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# The Daily Star

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## Steps for power purchase from pvt sector

By Staff Correspondent

The cabinet yesterday approved a proposal for amending the Dhaka Electricity Supply Act 1990, Rural Electrification Board Ordinance 1997 and the Bangladesh Water and Power Development Board Order 1972 to enable these organisations to purchase power to be produced in the private sector.

The proposal also provides for implementation of a government policy for setting up of power plants in the private sector under the Power Sector Reform Programme, according to official sources.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting. The Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry will propose amendments in the next session of parliament. Energy Minister Noor Uddin Khan said last night.

According to ministry See Page 12 Col 4

## Gram Parishad, Union Parishad polls in Dec

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday said elections to the Gram Parishads and Union Parishads would be held simultaneously in December, reports BSS.

The members of Gram Parishads would be elected through direct votes, the minister said while speaking at a gold medal award ceremony in the city. The medals were awarded to the best Union Parishad chairmen for 1994-95 and See Page 12 Col 4

## 52nd session of UNGA opens today

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 15: The UN General Assembly opens its 52nd session tomorrow amid deepening gloom about the UN's shaky finances and growing impatience with Washington, reports AFP.

Although UN chief Kofi Annan would like the session to focus on his reform proposals, the problem of UN finances remains a live issue with the world body regularly flirting with bankruptcy.

Many UN delegates say that See Page 12 Col 2

## Temporary ban on student politics at IU likely

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, Sept 15: Student politics may be banned at the Islamic University for two to three months in view of the continued tense situation on the campus, according to sources in the university administration.

The ban may be announced by the IU authorities tomorrow, the sources said.

Situation on the campus deteriorated following clashes between rival groups of Chhatra League on Sunday.

All activities at the university were conducted today under strict security measures. The Proctor, Student Adviser and See Page 12 Col 3

## Inside Today

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### Supplements

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains two special supplements on International Ozone Day and National Fisheries Week '97 on Page 8 and 9 respectively

# Power tariff raised by 5 paisa per unit

By Sharier Khan

The government has increased power tariff by 5 paisa per kilowatt hour from September 1 under a formula to adjust the tariff, every six months with the 'dollar rate fluctuation', official sources said.

The average rate of power tariff now stands at Tk 2.5 per kilowatt hour, which is slightly less than six US cents.

This is the second such increase this year. Since the Awami League came to power in June last year, power tariff was increased by about 17 per cent in two phases—10 per cent in October and about 7 per cent in March this year. The second

hike was implemented in April with retrospective effect without making any public announcement.

The government will continue to increase power tariff under the 'dollar rate and gas tariff adjustment formula' every six months until it decides a new tariff structure proposed by The Power Cell of the Energy Ministry.

Although power tariff in Bangladesh is already higher than that in the eastern part of India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan (according to a World Bank study in 1996), the government has decided to increase the rate under constant pres-

sure from donors, specially the Asian Development Bank, the sources noted.

The Power Cell has proposed to the government to increase power tariff to nine US cents from six cents per kilowatt hour at present. The proposal has been temporarily shelved under 'political considerations.' The government had already increased prices of petroleum products and tariff rates of power and other utility services.

Donors are particularly insisting on increase of power tariff saying that otherwise private power companies would See Page 12 Col 1

## BAC asked to take up IFIC scam

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi and Inam Ahmed

The Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC) has been asked to probe into the IFIC scam that has implicated business barons Sohail and Salman Rahman in an alleged fraud and unprecedented banking irregularities, BAC sources said.

The Bureau has also been requested to take up two other cases of irregularities by the International Finance and Investment Company Ltd, the sources said.

The Bureau is expected to investigate a major violation of loan sanctioning procedure, from which the Dandy Dying Ltd of Tareq Rahman and Syed Iskander gained, the sources said.

A third case is that of one called Mohammad Yusuf.

The Bangladesh Bank, which detected the alleged irregularities and fraud in banking practices, sent its findings to the Bureau, requesting it to take into whether legal action could be taken against them.

Meanwhile, the sources said, the Bank is using its own mechanism to punish those responsible. It has already served showcase notices, returnable in 15 days from September 2, on

the IFIC chairman Sohail Rahman, vice chairman Salman Rahman, managing director Abbas Uddin Ahmed.

The managing director has received another notice in which he has been asked to take action against the bank executives involved in the irregularities.

Another notice, addressed to the chairman, has asked the IFIC Board of Directors to explain why the activities of the bank should not be stopped.

The Bank's Board has already sought another 15 days to reply to the notices, according to a decision taken September 10, IFIC sources said.

Meanwhile, a Bangladesh Bank audit team on Sunday had a scrutiny of different matters related to IFIC, including its legal department.

The alleged irregularities and fraud through which the Rahman brothers of Beximco allegedly benefited caused in the Dhanmondi branch of the IFIC.

According to a central bank inquiry, the IFIC Bank went through extremely complicated and unacceptable, means to See Page 12 Col 4

## Hundreds of occupiers evicted from Osmany Uddyan

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday evicted from Osmany Uddyan hundreds of people who had occupied it on Thursday following an announcement that the site was designated for hawkers' rehabilitation.

No untoward incident was reported during the eviction operation, according to witnesses.

DCC officials, accompanied by dozens of policemen, entered the park at around noon and asked the occupiers over loudspeakers to move out with their belongings.

Witnesses also said several truckloads of policemen were waiting outside the Uddyan. Hawkers in the locality said the DCC made a promise that shops would be allocated to them as per a list prepared earlier.

Several people who had taken plots in the park said they had paid between Tk 1,000 and 2,000 to some political See Page 12 Col 3



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting in front of party central office in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## Time is running out, Khaleda warns govt BNP announces rail, road barricade on Oct 5

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has announced a series of agitation programmes including a rail and road barricade programme across the country on October 5.

Party chief Begum Khaleda Zia announced the fresh programmes at a huge public rally at Naya Faltan in the city yesterday afternoon. The rally was organised as part of BNP's countrywide 'protest day' to press the party's various demands.

The meeting was held defying the Dhaka City Corporation's ban on holding rallies on the streets.

At the rally, Begum Zia called upon the government to be cautious about the 'horrifying situation' in the country before time runs out.

Otherwise, she warned, it (the government) won't continue in power for long. 'None will be able to protect the government that has proved to be inefficient, bankrupt and liar.'

The BNP demands include withdrawal of the increased prices of fuel, power and agricultural inputs, halting repression on the opposition ac-

tivists, release of all party leaders and workers and withdrawal of false cases against them, neutrality in running parliament, restoration of the name of Zia International Airport, introduction of voters' identity cards, salvaging the economy and cancellation of all 'conspiratorial' treaties with India.

Other programmes announced yesterday include mass contact at the thana level from tomorrow to September 27; protest march at every thana in Dhaka and other divisional headquarters on September 25; demonstration in all thanas of the country on September 28 and street agitation in all divisional and district headquarters on September 30.

Addressing the huge public meeting the leader of the opposition in Jatiya Sangsad, Begum Zia, introduced the Awami League government for 'totally neglecting' national interests and 'only serving' a neighbouring country which, she said, graced the party by bringing it to power.

'A government devoid of love for the country and its people can't be allowed to stay in power. That's why, the people have launched agitation against it,' she told the cheering crowd.

The Opposition leader said the national economy is on the 'verge of ruin' because of misrule and might collapse any moment. Blaming the government for See Page 12 Col 7

## DCC concerned at flouting its directive

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday expressed its concern that some political parties are holding meetings on the city streets flouting its directive, reports UNB.

'This is unfortunate that some political parties, defying the DCC's request, held meetings on different city streets causing inconvenience to pub-

## Steps to control powder milk advertisements

The government yesterday issued some directives to control the advertisements of powdered milk used as baby food, reports BSS.

An official handout yesterday said from now on, advertisements of powdered milk must carry the following statement in Bangla:

'There is no alternative to mother's milk. This full cream powdered milk is not for the children below one year of age.'

No advertisement should use the photograph of a child below five years of age, it added.

The decision was taken by the advisory committee formed as per the 1993 guidelines formulated under Mother's Milk Alternative Food (Marketing Control Ordinance of 1984).

A recent survey revealed that about 20 per cent mothers are feeding their children below one year of age powdered milk under the influence of advertisements. Feeding the babies below one year of age powdered milk is injurious to child health, the handout said.

It added that the children below one year of age do not have necessary enzyme to digest full-cream powdered milk.

