

# The Daily Star

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## No replacement for outgoing PDB chief yet

By Staff Correspondent  
The government is yet to find a suitable replacement for outgoing PDB Chairman Nuruddin M Kamal, sources said.

He submitted resignation on April 17 with a one-month notice.  
The only candidate chosen so far is the LGED chief engineer. But sources said he is unwilling to be transferred to PDB and is lobbying hard to stay in his present position.

Kamal was asked to resign earlier this month as the Prime Minister was reportedly dissatisfied at his performance as regards tackling the power crisis.

I have received no response to my resignation letter. I am carrying on my responsibilities as I've been asked to do so," Kamal told The Daily Star last night over telephone.

Sources said many believe that instead of selecting PDB chairman on political considerations, the government should choose its chief from within PDB as he is well aware of the organisation's unique problems.

Many others, however, say that the Chairman's job is mainly managerial and that the LGED chief engineer is an efficient manager having good connections with the donors. He has been in the same position for about two decades because of his 'efficiency'.

## Opposition stages demonstrations in city

Opposition leaders yesterday reiterated the demand for mid-term polls accusing the government of oppression and misrule, reports UNB.

The BNP led alliance demonstrated and held rallies in the city to protest police action and bomb explosion on Thursday's procession during gherao of power office demanding uninterrupted supply of electricity.

Addressing a rally at Muktagang in the afternoon the BNP leaders regretted that the government continued repression on the opponents in a bid to perpetuate power.

City BNP convenor Sadeq Hossain Khoka criticised the government for its subservient policy toward India. He cautioned the government of dire consequences if it failed to call

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## Khaleda demands release of JCD leaders

By Staff Correspondent  
BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday demanded release of all student detainees including Saidur Rahman Newton.

In a press statement yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament said the government as part of its repressive measure arrested Newton, Ishak Sarker, Abdus Sobhan and many other Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD)

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### Prayer Timings

April 25	
Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 4:30	4:35
Zohr 12:45	1:20
Asr 4:45	4:55
Maghrib 6:25	6:30
Esha 7:30	7:35

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Further fall in water level 4 out of 5 units at Kaptai plant shut

By Naimul Haq with Nurul Alam in Chittagong

Four out of five units of Karnaphuli Hydropower Station at Kaptai were closed yesterday due to further fall in the water level at Kaptai Lake, reducing power generation at the plant to 180 MW from 230 MW.

The lone unit now in operation generates power only during the peak hour, sources in Chittagong PDB said last night.

The Kaptai plant also acts as a back-up for other plants in the country to restart those in emergency situation.

Load-shedding in Chittagong reached 100 MW yesterday from around 50 MW earlier, keeping most of the city areas in darkness because of short supply from the National Grid. Chittagong got 240 MW electricity yesterday against its normal

demand for 340 MW.  
The power generated at Kaptai, Raizan and Shikabaha plants in Chittagong is supplied to the National Grid wherefrom it is distributed countrywide. The Raizan and Shikabaha plants now produce 270 MW and 25 MW of power respectively.

The water level in the Kaptai lake fell to 81 MSL (mean sea level) on Friday from Monday's 84.6 MSL. The water level is measured after 10 pm.

Power generation at Kaptai plant from its five units was 184 MW on Thursday against Monday's 188 MW, the sources said.

Manager of Karnaphuli Hydropower Station Md Shahidur Rahman Khan when contacted over telephone on Friday night

said, "We are facing a serious crisis of river water. Although, a similar crisis occurred during 1992-94 but that was not for such a long period. This year the dry spell seems to be too long," he said.

"If the trend continues power generation at the plant will fall further," he said.

Earlier during a visit to the power station on Monday, Daily Star Staff Correspondent Naimul Haq saw the water level at the catchment area of the lake at 84.6 MSL.

"Unless it rains, things will not improve. We fear further fall in water level in the lake," Md Abdur Rashid Mondal, Executive Engineer at the plant told this correspondent over telephone Friday night.

