



# The Daily Star



REGD. NO. DA 781 VOL. XIII No. 350 DHAKA SATURDAY JANUARY 10, 2004 POUH 27, 1410 BS ZILKAD 17, 1424 HURI 16 PAGES PRICE: Tk 7.00

## RPC POWER PROJECT NEAR SAVAR

# Corruption alleged in floating tender

SHARIF KHAN

When donors are pressing for free tender procedures from corruption, the Rural Power Company (RPC) is allegedly pursuing its donor-funded Savar 450-megawatt (MW) power project using "unfair" and severely limiting tender terms to award the contract to a company.

The RPC is the brainchild of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and enjoyed the Bank's support in past projects, but the ADB itself last month brought allegations of lack of transparency in the Savar project and withdrew its support from it.

The first phase of the DNPP will generate 280 MW and involve an estimated cost of 150 million Euros. Although it is an EPC contract tender, its terms clearly bar participation of any EPC contractors.

German company Lahmeyer was project consultant without any tender. Lahmeyer was earlier given a 15-year operation and maintenance contract for RPC's Mymensingh power projects -- also without any tender -- at a cost at least five times higher than for similar operations carried out by the Power Development Board (PDB).

## BDR DG SAYS IN DELHI Over 90 rebel camps in India active against Bangladesh

BSS, New Delhi

Anti-Bangladesh insurgents are operating from over 90 camps in India, BDR Director General (DG) Maj Gen Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said here Thursday.

Gen Chowdhury told reporters that he would once again give the list of the camps in India from where the anti-Bangladesh insurgents were operating.

# 'Ban on Ahmadiyya books infringing of rights'

## Govt defends decision amid flak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government order banning all Ahmadiyya publications drew swift flak from people of all hues yesterday and prompted a demand for lifting the ban that the ruling coalition defended with a counterpoint of ensuring peace in society.

tution," he pointed out.

"The order also reneges on the right to equal protection of law and the right to be treated in accordance with the law and equality before law," he added.

The ban was imposed on Thursday in view of what the government said was objectionable materials in Ahmadiyya publications that "hurt or might hurt the sentiments of the majority Muslims of Bangladesh".

It came after religious bigots represented mainly by Islami Oikya Jote, a partner of the ruling coalition, launched a campaign with Hifazate Khatme Nabuwat Andolon at the forefront to force the government to declare the sect non-Muslim.

The move is viewed as the first step towards declaring about one lakh Ahmadiyyas non-Muslim.

Dr M Zahir, a constitution expert, advocated even-handed treatment of all religious sects by the government, adding: "Nobody has the right to translate the Quran wrongly or misinterpret it. But when all publications are banned, other publications not concerned with the holy book may also come under the ban," he said.

"If that is so, it is a bar to the right to propagate one's freedom of expression."

Dr Zahir wondered why the Ahmadiyyas were not allowed to practise their religion the way

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## Bangabandhu's 'homecoming day' today

### AL to announce agitation plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

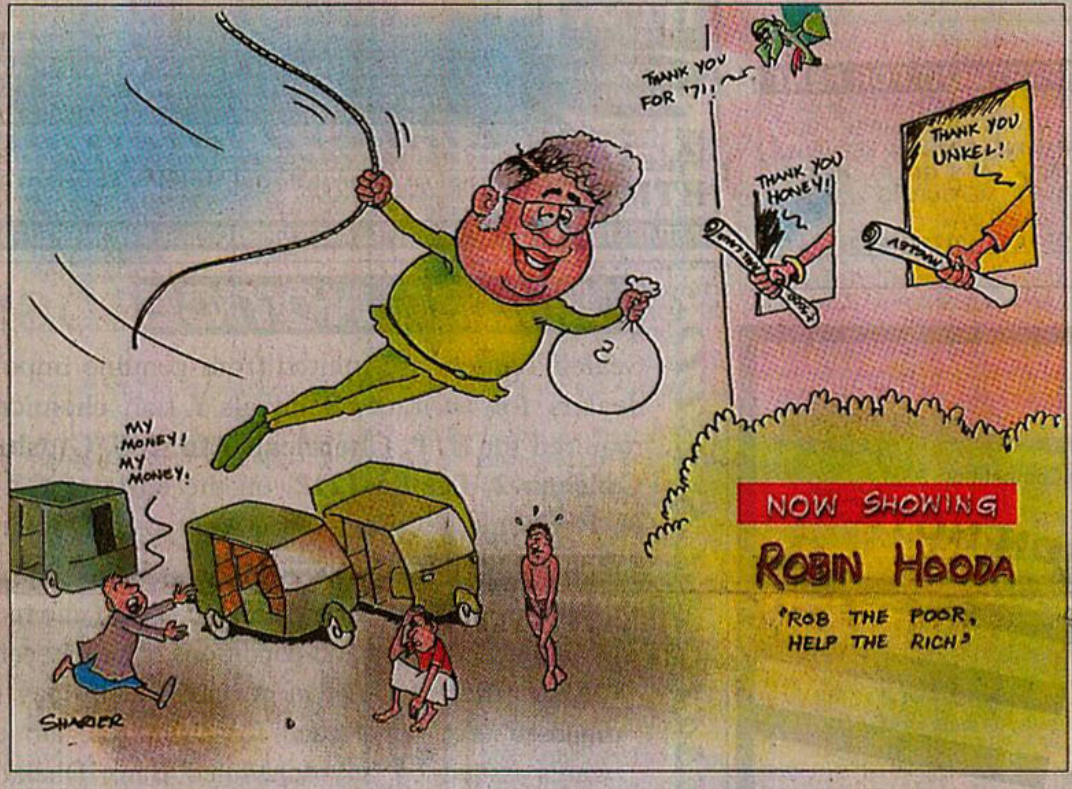
Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina will announce anti-government movement programmes from the party's grand rally at Paltan Maidan in the capital this afternoon.