## CHT: Settlers' issue dominates second day's talks

By Special Correspondent

The vexed issues of land rights and settlers' fate dogged the second day's talks yesterday between the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT) and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) aimed at resolving the decades-old CHT problem.

According to meeting sources, after five and a half hours of talks, the sixth in the current series of negotiations with the PCJSS and 25th since peace talks began in October 1988, the issues continued to hamper progress towards an agreement to end the insurgency there.

The PCJSS wants a 'Regional Council', headed by a tribal person and dominated by tribals, to hold sway over the lands in the 14,200 sq km forest and hill clad CHT. They also want the settlers from the plains out from their homes and resettled in government-owned lands in the CHT.

There are not enough government-owned lands to resettle 311,267 settlers who had diligently eked out farms in the valleys of CHT for over two decades.

When talks resumed at 10:30 am yesterday at State Guest House Padma, both sides picked up the threads of Sunday's deliberations which centred round these issues. But they failed to reach any decision on how to resolve those and adjourned the meeting at 7 pm, till this morning.

More than an hour of exclusive talks were held between the leaders of two sides, NCCHT Convenor Abul Hasnat Abdullah and PCJSS Chairman Jyotirindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma, in the evening.

Although officials shied away from newsmen for the second consecutive day, meeting sources said the talks progressed. See Page 12 Col 2

## DCC contractors gherao chief engr's office for arrears

By Staff Correspondent

The private secretary to the Mayor sustained minor injury in a scuffle that broke out after about 200 angry Dhaka City Corporation contractors besieged the Chief Engineer's Office yesterday demanding payment of their accumulated arrears of several months.

According to witnesses, at around 2 pm yesterday the contractors, mostly from their association's office in the Nagar Bhaban, besieged the chief engineer's office and demanded payment of arrears.

When a scuffle broke out, Mohammad Ali, PS to the Mayor, was hit with a paper weight in the head. He was immediately taken to a clinic on an ambulance where he was treated for minor head injury, DCC sources said.

As soon as the scuffle broke out, some DCC officials locked up their rooms and remained inside. Many left their offices See Page 12 Col 3

## Swiss bank accounts of Benazir's family frozen

BERN, Switzerland, Sept 15: Swiss banks must freeze any accounts of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her family at the request of the Pakistani government, Swiss officials said today, reports agencies.

The Swiss Federal Office of Police Affairs said the Swiss government ordered the freeze because Pakistani officials suspect her of illegally enriching herself while in office.

The office said it had yet to receive any word from banks about whether they were holding any affected accounts or how much they might contain.

The office said that a September 8 fax from the prime minister's office in Islamabad asked that any Bhutto assets be blocked and that all bank documents be handed over.

The action was requested in connection with a corruption prosecution about to begin against Benazir and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari. Swiss officials quoted the fax as saying.



Benazir Bhutto

The Swiss government immediately ordered four banks in Geneva to place a freeze on specified accounts and safe deposit boxes, the federal office said.

The office said the Pakistani government has been asked to file a formal request for legal assistance by December 8. The request must spell out the connection between the proceedings.

## Frozen fish, RMG export to EU UK ready to help resolve issues if Dhaka improves quality: Short



Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria receiving British Secretary of State for International Development Clare Short on her arrival at Zia International Airport yesterday. — PID photo

The Secretary of State for International Development of the United Kingdom said Britain would continue support to Bangladesh in its poverty alleviation programmes, reports UNB.

'The new British Labour government has a strong commitment to supporting the developing countries,' Clare Short, MP, told newsmen on her arrival at the Zia International Airport yesterday afternoon.

The British Minister said during her five-day visit she would discuss with government leaders here various aspects of UK assistance to Bangladesh, the second largest recipient of British aid.

Short named some sectors including eradication of poverty, sanitation, medicare and other basic needs which have been receiving her country's continued aid.

'Bangladesh is a friendly country to Britain. We'll continue our cooperation with this country for reduction of its poverty,' she told a questioner. See Page 12 Col 8

## Bangabandhu Murder Case Court rejects defence plea for adjournment of hearing

By Staff Correspondent

The 13th prosecution witness in Bangabandhu murder case said yesterday that he saw Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed along with Maj Khandaker Abdur Rashid and some others entering the Dhaka Radio Station in the morning of August 15, 1975.

