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AL hopeful about Talks with Tata restart Hasina's release before polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday expressed hope that its detained chief Sheikh Hasina would be out of jail before the parliamentary elections and would lead the party to polls.

"We believe she [Hasina] would certainly be released through legal and constitutional ways before the elections... there is no doubt about it." AL acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam told reporters firmly after the AL Presidium meeting held at acting AL President Zillur Rahman's Gulshan home.

The Presidium, highest policymaking body of the party, chaired by Zillur sat to have discussions on the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) meeting to be SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Diplomats or govt staffs can now marry foreigners

UNB, Dhaka

The Council of Advisers yesterday approved legal amendment allowing diplomatic job-holders or any employees of the republic to marry foreigners.

With the approval to the Public Servant (Marriage with Foreign Nationals) (Amendment) 2008, BCS Foreign Cadre officers can now marry foreign nationals with the permission of the president.

A meeting of the Council of Advisers with Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair approved the ordinance amending SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Next budget to set 6.5pc growth target

Says finance adviser STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam vesterday said the next budget would set the GDP growth target at 6.5 percent and seek to keep inflation within 9 percent.

Besides, he said, it would focus on creating a business- and investment-friendly climate.

Talking to reporters after meeting the National Board of Revenue (NBR) officials, the adviser said the revenue growth target would be 17 percent higher than this year's.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) forecast says the gross domestic product SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Mobile goes to Khagrachhari

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

State-owned cellphone operator Teletalk Bangladesh Ltd yesterday launched its operation in Khagrachhari following Rangamati and Bandarban, covering now all the three hill districts.

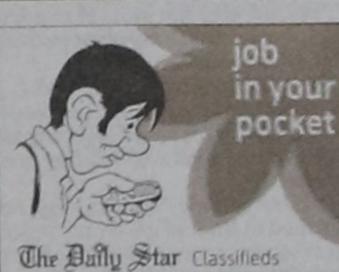
Teletalk first started its service in Rangamati and Bandarban simultaneously at 5:00pm on Saturday and brought Khagrachhari under its network vesterday evening.

In accordance with the government directive, cellphone users in the three hill districts can enjoy the service only in the municipality areas.

"We have set up six towers in the

three hill districts, two in each. Our SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Prayer Timing		
May 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		



On Mobile or Computer

cellbazaar.com

Govt says it can't supply 2 TCF gas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday resumed talks with Indian conglomerate Tata Group after a two-year hiatus, reiterating that it would be unable to supply two trillion cubic feet (TFC) of gas over a 10-year period to Tata considering Bangladesh's current before it is finalised.

It suggested that the Tata Group may consider the upcoming coal policy which may open up new avenues for the talks on the proposed \$3 billion investment.

Tata Sons Ltd Executive Director Alan Rosling led his side to the Chairman Kamal Uddin Ahmed led the Bangladesh side.

Group that it has only eight TCF of gas in reserve and that it has already committed to supply gas to fertiliser factories, power plants, CNG filling stations and local industries in the country.

However, Tata Group again demanded 10 years' guarantee of gas supply for its projects, meeting sources said.

But it also wished to make observations on the draft coal policy and sought a copy of the draft policy. The government informed the Indian steel giant that the policy is on a website and it can make observations on the policy

After the daylong meeting, the Bol chairman said they informed the group about the gas reserve

"We exchanged ideas about our resource situation. We informed Tata about our gas reserves and the upcoming coal policy. We progress to be made in future." investment talks while Board of would have more talks based on Investment (Bol) Executive today's discussions," Kamal Uddin said.

The government informed Tata steel and chemical plants we had proposed are based on gas and if gas supply is not secured, discussions are meaningless. If gas is discussions. If it is not available, there are places in the world where in the meeting.

policy may open up new avenues

for discussions.

He said they mostly spent yesterday's meeting on the changing situation in Bangladesh, particu larly the energy situation.

"Now we have a good understanding of what the current situation is and what to look forward to. There are more issues which both sides need to work on. The government is working on the coal policy issue," Rosling said.

Terming the meeting useful, he said, "I think some work is yet to be done in terms of determining whether there is any substantive

Replying to a question, Rosling said the government did not say "no" to Tata, which earlier wrote to Alan Rosling said, "The Tata the finance adviser asking for the resumption of investment talks.

Energy, industry, and power secretaries and officials from Petrobangla, the Power Division available, we will continue to have and Tata's Country Director Manzer Hossain were also present

In 2005, Tata Group initially Rosling, however, said the coal proposed setting up a 1,000MW SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Writ petition filed against re-demarcation of JS seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP state minister Abdul Mannan yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) challenging the legality of the Election Commission's (EC) move to redo the demarcations of 133 electoral constituencies.

An HC bench comprising Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Farid Ahmed will hold hearing on the petition today.

The petition was filed as public interest litigation (PIL) for staying the operations of the gazette notification the EC issued on April 29 redrawing the constituencies.

