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EVICION DRIVE

# BIWTA ignores MP's resistance, presses on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the second day of an ongoing eviction drive yesterday, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority ignored resistance from Dhaka lawmaker Aslamul Huq and continued recovering a large area of the Buriganga river in Charwashpur near Basila Bridge.

The lawmaker earth-filled a total of 20 acres of the river when he built two extensions to his Maisha power plant -- the Dhaka North Power Plant and Dhaka West Power Plant -- and a sprawling leisure retreat, said BIWTA Joint Director AKM Arif Uddin.

As the BIWTA team started the drive yesterday morning, the lawmaker came to the area with around 80 people and asked the executive magistrate to stop the drive, Arif said.

"They were forced to flee the scene as law enforcers chased them away, and we continued the eviction," Arif told The Daily Star.

The lawmaker had earth-filled 15 acres area of the river's main channel at the confluence of the Buriganga and Turag rivers, and 5 acres of a Buriganga offshoot in Chawrashpur, he said.

Arif added that the structures built by Aslamul, lawmaker of Dhaka-14 (Mirpur), have blocked the entire 450-feet breadth of the Buriganga offshoot that stretches 14 kilometres across Hazratpur and converges with Dhaleswari river.

As a result, that branch of the Buriganga is now dead and has been grabbed by other encroachers, he said, adding that all the grabbed areas of the river are documented in

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Dhaka lawmaker Aslamul Huq talking to a BIWTA official on the second day of an ongoing eviction drive, inset, near Basila bridge in Dhaka yesterday. He tried and failed to dissuade the officials from continuing the drive in the area where he allegedly earth-filled a total of 20 acres of the Buriganga river.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## New gas field discovered in Cumilla

UNB, Cumilla

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (Bapex) on Tuesday announced the discovery of a new gas field at Srikail in Cumilla's Muradnagar upazila.

Drilling began at Srikail East-1 gas field, the country's 28th gas field, on October 28 last year.

"After four months, Bapex found a gas layer on Tuesday night," said Mohsinur Rahman, in-charge of the gas field.

Bapex is considering the discovery as a ray of hope amid news that the country's gas reserve is depleting fast, he said.

Bapex, the state-owned gas and oil exploration entity, says it expects to produce 20 million cubic feet per day from the gas field located 3,065 metres below the surface.

An analysis is being conducted to estimate the gas reserve and the pressure of water and gas in the field, Mohsinur said.

The production work

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## 12 cops sued over sexual harassment

JNU CORRESPONDENT

Twelve cops, including two OCs of two police stations in the capital, were sued yesterday over sexual harassment of two women.

They are among 16 people accused in two cases filed with two Dhaka courts under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

The accused include three sub-inspectors, two assistant sub-inspectors, five constables and four other people.

A woman filed one of the cases with Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-3 in Dhaka. She accused Jatrabari OC Mazharul Islam, SI Osman Ali, and civilians Md Sohel, Miraz Ali and Md Zihad of attempted rape and extortion.

After hearing the complaint, Judge Jayasree Samadder of the tribunal took the case into cognisance.

The court asked the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Dhaka to conduct a judicial enquiry into the complaint.

According to the case statement, Miraz, Sohel and Zihad forcibly entered the complainant's home on Kajla New Road in the capital's Jatrabari area around 11:30pm on February 14 and attempted to rape her.

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## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### Friendship will grow stronger



**Bangabandhu and Chairman of Council of Ministers of Soviet Uzbek Republic at Tashkent on March 5, 1972.**

MARCH 5, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU'S USSR TOUR ENDS

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's five-day Soviet tour ends today. In his farewell message to the people and the government of the Soviet Union, Bangabandhu says that it is his conviction that the Bangladesh-Soviet friendship will continue to grow stronger with the passage of time. He adds, "The people of Bangladesh will never forget the resolute and continued support given by the Soviet people and their leaders in our liberation

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## Dr Kamal dissolves Gonoforum committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday dissolved the party's central committee amid expulsion and counter-expulsion of leaders by two groups.

Issuing a press release, Kamal said a two-member convening committee was formed to carry out the political and organisational activities of the party.

Kamal and Reza Kibria were made the president and general secretary of the committee. The names of the other committee members would be announced by this month, added the release.

The Gonoforum chief said the convening committee would exercise the powers conferred on it under the party's charter.

However, all other district, thana/upazila, municipality/union and ward committees of the

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## Nasa asks for applications for moon trip



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa has asked for applications to go to the moon.

It is the first time in four years the space agency has asked for new astronauts. The opening of applications also comes as the agency gears up to return to the moon's surface for the first time in decades -- and then use that as a step onto a trip to Mars.

US citizens can apply for the programme on the devoted federal website. Applications must be submitted before the end of the month.

The space agency has stressed that it is looking for people from "diverse backgrounds".

"America is closer than any other time in history

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## Rejoinder, our reply

The Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) has protested The Daily Star's report titled "Nothing seems to deter it: CDA continues razing hills even after DoE fines it Tk 10 cr".

In a rejoinder sent on March 3, the CDA authorities said that the report which drew our attention was incorrect. The DoE fined the CDA on January 29, against which the CDA appealed to the relevant authority. The CDA did not cut any hills after being fined by the DoE. The CDA will "dress up" the hills in line with hill management plan. That's why the report is not

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### PRAYER TIMING MARCH 5

|        | Fajr | Zohr  | Asr  | Maghrib | Esha |
|--------|------|-------|------|---------|------|
| AZAN   | 5:15 | 12:45 | 4:30 | 6:05    | 7:30 |
| JAMAAT | 5:50 | 1:15  | 4:45 | 6:10    | 8:00 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## DELHI VIOLENCE SC asks HC to hear plea tomorrow

Says long adjournment 'not justified'

PTI, New Delhi

The Indian Supreme Court yesterday asked the Delhi High Court to hear tomorrow a plea seeking lodging of FIRs against some BJP leaders for alleged hate speeches which purportedly led to recent violence here and said it may also explore the possibility of "peaceful resolution" of the dispute.

The apex court, which said it "wants to see if peace is possible", observed that adjournment of hearing by the High Court for "such a long period" in April on separate petitions related to the violence in northeast Delhi was not "justified" and such matters should not be delayed for long.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde requested the Chief Justice of the High Court to dispose of these matters "as expeditiously as possible"

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A shuttle train and a freight train after they collided head-on at Forest Gate point in Chattogram's Sholoshohor area yesterday. Two police officers and a train driver were injured.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES

# Biden gains big on Super Tuesday

Sets up one-on-one battle against Sanders; Bloomberg quits race

AGENCIES

A resurgent Joe Biden seized the momentum in the race to become the Democratic challenger to President Donald Trump with a string of Super Tuesday victories, including key prize Texas, against rival Bernie Sanders.

Sanders, a 78-year-old leftist who wants to reshape America's economy, had been the clear leader and was looking for a knock-out blow on the most consequential voting day on the primary calendar.

Instead, the results signalled a remarkable comeback for Biden, a former vice president under Barack Obama who was projected to win at least nine, and possibly 10, of the nomination contests held across 14 states.

Meanwhile, billionaire and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg ended his US presidential campaign yesterday and endorsed Joe Biden.

In another move that could reshape the race to find the Democrat who will face Republican President Donald Trump in the Nov 3 election, candidate Elizabeth Warren is "talking to her team to assess the path forward," a campaign aide said. The liberal US senator from Massachusetts, who was seeking to become America's first female president, had disappointing results across the board on Tuesday.

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