## 7 expelled from DU for stabbing student

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities temporarily expelled seven students yesterday for their alleged involvement in stabbing an M Phil student at Surya Sen Hall.

Munshi Mohammad Selim, 27, a researcher under the Department of Finance and Banking, was stabbed by a group of students led by Zakir when he was sleeping in his room, No 468, at about 3 pm yesterday, sources at the dormitory said.

The group again attacked and stabbed him near the Vice-Chancellor's official residence when he was being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), the sources added.

Selim was admitted to the hospital in a critical condition. Some students at the hall told this correspondent that the incident was sequel to beating up of Zakir by some students in his room, No 474, in the early hours of the day for allegedly

stealing books from different rooms.

The students claimed that Zakir was caught while selling the stolen books to traders at Nilkhet book market.

Students of the hall including Selim had declared Zakir persona non-grata for his activities, they said.

Zakir along with his associates attacked Selim to take revenge, they added.

Police visited the spot and recovered some batons but failed to arrest anybody.

According to hall sources, a number of students demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the attackers when VC Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, Pro-VC Prof Sahadat Ali and Proctor A K M Nur-Un-Nabi visited the spot after the incident. They also narrated the incident identifying the culprits, the sources said.

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## Shafi Murder Case Two DB ADCs interrogated

By Staff Correspondent

CID yesterday interrogated two ADCs of the Detective Branch (DB), including Nuruzaman, in connection with the killing of Jalal Ahmed Shafi.

The former DC of DB Altaf Hossain Mollah was interrogated by the senior officials of CID Friday. Mollah admitted that Shafi was an informer of AC Humayun Kabir's team and Inspector Zia's attitude was suspicious after the recovery of Shafi's body.

Besides, the CID yesterday also interrogated two private drivers of Inspector Zia who have been detained in Dhaka Central Jail. Earlier they were arrested as suspects in the Shaif murder case.

CID so far arrested five people, including four DB men in this connection. The five, including an inspector, were sent to the Central Jail after interrogation placing them on re-

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## Barriers at every step but who cares?



HATIRPOOL AT A GLANCE: Cattle for slaughter on the pavement beside a rubbish bin. The pavement on the other side is also occupied by rickshaws, push carts and meat shops.  
— Star photo : Amran Hossain

By Shehab Ahmed

A 'cow pen-cum-slaughter house' on the pavement, rubbish strewn all over, stench of blood and leftover from slaughtered cattle polluting the air, footpaths occupied by meat shops, auto-rickshaw garages, rickshaw vans, fruit and vegetable vendors and builders.

This is Elephant Road and Sonargason Road areas in the city, making life miserable.

Nearby at Paribagh, beside the PDB and WDB officers colony, a compact slum has virtually taken over the box-culvert which was supposed to be a link road between New Elephant Road and Bangla Motor crossing.

A signboard proclaiming the existence of ruling party's local office, a madrasah and a primary school run by NGOs have given the slum some kind of 'official colour' that keep other people away from it.

Another slum has grown on a land belonging to Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital in the name of 'staff quarters'.

People using the roads there find it difficult to negotiate through the maze of rubbish  
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## Donors to pledge more aid if utilisation rate increased

By Staff Correspondent

Donors at the Development Forum meeting in Paris have assured Bangladesh of continuing a steady aid flow to meet its requirement during the next financial year, Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria said here yesterday.

"The donors termed our requirement of 2.04 billion US dollars, placed at the meeting, as 'realistic' and assured that the flow of development assistance would continue as usual," Kibria said while addressing a press conference on the outcome of the two-day Aid Club meeting, now named Bangladesh Development Forum.

The donors even assured more aid than our requirement,

provided we increase the rate of utilisation," Kibria said.

Refuting reports published in different newspapers that the donors did not pledge any specific amount of aid for the next fiscal, the finance minister said that the World Bank alone committed more than one billion dollars this time.

The finance minister said the donors have not been pledging any specific amount for the last few years. "The assurance to continue assistance is indicative of their continued commitment to remain our partners in the development process."

Kibria mentioned that around five billion dollars as-  
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Kibria making a point at the press conference.

## Urban poverty declines, says survey

Star Report

A study has revealed that urban poverty has declined considerably between 1991 and 1998.

However, there has been a sharp rise in urban income inequality.

The study on 'Growth and Distribution of Income and Incidence of Poverty in Dhaka City' was prepared by Dr Mahabub Hussain, head of social science division at ITRI, Dr Rita Absar, a Fellow of BIDS and Manik Lal Bose.

Findings of the survey are based on a 'panel area study' conducted by BIDS in 1991 and 1998. The study was based on information collected from about 600 households—400 in non-slum areas and 200 in slums in four wards.

Access to basic social services in urban areas remains 'precarious' and some indicators  
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## Mizan, Manju elected JP chairman, secy-general

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Anwar Hossain Manju have been elected Chairman and Secretary General of the dissident group of Jatiya Party, reports UNB.

Their election was announced on the concluding day of the two-day council meeting of the party yesterday.

Fourteen Jatiya Party MPs out of 33 joined the council. Sheikh Shahidul Islam proposed the name of Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury as Chairman and Anwar Hossain Manju as Secretary General of the splinter group of Jatiya Party. The proposal was unanimously adopted by the council, said a spokesman of the party.

He said a 101-member central committee was formed in the council. Their names will be  
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## 13 Bangladeshis hurt in attack by Indians at Dublar Char in Muhuri

FENI, Apr 24: At least 13 Bangladeshis construction workers were injured, two critically, in an attack by Indian nationals at Dublar Char in the river Muhuri under Purshuram thana Friday afternoon, reports UNB.

The critically injured were identified as Kawsar, 25, and Siraj, 27.  
BDR, police and Water Development Board sources said some 300 Indians equipped with lethal weapons swooped on the workers while they were constructing a sluice gate in the river.  
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BNP brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting 'police attack' on its activists during electricity office gherao programme at Motijheel on Thursday. — Star photo

## Terrorists gun down 3 in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Apr 24: Three people, including a woman were gunned down allegedly by a group of terrorists at village Mirpur in Kamarkhali thana of the district early today.

The dead were identified as Matiur Rahman, 52, a deed writer, Ayub Ali, 35, and his wife Ulka Begum, 22.

Matiur and Ayub Ali died on the spot while Ulka Begum succumbed to injuries at Kushtia General Hospital.

Local sources said Matiur was a member of Sramajibi Mukti Andolon and his killers might be his rivals belonging to an outlawed party.

According to witnesses, a

gang of about 12 armed extremists stormed into Matiur's house and killed him.

The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately.

They later attacked Ayub Ali and his wife Ulka Begum as they had witnessed the killing of their neighbour Matiur.

The bodies were sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

In another incident, ten people were injured when armed dacoits attacked villagers at Gobargara village in Daulatpur thana of the district last night.

A gang of dacoits stormed into the house of one Sekender  
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## JCD's march toward PM's office today

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of opposition BNP, will march toward the Prime Minister's Office today to press home its various demands.

The demands include immediate release of its arrested leaders and workers, proper supply of water and electricity, reduction of prices of educational materials, immediate arrest and trial of those involved in the rape incidents at Jahangirnagar University.

The JCD will start its march toward PM's Office at 10 am from Paltan Maidan in the city.

JCD president Habib-Un-Nabi Sohel and general secretary  
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## Basu's name resurfaces as consensus PM



NEW DELHI, Apr 24: A veteran Communist leader's name resurfaced today as a consensus prime minister after Sonia Gandhi's Congress Party appeared unable to form India's next government, reports AP.

Jyoti Basu, the longest-serving top elected official of West Bengal state, was noncommittal about the possibility but told reporters that his Communist Party of India (Marxist) would discuss the matter in New Delhi tomorrow.

