

'Efforts on to secure release of abducted Bangladeshi'

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury said his ministry continues its efforts to secure the release of a Brac official abducted recently in Afghanistan.

The adviser has written yet another letter to Afghan Foreign Minister Rangeen Dadfar Spanta, drawing his attention to discussions on the subject between Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed and President Hamid Karzai in New York earlier.

The Afghan foreign minister has assured the foreign adviser of every possible cooperation in this connection. Spanta said the Afghan National Security will go beyond its limits and has already arrested four in this regard.

**Delwar to visit Zia's mazar on Eid Day**

BNP Secretary General Khondkar Delwar Hossain would visit the mazar of late president Ziaur Rahman on Eid Day at 10:30am, says a press release.

BNP leaders and activists are requested to be present there in time, the release added.

# Deals with private sponsors for 10 small power plants signed

450MW Meghnaghat phase-II power plant deal cancelled

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday signed deals with private sponsors to set up 10 small power plants across the country, having total capacity of about 200MW.

The private sector sponsors will set up the plants, each with 10 to 30MW capacity, at 10 separate loca-

tions on 'Build-Own-Operate' (BOO) basis.

The Power Ministry yesterday cancelled the 450-MW Meghnaghat phase-II power plant, which was awarded to BON Consortium by the immediate past BNP-led alliance government to install the plant on BOO basis.

An official of the Power Division

told UNB that the BON Consortium was given a letter yesterday communicating the government decision cancelling the project for "non-compliance" with the terms and conditions set in the Implementation Agreement (IA).

To implement the 10 small power projects, four types of separate agreements were signed between the officials of different government agencies and each of the 10 private sponsors of the SPVs.

These are Implementation Agreement (IA), Land Lease Agreement (LLA), Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and the Gas Sales Agreement (GSA).

Joint Secretary (development) of the Power Division signed the IA, the PDB Secretary signed the LLA and PPA, and the officials of gas companies signed the GSA on behalf of their respective sides at a simple function at the Power Cell office, which processed the projects as coordinating agency.

Among the projects, local Summit Group will set up four plants - a 10MW plant at Ullapara in Sirajganj, three 30-MW plants at Jangalia in Comilla and Rupganj in Narayanganj and Maona in Gazipur.

Asian-Entech Power Corporation Ltd (AEPCL) will set up three plants,

each of 20MW capacity, at Feni, Tangail and Narsingdi.

Saiham Textile will set up a 10MW plant at Mohipal in Feni and Regent Textile install a 20MW plant at Barabkunda in Chittagong.

Energypac-Confidence Power Venture will set up a 10MW plant in Habibganj.

State-owned Power Development Board (PDB) will purchase electricity at different rates from the projects for next 15 years.

The Power Ministry selected the 10 private sponsors through the bidding process few months back for the proposed plants.

The 10 proposed power plants with a total of 200MW capacity will be added to the national grid by the middle of next year.

As per terms and conditions, the private entrepreneurs will have to install and start commercial production from their respective plants within eight months from the date of signing of the agreements.



PHOTO: STAR

Brac Executive Director Mahbub Hossain speaks at a press briefing at the CPD Dialogue Room in the city yesterday on a survey conducted in some of the flood-affected areas. On his right is CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya. (Story on Page 1)