Dafader (retd) Shafiuddin Sarder, PW-13, also said that he saw the Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Naval Staff and the Chief of Air Staff coming from the cantonment side and entering the Radio Station. Maj Dalim came immediately afterwards in a jeep, he said in his deposition in the Court of District and Session Judge, Dhaka.

'I reached the Radio Station at about 7:15 am and remained posted there till about 9:00 am or 9:30 am,' the PW-13 said.

Shafiuddin, 45, also said that he was among the participants in the night parade of Bengal Lancer Unit that had begun at around 8:30 pm on August 14, 1975 and also among the troops that moved out of cantonment in a convoy of vehicles at around 3:30 the same night.

'In the early morning, when we reached the entry point of Road No. 32 along the Mirpur Road, Dafader Marfat Ali told me that they had killed Sheikh Mori and his wife at their residence. I also heard the noise of gun shots as we reached the entry point of Rd No. 32.'

Shafiuddin said that he was in the group that had distributed breakfast to the troops posted in different areas in the city on August 15, 1975. At around 10:30 am on that

day, when I brought breakfast for the soldiers I came to know that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Begum Mujib, their three sons, two daughters-in-law, Sheikh Naser, and a police officer were killed in the early hours of the day at Bangabandhu's residence,' he said.

Shafiuddin was cross-examined by nine of the 14 lawyers of the 14 absconding accused yesterday. Five others declined to cross-examine him. The proceedings of the court were adjourned till 10:00 am today.

At the fog end of the day's proceedings yesterday, Khan Salfur Rahman, lawyer of accused in custody Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farook Rahman, moved a petition praying for adjournment of further See Page 12 Col 7

The Daily Star on the Internet <http://www.dailystarnews.com>

## RB showcase on principals of 282 colleges

From M A Ali

RAJSHAHI, Sept 15: Rajshahi Education Board today issued showcase notices on principals of 282 colleges as to why punitive actions would not be taken against them for their alleged involvement in irregularities done by 6,686 examinees during the last HSC examinations, sources in the Board said.

The principals were asked to reply to the showcase notices within 10 days.

When contacted, Chairman of the Board Prof Shaukat Mohammad admitted issuance of the notices and said the process of taking action against the See Page 12 Col 6

## SEC approves Settlement of Stock Exchange Transactions Regulations '97

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has approved the Settlement of Stock Exchange Transactions Regulations, 1997 of the Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges, reports UNB.

The approval was given in the SEC Board meeting yesterday, said a press release.

Earlier, a committee headed by SEC member Dr AKM Shahabuddin Alam prepared the regulations for the uniform and bi-weekly settlement and transaction of securities, and asked the bourses to adopt those.

Both the Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges adopted the regulations and sent those for approval of the Commission on September 10 and September 14 respectively.

The regulations would come into effect in both bourses from September 23, subject to the publication of those in the Bangladesh Gazette.

## JP against snap polls: Ershad

BOGRA, Sept 15: Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad today said his party is not in favour of mid-term elections at this moment as it wants the Awami League government to complete its five-year tenure, reports UNB.

'It will not be wise to judge a government on the basis of its 14-month rule only, but the people may want a change out of growing frustration,' he told a press conference at the local circuit house.

The former President said the government is playing hide and seek with the people on various issues; even the members of the cabinet were not informed about the two-day weekly holiday before the announcement.

About the BNP's allegation See Page 12 Col 1

## BNP factions in Khulna hold separate rallies

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 15: Two rival factions of local BNP held separate meetings today in observance of the party's protest day.

The faction led by KCC Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman held its meeting at the city BNP office, while the faction led by Shaikh Razaque Ali held its meeting at the KDA New Market square.

After the meetings, activists of both the factions were seen flexing muscles at the party office.

Police has been deployed in front of the BNP office.

## KNM staff burn copies of dailies to protest import of newsprint

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 15: The workers and employees of Khulna Newsprint Mills (KNM) today burned copies of some national dailies to protest against the import of white newsprint.

They have been agitating to press home their demand for paying their arrears dues and to protest against the privatisation of KNM.

The agitating workers during a procession at Daulatpur allegedly snatched bundles of Dainik Ittefaq, Dainik Dinal and Dainik Banglabazar from a newspaper carrying bus. Later, they set all the newspapers on fire in protest against the free import of white newsprint.

At around noon, they attacked the office of a newspaper agent at Daulatpur and threatened him not to sell white print newspapers from tomorrow.