

Small power plant plan attracts good response

80 investors respond for 15 plants

SHARIER KHAN
The government move for setting up of 15 small private sector power plants with a total production capacity of 450 megawatt (mw) at different places across the country with local investment has evoked tremendous interest, according to Power Development Board (PDB) and industry insiders.

A top official of the PDB said 80 investors have already participated in a pre-qualification bid to set up 20 to 30 mw plants. The bid will close on July 1.

The PDB that has initiated the scheme plans to pick up 20 of these investors under a guideline approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

The committee yesterday approved amendment to the Private Sector Power Generation Policy allowing generation of up to 30 mw of power under private management. Till now, the policy allowed a maximum of 10 mw and a few such plants are in operation now.

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Cabinet body rejects home ministry bid to buy vehicles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet committee on economic affairs yesterday approved the purchase of two Mercedes-Benz for the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), but rejected a home ministry bid for the procurement of 1,000 motor vehicles to strengthen law enforcement.

The committee asked the home ministry to re-tender the vehicle purchase on grounds that the bid process did not comply with the Public Procurement Regulations, 2003.

The ministry sought to buy the vehicles at Tk 163 crore, but the authorities did not mention the

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A Liberation War inspirer fights for life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted journalist and writer MR Akhter Mukul is struggling for life at Ibrahim Memorial Hospital (BIRDEM) and his condition remained critical for the last four days.

Doctors and family sources say MR Akhter Mukul is suffering from kidney, liver and other vital organs ailment as cancer spread to his bladder. He had an electrolyte imbalance but made a recovery. His heart is also malfunctioning, doctors said last evening.

Mukul had inspired the people and freedom fighters during the Liberation War by his oratory popularly known as 'Charam-patra'.

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Liberation War inspirer and noted writer MR Akhter Mukul fights for his life at Ibrahim Memorial Hospital (BIRDEM).

6 jt forces men suspended for 'taking bribe'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Six members of the joint forces, posted at Patkelghata in Tala upazila, were suspended allegedly for taking bribe from a Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) captain who was on an incognito visit there yesterday.

They were identified as Havilder Abul Kashem, APBN constables Zakir Hossain, Masud Mollah, Firoz Ahmed and Special Armed Forces' constable Zillur Rahman and BDR personnel Abdul Hakim.

Assistant Police Super (ASP) Zillur Rahman said those six members of the joint forces were posted at Patkelghata Overbridge to check smuggling and other antisocial activities. Instead, they were taking bribes from shrimp traders who purchasing shrimp (fries) from Sathkira were going to Paikgachha. Tipped off, Adjutant of 12 Rifles

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Portugal power on Euro 2004

AFP, Lisbon

Nuno Gomes was the toast of all of Portugal on Sunday after scoring the goal that sent the Euro 2004 hosts into the quarter-finals at the expense of neighbours Spain.

The Benfica striker, introduced at half-time as a substitute for Pauleta, struck the decisive blow in the 57th minute with a powerful low shot from 20 yards to give Luiz Felipe

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PHOTO: AFP

Portugal goalkeeper Ricardo, down left, misses the ball as Spanish striker Raul Gonzalez, right, looks on as Jose Alvalade Stadium in Lisbon during their Euro 2004 group A clash early yesterday.

TODAY'S MATCHES

ITALY VS BULGARIA
Live on ESPN at 12:40 am (Wednesday)
DENMARK VS SWEDEN
Live on STAR Sports at 12:40 am (Wednesday)

Wasa's bottle project faces goons' threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Threats and interference from ruling party hoodlums and influential quarters have forced Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) to cancel its tender for construction of a pure water bottling plant.

Wasa sources said the rescheduled tender was due to be received on June 15 but an influential quarter and its armed hoodlums prevented bona fide bidders including a Chinese firm from submitting their bids.

Prospective bidders alleged when they witnessed presence of the hoodlums, they were 'too frightened' to buy the tender schedules being sold at designated banks in the city.

However, Wasa officials will convene a board meeting tomorrow to decide the fate of the project.

The Wasa sources said from the first day of the tender notice in the

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27 infected with dengue in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dengue fever, a mosquito borne viral disease, has made a comeback in the capital for the fifth consecutive year.

A total of 27 people affected with the virus were admitted to different city hospitals yesterday.

Physicians said most patients have normal dengue fever (DF), but in some cases, victims have symptoms of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF), a potentially dangerous disease.

The DF is a viral disease transmitted by Aedes mosquito. It causes sudden onset of high fever, severe headache, joint and muscle pain and skin rash among the affected people.

Nausea and vomiting, loss of appetite and altered taste sensation are also common symptoms among the patients of the category.

