majharul Islam and Mahamudul Hasan Masud of History Department, Kamruzzaman Sohag of Philosophy Department, Najmul Hossein Plabon of Public Administration Department, and Shafiq Alam Setu and Abhinandan Kundu of Statistics Department.
Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Farhad Hossain headed the probe committee.
JU Registrar Abu Bakar Siddique told The Daily Star that the report had not been made public for the sake of the ongoing police investigation into the incident.
However, JU teachers and students, who have been demanding trial of Zubair's attackers and removal of the entire proctorial body, have said the authorities must make public the contents of the probe report.
They also demonstrated in front of the registrar building yesterday to press their demands.
The JU administration filed a murder case with the Ashulia Police Station on January 9 mentioning names of three JU students -- Ashikul Islam, Rashidul Islam and Khan Mohammad Rais -- along with 10 to 12 unnamed students as accused.
Police later arrested four accused students based on information from the university probe committee. They are among the 13 students, who were expelled yesterday.
The nine other expelled

Govt seeks

FROM PAGE 20
Jagannath, Comilla and Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam. Once it is passed in parliament, these three universities won't have to bear the expenses including salaries and wages from their own funds after a certain period of time as per the existing law.
The cabinet also approved the draft "Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012" keeping a provision of maximum 12 years of imprisonment as well as a fine of Tk 10 lakh or double the value of the property and a minimum four-year imprisonment for related offences.
It also endorsed drafts of the Anti-Terrorism (amendment) Act, 2012; the Mutual Assistance on Criminal Matters Act, 2012, and the National Efficiency Development Policy aiming to create skilled manpower.
If the mutual assistance act is passed in parliament, Bangladesh will get other countries' cooperation in repatriation of convicted criminals and brining back siphoned-off money. The country will also be able to ask other countries to return its convicted criminals holed up there and vice versa. This

KL keen to fund

FROM PAGE 20
on Infrastructure to India and South Asia Dato' Seri S Samy Vellu made the offer during a meeting with Communications Minister Obaidul Quader at the Setu Bhaban in Mohakhali.
Samy Vellu, who is leading a seven-member delegation, handed over an offer letter to Quader. Malaysia earlier showed interest to finance the mega construction.
Companies from various countries, including South Korea, Indonesia and China showed their interest for the bridge construction after the \$2.97 billion project was stalled five months ago following allegation of corruption by leading financier World Bank.
Malaysia is the first country to make a formal offer in this regard.
"They are very keen to construct the Padma bridge. They made an offer to us and we have accepted it," Quader told reporters after the meeting.
"We will take decision after scrutinising their offer," he said, reiterating that the government do not have much time to waste. "We want to start construction works of the long-cherished bridge within the tenure of the present government."
Meeting sources said

students will also be included in the murder case, said the JU registrar.
On expiry of the two-year expulsion of the six students, the university authorities will decide their fate, he said.
The syndicate decided to provide Tk 2 lakh to Zubair's family and offer a member of his family a job in the university according to his or her educational qualification.
The syndicate also formed a one-member committee headed by Treasurer Prof Nasir Uddin to probe the alleged assault on the JU Teachers' Association president by former proctor Prof Arzu Mia.
Agitating university teachers, however, rejected the syndicate decisions saying that they are aimed at deceiving students and teachers.
They also demanded punishment to former proctor Prof Arzu Mia for his alleged assault on Prof AA Mamun, president of JU Teachers' Association. Arzu stepped down as proctor on January 16 in the face of protests from students and teachers for "failure to ensure security on the campus."
"We cannot accept the syndicate's decisions because the probe report has not been made public. We think that the real culprits have been saved," said Prof Nasim Akhter Hossain of Government and Politics Department.
She said they would announce their next course of action today at a press conference on the university campus.

handover could be done even without any bilateral extradition treaties in effect.
The cabinet also approved a proposal for according a reception to the foreign heads of government and state, politicians, philosophers, artists, litterateurs and writers in recognition of their outstanding contributions during the War of Liberation of Bangladesh in 1971. The reception would be accorded anytime between March 27 and April 30 instead of an earlier decision of March 26.
In the first phase, some 129 personalities from different countries including Argentina, Australia, Bhutan, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, Germany, India, Irish Republic, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Poland, Russia, South Korea, Sweden, the UK, the US, Venezuela and Vietnam will be accorded reception.
Briefing reporters after the meeting, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the cabinet approved the proposal for extending the timeframe for holding DCC elections as the EC expressed its inability to hold the polls within the 90-day timeframe.

KL keen to fund

Malaysia offered financing for only the road bridge with two approach roads. The original design has both road and rail bridges.
"The government will go for an alternative financier to construct the bridge if the ongoing impasse with the World Bank is not removed in the next few months," said a senior communications ministry official, requesting anonymity.
In that case, he said, the government will go for the Malaysian offer.
At the talks with the communications minister, the Malaysian delegation also expressed their interest to construct a mono-rail in the city and an expressway between Dhaka and Chittagong.
The World Bank in August last year suspended its funding for the project on graft allegations. It recently extended the deadline for loan activation for the project by six months.
Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday asked the donor agency again to prove the allegation of corruption in the project, saying that the government will not accept its fund for this mega project unless it can establish the accusation.

Bana Bhante

FROM PAGE 20
Hospital sources said Bana Bhante breathed his last around 3:15pm at the intensive care unit.
Because of his spiritual power acquired through years of meditation in the deep forests of the hill district, local Buddhists consider him to be a living embodiment of the values of Lord Buddha.
He was born on January 8 in 1920 in Moghan union of Sadar upazila in Rangamati. His original name was Ratindra Chakma.
He started meditation in 1950 and continued till he became ill. It is widely believed that he has never committed any crime and done any injustice to anybody since his boyhood.
The Buddhist community in Rangamati constructed the Rajban Bihar and requested him to take the helm in 1975.
Bana Bhante wrote several books about Buddhism -- Suttrapath and Sudristhi.
Hearing of his death, hundreds of devotees thronged the hospital. Among them were Industries Minister Dilip Barua, chief of Chakma Circle Raja Devasish Roy and State Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Dipanker Talukder.
His body will be kept at Kalabagan ground from 8:00am to 10:00am today for paying last tributes.
BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has expressed deep shock at the death of Bana Bhante. In separate messages, Bangladesh Buddhist Federation, Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti and Jatiya Party also expressed their sorrow at the death of the spiritual leader.

AL vows

FROM PAGE 1
alleged at a rally in front of the party's headquarters at Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital.
Now, she (Khaleda) was again hatching a conspiracy to come to power through undemocratic means, AL leaders said referring to a recently foiled army plot to overthrow the government.
Dhaka city AL unit organised the rally demanding that the ongoing war crimes trial be sped up. The rally was chaired by acting president of the unit MA Aziz.
"No conspiracy to bring down the elected government will be successful," said AL Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif while speaking as the chief guest.
Police had information that BNP had made a plan to carry out subversive activities during its mass processions scheduled for Sunday and that was why they imposed a ban on procession and rally on the day, said Hanif, also a special assistant to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
He urged BNP lawmakers to join parliament and place their demands there instead of piloting street agitations.
Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, AL city unit general secretary, demanded immediate arrests of those involved with the army plot.
State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam said trial of seven or eight accused of war crimes including former Jamaat ameer Ghulam Azam would be completed by this year.
The city AL unit will bring out processions at 100 wards in the capital today to press home their demands.
JUBALEAGUE HUMAN CHAIN
Awami Juba League, a youth pro-AL body, held a human chain yesterday from the city's Motijheel to the Jatiya Press Club, protesting what it said was the opposition's recent plot to topple the elected government.
The AJL's acting chairman Omar Faruk Chowdhury announced fresh programmes including human chains in all district towns and upazilas across the country on February 2 and 6.
Referring to the plot of a few in the army against the government, Juba League General Secretary Mirza Azam said BNP had wanted to topple the government by creating anarchy with the help of Hizb-ut-Tahrir men inside the army.

It's media propaganda

FROM PAGE 1
charging Tk 25,000 for admissions in class-I to X.
After the Maghrib prayers, Deputy Speaker Col (ret) Shaukat Ali gave the floor to Majumder to speak on the thanks giving motion on president's speech.
Instead the ruling AL lawmaker from the very beginning of his speech raised the issue of recent media reports on high admission fees by Monipur High School and College. He alleged that journalists were trying to tarnish his image with the "help of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami".
He, however, admitted that the school authorities had taken the extra money as "donation" only for fresh admissions.
"I will return the extra

money if the education minister extends monetary assistance to the school," he said, adding, "We have borrowed Tk 11 crore from a bank for the institution's development activities and the amount has now become Tk 15 crore with the interest."
Over the last three years, the education ministry had not given a single penny to any of the schools in my constituency, said Majumder criticising Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, who was also present in the House.
"You [the education minister] always speak for spreading the education facilities, but did not provide any assistance. How will we meet the school's development expenses?" Majumder

