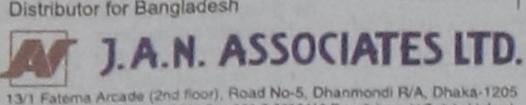
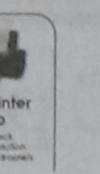


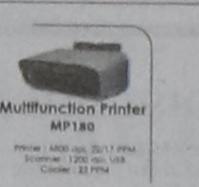
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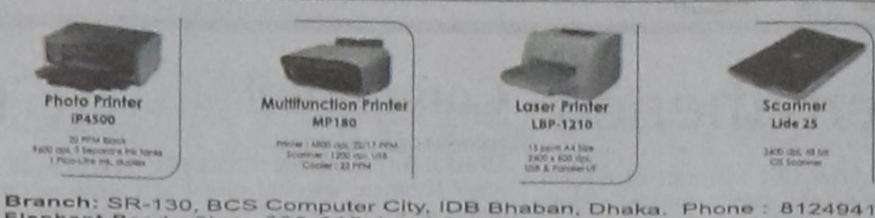


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ENERGY SECTOR

Eminent citizens slate 'anti-people' activities of govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-two eminent personalities yesterday called upon the caretaker government to stop its "antipeople, anti-constitutional and illegal activities" in dealing with the country's energy resources.

It is essential to establish people's control over country's energy resources as their prosperity largely depends on proper utilisation of those, they said in a joint statement yesterday.

"We are observing that the undemocratic government has been suppressing people's voice to go ahead with its anti-people agenda keeping the state of emergency in force," they said.

Referring to the proposals made by Prof Abdul Matin Patwary-led committee for making some amendments to the coal policy, they alleged that the move has been made to finalise the policy keeping the provisions of open-pit mining and leasing out coal mines to multinational companies for limited royalty.

"Although the state of emergency is in force, there have been

been in this state for long.

Graft case

shifted to

NO-TRUST PETITION

against Koko

another court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

get justice from the trial court.

ferred the case to the Special Judge

Prayer Timing

August 12

Azan

4-25

12-45

4-45

6-41

8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Jamaat

5-00

1-15

5-00

6-44

8-30

submitted the petition.

Court-6.

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

Russian warplanes pound Georgia

Moscow-US tensions worsen

AFP, Tbilisi

Dozens of Russian warplanes staged air raids in Georgia on ners are not helping us but in fact Monday, officials said, but Prime Minister Vladimir Putin accused the United States of trying to Georgian troops. undermine Russia's mounting military offensive.

South Ossetia capital, as European he added. ministers went to Tbilisi and Moscow in a bid to end the worsening crisis, which Russia says has left 2,000 dead.

their attacks as diplomatic tensions worsened. US President George W. Bush, Georgia's biggest western ally, said he had told Russia's influential prime minister that its bombing of Georgia was attacks. "unacceptable."

the US of trying to disrupt the SEE PAGE 15 COL 2 Russian military operation by

transporting Georgian troops from mountain," said a ministry state-Iraq into the "conflict zone."

I regret that some of our partare trying to impede us," Putin said directly refering to the US flights of

"It seems that this will not change anything, but will move us Georgian forces shelled the away from resolving the situation,"

> Bush said he had been "very firm" with Putin in their conversation.

"I expressed my grave concern about the disproportionate Russia and Georgia pursued response of Russia and that we the military operation has been strongly condemn bombing outside of South Ossetia," the US president told NBC television.

Georgia's foreign ministry accused Russia of staging new air

"More than 50 Russian war-Putin responded by accusing planes are flying over Georgia. Tbilisi was bombed. Bombs hit the village of Kojori and Makhata

The Russian military acknowledged that it has lost 18 soldiers and four planes in the conflict but gave no details of its latest opera-

Georgia's President Mikheil Saakashvili told foreign reporters his country's army has killed several hundred Russian servicemen and shot down at least 80 Russian

Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev said "a major part" of completed -- but the conflict escalated after Georgia launched an operation last week to take back control of breakaway South Ossetia.

Russian planes bombed radars at Tbilisi airport and hit civilian targets in the city of Gori, an interior ministry spokesman said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

BDR to be strengthened, **BOP** increased

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to strengthen the capabilities of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), increase the number of border outposts (BOP) and build roads to enhance security in border areas.

Bangladesh is also considering a US offer of assistance to establish a border management system which would check smuggling of contraband substances and trespassing of criminals.

