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UTILITY SERVICES

No coordination among providers

Banani gas explosion shows how people suffer because of it

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Lack of coordination between utility service providers, coupled with inadequate precautionary measures during the digging of roads for the installation of pipelines and their maintenance, increases the risk of accidents, say urban planning experts.

The issue has drawn attention after Friday's fire at a six-storey building in the capital's Banani, injuring 10 people. Residents of the building and the fire service men who put out the blaze said the fire had resulted from a gas pipe leak.

In many cases, it is seen that while digging, the utilities cut open emergency lines like gas pipelines and electricity lines. But they avoid taking responsibility for the problems, nor do they bother to undo the damage, experts say.

The residents of the Banani building put the blame on the Titas Gas authorities, as they did not take immediate steps to repair the leaked pipe despite complaints from a contractor of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and the building's inhabitants.

Urban planning experts suggested bringing all the 54 government organisations responsible for utility services and the city's management under one umbrella for better coordination between them.

If all these are brought under two Dhaka city corporations, the chances of accidents will be reduced by 80 to 90 percent, said architect Mubasshar Hussain, vice-president of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa).

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Residents move their belongings yesterday from the Banani building that was damaged in an explosion caused by suspected gas leak early Friday.

PHOTO: SHAHEEN MOLLAH



84-year-old saved by his daughter

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A loud bang and shaking of ground woke her up around 1:30am on Friday at her fourth-floor apartment in the six-storey building in Banani.

"I thought it was an earthquake. My first concern was to get my 84-year-old father out of the house," said Nayer Rahman, a resident of the building.

Nayer along with her father Akramuzzaman, a retired professor of Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh, lived in the apartment.

"When I went out, there were pockets of fire across the apartment. The blast SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Airport deal by tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will sign a contract with a British security company by tomorrow for foolproof security screening at Hazrat Shahjalal International

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Coal-laden vessel sinks in a river of Sundarbans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A cargo vessel carrying 1,235 tonnes of coal sank yesterday in the Shela River in the Sundarbans, a Unesco-listed World Heritage Site in Bagerhat.

Bottom of the vessel, Sea Horse, cracked when it reached the river at Harintana in the Sundarbans' Chandpai range under Mongla upazila in the afternoon.

Vessel's Master Md Sirajul Islam Molla told this correspondent that with 12 crew onboard, it sailed from the Chittagong seaport to Nawapara of Jessore on March 16.

As the vessel was slowly sinking, a boat from behind came to the crew's rescue and took them onboard.

The coal was meant for burning bricks, he added.

Saidul Islam, divisional forest officer of the Sundarbans east, said the spot was 25 nautical miles away from Chandpai range office and it was not possible for them to travel the distance at night.

They would contact the owner and take initiatives to salvage the sunken vessel today, said the forest officer.

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Prof Rashid passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Country's pioneer neurosurgeon Prof Rashiduddin Ahmad breathed his last at a city hospital at 8:00pm yesterday.

The 79-year-old had been in coma since he suffered a massive stroke on February 9. He was undergoing treatment at Metropolitan Medical Centre, his son-in-law Alasdair Macdonald

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SIBL
Social Islami Bank Limited
Prayer Timing
MARCH 20
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-55 12-45 4-45 6-16 7-45
JAMAAT 5-30 1-15 5-00 6-20 8-15
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Grieving mom turns desert into oasis to honour son


ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

Meet Yi Jiefeng, a Shanghai woman who has helped plant millions of saplings in Inner Mongolia, over the past 12 years. Her goal is to reforest the arid Alashan Desert while keeping alive the memory of her son who passed away 16 years ago.

In the year 2000, Yi's only son, Yang Ruizhe, was killed in a road accident in

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

জনকল্যাণে রাজস্ব



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
রাজস্ব ভবন, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা-১০০০।

আয়কর জরীপ কার্যক্রম - ২০১৫

আপনি জানেন কি?

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের আয়কর বিভাগ নতুন করদাতা সনাক্তকরণের লক্ষ্যে দেশব্যাপী আয়কর জরীপ কার্যক্রম-২০১৫ শুরু করেছে। সারাদেশে বিভিন্ন কর অঞ্চলের কর কমিশনারবৃন্দের তত্ত্বাবধানে এই জরীপ কার্যক্রম পরিচালিত হচ্ছে।

করযোগ্য আয় রয়েছে বা আয়কর আইনের বিধান অনুযায়ী করদাতা হিসাবে নিবন্ধনযোগ্য সম্মানিত নাগরিকগণ যার/যাদের ব্যবসা, চাকুরী, পেশা বা গৃহসম্পত্তি খাতে আয় রয়েছে তাদেরকে জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, ট্রেডলাইসেন্সসহ অন্যান্য প্রাসংগিক তথ্য ও দলিলাদি জরীপ টিমকে প্রদান করে জরীপ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনায়ে প্রয়োজনীয় সহায়তা করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

সম্মানিত নাগরিকগণ তাদের জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র (NID) ব্যবহার করে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের ওয়েবসাইট www.incometax.gov.bd-তে লগইনের মাধ্যমে নিজেই অনলাইনে ই-টিআইএন (e-TIN) গ্রহণ করে করনেটভুক্ত হতে পারেন। প্রয়োজনে করদাতা সেবা কেন্দ্র বা সংশ্লিষ্ট কর অঞ্চলে যোগাযোগ করে এ সেবা গ্রহণ করতে পারেন।

জনকল্যাণে রাজস্ব সংগ্রহের স্বার্থে চলমান জরীপ কার্যক্রমে সকলকে সহযোগিতা প্রদানের জন্য বিনীতভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

‘সমৃদ্ধির সোনালী দিন আনতে হলে আয়কর দিন’

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
অত্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ
অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়

‘কর প্রদান করে গর্বিত নাগরিক হোন দেশের উন্নয়নে ভূমিকা রাখুন’

Air strikes kill 39 civilians in Syria IS bastion

Says Syrian Observatory for Human Rights

AFP, Beirut

A wave of air strikes killed at least 39 civilians yesterday in Raqa, the main stronghold of the Islamic State jihadist group in Syria, a monitoring group said.

At least five children and seven women were among the dead in IS's de facto capital in the north of the war-ravaged country, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Five members of IS's self-styled police force were also killed and 60 people were wounded, some critically, according to the monitor, which relies on a network of sources on the ground.

The raids came a day after 16 civilians were killed in strikes on the same city.

"We cannot know whether the latest strikes on Raqa are by Syrian or Russian

warplanes," said Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman.

"What is clear is that their goal is to try to paralyse IS and to stop it from deploying reinforcements from Raqa to the Palmyra area," he told AFP.

IS seized Palmyra, a Unesco World Heritage Site known as the "Pearl of the Desert", last May.

In September, satellite images confirmed that Palmyra's famed Temple of Bel had been targeted by IS as part of a campaign to destroy pre-Islamic monuments, tombs and statues it considers idolatrous.

UN experts said the main building of the temple as well as a row of columns had been destroyed.

In recent weeks, Syrian troops backed by

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Savlon
জীবাণুমুক্ত প্রতিদিন

ফ্রি!

এখন ২টি স্যাভলন হ্যান্ডওয়াশ ২০০ এমএল রিফিল প্যাক-এর সাথে একটি আকর্ষণীয় টিফিন বক্স ফ্রি!