The petitioner prayed to the court to issue a rule nisi asking the EC and the government to explain as to why the gazette notification should not be declared illegal.

The petition said as per the constitution, the demarcation of constituencies has to be done before the voter list is made. The EC has redrawn constituencies after completing the lion share of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4 Over 3 lakh

cases pending in lower courts Reveals SC registrar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 3,07,322 criminal cases were disposed of in lower courts six months into the separation of the judiciary from the executive, Supreme Court Registrar Iktedar Ahmed yesterday said.

"Now 6,33,676 cases are pending in the lower courts, 2,68,297 in the High Court Division and 6,500 in the Appellate Division," he said at a press briefing at his Supreme Court office yesterday afternoon. Iktedar said 242 judicial magis-

trates are working since the separation of the judiciary on November 1 last year and 390 new assistant judges will join their work on May 22. "A total of 168 posts of judges are vacant and these posts will be

filled very soon," he said. He said appointment letters have been issued to the new judges and they will receive a seven-day training at their respective districts

after joining work. "After the separation of the judiciary from the executive, the judiciary has gathered momentum and litigants are now getting justice within a short time at a minimum

RECRUITMENT SCAM NU employees

besiege VC to retain job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

cost," he said.

Around 100 employees of National University (NU), recruited through a fake advertisement of 2004, besieged the vice-chancellor's (VC) office yesterday in a bid to mount pressure on the university authorities to keep their jobs.

Following yesterday's The Daily Star report revealing the scam, the employees misbehaved with VC Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan for admitting that the advertisement was unauthorised and fake.

Meanwhile, the VC asked the caretaker government to increase his security as he has been receiving threats from unidentified people over telephone.

The employees besieged the VC office from 1:30pm to 3:00pm and SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Parents of murdered school kids seek justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Why did they have to kill my only son?" Jusna Begum wailed as she broke down into convulsions. "How will I live without him?"

she asked. The bereaved parents of Biplob and Jewel, the two schoolboys murdered in city's Meerertek area

two weeks ago, are still struggling to get back to their normal lives. The two schoolboys Biplob, 7, and Jewel, 9, went missing on April 29 and Ramna police retrieved their decomposed bodies two days later from an abandoned house at Noyatola, about

akilometre off their houses. SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



ACC Chairman Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury in an anti-corruption procession in Patia of Chittagong yesterday. Story on page 3.

More aid finally reaches cyclone victims

Yangon wants relief materials only, no people to manage it

AP, Yangon

Food and water reached cyclone victims in greater amounts yesterday after many roads were cleared, but there was no sign Myanmar's military rulers would allow foreign experts to handle the distribution, international aid groups said.

The junta says it only wants international relief material and money but not the people to manage it. It wants to hand out all donated supplies on its own to an estimated 2 million people who are without food or shelter, facing the period. Cyclone Nargis.

"Visas for international humanitarian personnel remain a critical issue, and one on which the UN and Myanmar's regional partners are engaged," an internal report of the United Nations humanitarian coordinating agency said.

According to the government, 23,335 people died and 37,019 are missing. Some international aid organisations say the death toll

as conditions worsen.

Oxfam warned Sunday that the to some parts of Yangon city," the lives of up to 1.5 million cyclone UN reportsaid. victims are in danger from diseases if clean water and sanitation are not provided soon.

Ireland said "there are all the fac- bution. tors" for a public health catastrophe." She said the death toll from the May 3 cyclone is likely to be 100,000 and the number could multiply by 15 times in the coming

are afraid there is a real risk of a cleared without delay, replenishing massive public catastrophe waiting to happen in Myanmar. It is a country before the cyclone. perfect storm if you will."

winds, the storm battered the Irrawaddy delta, leaving hundreds expected to arrive until Monday, of villages under water and felling trees and power lines. Myanmar's main city Yangon was also badly

UN staff in Myanmar are report-

could climb to more than 100,000 ing "significant progress in clearing roadways, and the piped water However, British aid group supply has been partially restored

It said helicopter relays of international aid arriving in Yangon arebeing made to Pathein in Oxfam regional chief Sarah Irrawaddy delta, for further distri-

"Aid is getting through in increased amounts," said the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It said three planes of the federation with 14 tons of shelter material threat of diseases, after the May 3 She told reporters Sunday: "We arrived in Myanmar and were Red Cross stocks already in the

> So far, the humanitarian effort Packing enormously powerful has supported 220,000 people, it said. A further seven flights are carrying 20 tons of shelter material, jerry cans and 2,000 mosquito nets. Australia Foreign Minister Stephen Smith announced Sunday

> > SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

সম্মানিত বিদ্যুৎ গ্রাহকগণ অবগত আছেন

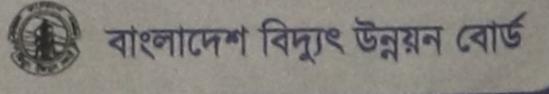
দেশের বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদনকারী অনেকগুলো ইউনিট বেশ পুরাতন। নিয়মিত মেরামত ও সংরক্ষণ করে এগুলি চালানো হচ্ছে। তাছাড়া বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্রের চাহিদার তুলনায় গ্যাসের সরবরাহ কম পাওয়া যাচ্ছে। এসকল কারণে সর্বোচ্চ আন্তরিকতা ও প্রচেষ্টা থাকা সত্ত্বেও বর্তমানে চাহিদার তুলনায় বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন কম। ফলে লোডশেডিং-এর মাধ্যমে চাহিদা ও সরবরাহের ঘাটতি মেটানো হচ্ছে। নতুন নতুন বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন কেন্দ্র স্থাপন করে এবং গ্রাহক পর্যায়ে লোড ম্যানেজমেন্টের মাধ্যমে বিদ্যুৎ ঘাটতি মোকাবেলার উদ্যোগ নেয়া হয়েছে। সম্মানিত বিদ্যুৎ গ্রাহকদের সহযোগিতা পেলে বিদ্যুৎ সংকট মোকাবেলা সম্ভব।

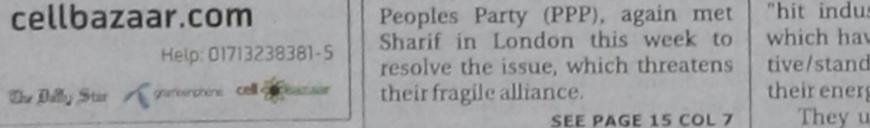
বিদ্যুৎ মূল্যবান জাতীয় সম্পদ আসুন আমরা বিদ্যুতের পরিমিত ব্যবহার করি

বিকেল টো থেকে রাত ১১টা পর্যন্ত বিদ্যুৎ চাহিদা বেশী থাকে। এসময়ঃ

- অধিকতর বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহার হয় এমন যন্ত্রপাতি যেমনঃ এয়ারকুলার, ইস্ত্রি, পানির পাম্প বন্ধ রাখুন। অন্য সময়ে এয়ারকুলার চালালে রুম টেম্পারেচার ২৪° সেলসিয়াস-এর উপরে রাখুন।
- সকল ওয়েল্ডিং মেশিন, স্টিল মিল, আর্ক ফার্নেস, ইভাকশন ফার্নেস সম্পূর্ণ বন্ধ রাখুন।
- রাত ৮টার পর দোকানপাট ও শপিং মল বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠান বন্ধ রাখন।
- আপনার বাসগৃহ, কার্যালয় দোকানে যত কম পরিমাণ বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহার করলে চলে ঠিক ততটুকুই ব্যবহার করুন।
- বিদ্যাৎ সাশ্রায়ী লাইট (সি এফ এল) ব্যবহার করুন।
- ♦ আপনার পরিমিত বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারে লোডশেডিং হ্রাস পাবে এবং অন্যের বিদ্যুৎ প্রাপ্তি নিশ্চিত হবে।
- আমরা সকলে মিলে বিদ্যুতের ব্যবহার এক তৃতীয়াংশ কমালে দেশে কোন লোডশেডিং থাকবেনা।

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-১২১৩(১১)/২৪-৪-০৮ জিডি-২১৩১





judges fired by US-backed

President Pervez Musharraf, a

party official said yesterday, ahead

Sharif, after talks with his coalition

partner Asif Ali Zardari carlier this

month in Dubai, had previously

announced the judges would be

Zardari, who is the widower of

slain ex-premier Benazir Bhutto

and now co-chairs her Pakistan

Two-time ex-premier Nawaz

of a looming deadline.

restored on Monday.

Businesses decry high No deal yet over reinstatement licence fees for of Pak judges AFP, Xinhua, Islamabad industrial generators Pakistan's ruling coalition has not reached an agreement to reinstate

A doctor on duty at the emergency section of ICDDR, B in the capital checks on patients receiving saline yesterday.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The number of diarrhoea patients going there for treatment is increasing every day.

Leaders of major chambers and business associations have criticised a recent decision of dated January 10, 2008 said for use Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) to take huge amount of licence fees for indus-

trial generators. Expressing deep concern at the BERC decision, they said payment of licence fees varying from Tk 5 industries which installed generalakh to Tk 25 lakh per generator will "hit industries across the board which have to use their own captive/stand-by generators to meet their energy requirements". They urged the government to

exempt the users of their own captive/stand-by generators from payment of the licence fees. A public notice of the BERC

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

of captive/stand-by generators beyond 1MW, the users will have to take licence from the commission with fees varying from Tk 5 lakh to Tk 25 lakh with effect from April 30. "In the current energy crisis,

tors at a huge cost and use the same much to the relief of the national electricity network, deserve to be provided with policy and other support instead of being penalised SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

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