The prime concern of Bangladesh is to guard the 534km border, known as unguarded frontier, by establishing adequate number of BOPs and building roads along the border connecting the BOPs.

"A long stretch of our border, mainly the border in the remote hilly terrains of Chittagong Hill Tracks (CHT) with India and Myanmar, desperately requires security mechanisms immediately," a senior home ministry official told The Daily Star.

The issues and the US offer were discussed during a meeting at the home ministry yesterday with Home Adviser MA Matin in the chair. Additional Director General of BDR, officials of the foreign ministry, National Board of Revenue (NBR), Bangladesh Navy and the intelligence agencies attended the meeting.

Home ministry officials said the meeting was convened to assess the overall border situation against SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

JS polls can be held in similar situation

French envoy talks about Aug 4 polls

UNB, Dhaka

French Ambassador to Bangladesh Charley Causeret yesterday said generally they will prefer the lifting of the state of emergency but the coming general election can also be held in a situation that had prevailed during the local-body polls on August 4. "I don't see any problem with

the emergency if political parties are allowed to campaign freely, hold rallies and processions and people can cast their votes freely to choose their candidates," he told reporters at his residence. The European diplomat's

observations came at a time when political parties here are persistently demanding lifting of the state of emergency to prepare for the general election. Causeret, who observed the

municipality election in Fulbaria upazila in Mymensingh, said although he is not a professional observer, he saw peaceful and smooth casting of votes, a large turnout and lot of women casting their votes. "I did not feel like emergency...

People went to polling-stations peacefully showing their ID cards and cast votes," he said. And counting was also well organised, though SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

bills to pay labourers.

ACC in its investigations.

The ACC said it is also SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Cheated workers who returned from Malaysia gather at Dhaka Reporters Unity office in the capital yesterday for a press conference to narrate the harassment by their employers.

45 cheated workers return from KL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Battered by employers and cheated by agents, 45 Bangladeshi workers returned from Malaysia yesterday after over one year with bruises all overtheir bodies.

The returnees who spent over monthly RM 700. Tk2 lakh each to get an overseas job allege Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur did not address their issue. As a result, they had to leave the "dreamland", which has now turned a "night-

At a press conference organised by IMA Research Foundation at

Dhaka Reporters Unity, Shahadat Hossain said he went to Malaysia in a group of 40 through recruiting torture. agency Mark Overseas in July last year and was employed in plastic Vital Manpower in Malaysia that company Classic Board Services Servicing Centre in Kelang at anymore. After two months, he

work 12 hours, but we had to work Bikrampur said. 18 to 20 hours a day. In case of any single mistake, the Chinese boss would beat us up," he said.

work target and if anyone failed to hard. Fifteen of the workers fled the

company in less than a month as they could no longer endure the

"We told our agent Kamal of we could not tolerate the tortures withdrew us and assured of arrang-"We were told that we would ing alternative jobs," Shahadat of

But Kamal took them to a hotel and disappeared, he added.

The group of 23 went to He said the workers were given Bangladesh High Commission and received shelter for some days. A fulfil it, the boss used to hit them Malaysian NGO, Tenaganita, also SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

N'GANJ BLAST CASE

HC quashes

proceedings,

ACC probe reveals graft in BSMMU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The corruption watchdog yesterday said it has detected anomalies in several institutions including the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) where equipment purchase irregularities caused the state to lose over Tk 2.37 crore. The Anti-Corruption

Commission (ACC) in a routine press briefing at its headquarters revealed three primary reports on institutional corruption at BSMMU, post and telecommunications ministry and Revenue Section of former Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board

Investigations at four revenue offices of former BTTB revealed that its officials misappropriated funds and caused a loss of over Tk | The High Court (HC) yesterday 14.78 crore to the state exchequer during the fiscal years of 2000-2001 through 2007-2008 by turning in false conveyance bills and false

The post and telecommunications ministry caused a loss of over Tk 7.71 crore to the state by misusing 15 vehicles of former BTTB illegally throughout 2000-2001 and | led four-party alliance. 2007-2008 fiscal years, found the

orders further investigation STAFF CORRESPONDENT quashed proceedings of the case concerning bomb blast at Narayanganj Awami League (AL) office in 2001 and ordered further

probe into the incident. The blast occurred when the AL was in power, and the case was filed on the basis of first information report (FIR) during the rule of BNP-

The HC cancelled the FIR and directed the inspector general of police to take steps for further investigation.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

17 rescued from traffickerson Rajshahi border RU CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday arrested two human traffickers and rescued 17 people including women and children on the Godagari border of Rajshahi.