The rally is being held to mark the 'Homecoming Day'.

On this day in 1972, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman returned home from Pakistan after confinement in jail during the nine-month war leading to the independence of Bangladesh.

Bangabandhu was arrested from his Dhanmondi residence in Dhaka

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## Huda's Jamaat remarks under BNP fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leaders yesterday reacted sharply to Communications Minister Nazmul Huda's speech to the recent conference of the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) and asked him to make his position clear.

A joint meeting of the central and district leaders of the BNP discussed Huda's speech to the conference on December 30 when he reportedly said the Jamaat did not do any wrong by working for the integrity of Pakistan during the Liberation War in 1971.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan chaired the meeting at BNP's Nayapaltan office organised to chalk out the programmes to observe the 68th birth anniversary of former president Ziaur Rahman.

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# Debt management unit on cards

## Bid to bring transparency in govt expenditure, lending

REJAU KARIM BYRON

The government is going to form a debt management unit (DMU) in the Finance Division to ensure discipline and transparency in government expenditure and lending.

The government also decided under the Financial Management Reform Programme (FMRP) to collect monthly accounts on expenditures incurred by all ministries and district offices. These accounts are to be submitted to the FMRP office.

The government annually spends around Tk 40,000 crore.

The ministries of education, agriculture, women and children affairs and social welfare have already started sending their monthly accounts to the FMRD office. Each of these four ministries also has opened a financial management unit (FMU) to comply with a set of FMRP instructions on how to compile the accounts on a monthly basis. The FMUs will also be opened in other ministries soon.

"Typically, when we start working on the budget, we don't instantly get accounts on government spending," said a FMRP source. "This new system will keep us ready all the time and facilitate us tremendously in

making the budget in June." In addition to expenditures under revenue and development budget, the government spends and earns a significant amount through its district offices. But there are wide discrepancies in these accounts too.

Therefore, the office of the Comptroller General of Accounts (CGA) is now working on framing a set of accounting instructions for the district offices.

The offices of deputy commissioners (DCs) across the country will be linked through computer network and share accounting information online on a daily basis.

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## Power crisis likely to deepen this summer

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

An acute power crisis may plague the coming summer.

Power sector officials said there is little possibility of enhanced power generation in the near future though the peak-hour demand in summer is likely to increase 10 percent, putting the requirement figure at around 4000 mw.

The demand for power last summer was 3600 mw on average and the usual supply shortage was 250 mw. The Power Development Board (PDB) provided 3592 mw on August 17 last year, the highest in the season.

The officials pointed out that demand for power registered an incremental rise by 10 percent a year.

Explaining the power generation situation, they said a 210-mw steam power plant at Siddhirganj on the outskirts of the capital may be commissioned by March 31. But people

involved in the construction of the plant for over seven years now think it is unlikely to generate power by the coming summer. It may take six more months to complete the project.

The 80-mw turbine power plant in Tongi is set to go into operation in October, well after the summer.

The PDB and the Rural Electrification Board (REB) are working on adding around 1200 mw of power to the national grid through installation of six more power plants. But neither of them is likely to be commissioned before the next year.

As an immediate bailout measure, the PDB has taken up a 100-day crash programme aimed at completing routine maintenance and repair of the existing power plants before the onset of summer.

The secretary of the Power Division and chairman of the PDP along with high officials of the power

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# Outlaws woes of Rupsha bridge construction

RAFIQ HASAN

The construction of the donor-funded vital bridge over the Rupsha river has been stalled several times because of harassment by an outlawed extremist group.

