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GAS SUPPLY DISRUPTION IN CITY

Titas, RHD trade blame

Thousands wake up to find no way to cook

HELEMUL ALAM and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Thousands of people in different parts of the capital suffered badly after being hit by a severe gas crisis as a Titas connection was damaged in Amin Bazar on the outskirts of the city on Monday night.

While Titas and Roads and Highways Department (RHD) officials traded blame for the situation, many of the affected people did not get the gas connection back till 8:00pm yesterday, when this report was filed.

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd officials said the gas line was damaged by an RHD contractor.

The problem began after the feeder line was damaged around 9:00pm on Monday during a construction work of Salehpur bridge over the Turag river in Amin Bazar, Titas Director (Operations) Shafiqul Islam Khan said.

He said they were working on it and that they were trying to keep gas supply normal.

RHD officials, on the other hand, said the line was installed on RHD land without permission and that they were not aware of its presence.

Arguing that the RHD cannot be held responsible for the people's suffering, the officials said no such gas line should be installed so close to a main road.

Titas officials said they took due permission during the installation of the gas line.

In the meantime, thousands of people in Mohammadpur, SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Some motorcyclists get on the pavement while others follow the traffic rules and stay put in a gridlock near Shat Rasta intersection in the capital. The ones on the pavement are travelling under a sign set up there by police urging all to follow traffic rules.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

MAYHEM IN SUNAMGANJ

No case, yet Jhumon in jail for 7 days

30 accused of attack on Hindus on remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Jhuma Rani Das, mother of Jhumon Das Apon, yesterday demanded release of his son.

Police detained Jhumon on March 16 over an alleged Facebook post criticising a statement of Hefajat-e Islam leader Mamunul Haque.

The next day, a mob of several hundred Hefajat supporters attacked, vandalised and looted 90 Hindu houses in Noagaon village of Sunamganj's Shalla.

"For seven days, I have not been able to know his location and to see him," Jhuma said at a press conference at Bangladesh Crime

Reporters' Association conference hall in the capital.

At the press conference, organised by Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Mohajot, she said, "Her son was handed over to the police on Tuesday [March 16] night.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Man murders wife, son, dumps bodies in lake

He then calls family to tell them where to find the bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

She took refuge in her mother's house to save herself from her husband's torture and keep her three-year-old son out of harm's way.

But her desperate bid to save herself and her son went in vain as both ended up dead, their bodies dumped in a lake near the Korail slum in the capital's Banani area.

Police yesterday recovered the bodies of Hashi Begum, 25, a homemaker, and her son Nirob Hossain.

"It's my brother-in-law Rubel Hossain who killed my sister and my nephew... He called me over the phone in the morning and said he dumped the bodies and asked us to recover those," Hashi's brother Mehedi Hasan, a day labourer, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Mehedi and other family members rushed to the location and found the bodies of Hashi and her son floating in the lake. They then informed police.

Earlier on Monday afternoon, Rubel, a construction worker, came to the slum to take Hashi back to his house in Cumilla. But she refused to go back.

Later at night, several elderly neighbours sat with Hashi and Rubel to mediate between the couple.

"If you send me back to Cumilla with my husband, he will kill me this time," Hashi told the mediators, requesting them not to put pressure on her.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

The telephone call that never came

MARCH 24, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

THE FINAL MEETING

There was a final meeting between Awami League's team and President Yahya Khan's advisers on March 24 at 6:00pm. The reading of all the clauses and schedules of the draft proclamation, initially prepared by Yahya's advisers and subsequently modified by AL representatives, was concluded.

Kamal Hossain, a member of the AL team, asked Lt Gen Peerzada, principal staff officer to Yahya Khan, as to when the draft could be finalised. It was proposed from the AL side that Kamal Hossain and Justice Cornelius, adviser to Yahya Khan, should sit that very night and finalise the draft so that it could be presented before the president and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman the next morning.

Cornelius was agreeable but Peerzada prevented him saying, "No, we have some discussions this evening, you may meet tomorrow morning."

When Kamal Hossain suggested fixing a time for the following day Peerzada intervened and said they would be informed about it over phone. Awami League



waited for the telephone call throughout the fateful day of March 25 but it never came. Even when Kamal Hossain finally left Bangabandhu at his residence around 10:30pm on March 25, Bangabandhu asked him whether he had received such a telephone call. Kamal Hossain confirmed that he had not. [Kamal Hossain, Bangladesh: Quest for Freedom and Justice, UPL, 2013, pp 102-103]

BANGABANDHU WARNS AGAINST CONSPIRACY
From morning till night, without any rest, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman continued to give speeches for the many processions that arrived at his doorstep.

