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Gas supply improving

One compressor station finally begins partial operation

SHARIER KHAN

After a delay of nearly one year, a gas compressor station has begun partial operation from late last month, resulting in an improved gas supply flow countrywide.

A well-placed source in the Gas Transmission Company Ltd (GTCL), which is implementing a project to install two gas compressor stations at a cost of \$122 million, said the compressor station at Ashuganj started its operation last month and continued till Eid. Then it resumed operation from yesterday after remaining inoperative during the Eid holidays due to relatively low demand of gas.

"After we launched its operation, gas pressure at the Chittagong end shot up to 600 pressure square inch (PSI) from a mere 250 PSI," said a GTCL official, explaining the impact of the move. Chittagong had been the worst-affected region in terms of poor gas supplies.

The compressor station is receiving gas at Ashuganj point at various pressures and pumping the pressure up to 1000 PSI while transmitting the gas downstream. This has also helped increase gas supply by 15 to 20 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) which otherwise remained trapped in the pipeline due to lower pressure.

The Ashuganj point is very important as it is situated at the centre of country's gas supply network.

This station is supposed to have three compressors, SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Indigenous people performing at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday in observance of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Bangladesh Adivasi Forum organised the event where almost every banner and festoon had the word "adivasi" on it. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Unique protest by Adivasis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Shame on the state that turned me into a Bangalee. Shame on the state that called me tribal and what not! I say I am Munda, Santal, Lusai, Murong, Khiyang, Chakma, Mandi, Hajong, Marma, Tripura. I am Adivasi [indigenous]."

The above is an extract from the Bangla song with which the celebration of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, organised by Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, kicked off at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday.

First declared by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1994, the day was never officially celebrated by the Bangladesh government.

Rather, on Thursday the Press Information Department (PID) issued a release urging the media, experts, university teachers and civil society members to SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SPEEDY CASE DISPOSAL JS body heaps praise on district judge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A parliamentary body yesterday praised District and Sessions Judge Nurul Huda of Mymensingh for his success in disposing of over 56,000 cases in less than three years.

"We are charmed by the dynamism of Nurul Huda, who has made an impossible job possible by disposing of 56,825 cases in 33 months [till June 2014]" said Suranjit Sengupta, SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

NO STRIKE AT GARMENT FACTORIES

Tuba's July pay today; due bonus undecided

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tuba Group has agreed to pay today overtime and wages for July to its workers, who called a strike yesterday in garment factories to press home their demand of full payment at a time.

Their call for strike, however, fizzled out as all the factories remained open and they did not get much support from other garment workers.

The arrears will be given today from 2:00pm at the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) headquarters.

The decision came at a meeting between

the owners of Tuba Group and representatives of BGMEA, workers and the government at the Parliament Members Club yesterday.

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan and State Minister for Labour and Employment Mujibul Haque Chunnu were there.

However, decision on payment of the Eid bonuses and resuming production in all five factories of the group remained uncertain.

"The owner will pay the bonus later," Atiqul Islam, BGMEA president told The Daily Star over the phone. He, however, did not make it clear when the bonuses would be paid. SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

3 KILLED, 10 HURT

Train rams 3-wheeler

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Three women of a family were killed and 10 others injured as a train rammed a locally made three-wheeler on a level crossing at Yasinpur in the Natore Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased were Sajeda Begum, 18, her grandmother Sundari Bewa, 55 and another grandmother Julekha Begum, 45 -- all residents of the upazila's Paikordal area. They died on the spot.

It was the second such accident in a little over a week. Eleven people were killed and at least 60 more injured in a bus-train collision on an unguarded level crossing in Jhenidah on August 1. PHOTO ON PAGE 10 SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Israel pounds Gaza defying truce calls

7 more killed as toll tops 1900; France, Britain, Germany urge immediate ceasefire; US hopes deal in 'coming hours'

AFP, Gaza City

Israeli warplanes pummelled Gaza with 50 air strikes that killed seven Palestinians yesterday as militants slammed 23 rockets into Israel, defying international efforts to find a fresh ceasefire.

Britain, France and Germany yesterday called in a joint statement for Israel and Hamas to agree a truce "immediately".

Tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators marched through central London and Cape Town, condemning Israel's one-month military assault into Gaza.

Gaza emergency services said seven men were killed in Israeli raids -- two in a car driving in the southern Gaza town of Rafah, two travelling by SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Following rumours of vacancies, a large number of garment workers throng the Sharmin Group factory at Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital yesterday asking for jobs. A security man at the gate is seen telling them to go away since there were no jobs there. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Rab detains Nur Hossain's driver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday detained a driver of Nur Hossain, the prime accused in Narayanganj seven-murder, in Patuakhali Sadar upazila. Mizanur Rahman Dipu, SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Indian stray dogs to form security squad

AFP, New Delhi

Stray canines roaming the Indian capital may soon find themselves attending police training school with civic authorities planning to turn the animals SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think more than half of the launch accidents can be averted if the authorities monitor the vessel operation properly?

Yes (91%) No (09%)

TOTAL VOTES: 191

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government's call for not using the word 'Adivasi' is justified?

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Credit Rating of Janata Bank Limited

A+

Credit Rating Report

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Government Support	AAA	AR-1
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Outlook	Stable	
Date of Rating	01 July, 2014	
Expiry Date	30 June, 2015	
AAA	indicates an exceptionally strong capacity to meet its financial commitments.	
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