Basu, 84, has been the chief minister of West Bengal state since 1977.  
A week after Prime Minister

Atal Behari Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist-led coalition was defeated by one vote in parliament, no new government was in sight today. But attempts continued to form new pacts because few politicians favour the alternative: A third election in as many years.

Last week, Basu's party said he couldn't accept the offer from opposition groups to be prime minister because of his falling health. The party though extended support to the Congress Party.

There was no immediate response from Congress to the efforts to rally support for Basu.

Nearly 200 party lawmakers and members of the powerful Congress Working Committee met Sonia today and discussed the party's future strategy.

At least three socialist and leftist groups have indicated they favoured a non-Congress party government, led by Basu.

Jayaram Jaylalitha, a powerful regional leader who triggered the downfall of Vajpayee's government by withdrawing support as a coalition partner, met President K R Narayanan and Sonia Gandhi today.

After the 1996 general elections, the Congress Party twice  
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GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
PRIVATIZATION BOARD  
CABINET DIVISION  
JIBAN BIMA TOWER (14TH FLOOR)  
10, DILKUSHA C/A, DHAKA-1000  
No. CD/PB/PR/4/98/264 DATE: 20.04.98

**Sub: International Tender Notice For Sale Of Enterprise**

International Tenders on the prescribed forms are hereby invited from local and foreign buyers. (Individual, Company, Co-operative body, Employees' Association) for sale of the following 05 enterprises owned by the Government on **as is where is** basis. Intending buyers will have to submit separate prescribed tender forms and other required papers duly filled in and supported by necessary documents for each enterprise.

No.	Name & Address of the enterprise	Brief Information
1.	Fish Export Company Bajua, Khulna	The enterprise has 6.16 acres of land. It processes and preserves shrimps and frog legs. Production Capacity 27 lakh pounds.
2.	Bangladesh Textile Mills, Dhamgarh, Narayanganj	This mill was established in 1954 (BMRE in 1985). Total land area 15.68 Acres. The mill has 17640 spindles and 210 looms and it produces yarn and fabrics. The mill is closed since March'93.
3.	Chittaranjan Cotton Mills Godnyle, Narayanganj	The mill was established in 1929 (BMRE in 1987). Total land area 33.04 Acres. The mill will be sold with 11.04 acres of land. The mill has 19804 Spindles, 395 Looms and Dyeing unit. It produces Yarn, grey cloth and Dyed Fabrics. The mill is closed since December'98.
4.	Star Jute Mills Chandani Mahal, Khulna	The mill is situated at the Suburb of Khulna town. It has 56.26 acres of land and 760 looms. Production of No. 1 mill started in 1958 and No. 2 in 1967. It produces Hacia and Saking. Annual production capacity 17790 M.T.
5.	Kaliachapra Sugar Mills Pakundia, Kishoreganj	Production started in 1970 with production capacity of 10161 M.T. of sugar per annum.

**Conditions:**

- Set of prescribed forms, tender conditions and other related papers can be procured from the Secretary on all working days from 02-05-99 to 15-06-99 during office hours on cash payment of Tk. 5,000/- (Taka Five Thousand only) or US\$ 125 (one Hundred Twenty Five) only which is non-refundable.
- Interested foreigners, Bangladeshi citizens living abroad, overseas commercial firms etc., willing to procure the tender forms may contact Bangladesh High Commissions/Embassies in London, Washington, Brussels, Kuala Lumpur, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, Islamabad, New Delhi, Tokyo, Singapore and Seoul on or after 16-05-99.
- Relevant data relating to the enterprises are available with the Privatization Board (Tel: 9563763-5 Fax: 880-2-9556433) and can be seen by the intending buyers during all working days from 02-05-99 to 15-06-99 These documents will also be available in the above mentioned High Commissions/Embassies.
- The tender box will be closed at 12-00 noon on 16-06-99 and opened at 12-30 p.m. on the same date.
- Tenders found incomplete or otherwise faulty shall stand cancelled. No explanation, appeal, to review or reconsider such a cancellation shall be entertained.
- The Privatization Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Secretary