

# Govt to build 2nd Bhairab, Titas railway bridges

Railways minister tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The government has taken initiatives to construct the second Bhairab and Titas railway bridges over Meghna and Titas rivers with the Indian Line of Credit, Railways Minister Mujibul Haque told parliament yesterday.

Replying to queries, the minister said the government is working to upgrade the 320km Dhaka-Chittagong railway corridor to double lines, of which the work on a 124km stretch of the railway has been completed.

He said the government will construct the remaining 196km with funds from Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) and Asian Development Bank.

He informed the parliament that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already inaugurated the 64km Laksam-Chinki Astana double lines project on Dhaka-Chittagong railway corridor, which is being financed by Jica.

Besides, the government has also undertaken a project for remodelling the Chittagong Station Yard with fund from Jica as a part of developing Bangladesh Railway, said Mujibul Haque.

Meanwhile, a bill was placed in the parliament aiming to increase gratuity of Supreme Court and High Court judges in case of compulsory surrender of their pension.

Law Minister Anisul Haq placed the bill.



The line of vehicles waiting to get gas from a petrol station in Kadamtali of Chittagong yesterday stretches over a kilometre due to little to no gas supply as the city has been facing severe gas crisis since Saturday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

# 3 injured as spinning fan falls off at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three persons, including two patients, were injured when a spinning ceiling fan fell in neurosurgery ward-103 of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday around 6:15pm, confirmed the hospital's police outpost in-charge, Inspector Mozammel Haque.

Monir Hossain and Lal Mia are accident victims. Lal's wife Rozina Akter told journalists that she and the two were injured for the carelessness of the hospital staff who did not pay heed to her complaints earlier that the fan was making strange noises.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

School of Business, Independent University, Bangladesh and Harvard University South Asia Institute (SAI) sign an agreement regarding internship exchange programme at Boston, USA. Present in the photo are Prof Sarwar Uddin Ahmed, Dr Samiul Parvez Ahmed and Nora Maginn.

# Gas crisis halts Ctg city

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Residents of Chittagong city have been suffering from a severe gas crisis for three days. Households have been hit hard and people in most affected areas have been relying on store-bought food and restaurants, and alternative methods of cooking.

Many areas received no gas since Saturday evening, and other areas are getting gas at a very low pressure.

Bakalia, Chawk Bazar, Jamal Khan, Agrabad, Bow Bazar, Badurtola, Kapasgola, Askar Dighir Par, Katalganj, Panchlaish, Bahaddarhat, Chandgaon and Halishahar are some of the areas hit hard.

Fatema Begum, a resident of Bakalia, said she was forced to buy lunch and dinner from a restaurant on Sunday.

"At first we thought the gas pipeline in the area was being repaired, but in such cases, the Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited authorities inform the public through loudspeakers," she said, adding, "I asked my neighbours and relatives but nobody knew what was happening."

A resident of Askar Dighir Par, Rita Sarker, said there was no gas connection for Sunday.

Mahbub Chowdhury, vice president of Chittagong Metropolitan Chamber of

Commerce and Industry, said gas-based industries in Chittagong remained shut due to little to no supply.

Steel re-rolling, readymade garment and dyeing factories bear the brunt of the gas crisis, he added.

Contacted, Khondokar Motiur Rahman, general manager (engineering) of KGDCL, said they have not been able to supply gas to clients as they have not been getting adequate gas from the national grid since Saturday night.

"The demand for gas in Chittagong is over 400 million standard cubic feet (MMscf) per day," he said.

"On Sunday we got 227 MMscf while today [Monday] we only got 181 MMscf gas," he added.

"Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation officials told us that Bibiana Gas Field suddenly began supplying less gas than usual," Motiur Rahman said.

The gas field is supplying 550 MMscf less gas. The KGDCL official could not confirm when the situation will become normal.

Meanwhile, severe load shedding is adding to the woes of residents, as Raozan Thermal Power Plant and Shikalbaha 150MW Power Plant have remained inoperative due to lack of gas.

# HC allows three Dhaka colleges to admit XI students thru tests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for Notre Dame College, Holy Cross College, and St Joseph College in Dhaka to admit students of class XI through holding admission tests.

Responding to a writ petition jointly filed by principals of the three colleges, the court stayed the government June 1 decision that asked colleges to enroll students on the basis of the merit-list to be prepared by the government in next six months.

The bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir also issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why its decision on merit-list based admission should not be declared illegal.

# SUSPICIOUS CONTAINER AT CTG PORT Primary inspection finds no illicit drug

Will be tested in Dhaka too, says official; officials of int'l agency which detained two in UK on suspicion may visit Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Department of Narcotics Control yesterday in its test found no harmful substances in the container sealed off by customs intelligence officials at Chittagong Port on suspicion of contraband drugs after it was imported on May 12 without following proper procedures.

Moinul Khan, director general of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate, said they had information that one of the drums contains cocaine but it could not be detected through primary tests. So, they will go for further laboratory tests in Dhaka, he added.

Some 107 barrels of crude sunflower oil were found in the container after it was opened yesterday morning. A navy team also in its tests on the samples found presence of sunflower oil, corn oil, cottonseed oil and soybean oil.

Javed Patwary, additional inspector general of police of the Special Branch, told The Daily Star that a foreign intelligence agency informed them about some contraband drugs like liquid cocaine in a container being smuggled from South America to somewhere else using Bangladesh as a transit.

The international agency detained two persons in the UK yesterday in connection with the smuggling, said Javed, adding that the agency officials may visit Bangladesh to investigate the matter. DB officials on Saturday detained one Sohel who confessed to his involvement in importing the consignment from Bolivia using the name of his employer's firm Khan Jahan Ali Ltd at Chittagong.

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০৯ জুন থেকে ১৫ জুন ২০১৫

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