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## SAYEED'S TRIAL Defence accused of threatening witness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday a prosecution witness in the case against Jamaat-e-Islami

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## Witnesses must be protected

Roundtable for security of those testifying about war crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Security and support are crucial for war crimes witnesses to prevent a repetition of the trauma endured by them during the War of Liberation in 1971, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

The International Crimes Tribunal should offer protection to the witnesses appearing before it to ensure an effective trial, they noted at a roundtable, 'Trial of International Crimes Tribunal: National and International Obligations', at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

"As ironic as it may seem, the moment a victim receives justice may be the moment he becomes the most vulnerable [emotionally]," said Laurel E Fletcher, clinical professor of law at the International Human Rights Law Clinic of University of California.

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## KL extends regularisation deadline

Good news for 12,000 Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 12,000 irregular Bangladeshi workers have got the scope of getting regularised after the Malaysian authorities extended the deadline to complete the legalisation formalities of irregular foreign workers for an indefinite period.

"This is surely a good news for our workers," Mantu Kumar Biswas, labour attaché of Bangladesh mission in Kuala Lumpur, told The Daily Star over phone yesterday evening.

Earlier, the deadline for

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BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia emerging from a Dhaka court yesterday after submitting her bail bond in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case.

PHOTO: STAR

## Stop MPs' meddling in UP business

Union chairmen, councillors want to work freely

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Union Parishad (UP) chairmen and councillors from across the country yesterday claimed that they cannot perform their duties properly due to 'interference' from local members of parliament (MP) and Upazila Parishad chairmen.

MPs and upazila parishad chairmen demand personal shares from government's allocation of provisions for the poor, UP officials claimed.

Officials yesterday outpoured their grievances at a convention held by Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum (Bupf) - a body of over 4,500 UP chairmen and 54,000 councillors - in city's Diploma Engineers Institute auditorium.

Chairmen and councillors from 640 UPs from across the country attended the day-long assembly.

Speaking at the program, chairmen of

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## Irene Khan takes over as IDLO DG

STAR REPORT

Noted rights activist Irene Khan took up office as the first ever woman director general of the International

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## Serve rural people or face stern action

PM warns doctors unwilling to stay in villages

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday warned that the government would take stern actions against the doctors who will not stay in their stations in rural areas.

The doctors, who will be posted in rural areas, will have to go there with their family members, and there is no way to avoid this, she said.

Hasina made the remarks while inaugurating the newly built Academic

Bhaban of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College here in the morning.

The premier said her government is planning to turn Dhaka Medical College Hospital into a full-fledged medical university in order to enhance medical research in the country.

She iterated her call to the affluent section of society to donate generously for the expansion of healthcare services.

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## ECONOMIC FREEDOM Bangladesh makes little headway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is the 130th freest country for doing business, according to the Index of Economic Freedom released yesterday. Even though Bangladesh improved its score this year, its ranking remains the same as last year's.

For over a decade, The Wall Street Journal and

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



A 20-kilometre-long tailback on Bangabandhu Bridge approach in Tangail yesterday afternoon leaves vehicles stranded on the highway following the long march and street meetings of Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad at Elenga. The gridlock was triggered after a few hundred vehicles on the long march entered Mirzapur upazila at around noon. Vehicular movement was also halted on the busy highway during another street meeting at Natiapara in Basail upazila around 1:00pm.

PHOTO: STAR

## Ershad's poll campaign thru' Teesta 'long march'

PANKAJ KARMAKAR, from Rangpur

Launching a long march towards Teesta Barrage in Nilphamari demanding immediate signing of Teesta water-sharing deal, Jatiya Party (JP) yesterday called for forging national unity to get the due share of Teesta waters.

Though the programme was about Teesta waters, party Chairman Hussain Muhammad Ershad conducted an electoral campaign in all the street

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## Bibiyana bid draws good response

PDB opens bids asking bidders to bring fund for 1700 MW power

SHARIEF KHAN

As the Power Development Board is unsure of private power tenders ultimately materialising, it went ahead with floating tenders for six new public sector power projects to generate around 1,700 megawatt by 2015-2016.

These projects would be different from typical public sector plants. Unlike previous public sector projects, which are funded by the government or lenders, the PDB has asked bidders to bring in the finance and submit the lowest competi-

tive rate for engineering, procurement and construction of the plants.

Except for one plant, which will be based on Barapukuria coal, all of them will be gas-fired.

The third phase Bibiyana gas-fired 450MW power plant tender was opened yesterday and it received good response.

According to the PDB the six bidders who submitted their proposals are: Chinese companies CNEC, Shanghai Electric, Sepco, China National Technical Export-Import Corporation; a joint

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## WAR CRIMES TRIAL HR boss critical of western countries' role

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The western countries are playing a double standard regarding the war crimes trial in Bangladesh.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman expressed this view yesterday, referring to his talks with a US diplomat a recently.

Speaking at a roundtable on "Trial of war criminals: national duty", organised by Peshajibi Samannaya Parishad and held at the Jatiya Press Club, he said the diplomat told him that the trial of war crimes in Bangladesh will have to be done following international standard.

Asked about international standard, and if it is like the trial of Saddam Hossain, the diplomat replied Saddam was tried in a national court, not in an international court, the NHRC chief mentioned.

"Then I said the trial in our country is being done in a national court and why you (diplomat) are raising the



Dr Mizanur Rahman

## Rooppur nuke power plant in 6 years

UNB, Dhaka

The Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna will go into operation in 2018 and its construction work will be completed within 5 to 6 years.

Outgoing Ambassador of the Russian Federation Gennady P Trotsenko said this while paying a farewell call on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the capital yesterday.

The Russian envoy also informed the president that Prime Minister

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PRAYER TIMING January 18		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

The prime minister in a meeting with UK Minister for International Development Andrew Mitchell claimed that there is no violation of human rights in the country and democracy is 'fully functioning'.

Agree: (18.2%)

Disagree: (81.8%)

TOTAL VOTES: 688

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think BNP's rejection of the president's proposal of forming a search committee to form the next Election Commission is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://facebook.com/dailystarnews)

ANNOUNCEMENT

SYED ISHTIAQ AHMED'S 80TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

- 18 January, 2012

He was a man, take him for all in all, I shall not look upon his like again.  
-William Shakespeare (Hamlet, Act I, Sc.2)

-Sufia, Refaat, Raina, Anat, Liya, Roshanak and Raaid