According to sources, the Purbanga Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) has been attacking the officials and workers at the site and demanding toll from the contractors in Khulna since the construction began two years ago.

They have demanded huge amount in toll and attacked the officials and workers at the construction site. One such victim of the PBCP attack was Rezaul Karim Raj, supervisor of the Rupsha Bridge Construction Project at Labonchora. On his way to work in the morning of November 22, the extremists chopped him with a Chinese axe and snatched his

cellphone and purse. They left the spot raising slogans of the underground outfit, according to newspaper reports. Severely injured Raj was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital, and is now undergoing treatment in Dhaka.

The outlawed group earlier demanded Tk 50,000 in toll from him. They swooped on him as he had refused to oblige them, according to sources.

The Rupsha bridge project officials and workers witnessed two such major attacks between July and December this year, said an official of the project.

"Such extortion demands and

threats are not uncommon, but this time the contractors have filed an allegation of threat from the extremists," said Momenul Haq, director of the Rupsha bridge project.

Security has been beefed up at the project site with another 30 policemen joining a contingent of 64 police personnel that has been guarding the project site since the beginning, the source said.

The construction of the Japan-funded bridge started in May 2001 and was supposed to be complete in November 2004. But the completion of the bridge is going to be delayed by at least seven more months.

Though more than 65 percent work has been complete, the contractors are now apprehending that the bridge would not be ready for traffic before June 2005.

Momenul Haq told The Daily Star that the work was delayed

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# 14<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary

DATE: 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1990

We deeply mourn the death of our beloved mother Late "Masuda Begum" wife of late Mr. Abul Khair, founder of Abul Khair Group (Abul Co.). Today with due respect, we remember her works, ideals and memories and pray to almighty for her divine blessings.

We request all our relatives and well-wishers to pray for her eternal peace.

BELOVED SONS & DAUGHTERS.

# Blast outside Iraq mosque kills 6

AFP, REUTERS, Baquba

At least six people were killed and 39 injured yesterday in an explosion outside a Shiite mosque in the town of Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, after the end of main weekly prayers, medics said.

"Five people were killed and 39 people injured in an explosion near the Haj Sadek Banin mosque," said Ziad Tarek, a doctor at the general hospital in Baquba, 60km from Baghdad.

Baquba, in Diyala province, is populated by a mixture of Sunni and Shiite Muslims.

Unknown attackers strapped a gas cylinder packed with explosives to a bicycle and left it outside the mosque -- close to people praying on the pavement because of lack of space inside.

"At the end of prayers, it

exploded," Iraqi police Sergeant Haki Ismail Mustafa told Reuters. Officials at a nearby hospital said they knew of 39 people injured.

Another report says, Iraqi guerrillas early yesterday fired two rocket-propelled grenades at a Baghdad hotel used by foreign companies, contracted by the US-led coalition, but there were no casualties, said security guards with the firms.

"The first and fourth floors were hit. No one was wounded," said one of the guards from the companies, hired by the coalition.

The attack happened at around 6 am local time on the Bourj al-Hayat hotel, which has cement barriers shielding it from the street, in central Baghdad.

Officials of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, the ruling party in the northern Iraqi provinces of Arbil

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পুষ্টি বিজ্ঞানীদের মতে সাধারণ মানুষের পুষ্টির চাহিদা মেটাতে হলে তার স্বাভাবিক খাদ্যের মধ্যেই ভিটামিন, আয়রন, জিংক, ক্যালসিয়াম থাকা উচিত। ভাই কোয়ালিটি নিয়ে এলো ভিটামিন, আয়রন, জিংক, ক্যালসিয়াম সমৃদ্ধ পুষ্টি আটা যা শিশুর রক্তস্রাব, রাতকানা রোগসহ নানাবিধ রোগ প্রতিরোধ করে এক শিশুর স্বাভাবিক ওজন, উচ্চতা ও বেড়ে ওঠাতে প্রয়োজনীয় পুষ্টি সরবরাহ করে।

বিশ্ব খাদ্য সংস্থার কর্তৃক অনুযায়ী ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের খাদ্য ও পুষ্টি বিজ্ঞান ইনস্টিটিউটের পুষ্টি বিজ্ঞানীর সরাসরি তত্ত্বাবধানে স্বয়ংক্রিয় ইলেক্ট্রনিক Micro feeder দ্বারা আটার সাথে বিশুদ্ধ **bioch** কোম্পানীর সঠিক মাত্রার ভিটামিন Premix মিশিয়ে তৈরী হয় কোয়ালিটি পুষ্টি আটা।



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