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ILLEGAL GAS USE

Titas cuts 310 lines

STAR REPORT

Titas Gas yesterday disconnected 309 illegal connections to houses and a restaurant in Kaliyakoir of Gazipur and in Ashulia of Savar.

The crackdown came after Titas's deadline for households to cut the illegal connections on their own expired on Saturday.

The drive aims to remove around 200km illegal distribution lines installed to supply gas to around three lakh households in the capital and its adjoining districts like Narayanganj, Gazipur and Narsingdi.

Executive Magistrate ANM Badruddoza yesterday disconnected three lines at Mouchak and Lohakoir of Kaliyakoir that supplied gas to 300 households.

AM Saiful Islam, general manager of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd of Chandra in Gazipur, said there were still 73 more illegal connections that supplied gas to 15,000 households in Kaliyakoir and parts of Gazipur Sadar Upazila.

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Titas authorities conduct a drive to snap illegal gas connections in Nishchintapur of Gazipur yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

AL leaders slam US envoy

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

US Ambassador in Dhaka Dan W Mozena was lambasted at a meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Board (ALPB) yesterday for his “questionable activities”, sources say.

AL leaders at the meet questioned Mozena's activities in Bangladesh and said his every move is against the Awami League and in favour of Nobel laureate Dr Yunus, sources told The Daily Star.

They said Mozena is visiting everywhere and many of his activities are in violation of diplomatic norms. For example, just one day before the 10th

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FAKHRUL ON QAEDA THREAT Govt cashing in on it to please US

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is trying to win favour of the US, cashing in on the “so-called” al-Qaeda threat, acting BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir alleged yesterday.

“In a bid to gain US favour, the government is spreading the so-called al-Qaeda threat, since the whole world as

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Ayman al-Zawahiri

UPAZILA ELECTIONS

Half of aspirants businessmen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first phase of upazila parishad elections is set to witness the dominance of businessmen as more than half of chairman aspirants belong to this profession.

Of the 428 chairman aspirants, 122 have cases against them. Fifteen are charged with murder, said a report of Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Shujan).

Shujan, a civil society organisation working to establish good governance, yesterday disclosed the findings of the report during a press conference at Dhaka

Reporters Unity (DRU).

The report gave information about chairman candidates in the first phase of polls to be held in 97 upazilas on February 19 and one upazila on February 24.

However, Shujan could not collect information about chairmen aspirants in 2 upazilas.

About the profession of chairman candidates, the report said, around 21.03 percent are involved in agricultural sector, while 13.08 percent are engaged in other professions.

Many of the candidates did not men-

tion their professions in their affidavits.

Interestingly, most of the candidates contesting the chairman post are well-educated. At least 220 candidates completed graduation, while 78 could not complete secondary level education.

The annual income of 289 candidates is less than Tk 5 lakh each while six candidates earn more than Tk 1 crore each annually.

At least 61 candidates own properties worth more than Tk 1 crore each. Among them, nine have assets worth over Tk 5 crore each.

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CONFINED TO IRAQ LABOUR CAMP

11 back home, empty-handed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cheated by Bangladeshi recruiters and an Iraqi employer, eleven workers returned home empty-handed yesterday after a year of confinement at a labour camp in the desert.

They had been languishing in the camp in the Iraqi city of Najaf, 160 kilometres south of Baghdad, since early last year.

The workers reached Shahjalal International Airport by a flight of Air Arabia around 9:30am, said Zahidul Islam, assistant director (immigration) of Bureau of Manpower,

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ব্যাংক

ব্র্যাক ব্যাংক

আমু অফিস

Section 144 clamped on Dhaka

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The successful general strike of February 4, 1952 gave new impetus to the struggle for Bangla among broad sections of Bangalees.

On February 20, through imposing Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the government announced a ban on gatherings of five or more persons as well as on possession of objects that might cause bodily harm to

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LAST YEAR'S HARTALS

Tk 163cr lost in roads, railways

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Country's major communications sector—road and railway network—incurred a loss of Tk 163 crore due to massive acts of sabotage carried out by the BNP-Jamaat combine last year, two ministers told parliament yesterday.

Of the massive loss, the Roads and Highways Department and Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation suffered net losses of Tk 69.52 crore and the railways the rest, according to information provided by communications and railways ministers.

Replying to legislators' queries, Railways Minister Mujibul Haque said nine people were killed and 53 others injured by the hit-and-run attacks by the BNP-Jamaat rowdies on the railways.

“Some 246 people were arrested in 62 cases filed for creating mayhem on the railways. Law enforcers are trying their best to nab other perpetrators,” he added.

In a scripted reply, Mujibul said his ministry incurred a Tk 879 crore loss in the 2012-13 fiscal year—up from Tk 657 crore in the fiscal 2008-09.

But he did not give any details about those losses.

The minister, however, mentioned that the overall expenses of railways have been increased due to rounds of fuel price hikes, and the increase of staff salary and maintenance costs.

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Railway ticket clerk murder suspect held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department has arrested a person in connection with the murder of a ticket booking clerk, and looting of over Tk 17 lakh earned from ticket sales at Kamalapur Railway Station.

The arrested was identified as construction worker Abu Taleb in the capital's Kamalapur area.

Taleb was arrested on last Tuesday in Gulshan area, but the CID disclosed it yesterday.

In the early hours on October 5 last year, a band of criminals killed the 59-year-old ticket booking clerk, Israfil Hossain, and looted over Tk 17 lakh earned from ticket sales at the station.

On information, law enforcers reached the spot around 5:30am and found

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A sacrifice bid to improve lives of tigers

MAIL ONLINE

Chinese zoo keepers managed to save the life of a mentally disturbed man after he announced he wanted to improve the lives of caged tigers at a local zoo by offering them his own body to eat.

Yang Jinhai, 27, had posted several online messages about how optimistic he was about starting a new life after getting a job as a security guard in Chengdu in southwest China's Sichuan province.

But he quickly found the job boring and monotonous and moved instead to a job in a printing factory where

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think BNP leader Rizvi Ahmed's allegation that the government is establishing a 'one man rule' in the country instead of the rule of law is justified?

Yes (76%)

No (24%)

TOTAL VOTES: 350

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that the government is trying to win favour from the US banking on the issue of al-Qaeda threat?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING February 18

Azan Jamaat

Fajr 5:20 5:55

Zahr 12:45 1:15

Asr 4:30 4:45

Maghrib 6:03 6:07

Esha 7:30 8:00

Source: Islamic Foundation

নদী দখল ও দূষণরোধ সংক্রান্ত গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সবার অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বন্দর আইন ১৯০৮ ও বন্দর বিধি ১৯৬৬ অনুযায়ী নদীর তীরভূমিতে বিআইডব্লিউটিএ'র অনুমতি ব্যতিরেকে কোনরূপ স্থাপনা নির্মাণ, মাটি/বালি খনন ও উত্তোলন, মাটি/বালি/বর্জ্য দ্বারা ভরাট ইত্যাদি দন্ডনীয় অপরাধ।

ঢাকার চারপাশের নদীসমূহ রক্ষায় মহামান্য হাইকোর্ট বুড়িগঙ্গা, তুরাগ, বালু ও শীতলক্ষ্যা নদীসহ দেশের সব নদী দখল, ভরাট ও দূষণরোধে নিম্নোক্ত নির্দেশনা প্রদান করেছেনঃ

- ❖ নদীসমূহের চারপাশের বাসাবাড়ি, শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠান এবং অন্যান্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের পয়ঃপ্রণালী সৃষ্ট বর্জ্য ও তরল বর্জ্য নদীতে ফেলা যাবে না;
- ❖ মাটি, পানি, বায়ু এবং শব্দ দূষকারী শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠান স্থাপন করা যাবে না;
- ❖ মাছ এবং অন্যান্য জলজ প্রাণীর ক্ষতিকারক কোন প্রকার কার্যাবলী পরিচালনা করা যাবে না;
- ❖ প্রাণী ও উদ্ভিদের আবাসস্থল ধ্বংস বা সৃষ্টিকারী যাবতীয় কার্যকলাপ বন্ধ করতে হবে;
- ❖ ভূমি ও পানির প্রাকৃতিক বৈশিষ্ট্য নষ্ট/পরিবর্তন করতে পারে এমন সব কাজ বন্ধ করতে হবে;
- ❖ নদীতে বসবাসকারী জলজ প্রাণী ধরা বা সংগ্রহ করা যাবে না;
- ❖ সব প্রকার শিকার নিষিদ্ধ থাকবে।

বুড়িগঙ্গা, শীতলক্ষ্যা, তুরাগ ও বালু নদীতে ২৫০টিরও অধিক বর্জ্যমুখ রয়েছে। নদ-নদী রক্ষা বিষয়ক জাতীয় টাঙ্কফোর্স-এর সভায় নদীতে বিদ্যমান বর্জ্যমুখসমূহ অবিলম্বে বন্ধ করার সিদ্ধান্ত গৃহীত হয়েছে।

গৃহস্থালী ও শিল্প বর্জ্য নদীতে ফেলায় নদী ভরাট হচ্ছে, নদীর পানি দূষিত হয়ে দুর্গন্ধ ছড়াচ্ছে এবং নদীর পানি ব্যবহারের অযোগ্য হয়ে পড়েছে। পানিতে অক্সিজেনের মাত্রা কমে যাওয়ায় মৎস্য সম্পদ ও জলজ উদ্ভিদের অস্তিত্ব মারাত্মক হুমকির সম্মুখীন।

এমতাবস্থায়, নদীর নাব্যতা বজায় রাখা, নৌ-যান চলাচল নির্বিঘ্ন রাখা, নদী ও নদীর তীরভূমি ভরাটমুক্ত রাখা এবং পরিবেশ দূষণরোধকল্পে বুড়িগঙ্গা, তুরাগ, বালু এবং শীতলক্ষ্যাসহ দেশের সব নদী, খাল এবং তীরভূমিতে কোনরূপ স্থাপনা নির্মাণ, মাটি/বালি খনন, মাটি/বালি/বর্জ্য দ্বারা ভরাট, নদী দূষণ এবং এ সব নদী হতে অবৈধভাবে মাটি/বালি উত্তোলন কার্যক্রম থেকে বিরত থাকার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সবাইকে সর্বোচ্চ সতর্ক করা হচ্ছে।

দেশের সকল নদী ও তীরভূমির মধ্য হতে যারা এখনো অবৈধ স্থাপনা সরিয়ে নেননি তাদের অবিলম্বে নিজ খরচে অবৈধ স্থাপনা সরিয়ে নিতে অনুরোধ করা হলো এবং নদী দূষণ করে নদীসমূহের অস্তিত্বকে যারা হুমকির মুখে ফেলেছেন তাদেরকেও বর্জ্যমুখ বন্ধ করে দেয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। ব্যর্থতায় তাদের বিরুদ্ধে উচ্ছেদ অভিযান, বর্জ্যমুখ বন্ধকরণসহ ফৌজদারী আইনে কঠোর শাস্তিমূলক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

বিআইডব্লিউটিএ

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