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**AL hopeful about Hasina's release before polls**

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 Ashraf Islam told reporters firmly after the AL Presidium meeting held at acting AL President Zillur Rahman's Gulshan home.  
 The Presidium, highest policy-making body of the party, chaired by Zillur sat to have discussions on the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALWC) meeting to be

**Diplomats or govt staffs can now marry foreigners**

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

**Next budget to set 6.5pc growth target Says finance adviser**

Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday 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

**Mobile goes to Khagrachhari**

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 yesterday 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

**Talks with Tata restart**  
*Govt says it can't supply 2 TCF gas*

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 (TCF) of gas over a 10-year period to Tata considering Bangladesh's current gas reserves.  
 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 investment talks while Board of Investment (BoI) Executive Chairman Kamal Uddin Ahmed led the Bangladesh side.  
 The government informed Tata 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



A doctor on duty at the emergency section of ICDDR,B in the capital checks on patients receiving saline yesterday. The number of diarrhoea patients going there for treatment is increasing every day.

**No deal yet over reinstatement of Pak judges**

Pakistan's ruling coalition has not reached an agreement to reinstate judges fired by US-backed President Pervez Musharraf, a party official said yesterday, ahead of a looming deadline.  
 Two-time ex-premier Nawaz Sharif, after talks with his coalition partner Asif Ali Zardari earlier this month in Dubai, had previously announced the judges would be restored on Monday.  
 Zardari, who is the widower of slain ex-premier Benazir Bhutto and now co-chairs her Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), again met Sharif in London this week to resolve the issue, which threatens their fragile alliance.

**Businesses decry high licence fees for industrial generators**

Leaders of major chambers and business associations have criticised a recent decision of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) to take huge amount of licence fees for industrial generators.  
 Expressing deep concern at the BERC decision, they said payment of licence fees varying from Tk 5 lakh 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

**Writ petition filed against re-demarcation of JS seats**

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



Abu Syed, a ward commissioner of Patia municipality and a listed criminal recently freed on bail, finds a place next to ACC Chairman Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury in an anti-corruption procession in Patia of Chittagong yesterday. Story on page 3.

**Over 3 lakh cases pending in lower courts**  
*Reveals SC registrar*

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 Ikhtedar 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.  
 Ikhtedar said 242 judicial magistrates 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 cost," he said.

**RECRUITMENT SCAM**  
**NU employees besiege VC to retain job**

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

**More aid finally reaches cyclone victims**  
*Yangon wants relief materials only, no people to manage it*

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 threat of diseases, after the May 3 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 could climb to more than 100,000 as conditions worsen.  
 However, British aid group Oxfam warned Sunday that the lives of up to 1.5 million cyclone victims are in danger from diseases if clean water and sanitation are not provided soon.  
 Oxfam regional chief Sarah Ireland said "there are all the factors" 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 period.  
 She told reporters Sunday: "We are afraid there is a real risk of a massive public catastrophe waiting to happen in Myanmar. It is a perfect storm if you will."  
 Packing enormously powerful winds, the storm battered the Irrawaddy delta, leaving hundreds of villages under water and felling trees and power lines. Myanmar's main city Yangon was also badly hit.  
 UN staff in Myanmar are reporting significant progress in clearing roadways, and the piped water supply has been partially restored to some parts of Yangon city, the UN reports said.  
 It said helicopter relays of international aid arriving in Yangon are being made to Patheingyi in Irrawaddy delta, for further distribution.  
 "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 arrived in Myanmar and were cleared without delay, replenishing Red Cross stocks already in the country before the cyclone.  
 So far, the humanitarian effort has supported 220,000 people, it said. A further seven flights are expected to arrive until Monday, carrying 20 tons of shelter material, jerry cans and 2,000 mosquito nets.  
 Australia Foreign Minister Stephen Smith announced Sunday

**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

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**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 মোটানো 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 ৫টা থেকে রাত ১১টা পর্যন্ত বিদ্যুৎ চাহিদা বেশী থাকে। এসময়ঃ**

- ◆ অধিকতর বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহার হয় এমন যন্ত্রপাতি যেমনঃ এয়ারকুলার, ইলেক্ট্রিক পানির পাম্প বন্ধ রাখুন। অন্য সময়ে এয়ারকুলার চালানো করুন।
- ◆ সকল ওয়েল্ডিং মেশিন, স্টিল মিল, আর্ক ফোর্সেস, ইন্ডাকশন ফোর্সেস সম্পূর্ণ বন্ধ রাখুন।
- ◆ রাত ৮টার পর দোকানপাট ও শপিং মল বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠান বন্ধ রাখুন।
- ◆ আপনার বাসগৃহ, কার্যালয় দোকানে যত কম পরিমাণ বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহার করলে চলে ঠিক ততটুকুই ব্যবহার করুন।
- ◆ বিদ্যুৎ সশ্রয়ী 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-১১১৩(১১)/২৪-৪-০৮  
 জিডি-২১৩১

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড