



## Gas crisis in city worsens

### Demand rise, illegal lines key reasons

HELEMUL ALAM

These days, Suraiya Parveen of the capital's Mirpur-12 cooks her family's lunch and dinner the night before. She tries her best to finish up cooking by midnight before going to bed since she has to go to work in the morning.

She wakes up long before sunrise to prepare breakfast for her three-member family as the gas supply stops around 7:00am. The supply in Suraiya's neighbourhood resumes after 3:00pm but it is off again at 7:00pm only to resume around 11:00pm.

Mirhajirbagh is across the city from Mirpur-12. But the picture there is no different.

Farhana Islam of Mirhajirbagh starts preparing breakfast and lunch for her family at 5:00am, as the pressure of gas drastically drops after 7:00am. She can cook again after 6:00pm when the supply becomes normal.

Preparing food for her eight-month-old baby is tough, as the baby needs to be fed more frequently, she said.

Like Suraiya and Farhana, thousands of city dwellers are facing an acute crisis of gas this winter. Residents of Dhanmondi, Lalmatia, Sheorapara, Agargaon, Taltola, Pashchim Kafrul, Uttara, Gendaria, Ulan and Rampura have complained of either very low gas pressure or no gas supply at all for the better part of the day.

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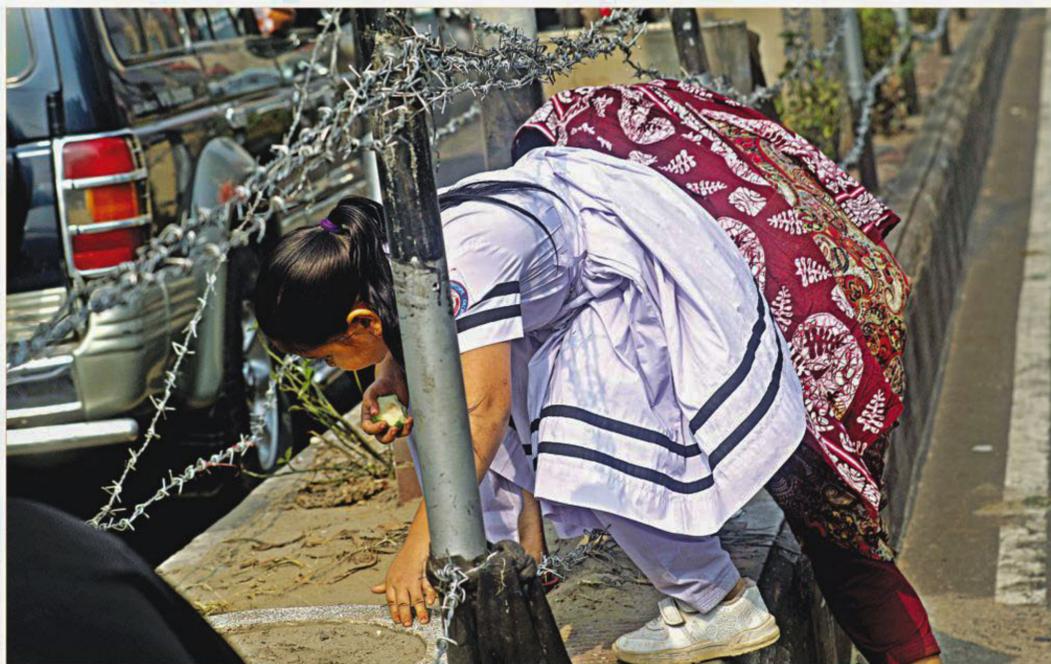


PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A schoolgirl and a woman go through the barbed-wire fence on the central reservation of Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday. Instead of using the footbridge just a few yards away, pedestrians often risk their lives this way to go to the other side of the street. In September last year, a madrasa student was hit by a bus and killed there when he tried to cross the street this way.

## Stop airing foreign TV channels that run local ads

### Govt orders distributors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has directed TV channel distributors to stop airing foreign television channels that broadcast advertisements of local companies.

The Press Information Department issued the order yesterday, mentioning that airing of advertisements on downlinked foreign TV channels has been banned in line with section 19(13) of the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act 2006.

"The order comes into effect immediately," an information ministry official told The Daily Star.

Punitive actions, including cancellation of

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## INDIAN SC RULING

### No use of religion in seeking votes

AGENCIES

The Indian Supreme Court yesterday outlawed seeking votes in the name of religion, caste, race, community or language, a landmark judgment ahead of crucial assembly elections in five states where faith and caste are top poll issues.

Headed by Chief Justice TS Thakur, a seven-judge bench said the secular ethos of the constitution had to be maintained by keeping elections a secular exercise.

"Freedom to follow religion has nothing to do with the secular nature of the state. The relationship between man and god is an individual choice. The state is forbidden to

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## MP LITON KILLING

### PM asks lawmakers to stay alert

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the killing of Awami League lawmaker Manzurul Islam Liton was a planned murder, and asked all the ministers and lawmakers to stay alert.

She feared that more such attacks on public representatives may be carried out ahead of the next parliamentary elections scheduled for 2019.

AL has always been the target of such attacks and conspiracies, but nobody could hold the party back, the PM said at the weekly cabinet meeting yesterday, according to two ministers who were present there.

The PM mentioned that seven AL lawmakers, including Ahsan Ullah Master and former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, have been killed since 1972.

A condolence motion on Liton was also

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

### IMBALANCE IN POLITICAL POWER

## How good is it for AL?

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The ruling Awami League enters 2017 with an absolute grip on all elected institutions from the lowest tier of local government system--the Union Parishad-to the highest political institution--the Jatiya Sangsad.

Since independence, no political party has wielded such powers as the present Awami League.

In the past, there was always a check and balance in the

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## T20 series a sterner test

SPORTS REPORTER

"One win is all we need." This is a statement that different members of the Bangladesh contingent, including captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, has repeatedly stressed upon over the last few weeks.

It goes to show that the visiting Tigers in New Zealand are under pressure and are probably a bit frustrated as well. Sure enough, they did end up losing the three-match ODI series 3-0.

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