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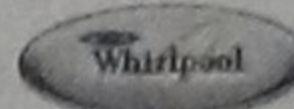
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Quick energy fix mulled

Govt may go for importing LNG, giving 15m CFL bulbs for free; modalities for public-private joint energy ventures considered

SHARIEF KHAN

Faced with a deep energy crisis due to gas shortage that cannot be overcome overnight, the government considers importing Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), increasing efficiency of bulk gas users to reduce demands and setting standards to promote energy efficient electrical equipment, says Dr Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, energy adviser to the prime minister.

Besides, to overcome investment constraints, the government has drafted a new joint venture framework for power and energy sector under which private companies can invest with the public sector in developing power, energy and coal sectors.

As part of its primary plan to increase energy efficiency, the government would give for free 15 million pieces of Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) from February

next year to government offices and other users under the World Bank financing of \$10-15 million.

A CFL uses up to one-fifth power required by a conventional light bulb of same illumination capacity. According to Dr Chowdhury, replacement of conventional light bulbs with CFL alone can save around 200 megawatt of power.

Dr Chowdhury points out that the

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JS body's ACC intent called into question

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday termed the summoning of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) by parliamentary standing committee on public undertakings 'malafide' since, they claimed, the standing committee is headed by a convict.

"The person heading the parliamentary standing committee is a convict and it needs to be understood whether it is appropriate to summon a body like anti-corruption commission by the committee," said Badiul Alam Majumder.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

Salary of govt staff likely to double

7th Pay Commission finalises recommendation

REIAUL KARIM BYRON

The Seventh Pay Commission is going to submit its report with recommendations for increasing salaries of the government staffs by up to 95 percent and allowances for their children's education.

The Pay Commission has already finalised its report and will submit it to the finance minister in a couple of days, sources say.

The commission would recommend raising maximum salary to Tk 45,000 from existing Tk 23,000 and the lowest basic to Tk 4,300 from existing Tk 2,300, insiders say.

Like the existing one, there will be as many

as 20 scales in the new pay scale.

The Pay Commission would recommend that the government give education allowances for maximum two children. If any government employee has more than two children they would get allowance for none.

The commission would also recommend not giving leave preparatory to retirement (LPR) to the government staffs and counting the time in service.

Currently, the government staffs spend the last one year of their service in LPR. The commission feels that it is not proper to keep an experienced officer without work for one year.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



Agitated by frequent power cuts, people of Jalakandi in Arahazur upazila of Narayanganj attack a power distribution sub-station yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Outraged by outage

People storm power sub-station, block road, damage vehicles; 25 people hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Several thousand angry residents including workers of Arahazur area yesterday damaged a power sub-station, and attacked a rural power supply office and a police outpost, protesting against repeated long periods of load shedding.

The mob also staged violent demonstrations for about six hours putting up barricades on about three kilometres of road, damaging vehicles, and clashing with police, which left at least 25 people injured including a police constable.

Witnesses said sensing danger, officials of the power sub-station and rural power supply office fled the area as a large number of demonstrators took to the street equipped with sticks

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

NEXT BUDGET NBR scales revenue target up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Revenue collection target of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) in the next fiscal year (FY) may be at least Tk 60,000 crore.

"It is better if they can collect more," Finance Minister AMA Muhih told journalists after a meeting with NBR officials yesterday.

The NBR's revenue

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

NOTICE ON KHALEDA TO VACATE HOUSE BNP to fight it legally; may even boycott JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Apart from launching a legal battle and protest programmes, BNP may even boycott the next budget session of parliament if the government does not withdraw its notice asking Khaleda Zia to vacate the cantonment house.

The party will observe countrywide demonstrations today. As part of their protest programme, central BNP will hold a protest rally at the city's Muktangan today.

Pro-BNP lawyers said they would serve a legal notice within a day or two upon the government to withdraw its notice.

BNP Standing Committee member Moudud Ahmed said they would not go to the court right now since the government has to go to the court first to scrap the registration deed of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's cantonment house.

"We will face the government decision politically as it is a political decision of the

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

PM-SAUDI KING TALKS Manpower, RMG export top agenda

UNB, Riyadh

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Saudi king Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud discussed yesterday a wide range of bilateral issues encompassing recruitment of skilled and semi-skilled workers and import of ceramics and garments from Bangladesh.

Briefing journalists on the outcome of the 55-minute talks held at Al Yamamah Palace late in the afternoon, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said Bangladeshi expatriate workers will now be able to transfer their "Akama (work permit)" and join new companies under a new law passed by the Saudi cabinet on Monday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Agents hailed as heroes

Out-of-favour Jalil hits out at several ministers, AL stalwarts

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Ruling Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday alleged that many ministers in the grand alliance government are "paid agents of DGFI".

Speaking to some reporters at his Mercantile Bank office in the city, he said, "We were the ones beaten up and tortured but now we are being punished, while those who work as DGFI agents are



hailed as heroes."

All the leaders who managed to be out of jail during the caretaker government were the agents of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), he noted.

He said, rather more precisely, AL presidium members Amir Hossain

Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, and Suranjit Sengupta "worked for the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

AL constitution breached to neutralise Jalil

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Making Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil inactive in running the organisation goes against the party's constitution.

As per the AL's constitution, its general secretary who is elected at the triennial council is the chief executive officer of the organisation and he/she has a lot of role to play in running the party.

But Jalil, who was elected general secretary at party's council on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

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Shazneen Tasnim Rahman

SHAZNEEN'S 11TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
APRIL 23, 2009

Eleven years have passed since our beloved Shazneen was most cruelly and brutally taken away from us by some murderers whose inhumanity shocked the nation as it devastated everyone of us. Since then we have passed our days in the emptiness that can only be caused by the absence of someone who gave nothing but love, joy and happiness to us. Praying to the Almighty was our only solace and seeking His Divine Blessings our only strength.

Over the years we have come to know that there are many others who have loved Shazneen and have prayed to the Almighty for the salvation of her soul and to grant her a place in the Heavenly Abode. For all your prayers we express our eternal gratitude. For having stood besides us during our most tragedy-ridden days we can only offer our most sincere thanks.

As we learnt to live our painful life without Shazneen we gathered strength from your collective support. The fact of your remaining in touch with us and sharing our pain and grief gave us the will to carry on with our everyday lives.

The day has returned when we invite you all to join us in a collective prayer.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to join us at a Milad-Mehfil to be held tomorrow, Thursday, April 23, 2009 after Asr (5:15 pm) at House No. NE(J) 4, Road 83, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.

Latifur Rahman, Shahnaz Rahman and family

Wednesday, April 22, 2009