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People's Right to Know

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## Four Ashuganj power units inoperative

Generation declines to one-fourth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Four of the eight units of Ashuganj Power Station remain stopped since Friday due to mechanical faults in these units and a 230 KV supply line there.

Now the old power station is supplying only 140MW to 164MW of electricity whereas its eight units are supposed to supply 678MW.

The defective and faulty units include three 150MW and one 64MW ones.

All the units in the power station that have run more than 70,000 working hours are in dilapidated conditions and their massive overhauling is overdue.

But only two units have undergone overhauling.

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## Time to expose corrupt Jamaat people in govt

Oli says at Ctg meet

UNB, Ctg

Terming the Jamaat people in the government corrupt, BNP standing committee member and former minister Col (ret) Oli Ahmed yesterday said time has come to unveil the mask of these culprits.

"It's time to unveil the mask of corrupt Jamaatis who amassed black money by smuggling drugs abroad under the veil of the false Islamic spirit," Oli said while addressing a meeting at Lohagara upazila auditorium yesterday as part of his pre-election campaign.

Their days are numbered and they will not find any path to avert

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## Prison years lost in coordination maze

Rule amended to deduct from jail term time spent behind bars before judgement, but prisoners yet to get benefit

ZAYADUL AHSAN

Although the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) was amended three years ago to provide for deducting from the prison sentence the period spent behind bars before the judgment, many convicts have yet to gain from it for lack of coordination between the authorities concerned.

The home ministry itself took 32 months to inform the prisons directorate about the amendment. The prisons headquarters officially received the notification in February and informed authorities of the country's 66 prisons of it the

following month.

Many prisoners have to serve more time than the period of their sentences, as there is barely any communication between the jail authorities, courts and prisoners' counsels.

Due to lack of coordination, officials of different jails now depend on the inmates to know for how many days they have been to prison.

Section 35A of the CrPC too would provide for deducting from a convict's sentence the time he/she has spent in jail before the judgment.

But it would not apply to the

ones convicted of an offence punishable only by death.

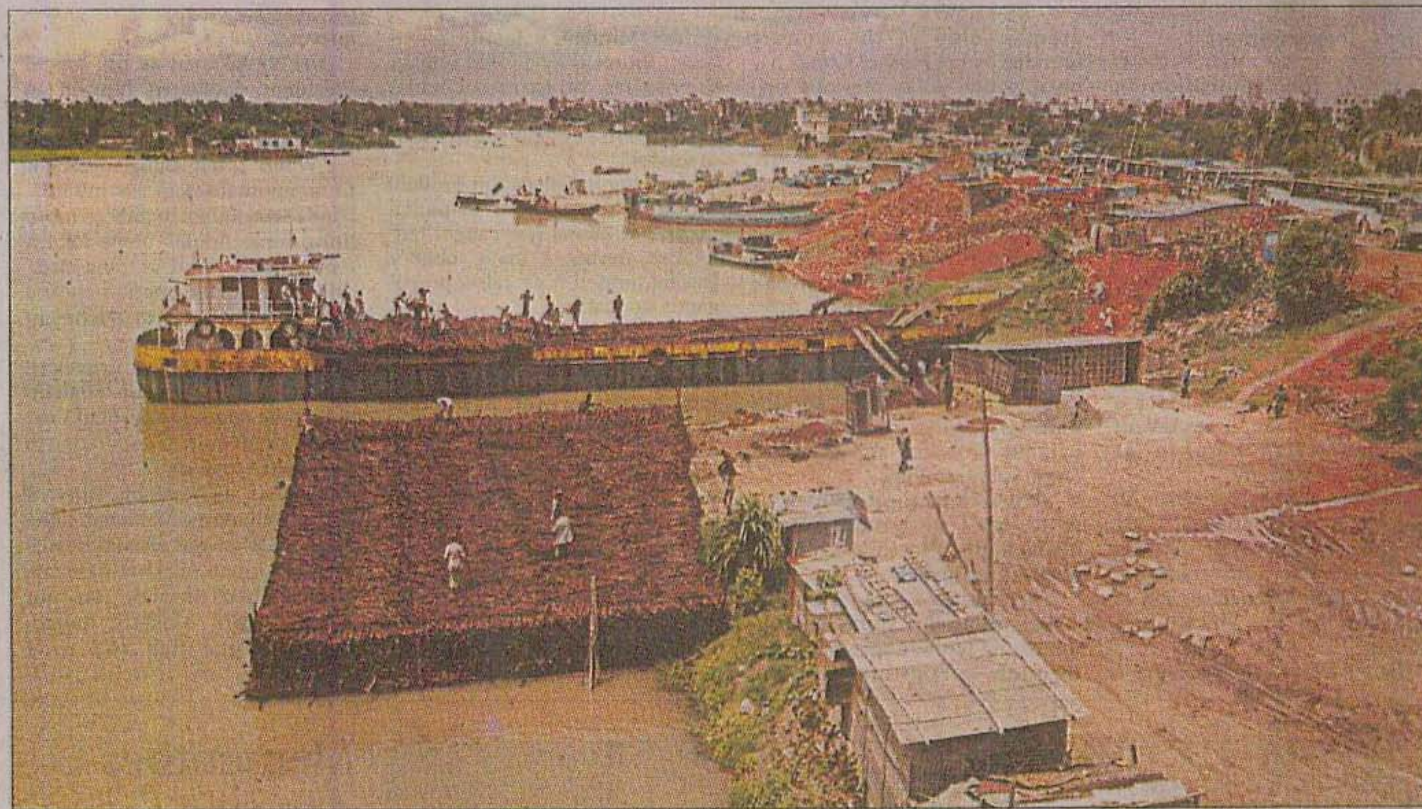
Besides, the deduction then depended solely on the will of the court, as it was not obligatory for the courts to exercise this power.

By introducing the amendment to the CrPC in July 2003, the government made it a compulsory provision for the judges to follow.

The jail authorities apply the amendment only to those cases where the courts in their verdicts have referred to the matter.

But there exists many an instance where the courts did not mention anything about the

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Defiant sand traders continue occupying parts of the river Turag near Gabtali in Dhaka while BIWTA-built landing station nearby remains unused most of the time.

## Flawed machine readable passport scheme shelved

Ministry asks for re-tender on MRP, visa

SHARIEF KHAN

The home ministry has finally scrapped its grossly flawed Tk 1,500 crore project on machine readable passport (MRP), visa and national identity card (NIDC) and asked the immigration and passport directorate to float a tender on MRP and visa only, sources said.

The MRP-visa project may require an expenditure of Tk 600 crore from the revenue budget, unless it is re-designed by a professional consultant. While the present demand for passport is around 12 lakh a year, the home ministry put the demand for MRP at 30 lakh in the first year of its introduction. Bangladesh has an interna-

tional obligation to introduce MRP by 2007, and the home ministry appeared enthusiastic about the scheme till last month. But it has now lost interest since there is no chance that tender for this project can be completed within the tenure of the present government.

The political lobby that

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Muggers stab 2 in front of Gulshan bank, loot Tk 10 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers stabbed two employees of a distribution company and made off with Tk 9.82 lakh exploding crackers in the city's Gulshan area yesterday.

The incident took place when Rafiqul Islam, 30, and Arman Majumder, 30, along with nine other staffers of Agrani Trading Corporation, went to deposit

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## 250 sorties, 4,000 shells onto Lebanon in 7hrs

World powers still bicker over wording of truce call

AFP, Beirut

Israel battered Lebanon yesterday with what police described as the heaviest bombardment of the 25-day-old conflict as world powers bickered over the wording of a UN Security Council call for a ceasefire.

UN chief Kofi Annan spoke by telephone with both US President George W. Bush and French President Jacques Chirac as the two governments remained at odds over how to phrase the world body's first resolution on the conflict.

In the space of seven hours, Israel hit Lebanon with around 250 air raids and some 4,000 shells, wounding at least 14 people, police said.

The single village of Aitaroun near the border endured a barrage of 2,000 rounds.

Israeli artillery was systematic-

cally levelling 15 villages within five kilometres (three miles) of the border after Israeli leaders vowed to create a security zone free of Hezbollah fighters in the area, the police added.

The bombardment came as Israeli commandos launched a night-time raid on the coastal city of Tyre that sparked fierce clashes with Hezbollah militants in which a Lebanese soldier was killed and eight Israeli soldiers wounded, two of them seriously. One Israeli soldier was also killed and another wounded in fighting around the village of Taibe close to the border.

A senior Israeli naval commander said three Hezbollah leaders were killed in the airborne raid on Tyre, although there was no immediate confirmation from the Shiite militant group which insisted it had foiled the Israeli landing.

"Guided by very precise intelligence, navy commandos entered an apartment on the second floor of a five-storey building in the north of Tyre, where they killed at least three Hezbollah leaders," the Israeli commander told news agencies on condition of anonymity.