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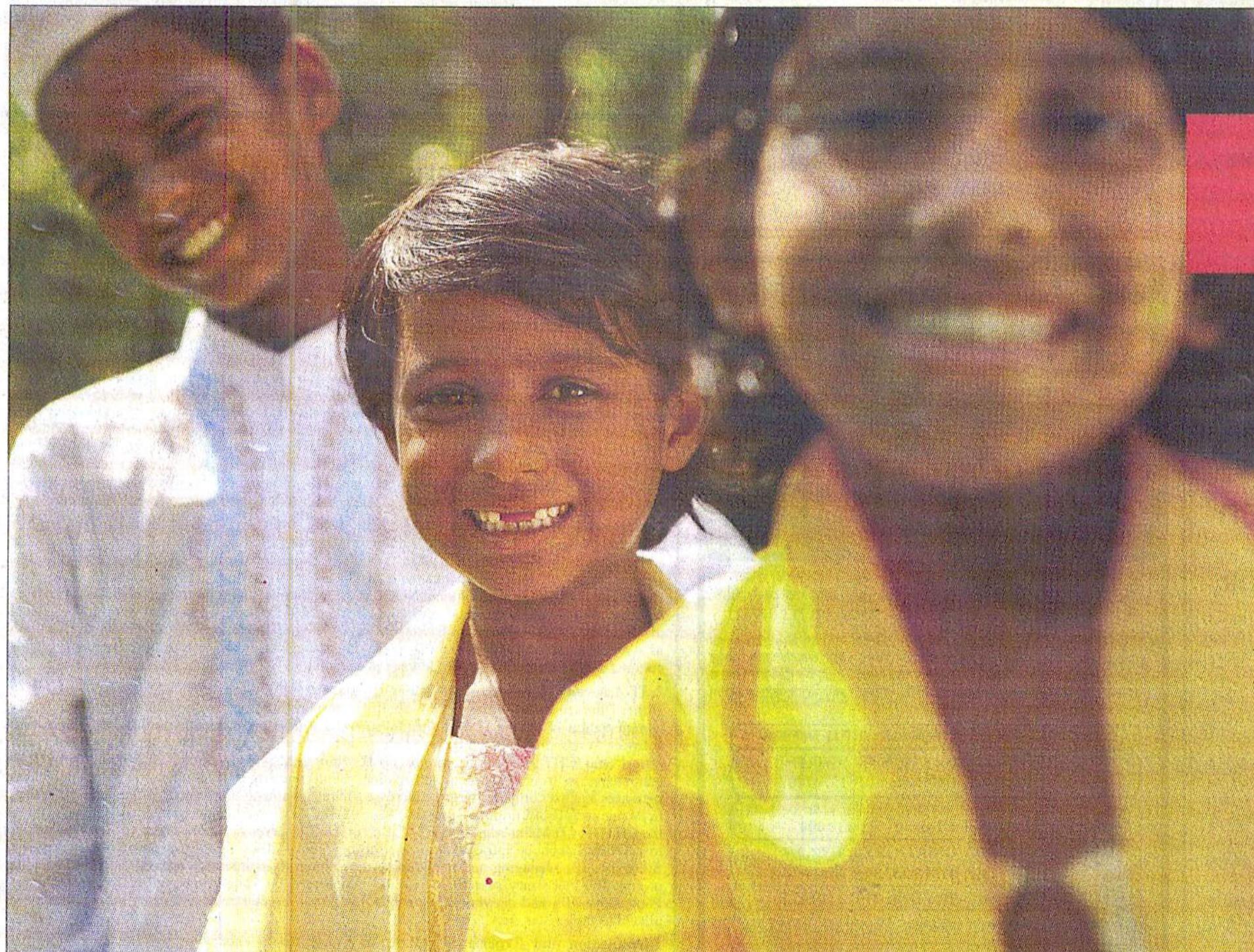
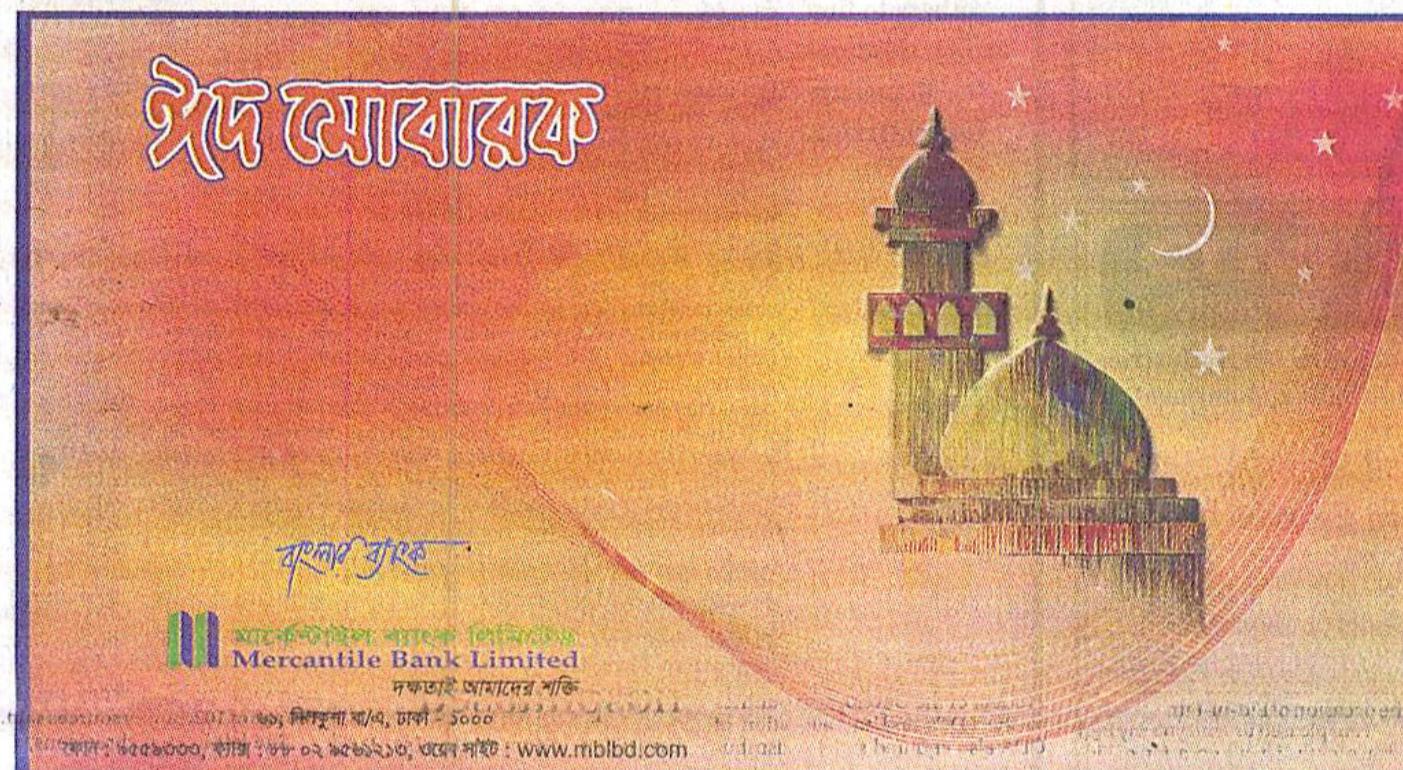


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