said.
"We did not commit any crime [by charging extra with admission fees]," he said.
About January 3 this year, the day he had assaulted a female reporter of a private television channel, the lawmaker alleged that the Rtv authorities had deployed three cameramen on Monipur school premises and as part of a conspiracy to defame him.
On that day, Rtv staff reporter Aparna Singha along with videographer Syed Haider and another reporter Shahin Parvez went to the school to seek Majumder's comment on the school authorities' decision to charge Tk 25,000 as admission fees, whereas the government-fixed amount

was Tk 5,000.
Majumder yesterday also demanded that the government investigate the involvement of journalists in the "evil scheme" to malign his reputation and ensure their punishment.
Meanwhile, the education minister last week categorically said that the schools that had charged admission fees higher than the government-fixed amount would have to return the extra money or adjust it with the monthly fees.
An education ministry's probe body on January 8 said the Monipur school authorities had violated the Right to Information Act by obstructing a journalist from carrying out her professional duties.

Admission fees re-fixed

FROM PAGE 1
and session charge.
The decisions were taken at a meeting yesterday with Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid in the chair.
The meeting reviewed the report and recommendations of the seven-member enquiry committee on admission fees, said meeting sources.
Contacted, the education minister said, "There are many schools where we (government) give salaries of a small number of teachers. Salaries of the other teachers are paid by the institutions. Besides, they also carry out many development activities and other activities to ensure quality education. We have taken the decision considering all this."

He went on, "The problems (concerning admission) are longstanding and we are trying to solve those gradually."
The minister urged all to cooperate with the government in resolving the problem.
On December 14 last year, the government announced an admission policy for the non-government schools across the country. It fixed the admission fees for such schools in Dhaka city at Tk 5,000 at best.
But, most of the renowned non-government schools in the capital have been violating the admission policy by charging Tk 8,000 to Tk 32,000. The issue came under the spotlight following media reports about violation of the policy.

The government then formed the enquiry committee to look into the matter. But things turned worse on January 3 when the ruling Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder assaulted journalist Aprona Singha when she went to Monipur School to make a report on charging of extra admission fees. The lawmaker heads the school managing committee.
The committee in its report submitted to the education minister on January 19 said that 24 out of 32 renowned non-government schools in the capital charged fees much higher than the amount fixed in the admission policy.
Monipur High School and College, Viqarunnisa Noon

School and College, Motijheel Ideal School and Motijheel Model School are among these schools.
The committee recommended returning the extra money and suggested formulating a policy considering location of the institutions, expenses and various other factors.
Asked about the re-fixed admission fees, Manju Ara Begum, acting principal of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, said, "We will comply with the government decision."
She, however, said despite the increase in the fees it will be difficult for them to run the institution by ensuring quality education.

Not coup but mass upsurge

FROM PAGE 1
government.
Despite tension in the air centring ruling Awami League's (AL) "counter programme" the same day, thousands of leaders, activists and supporters of BNP, its allies, and like-minded parties thronged the rally venue in the afternoon to bring out the mass procession.
The demonstrators carried colourful banners, posters, placards and portraits of the party's top leaders. The procession started from the party office and ended at Moghbazar intersection led by Khaleda Zia.
The authorities ensured tight security by deploying large numbers of Rapid Action Battalion and police personnel at the rally venue and the procession route. BNP's volunteers were also seen on rooftops of high-rises surrounding the party's central office.
Declaring two days' protest programmes condemning Sunday's killings of four opposition activists and supporters in Laxmipur and Chandpur, Khaleda urged the people to be prepared for the upcoming March 12 rally in the capital dubbed "Dhaka Cholo". "We will not take any revenge, but will protest the misdeeds of the government. BNP was never involved in any unconstitutional move and will not be in the future."
"Come to the capital. I will make important announcements including future programmes," she said and asked the government not to obstruct peaceful demonstrations. "We have to think tougher if peaceful programmes are obstructed. Don't force us to do that. Don't push us in that direction."
The former premier promised that they will start a new trend of politics if voted to power. "We will take decisions in consultation with all, and maintain good relations with all parties. We will adopt programmes that will be better for the people and the country."
Accusing the government of the Laxmipur and Chandpur killings, she said a people's movement can-