"We don't want any more discussions; now we want an announcement," said Bangabandhu.

If there was no solution by tomorrow, he said, Bangladeshis would find it themselves. No conspiracy could hold them

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Tensions take hold on Sylhet border

BSF builds bunker on no-man's land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) stopped the reconstruction work of a 200-year-old mosque at Gajukata border in Sylhet's Beanibazar on Monday and built bunkers on no-man's land, raising tension between the two forces.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) jawans also took the position yesterday.

Lt Col Shah Alam Siddiqui, commanding officer of 52 BGB Battalion, said, "The BSF stopped the reconstruction work entering Bangladesh territory and then unlawfully set-up bunkers 150-metre inside of the border, on the no-man's land."

"In response, we also deployed force at the border."

A flag-meeting started at 5:00pm to settle the issue and the meeting was progressing till the report was filed at 6:45pm.

The mosque is inside SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Natural soundscapes boost people's health markers



AFP, Washington

Spending more time in green spaces might be just what the doctor ordered, according to a study that quantifies the health benefits of natural sounds, from improved mood and cognitive performance to decreased heart rate and sensitivity to pain.

The paper was led by Rachel Buxton, a conservation biologist at Canada's Carleton University, and published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

"We tend to look at the acoustic environment from the perspective of noise pollution and how it disturbs wildlife, and how it has effects on visitors to parks and human health," she told AFP.

"A lot of us conservation biologists are really interested in the inverse of that: what are the health benefits of natural acoustic environments?"

Buxton and her colleagues carried out a literature review to statistically analyze the patchwork of SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Myanmar junta 'sad' at protest deaths

Vows to stamp out 'anarchy'

AGENCIES

Myanmar's military yesterday said it was sad about people killed in its brutal crackdown on anti-coup protests, but vowed to press ahead with stamping out what it called "anarchy".

The junta has unleashed deadly violence as it struggles to quell nationwide protests against the February 1 ousting of civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

In a news conference in the capital Naypyidaw, junta spokesman Brigadier General Zaw Min Tun put the death toll lower at 164.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING MARCH 24

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



A thirsty crow sipping water from a puddle on a street near Doyel Chatter in the capital. The city witnessed a sharp rise in temperature over the last few days. Water becomes hard to come by for animals especially during this time of the year.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

UK COVID VARIANT

Germany to enter strict shutdown

India's top gov't panel says no blood clot risk from Covishield, Covaxin

AGENCIES

Germany will enter a strict shutdown for five days over Easter amid surging virus rates, Chancellor Angela Merkel and regional leaders agreed yesterday as criticism mounted over the government's handling of the pandemic.

As well as extending existing measures including keeping cultural, leisure and sporting facilities shut through to April 18, Merkel and Germany's 16 state premiers ordered a tougher shutdown between April 1 and 5.

Almost all shops will be closed during the five days, and religious services will be moved online over SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

সম্পত্তি বিভাগ

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন

আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

স্মারক নং-৪৬.২০৭.০০০.১৩.০২

গণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা উদ্বেগের সঙ্গে লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন এলাকায় সিটি কর্পোরেশন কে অবহিত না করে অথবা কোন প্রকার অনুমোদন ব্যতীত আবাসিক প্রকল্প গ্রহণ করা হচ্ছে। এ জন্য অপরিষ্কারভাবে মাটি ভরাটের কারণে খাল, পুকুর এবং জলাশয় ভরাট হয়ে স্বাভাবিক পানি প্রবাহে বাধাগ্রস্ত হচ্ছে। কোন কোন ক্ষেত্রে ভূমি মালিকের অনুমতি ছাড়াই তার জমিতে মাটি ভরাট করা হচ্ছে। এ ধরনের কার্যক্রম স্থানীয় সরকার (সিটি কর্পোরেশন) আইন-২০০৯ এর অনুচ্ছেদ ১৬.০৩ ও ১৬.৪ এর পরিপন্থী। ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন এলাকায় সিটি কর্পোরেশন এর অনুমতি ছাড়া ড্রেজিং (Dredging) অথবা অন্য কোনভাবে মাটি ভরাট করে আবাসিক প্রকল্প কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা থেকে বিরত থাকার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অনুরোধ করা হলো। অন্যথায় যথাযথ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/১৩২/২০-২১

জিডি-৫৯৯

কর্তৃপক্ষ
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন