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HAZARIBAGH TANNERIES

Utility lines cut off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In compliance with a High Court order, the Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday disconnected the utility services, including gas, power and water, to the tanneries at Hazaribagh in the capital.

During a daylong drive backed by police, the DoE cut off 224 power and 193 water connections although on paper the number of tanneries there is 154.

Fifty-four gas lines were severed till evening, Abu Hena Morshed Zaman, director for enforcement at the DoE, told The Daily Star.

"As per the court order, our job was to disconnect all the utility services to the tanneries so that those could not run there anymore. We've done our work," he said.

Four DoE teams led by as many executive magistrates and three DoE directors had begun the drive around 10:00am yesterday.

The telephone connections had already been severed on April 4, said DoE Assistant Director Samar Krishna Das.

The Hazaribagh tanneries have been posing a serious threat to the environment in the area for long.

The HC on March 6 directed the director general of DoE to immediately close the tanneries that failed to relocate to the Tannery Industrial Estate in Savar despite repeated court orders and extension of deadline time and again.

It asked the DG to submit a report after complying with its directives by April 6 and fixed April 10 for further hearing on the issue.

Ministries of home, environment, industries, inspector

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Two men disconnect a gas supply while another removes a water meter, inset, inside two tanneries in the capital's Hazaribagh. In compliance with a High Court order, the Department of Environment, in a daylong drive yesterday, disconnected all the gas, power and water connections to the tanneries in Hazaribagh.



Teen girl puts off marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A seventh grader got her marriage suspended in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh yesterday.

Pleased with 13-year-old Sonia Akhter's courageous stance against her family's will, the local administration assured her of financial support for education.

Her father Anisur Rahman, a poor carpenter in Bailor Banshkuri village in Trishal, scheduled her marriage for today with a lorry driver, Selim Mia, from adjacent Bhaluka upazila.

Sonia, a student of Etimkhana Alim Madrasa in Ujanpara of Trishal, tried to convince her parents to cancel this marriage so that she could study. But her parents didn't listen to her and organised a premarital ceremony called "Holud" at their house yesterday.

Finding no way out, Sonia pleaded with one of her teachers, Abul Mansur, Friday night to stop the marriage.

Mansur went to her house yesterday morning and took her to the madrasa and informed madrasa

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Mystery of India's 'girl Mowgli'

HINDUSTANTIMES ONLINE

The "girl Mowgli" of Uttar Pradesh may not have been brought up by a troop of monkeys, as was previously thought.

The girl, possibly eight, was found abandoned in Katarniyaghat wildlife sanctuary in January. She had matted hair, wounds on her body and was wearing underwear when a forest patrol spotted her.

But she behaved like monkeys — walked on all

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Men-women alliance working fine in UAE

Speaker of UAE parliament tells The Daily Star

SHAKHAWAT LITON and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

This may sound contrary to what you know about women's rights in the United Arab Emirates. With some global human rights bodies voicing concern over the lack of women's rights in the UAE, the country has topped a global ranking in terms of treating women with respect.

Three times in a row, the UAE has secured the top position on treating women with respect in the global social progress index. The annual index is prepared by a team of prominent international economists as part of an initiative launched by the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council.

The UAE has also scored high in the social progress index for the lowest level of violent crimes, the lowest homicide rate, the lowest

under-nourishment rate and the highest rate of enrolment in secondary education.

These achievements give a strong voice to Amal Abdullah Juma Karam Al Qubaisi, the first female speaker of the UAE parliament, known as Federal National Council.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Juma Karam Al Qubaisi

True alliance, isn't it so?

AL to form city committees with opinions of MPs from allies

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

It may seem strange but it is true.

The Awami League unit of Dhaka's Sutrapur will need to talk to Jatiya Party leader Kazi Firoz Rashid before it forms its fully-fledged committee while Motijheel AL unit has to take the opinion of Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon into account for forming its committee.

The ruling party's Dhaka city units (South and North) named presidents and general secretaries of all units under its jurisdiction over a year ago. The AL city units on March

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

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Admission office is open everyday including Friday from 9am to 8pm

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Killed for Tk 910?

Police suspect restaurant owner tortured teen employee to death for demanding salary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

All that the 13-year-old boy did was demand seven days' arrears from his employer, a restaurant owner.

Furious at his "arrogance", the restaurant owner and his son began to beat him up when other employees of the restaurant were leaving as it was closing time late Friday night.

At day break, villager Younus, on his way to the mosque, peeked inside the roadside restaurant to see why it was open so early. To his horror he found the lifeless body of Akram Hossain hanging from the ceiling.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

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