not be stopped with guns. The government will not be able to stay in power that way, she added.
She bitterly criticised the government for failing to implement electoral pledges, and said the people have rejected the incumbent AL-led regime.
"Money was siphoned off from the capital market. The government's top to bottom were involved in this scam. Persons who were behind this will be brought under trial if BNP is voted to power," she declared.
To the government she said, "Step down from power immediately and hold an election under a caretaker government, otherwise we will bring out three times the people that are gathered here today and bring down the government."
She said AL is now carrying out a smear campaign against BNP, although AL was always involved in military interventions into the country's politics. A free and fair election is not possible under AL, she said.
Khaleda also asked the government to stop "secret killings" and "torture in police custody in the name of remand". Those who are involved in those will face tough punishment in the future, she said.
BNP's acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhruddin Islam delivered the concluding speech at Moghbazar after the procession came to a stop, and soon after Khaleda left the area. "We have marched peacefully. The government has become afraid seeing the participation of so many people in our programme," he said.
Later through a media release Khaleda Zia expressed her gratitude to the people who participated in the rally and the mass procession.
Earlier, the BNP chairperson reached the party office premises around 3:35pm and started delivering her speech at 3:40pm. But Fakirapul-Kakrail street and the adjacent areas had been totally filled with people at least two hours before Khaleda's arrival at the venue.

Party activists and supporters welcomed her with slogans when the motorcade carrying her reached Kakrail. After delivering the speech she led the start of the procession at 4:20pm. It took one hour and 45 minutes to reach Moghbazar intersection, which is about 2 kilometres away from the BNP central office.
Thousands of people welcomed her by waving at her, standing on both sides of the procession route. She waved back from inside her car.
At a rally in Chittagong on January 9, Khaleda announced nationwide mass processions for Sunday and a grand rally in the capital for March 12, to press home the demand for restoration of the caretaker government system.
BNP had to reschedule Sunday's procession in Dhaka for yesterday, after police had imposed a ban on rallies and processions in the capital and four other cities for Sunday fearing deterioration of law and order.
Tension filled the air in the capital as the ruling party also decided to hold a rally yesterday. But finally both parties carried out their programmes peacefully in the capital.
The opposition also brought out mass processions in Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna, and Rajshahi cities yesterday, while Sylhet city BNP could not bring out any procession for the second consecutive day as Sylhet Metropolitan Police slapped a ban on rallies and gatherings for January 30 and 31.
Meanwhile, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and its supporting student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir, Islamist components of BNP-led four-party alliance, brought out a march in Rajshahi city in support of BNP's nationwide day of protest yesterday. A clash between the marchers and police there left one Jamaat activist dead.
MOURNINGS, PROTESTS AND MUNAJATS
Khaleda at yesterday's rally in the capital said they observe nationwide

mourning and will hold countrywide rallies today protesting the killings of her party activists and supporters in Laxmipur and Chandpur on Sunday. On Friday the party will organise special prayers in mosques across the country after the Juma prayer.
Those programmes will be held simultaneously in divisional cities, district towns, and upazila headquarters across the country.
She said tougher programmes will be announced if the government tries to obstruct those programmes.
Stock broker
FROM PAGE 20
Arambagh in Motijheel, was a sub-contractor in printing business.
He khat Ali, sub-inspector (SI) of Sutrapur Police Station, said Jubora was alone in the house when he killed himself. His school-teacher wife Amena Akhter Shathi was at her workplace while his mother-in-law had gone to pick his daughter up from school.
Returning home, the mother-in-law found their bedroom locked from inside and no one responding. Later, their neighbours broke open the door and found Juboraj hanging by the neck from the ceiling fan.
Wife of the victim said her husband on Sunday told her that he had lost everything, around Tk 70 lakh, to share business. Amena was seen lamenting over the dead body uttering, "The stockmarket has left me undone, made my daughter orphan."
Kazi Lutfor Rahman, brother of the deceased, said Juboraj had sold his property in Savar and invested all in the stockmarket.
Mizanur Rashid Chowdhury, convener of Bangladesh Stockmarket Oikya Parishad, a platform of the stock brokers who incurred losses, said Juboraj came to him on Saturday seeking a way to recover his losses. Juboraj was a member of the brokers' body.
The Sutrapur SI said, "We are not sure whether he [Juboraj] committed suicide due to the losses in the share market or printing business, or over a family feud."
An unnatural death case has been lodged with Sutrapur police in this connection.