"There were point-blank exchanges of fire and grenades were thrown inside the apartment and two of our troops were seriously wounded," he added.

"Our commandos were able to retreat and to hit with counterstrikes six to eight terrorists from neighbouring buildings, killing some of them, and to return to Israel with aviation support."

The officer said the operation was in response to the firing of a missile on the Israeli town of Hadera 70km from the frontier on

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PHOTO: STAR

Litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque addresses the Nagorik Committee dialogue on National Election 2007 at Rajshahi yesterday.

## Campaign for honest candidates should reach grassroots level

Regional dialogue in Rajshahi told

RAFIQ HASAN and ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Speakers at the regional dialogue in Rajshahi yesterday demanded distribution of parliamentary seats, ministries and the posts of standing committee heads in proportion to votes received by the political parties.

They pointed out that the campaign for honest and dedicated candidates should reach the grassroots level and there should be a mechanism to implement the suggestions made in the citizens' dialogues.

They also demanded prepara-

tion of a voter list of the indigenous people through those who know indigenous languages. The speakers also pointed out that the indigenous people should not be subjected to harassment before and after a general election.

They said candidates should disclose the status of their wealth to the people in his or her locality as well as to the Election Commission.

A total of 90 persons including mainstream political parties' local leaders, teachers, lawyers, NGO workers and cultural activists took part in the dialogue that continued for more than eight hours.

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## Final ODI today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will play for pride when they meet Zimbabwe in the fifth and final one-day international at the Harare Sports Club ground today.

The match will be telecast live on Bangladesh Television and Star Sports, starting from 1:30pm BST.

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**Cricket Update**

Dial\*2002 from your GP Mobile and listen to the latest cricket related information

\*charge applicable

GrameenPhone  
Proud Sponsor of Bangladesh National Cricket Team

## Remembering



Former Chairman EPYLLION Group

Late Alhajj Nooruddin Ahmed on the 7th anniversary of his death.... on August 6, 2006.

We feel his absence in every step of the way. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are kindly requested to remember him in their prayer.



All Employees of EPYLLION Group and Mrs. Nurjahan Begum  
R. A. Mamoon  
Razi, Junaid, Huma, Shawon, Hasib, Shawon, Nupur.

## VOTER LISTING Staff to get Tk 1,500 for task

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has now planned to pay Tk 1,500 each as remuneration for 1,35,487 temporary staffs engaged in updating the voter list by visiting door to door.

The task scheduled to end on August 10 is yet to get momentum due to reluctance of the field level staffs to do the job in a state of uncertainty about their remuneration. The process began on July 21 without allocation of funds even for purchase of necessary materials for the job.

Officials at the EC Secretariat calculated that Tk 20.32 crore is needed for remuneration of the temporary staffs. They will also have to be paid an additional amount as they purchased some necessary materials with their money to start doing the job, sources said.

Besides, the EC will have to spend about Tk 1 crore for transportation and other expenditures

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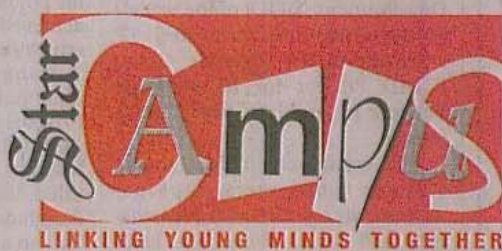
## Notice

Today's issue of The Daily Star includes the first issue of Star Campus, a 32-page, four-colour weekly magazine based on campus life. Please ensure your copy from your hawkers.

## The Daily Star

Launches

Today, 6 August 2006



A magazine based on campus life

ANOTHER PUBLICATION FROM The Daily Star HITTING THE STANDS EVERY SUNDAY

This comes with the regular issue of The Daily Star  
Ensure your copy, there is something special for you!

Star Campus Team at The Daily Star, 19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215  
GPO Box: 3257, Phone: 8124944, 8124955, 8124966, Fax: 8125155, 8126154  
Web: www.thedailystar.net/campus, Email: starcampus@thedailystar.net

## Solemnly Remembering REAR ADMIRAL MAHBUB ALI KHAN

on his 22nd Death Anniversary Today, 6th, August, 2006



"Salute Thee,  
The Noble Son of the Soil,  
And Vanguard of the Sea."

Milad Mahfil at MAHBUB BHAVAN  
(House # 40, Road # 5, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka)  
On Sunday, 6th, August, 2006  
after Magrib prayer at 7:15 p.m.

All are Cordially invited to attend.

BEGUM MAHBUB ALI KHAN