Acting on a tip-off, the BDR 10 Battalion made the arrests and rescued the 17 including five women and nine children gathered at Rail Bazar Ghat in Godagari to be trafficked into India.

The rescued individuals, residents of the same area in Khulna, were identified as Ashok Mondol, 37, Ishak Ali Mondol, 34, Ershad Mondol, 32, Abeda Khatun, 55, Hafiza Begum, 24, Rozina Khatun, 25, Jharna Khatun, 25, Jahanara Begum, 35, Rupaiya, 14, Moyna, 10, Sharmin, 10, Tareque Sheikh, 8, Akash Ali, 2, Srabony, Suriaya, 9, Labony, 3, and Ariful Islam, 2.

The two traffickers -- Mijarul Sheikh from India and Saddam Hossain from Chapainawabganj -had brought the victims to Godagari from Rajshahi city promising to help them cross into India, said a BDR source. The poverty-stricken victims

said they were willing to go to India SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Musharraf won't quit despite impeachment move

A hospital and a government school are on this waterlogged street full of potholes in Banshbari of Mohammadpur in the capital. Locals said the street has

Parliament convenes

AFP, Islamabad

Embattled Pakistani President The Senior Special Judge's Court of Pervez Musharraf will not resign, Dhaka yesterday transferred the his spokesman said yesterday, as graft case against Arafat Rahman parliament convened to discuss majority in the upper and lower Koko from the Special Judge Courtthe impeachment of the key US houses of parliament to impeach 7 to Court-6 after Koko's lawyers anti-terror ally. submitted a petition for transfer of The former general, who seized the case saying that they would not

power in a bloodless military coup in 1999, faced further pressure Advocate Sanaullah Miah, when the biggest of Pakistan's representing Koko in his absence, provincial assemblies passed a noconfidence motion against him. After the hearing, Judge The ruling coalition said it was Mohammad Azizul Haque called for the case file and later trans-

impeachment, but the president's week, officials said. spokesman dismissed talk that he would quit to avoid the process.

"There is no reason that he should resign. Everything they are Rashid Qureshi told AFP. The spokesman however

parliament or declaring a state of

The coalition, which swept to power in general elections in February, needs a two-thirds him. It would have to rely on independents to make up the numbers.

It would be the first time in Pakistan's history that a president has been impeached.

house of parliament, met on Monday -- -- Musharraf's 65th finalising charges against birthday -- to discuss the impeach-Musharraf after announcing last ment issue but the charges against a heavy majority and the mandate week that it would seek his him would likely be filed later in the

"The work of the impeachment committee is almost complete. It is giving finishing touches to the charge sheet," said Farzana Raja, a saying is false, so why should he senior member of the Pakistan resign?" presidential spokesman People's Party (PPP) of slain former premier Benazir Bhutto.

declined to comment on resign, we gave him a few months. Musharraf's plans. His options But we have come to the conclu-

representatives in the parliament, will have to do that," she told AFP.

The coalition is apparently trying to give Musharraf time to step down without facing the humiliation of impeachment -- as well as to prevent the coalition going through the uncertainty of a parliamentary vote.

But it is also seeking to crank up the pressure on him with nonbinding no-confidence votes in the The national assembly, or lower four provincial assemblies, the first of which was in powerful Punjab province on Monday.

"The resolution is adopted with of the house," provincial assembly speaker Rana Mohammed Iqbal said after the vote in the eastern city of Lahore. Punjab is also the stronghold of

Musharrafnine years ago. The resolution said that Musharraf "We gave him a chance to was "unfit to hold the office of the president by virtue of being guilty of violating the constitution of Pakistan

coalition leader Nawaz Sharif, a

former premier who was ousted by

and of gross misconduct." SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



The judge who was sitting here escaped unhurt when the ceiling fan spinning above him crashed on his desk yester-

day afternoon. Senior Judicial Magistrate of Chittagong Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun signed a verdict leaning

forward and just reclined in his chair when the fan fell down smashing the glass sheet on his desk. The courtroom include trying to defeat impeach- sion that now the people of ment in parliament, dissolving Pakistan, through their elected has a tin roof.

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