

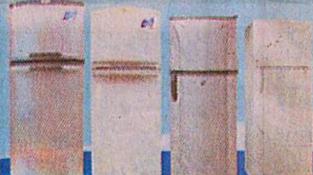
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Itineraries of Saarc leaders finalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The security committee for the upcoming Saarc summit yesterday finalised the draft itineraries of the South Asian heads of government keeping a visit to the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman but avoiding any trip to the National Memorial in Savar for security concerns.

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Prayer Timing
December 23

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-24	5-27
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Plan okayed to add 250-MW electricity to growing Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The cabinet purchase committee yesterday approved a Tk 28 crore project that will increase 250-megawatt (MW) power supply in Dhaka by improving the power distribution system.
The project, scheduled to be complete in 2006, will install new devices in seven sub-stations in Dhaka to increase the load management capacity and power supply as well by reducing technical systems loss.
Presently, Dhaka consumes

around 1300 MW power.
State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud told the press after the purchase committee meeting yesterday that the cabinet also approved another proposal under which buildings over six stories in Dhaka will have to install separate transformers at their own cost by May.
After May, authorities will check the power connections of these buildings. Any (owners of) building having no dedicated transformers will be penalised," Iqbal added.

In another decision, the cabinet purchase committee approved two proposals on oil purchase. One proposal deals with 2.53 lakh metric tons (MT) of kerosene and 1.10 lakh MT of jet fuel purchased in the last six months.
The other proposal deals with 9.40 lakh MT of diesel that will be purchased in the next six months from Kuwait under a state-to-state biennial contract. Under the same proposal, Bangladesh will also buy 1.45 lakh MT of kerosene, 1.25 lakh

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ACC gets secretary

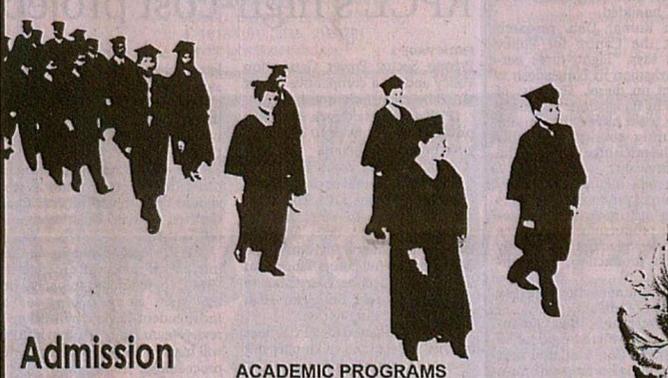
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government yesterday appointed Additional Secretary of the establishment ministry AMM Reza-e-Rabbi Secretary of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).
A government notification announcing that Reza has been transferred to the ACC on deputation as its secretary was faxed to the ACC office at Segun Bagicha at 3:30pm, officials said.
A retired bureaucrat, Reza was appointed on contract later as acting secretary at the women affairs ministry.
The notification mentioned, however, Reza's designation as an officer on special duty (additional secretary) at the establishment ministry.
He, earlier, worked as a director of the now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption.
Some officials said many ACC high officials did not know of the

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PHOTO: STAR
Winner of Lux Anandadhara Photogenic 2004 Kazi Farhina Islam, middle, beams as she is flanked by First Runner-Up Tanzeeka Ameen, right, and Second Runner-Up Sumaya Islam at a function last night at Hotel Sonargaon.

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18 Americans dead in Mosul bombing

REUTERS, Mosul
A guerrilla attack on a tented dining hall at a US base in northern Iraq killed 18 Americans and four Iraqis in the deadliest strike on US forces since last year's war to oust Saddam Hussein.
US officials initially said a number of rocket and mortar rounds were fired at the base in the northern city of Mosul on Tuesday, but a militant group claimed a suicide bomber was behind the attack, in which a further 72 people were wounded.
"A suicide bomber has not been ruled out," a US Army official said later in Washington.
Giving the latest in a series of casualty updates, the military in Baghdad said 14 US soldiers, four American civilians and four Iraqi security force members were killed.
Fifty-one of the wounded were US military personnel. Of the 72 hurt, 43 were still being treated.
A spokesman in Mosul said it could take days before a clear picture emerged of what happened and who was killed.
"There's some tedious forensic work to be done. It could be a couple of days," said Captain Phil Ludvigson, who said it was not clear what had caused the explosion.
"Rockets, mortars or any number of things could have caused it."
President Bush, who warned

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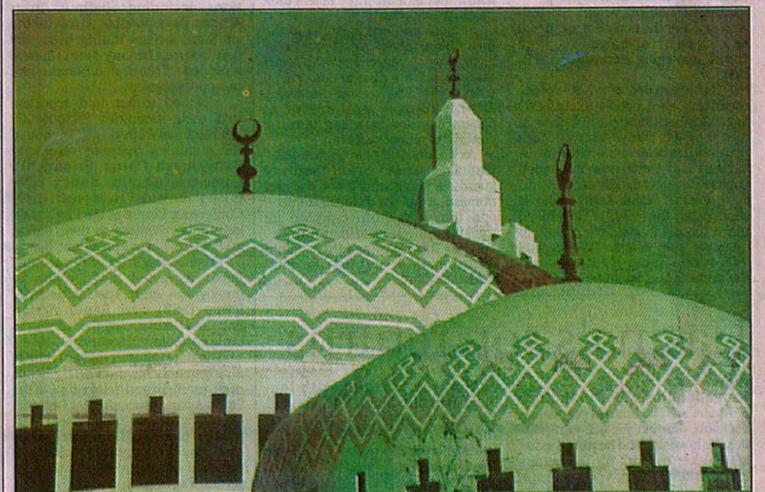
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