

**Jatrabari gas line restored**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gas supply to the capital's Jatrabari and its adjoining areas was resumed after the damaged distribution line of Titas gas in Jatrabari was restored yesterday.

Mir Moshir Rahman, director of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company, said the authorities carried out an emergency repair work to restore the damaged pipeline, resuming the gas supply by the evening.

The pipeline ruptured and caught fire early hours Sunday as the piling drill of under-construction Jatrabari Flyover collided with the gas line around four metres underneath the surface.

The gas supply to the area was cut off ever since.

The eight-inch diameter pipeline, installed in the sixties in the very beginning of gas supply to Dhaka, enters into the capital at Demra carrying natural gas from Brahmanbaria field, said Rahman.



**Seemab hon consul of Fiji to Bangladesh**

METRO DESK

Fiji has appointed Seemab Rasheed Honourary Consul to Bangladesh. The two countries have recently completed formalities approving the appointment, said a press release.

Son of former bureaucrat late AS Rasheed, the new consul is a graduate of Indiana University, USA. Seemab is the managing director of ESAR Paper Industries, Radiant Development Partners and sponsor director of Alliance Capital Asset Management Ltd. He is a business community leader and secretary general of Dutch-Bangla Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

One of the most economically developed pacific realm nation, Fiji maintains friendly relations with Bangladesh. The two countries share common interests including inclusion of developing countries in UNSC. The two countries have opportunities in trade and commerce, specially for raw sugar, pharmaceuticals and textiles.

A consulate office will open soon in Dhaka to further develop political, economical and cultural ties between the two countries.



A number of slum children were invited to a roundtable on 'Children in city life', organised by the Prothom Alo in collaboration with Unicef, at the newspaper's office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**PROTHOM ALO ROUNDTABLE**

**Slum kids tell their ordeals**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deprived children yesterday told tales of their everyday ordeals of living in shanties and requested the government to provide them security and save them from child marriage.

They also appealed for not evicting the shantytowns without arranging rehabilitation of their families, as sudden eviction leaves slum children under the open sky.

About 15 children from different slums in and around the capital shared their stories of misery and victimisation at a roundtable at Prothom Alo office in the capital.

The daily newspaper in collaboration with Unicef jointly organised the programme.

The slum kids said teenage girls in slums very often fell victim to sexual harassment, which compelled their helpless parents to marry them off at a tender age. The deprived children are also prey to drug peddlers, who force them into the crime, they said.

Many minor children, whom their parents leave unprotected to go for work, become victim of human traffickers, the kids said, and described sanitation as the worst problem in slums.

Prof Nazrul Islam, an urban planner, said evicting slums without arranging rehabilitation was worse than natural calamities, like river erosion and cyclone, as there were a lot of infants being brought up in these places.

As the government goes tough against the drug peddlers, said State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanok, the criminals choose slum kids and allured them with money.

"Our constitution has ensured children's rights. So the government is working relentlessly for that," he said.

He mentioned that the government was providing Tk 1500 for each of 500 slum children a month in the capital's Lalbagh.

Such activities will be extended to 8000 points across the country so that deprived children can meet their funda-

mental rights, he added.

He also said the government already had rescued 55,000 slum children, who were involved in risky jobs.

In reply to a question of a slum child about frequent fire incidents in slums like Lalbagh Slum, Nanok said there were several reasons behind such arson attacks.

With changing of hands of state power, rent collectors from slums are changed, leading to clashes and arson attacks at the shantytowns, he said.

He added the ruling party cadres usually realised such rents illegally.

The slum children urged the minister to take steps so that their potentiality could be nurtured, and for this they demanded recovery of local playgrounds from the hands of influential persons and free access to recreational centres like zoo, museum.

They also raised a series of problems, including water logging, high rent, and scarcity of drinking water in slums.

Prothom Alo Joint Editor Abdul Quaiyum moderated the roundtable.

**Land broker shot dead in capital**

*Engineer shot in another incident*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants shot dead a land broker at his under-construction building at Rampura yesterday.

The victim was Moazzem Hossain, 50, an employee of Al-Kamil Properties.

Masud Rana, a witness and official of the company, said four youths appeared before the site at around 12:00 noon, introduced themselves as the guests of the engineer and asked a worker to call him over cell phone.

At one stage, they fired two bullets on the engineer while he was coming to them. Masud rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Meanwhile, muggers stabbed a clothe store employee and snatched money and valuables from him at Khilgaon early yesterday.

The victim Aminul Islam, 30, works at Taltola Super Market.

His brother said a gang of four snatchers barred him at Road No-8 at around 1:30am and took away his money and mobile phone set after stabbing him.

with the killing but none was arrested as yet.

In another incident, extortionists shot a project engineer of an under-construction building at Rampura yesterday.

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**Shop employee stabbed at Khilgaon**

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**SAGAR-RUNI MURDER**  
**Journos sit-in before home ministry today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists will stage a sit-down in front of the home ministry today, demanding arrest of the murderers of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi and trial for the earlier killings of journalists.

Newspapers will publish editorial on the unsolved murder case of the journalist couple today. Several electronic media houses broadcast special news on the issue yesterday.

On Sunday, chiefs and representatives of several media outlets held a meeting and decided to publish the editorial and broadcast special news report. The meeting was arranged on the occasion of today's sit-in.

