

The Daily Star

JS body fails to recommend as power, energy divisions trade blames

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

October-25-2005

Govt seeks \$150m from WB to fight power crisis

UNB, Dhaka

The government has sought \$150 million as emergency funds from the World Bank (WB) to overcome the ongoing power crisis across the country.

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood sought the support of the international donor agency when a delegation of the bank, led by its Country Director Christine Wallich, met him at his office in the Secretariat yesterday.

Through the funds, the government will implement a fast-track programme to overcome the present power crisis.

Under the programme, the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Conflict within power bodies worsened crisis

JS body fails to recommend as power, energy divisions trade blames

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday blasted the power and energy divisions for the ongoing crisis of gas and electricity and observed that lack of co-ordination between the two divisions and delay in implementation of projects have worsened the situation.

Faced with severe criticism by the parliamentary standing committee on power, energy and mineral resources ministry, the senior officials of the two

divisions at the meeting blamed each other for acute shortage of power.

As the two divisions stuck to their guns, the parliamentary body that convened the joint meeting to be clear about which wing of the ministry is in fact responsible for the crisis, failed to make any recommendation.

It decided to sit again on October 31 with the same agenda and asked the power division to submit a detailed report on the supply and consumption of electricity in every

district.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia holds the power, energy and mineral resources portfolio. A state minister has been given the charge of power division while an advisor been appointed to oversee the activities of the energy division of the ministry.

In absence of the opposition lawmakers at yesterday's meeting, the ruling BNP lawmakers asked

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Khulna BCL leader killed in 'crossfire'

Rab claims he was a PBCP operative

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader was killed in "crossfire" during a shootout between the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and a gang of outlaws in the city on Sunday night.

Rab claimed the dead, Hasanuzzaman Milon Biswas, 30, to be an operative of the Janajuddha faction of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP).

According to a Rab press release issued yesterday, Hasanuzzaman was arrested on Sunday morning at a hideout in Beel Dakatia under Khan Jahan Ali Police Station of the city while "he was holding a secret

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

The Kaliganj canal flowing through Jinjira in Keraniganj into the Buriganga is now under threat by garment and other waste, which is filling up the canal and adding to the river pollution.

12 killed in road crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve people died and 24 others were injured in road accidents in Pabna, Joypurhat, Brahmanbaria and Narail yesterday.

In Pabna, seven people died and 15 others were injured when a Bogra-bound bus from Nagarbari crashed into a locally made three-wheeler called Nasimon on the Pabna-Nagarbari highway near Chhondah Bridge at about 9:00am, according to a correspondent.

Five passengers of the three-wheeler died on the spot while two

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

DHAKA-NY FLIGHT

Biman prefers 'prestige' debt to paying arrears

REAZ AHMAD

The Dhaka-New York flight appears to be Biman's Achilles' heel as the state-run airline, already struggling to buy fuel because of financial constraints, continues to absorb huge losses to operate the so-called prestige flight.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines counts

Tk 70 lakh in losses by operating two flights on the Dhaka-Dubai-Brussels-New York route each week, official sources acknowledged.

Taking such huge losses in one single route is a luxury the national flag carrier can no longer afford, as its cash crisis continues to deepen, making it miss on several occasions

deadlines to pay Tk 508 crore in outstanding fuel dues to Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).

Besides, Biman's engaging one of its scarce wide-bodied aeroplanes on the Dhaka-NY route has compounded the aircraft crisis, making it uncertain about ferrying

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

8,450 tonnes of rice allocated for Monga-hit people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday allotted 8,450 metric tons of rice for 8,45,000 families in the Monga-hit 11 northern districts.

Sources at the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management told The Daily Star last night that the rice would be distributed among the ultra-poor people under

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Pro-BNP lawyers' strife flares up afresh

Aminul group of JAF expels Huda, Joinul after they dissolve its central committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The conflict between two factions of pro-BNP lawyers led by two ministers has surfaced again after two months, as Barrister Nazmul Huda unilaterally dissolved the central committee of the

pro-government Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum (JAF) yesterday and formed a 501-member convening committee headed by him.

