

The Daily Star



PDB to supply oil to Baghabari power plant till tomorrow

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, 22 Oct: PDB has extended the time-limit by two days — upto October 24 — for supply of oil to the Barge-Mounted Power Plant Bijoyer Alo-1 at Baghabari, according to sources concerned.

The contract between PDB and owner of the plant West Mount Power (Bangladesh) Limited for supply of oil was due to expire today.

In a letter on October 14, PDB asked the plant authorities to switch over to production using gas.

A meeting between PDB and West Mount in Dhaka yesterday ended without any decision. But another meeting will be held on October 24, 'non interrupting supply of oil', one source said.

The plant would be closed after that for lack of fuel if it is not possible to extend further time-limit of the present contract, he added.

The plant cannot yet use gas as 'gas pressure is not up to the mark', an official said.

HR body chief told
Govt established rule of law & voting right: PM

SYDNEY, Oct 22: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said the government has established rule of law in the country and ensured people's right to vote, reports UNB.

She expressed this view while talking to President of the Human Rights Commission and Equal Opportunity Commission, Prof Alice Tay, who called on her at the hotel suite.

The Prime Minister highlighted various steps taken by her government for upholding independence of the country's judiciary and people's rights to get justice.

The Prime Minister informed Prof Tay that her government has approved the draft law to constitute a National Human Rights Commission. It would be enacted in the next session of parliament.

Besides, she said a stringent law would be enacted to check women trafficking and oppression on them.

Prof Tay lauded the government steps for upholding human rights in Bangladesh. He also praised the efforts of the Prime Minister to restore peace in her country as well as in conflicting regions of the world.

Later, in the afternoon the Prime Minister visited the Olympic Village in Sydney where the greatest sports extravaganza of the world will take place from September 15 to October 1 next year.

'Bomb squad' in police force being planned

Star Report
Raising of a 'bomb squad' in the police force is being planned to handle the increasing number of incidents involving use of bombs and explosives in the country, highly placed sources in police said yesterday.

A proposal in this regard is being processed and will be placed before the authorities concerned 'shortly', the sources said.

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A Political Race with Multiple Implications

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Prayer Timings

October 23

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:30	5:00
Zohr	12:45	1:30
Asr	4:10	4:20
Maghrib	5:35	5:42
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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69 days to the
3rd Millennium

KARTIK 8, 1406 BS

RAJAB 12, 1420 HIJRI

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JS body report on DCC project Misappropriation of crores of taka detected

By Morshed Ali Khan and Reaz Ahmad

A Parliamentary Committee has detected large scale 'corruption and misappropriation of funds' in the Tk 146.23 crore Environment Development Project (EDP) of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

The EDP, funded by the government and the World Bank, was started in 1988 with three main components: Development of Islambagh, Shaheednagar and Rasulpur areas of the city, development of the Dholakhal and procurement of garbage trucks for the DCC and repair of its central workshop.

The money was borrowed at 12.5 percent interest.

The allegations of corruption and misappropriation of funds were contained in an 'initial investigation report' of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Estimate, headed by Dr Mizanul Haq.

The committee met on September 28 after more than a year. Dr TIM Fazole Rabbi Chowdhury, a member of the committee, told The Daily Star that a five-member sub-committee headed by ASM Ferjor MP was formed at that meeting for

further investigation into the alleged corruption. It will submit its report within a month.

The JS body in its initial investigation report said that former project director Sham-sul Haq Bhuiyan made four trips to India and three trips to China with his entourage and spent an additional amount of Tk 6.84 crore to buy 222 garbage trucks and 176 demountable containers. A vehicle (jeep) meant for supervision of DCC work was used by Bhuiyan's family, it said.

The first condition for de-

velopment of Dholakhal was that, following acquisition of 6.1 acres of land, the affected people would be rehabilitated. For this purpose, 52 acres of land were acquired in Matuail, out of which 13 acres were developed by digging earth from the remaining 39 acres. The work still remains incomplete but one crore taka has been misappropriated under the cover of VAT and miscellaneous expenses, the report said.

Under the earth filling work, materials for road

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An unidentified person joins police in beating an activist of Markazul Islam near Paltan crossing in the city yesterday.

50 hurt as police, Markazul activists clash in city

By Staff Correspondent

At least 50 people including 12 photo journalists were injured when police swung into action at two rallies organised by Al- Markazul Islam at the North Gate of Baitul Mokarram and Paltan Crossing in the city yesterday.

About 40 activists were picked up by police from the rally venues.

Police dispersed the rally at the North Gate in the afternoon. Supporters of Markazul reassembled at Paltan Crossing in the evening to hold a rally.

The rallies were organised to protest the arrest of some Markazul leaders for alleged involvement in planting of bombs at a mosque at Mirpur and Ahmadiya mosque at Bakhshibazar and an anti-tank mine at the Janakantha office in the city recently.

Police resorted to lathi charge and lobbed several rounds of tear gas shells to disperse activists attending the rallies. Chase and counter-chase between police and the demonstrators continued for some time.

Meanwhile, Convenor of the city BNP Sadek Hossain Khoka in a statement last night condemned the police attack on Al Markazul Islam activists and photo journalists covering their programme.

Khoka demanded compensation for the victims of police attack.

Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association has condemned the police attack on its members while they were per-

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Opposition to hold gayebana janaza today

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led Opposition alliance will hold a Gayebana Janaza of Islami Chhatra Shibir activist Ansar Ullah at the Baitul Mokarram mosque after Asr prayers and bring out separate mourning processions in the city today.

Ansar Ullah died in Chittagong yesterday from bullet injuries he suffered during Thursday's hartal.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of secretaries general of the four component parties of the alliance and its liaison committee representatives with Islami Olkya Jote chief Azizul Haq at the IOJ office in the city yesterday.

IOJ Secretary General Fazlul Haq Amini told a press briefing that the meeting, with IOJ chief in the chair, also condemned the killing and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

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