A rash may appear on the patient's body 3 to 4 days after one has caught the fever. The rash may spread from the affected person's chest to arms, legs and face.

The DF variety is usually harmless and subsides within seven days. However, the disease may be confused with other infectious diseases such as influenza or malaria.

The DHF type, on the other hand, has all the signs of its harmless category, but may lead to internal bleeding and even fatal consequences.

Both types of the disease are caused by one of the four closely distinct virus serotypes -- Den-1, Den-2, Den-3, and Den-4, of the genus Flavivirus.

Infection with one of these serotypes does not provide

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Abducted Kushtia expatriate, schoolboy buy freedom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A US expatriate and a schoolboy, both abducted on Friday, were released at Mirpur upazila in Kushtia yesterday after the families of both reportedly bought their freedom.

According to relatives, an unknown caller phoned the family members of kidnapped Dalim Hossain, 18, and Mithun Hossain, 14, in the early hours and said the victims were kept at a paddy field of Kazipara in Gangni upazila under Meherpur.

They rushed to Meherpur, 60km off Kushtia, and found US expatriate Dalim and Mithun, a student of class ten at Amaladarpur High School, lying unconscious with their hands

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Iran seizes 3 UK army vessels

AP, Tehran

Iran confiscated three British military vessels yesterday and arrested eight armed crew members, state-run television reported.

The three British ships entered Iranian territorial waters near the Iran-Iraq border, the Arabic language Al-Alam television reported. The station is part of the state-run Iranian radio and television network.

"Iranian forces confiscated the ships and eight military personnel on board," the report said.

The television report said crew members were carrying maps and weapons. It also said the ships were

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Militants threaten to kill Korean hostage in Iraq

Seoul vows to send troops, 4 US soldiers found dead

AGENCIES, Baghdad

Muslim militants in Iraq threatened to behead a South Korean hostage by last night unless his country scrapped plans to send 3,000 more troops -- a demand rejected by Seoul.

Also yesterday, four US soldiers have been found dead west of Baghdad, apparently killed in an attack by Iraqi insurgents, witnesses said.

A videotape aired on Arabic Al Jazeera television on Sunday night showed 33-year-old Korean busi-

nessman Kim Sun-il pleading for his life. A banner in the background named his captors as Jama'at al-Tawhid and Jihad, the group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian accused of links to al Qaeda.

"Please get out of here," Kim begged, referring to South Korean troops already in Iraq. "I don't want to die."

Kim, an Arabic speaker and evangelical Christian who has worked in Iraq for a year as a translator for a Korean firm supplying goods to the U.S. military, was seized in Falluja on June 17, the day

before Seoul announced its troop plan.

"We ask you to withdraw your forces from our land and not to send any more troops, and if not we'll send you this Korean's head," one of a group of armed, masked men standing around the terrified South Korean said in the videotape.

The group said Seoul had 24 hours to comply.

Several other people were abducted by Islamic militants at the

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Sylhet zealots threaten to blow up shrine

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

An unidentified organisation on Sunday threatened to blow up Hazrat Syed Shah Mustafa (RA) Shrine in Moulvibazar, Sylhet.

Sending a letter to shrine caretaker Syed Khalilullah Juned, the commander of the organisation threatened they would blow up the shrine with bomb if the authorities failed to stop worshipping of the mazar within July 21, sources said.

The shrine caretaker could not be reached for comment as he was in Sylhet.

Juned's family members said the letter sent by post did not have any name of the organisation or the

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PHOTO: STAR

Police seize booklets, leaflets and posters in a raid on the Proshika headquarters in Mirpur yesterday in an attempt to find evidence linking the organisation to an out-government plot.

HC stays Proshika chief's remand

Asks the government to explain the manner of Qazi Faruque Ahmed's custody and send him to hospital

Prayer Timing		
June 22		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-52	6-55
Esha	8-17	8-45

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday put Proshika President Qazi Faruque Ahmed on a five-day remand on a sedition charge, but the High Court stayed the order and asked the government to reply in two weeks why the way he is being held in custody would not be declared illegal.

The HC also directed the

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First private space flight blasts off

AFP, Mojave, California

A jet carrying a rocket-plane took off yesterday on the first stage of a historic mission to become the first to take a manned private craft beyond

the Earth's atmosphere.

Thousands of people watched from the ground as the specially-built White Knight jet took off from an airbase in California's Mojave desert

carrying SpaceShipOne under its belly.

Mike Melvill, a 62-year-old South African, is at the controls of SpaceShipOne which is aiming to

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PHOTO: AFP

The White Knight carrier airplane with SpaceShipOne and pilot Mike Melvill tethered underneath take off yesterday at Mojave Airport in Mojave, California.