Following this announcement by Communications Minister and Vice President of the JAF Huda, JAF stand-

ing committee last night ousted Huda and BNP Law Secretary Advocate Joinul Abedin from the JAF for their anti-organisational activities.

Joinul was actively involved in Huda's actions. Huda's actions prompted JAF

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

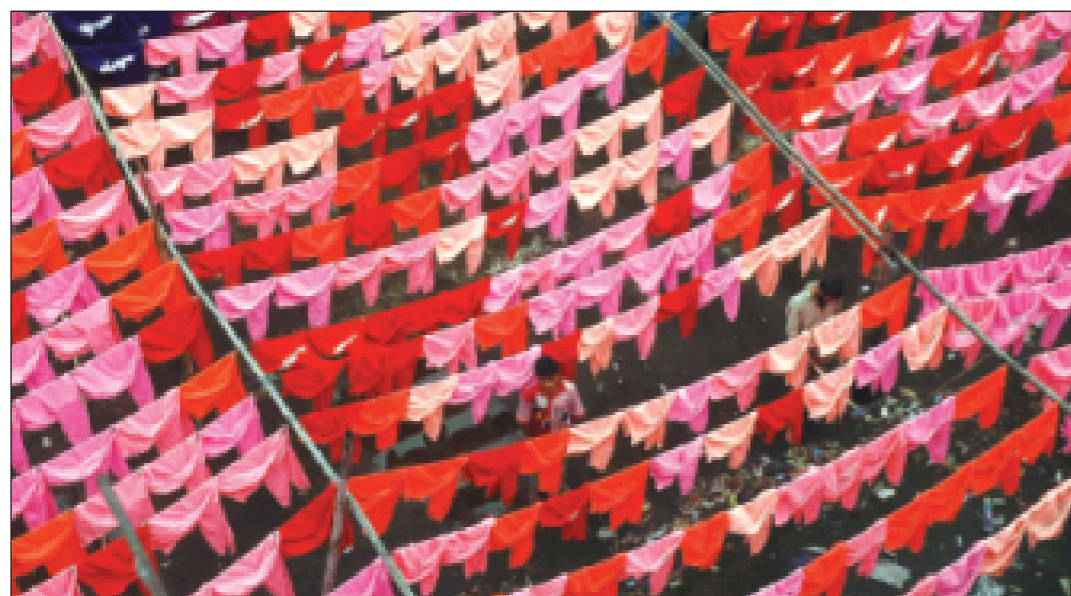


PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Clothes from a Keraniganj dying factory were spread for drying in the sun yesterday, after five days of intermittent rain.

Bounty declared on top 20 outlaws

Govt suspects their links to JMB

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Chuadanga police announced different amount of bounties yesterday for information on 20 top suspected outlaws, including the chiefs and cadres of major underground parties active in the southwestern region of the country.

The wanted include Abdur Rashid Malitha alias Tapan alias Dada Tapan, Jamal Uddin alias Rabi alias Nuruzzaman, Abir Hasan, Rony Biswas, Sahjahan, Azad, Bidi, Kalu, Thandu, Amirul, Habibar alias Oltu, Mizanur alias Major, Rabiul, Mozammel alias Moka, Rabi, Shahidul, Khorshed

Somsheer, Tomsel and Kismat.

Jamal is suspected to be the chief of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML), and Tapan is suspected to be the chief of Janajuddho faction of the PBCP-ML. Rony Biswas and Abir Hasan are suspected to be Tapan's close associates.

According to a source, the bounties were declared on a directive from the high ups in the government following a similar move to apprehend suspected Islamist militants involved in the

17

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Faridpur blast kingpin held

CDs, books on Jihad seized from the JMB cadre's house; Ctg serial bombing charge sheet framed

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested a member of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) with huge CDs on warfare and jihad along with letters written in Arabic in Faridpur.

Police said the arrestee, Mizanur Rahman Mukul alias Moabia, 30, coordinated bombings at eight spots in Faridpur on August 17.

In Chittagong, Bandar Police Station yesterday submitted a charge sheet in connection with the August 17 blasts, while

five

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

JMB member Mizanur Rahman Mukul, right, arrested at a boarding house in Faridpur yesterday. CDs and books, left, on warfare in Afghanistan, Kashmir and Chechnya and jihad seized from him.