The demonstration programme was announced on March 18 at a grand rally, demanding arrest of the killers of the journalist couple.

From today's sit-in, which is jointly organised by journalists' organisations and unions, journalists will also press home their demands, which also include providing a secured environment for discharging of their duties, stopping oppression on them, and ensuring freedom of the press.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Presidents Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Ruhul Amin Gazi, BFUJ Secretaries General Abdul Jalil Bhuyian and M Abdullah (acting), Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Presidents Abdus Shahid and Omar Faruq, DUJ General Secretaries Mohammad Baker Hossain and Shaban Mahmud, Jatiya Press Club President Kamaluddin Sabuj, General Secretary Syed Abdul Ahmed and Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) President Shakhawat Hossain Badsha and General Secretary Sajjad Alam Khan Tapu called upon all journalists to make the programme a success.

On February 11, Sagar Sarowar, news editor of Maasranga TV, and his wife Meherun Runi, senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were found murdered at their West Rajabazar house in the capital.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Roundtable**  
Dhaka Ahsania Mission will organise a roundtable; Venue: the mission Bhaban auditorium, Dhanmondi; Time: 10:00am.

**Discussion**  
Bangabandhu Academy will hold a discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 10:30am.

**Roundtable**  
Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri will arrange a roundtable; Venue: Ducsu conference room, Dhaka University; Time: 10:30am.

**Study underway to find out best safety net actions**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A research initiative is underway to find out which kinds of social safety net transfers work best for the rural poor in Bangladesh.

The study will assess impacts of five different safety net transfer modalities on household income, food security, and child nutrition.

This is a joint initiative of Washington-based think tank International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), an IFPRI press release said yesterday.

The move comes at a time when the government has expressed willingness to further expand its budget on social safety net programmes (SSNPs).

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has recently said some new programmes will be included in the safety net programmes for underprivileged people as eunuchs and nomadic communities.

The Disaster Management and Relief Division of Ministry of Food and Disaster Management will host an inception ceremony of the research at a hotel in the capital tomorrow.

Commencing this May, the research project will continue till mid-2013.

The research will try to identify which of the five transfer modalities, under which some 4000 ultra-poor women receive a monthly assistance, valued at Tk 1500, best serve the purposes. The five transfer modalities are cash-only, food-only, cash and food combined, cash and nutrition training, and food and nutrition training.

**Dr. Lakshman Obeysekera**  
has joined as Consultant Clinical Oncologist in **Apollo Hospitals Dhaka**

Appointment: (02)-8845242, 01841 APOLLO, 01729 APOLLO, 01195 APOLLO, 01612 APOLLO, 01971 APOLLO; APOLLO Signifies: 278556

Dr. Lakshman Obeysekera has more than a decade of experience in Clinical Oncology. He graduated from University of Colombo in 1994. He did his MD in Clinical Oncology from National Cancer Centre of Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2002. After that he did his Post MD training at the Alfred Hospital Melbourne and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Australia. He obtained Board Certification in Medical & Radiation oncology in 2004. Then he joined Ministry of Health of Sri Lanka as a Clinical Oncologist and served there till January 2012. Further, Dr. Lakshman did his fellowship in Functional Food and Cancer in South Korea and in-service training in management of Lung Cancer in Tokyo, Japan. He has a number of publications in reputed medical journals and presented papers in several International and National level forums. He has special interest in management of Colo-rectal Cancer, Lung Cancer, Breast Cancer & Haematological Malignancies. He served as a visiting lecturer of Radiotherapy at the University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka. He is a Member of the National Advisory Committee for Prevention and Control of Cancer of Sri Lanka.

Before joining Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, he was working in Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.

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info@apollodhaka.com | www.apollodhaka.com  
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sts group  
**Apollo Hospitals**  
touching lives

**11 Shibir men sent to jail**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of the opposition's mass procession yesterday, at least 11 Shibir activists were arrested from the capital's Mirpur and sent to jail hours later.

The arrestees were Mohammad Wahid, 25, Shafiqul Islam, 27, Aman Ullah, 19, Iqbal Hossain, 19, Khabirul Islam, 21, Ismail Hossain, 19, Saiful Islam, 19, Abdullah Pial, 25, Solaiman Hossain, 19, Sayedul Adnan, 27, and Abdul Zabbar, 25.

Police raided a mess at Madani Manjil in Mirpur Section-13 around 1:00am yesterday and arrested the Shibir men, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abdul Latif of Kafur Police Station.

Police conducted the raid after getting information that some activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, a pro-Jamaat-e-Islami student organisation, were holding a meeting at the mess to carry out subversive activities during the mass procession, the OC said.

**Thank you**

We have been overwhelmed by the enormous number of messages of condolence that we have received on the death of the matriarch of our family, Mrs Razia Matin Chaudhury, who passed away on 2 May 2012. The heartfelt messages of genuine sorrow touched us deeply. We are humbled by the widespread admiration for her.

It would be impossible for us to respond individually to everyone who sent us messages of sympathy. We humbly acknowledge, with the deepest gratitude, every message that we have received and thank everyone for their generosity and kindness at our time of pain and suffering.

Sons, Daughter, Daughters-in-law and Grandchildren

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