

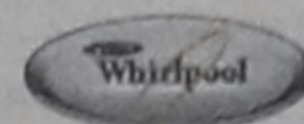


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REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIX No. 156

DHAKA SUNDAY JUNE 21, 2009

ASHAR 7, 1416 BS • JAMADIU SANI 26, 1430 HIRI • 24 PAGES PLUS STAR CAMPUS PRICE: Tk 10.00

TIPAIMUKH DAM
Govt decision
after House
discusses team
report: Ashraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD and Cooperatives
Minister Syed Ashraf Islam
said yesterday the govern-
ment would take a decision on
India's Tipaimukh dam after
the House discusses the all-
party parliamentary commit-
tee's recommendations in this
regard.

The parliamentary body
formed to visit the site would
submit a report on the dam
after its return from there, he
said. "A decision will be taken
only after it (report) is dis-
cussed in parliament."

Ashraf, also ruling Awami
League spokesperson, was
briefing newsmen at party
chief Sheikh Hasina's political

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Sircar, Akhtar, Delwar summoned for June 27

All-party JS body asks them to defend themselves
against graft allegations; letters to be sent today

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

Former speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, his
deputy Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and former
chief whip Khandaker Delwar
Hossain will now have to appear before
the all-party parliamentary probe body
on June 27 to defend themselves against
allegations of financial irregularities.

Probing alleged graft in the Parliament
Secretariat in seven years to January 25,
the House committee rearranged the date
at a meeting yesterday.

Originally, it wanted the three to
appear before it on June 10.

Allegations against the BNP leaders
include financial irregularities in pro-
curement, appointment, and beautifica-



Sircar

Delwar

Akhtar

tion projects in the parliament building
complex.

Besides, the three stand accused of
using public vehicles and fuel and draw-
ing medical allowances illegally.

As per the probe body's decision,
Sircar will have to appear before the
committee at 10:00am, Akhtar Hamid at
12 noon and Delwar at 3:00pm.

"The Parliament Secretariat will
tomorrow (Sunday) send them letters to
that effect," Fazle Rabbi Mia, chief of the
probe body, told reporters after the com-
mittee meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad
Bhaban.

Talking to The Daily Star over phone, a
member of the probe committee said the
letters outline the allegations in a 'polite
manner'.

Meanwhile, a sub-committee led by
AL lawmaker Shajahan Khan placed its
report to the main probe body yesterday.

It recommended recovering Tk 1.36
crore from the trio as they drew the
money as fuel bill in addition to their
entitlement, meeting sources said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Minister blames govt officials for graft

Seniors fail to oversee subordinates' activities,
many officers own costly houses, says Shafique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday
blasted senior officials at government offices,
saying their negligence in overseeing the ac-
tivities of subordinates has led to widespread
corruption.

He warned department heads that they would
be charged for any corruption at their offices.

Pointing out that many government officials
have become owners of costly houses in posh
areas like Gulshan and Banani in the capital,
Shafique said, "The question is, how did they
get so much money to own such houses?"

Amassing assets by abusing state power is a
serious offence, he noted while speaking at the
concluding session of a daylong workshop
styled "Implementation of UN Convention
Against Corruption (UNCAC)--Action
Planning for Compliance" at Dhaka Sheraton

Hotel yesterday afternoon.

Shafique laid responsibility on ministers
also for supervising the activities of officials at
their ministries to prevent corruption.

The law minister also blamed multinational
companies for corruption in the country. Many
multinational companies resort to bribery to
get work permits in Bangladesh, he said.

He said the law alone cannot curb cor-
ruption unless officials change themselves.

The Ministry of Law, Justice and
Parliamentary Affairs and the Institute of
Governance Studies of BRAC University jointly
organised the workshop with Law Secretary
Kazi Habibul Awal in the chair.

State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam,
German Ambassador to Bangladesh Frank
Meyke, and a few government high officials
spoke at the function.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

WHOSE FOOTPATH IS IT, ANYWAY?



Construction materials of a nearby building piled up on the pavement along Gulshan-1-Tejgaon link road compel pedestrians to walk on the road risking their lives.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

GAS COMPRESSORS PROJECT

Petrobangla now pushes for Chevron deal

SHARIER KHAN

After trashing a \$139 million gas compressors
project under the Gas Transmission Company
Ltd (GTCL), the Petrobangla chief has recently
made a suggestion to the energy ministry that
Chevron should install one compressor as a
substitute.

The project for installing three gas compres-
sor stations was cancelled going against a
tender committee in May.

Already producing half the country's total
gas supply, US oil company Chevron had ear-
lier proposed to install this compressor in the
state-owned GTCL's system at Muchai at a cost
of around \$52 million under the Production
Sharing Contract (PSC) for block-12. This
means the cost would be recovered from block-
12.

This cost is \$12 million higher than the cost
proposed by Korean company Hyundai--the
bid of which was cancelled in early May by the
GTCL board headed by Petrobangla chairman.

Some officials say that Chevron had no

business with GTCL's system. "If they want to
install compressors, they can do it in their well-
head like British company Cairn did in Sangu
within their PSC area," said a Petrobangla
official. Cairn is currently installing compres-
sors in Sangu at a cost of just \$6 million to boost
gas production.

Gas compressors help maintain a standard
gas pressure in pipelines and they have become
necessary as the country's gas flow pressure
through national pipelines keep fluctuating in
places causing problems in power plants and
industries.

Petrobangla Chairman Maj (retd) M
Muktadir Ali in a letter to the ministry on June
11 said that Article 15 of the PSC accommo-
dates Chevron's installation of compressor. He
quotes Article 15.1 saying, "At any time follow-
ing the declaration of commercial discovery,
contractor shall have the right to construct and
to operate one or more pipelines within or from
the contract area to one or more points in...

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

LEARNING ENGLISH Fear, lack of practice key barriers

PORIMOL PALMA, back from
Comilla

Students' fear of English and
lack of conversation practice
are the major barriers to learn-
ing the language in most
schools of the country, aca-
demics and officials said at an
orientation session for school
teachers yesterday.

If these obstacles are
removed and teaching
method is made simpler it will
drastically reduce the number
of failed students in the sub-
ject and help improve stu-
dents' fluency in English, they
said.

The observations came at
an orientation programme of
teachers at Hotel Miami in
Alekharchar, Comilla, under
the English in Schools (EIS)

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Govt expects big amount of funds

Muhith defends money-
whitening provision; says
it's to attract investment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The finance minister hopes that a substantial amount of fund
will be created through the provision for whitening undisclosed
money despite widespread criticism of the amnesty offered for
the next three years.

"I expect a very substantial amount. Otherwise, I will be
worried," Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said at a
discussion meeting organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue
(CPD) at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

He, however, said he would modify the provision proposed in
the budget for the next fiscal year to remove people's confusion
but did not disclose the details of his modification plan.

"I have already verified the provision--the opportunity has
been actually given for one year," Muhith said in response to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Daylight saving moves smoothly

Some confusion in timing
of double-shift schools

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People of the capital and elsewhere in the country started their
work as usual yesterday morning on the first day Bangladesh
introduced the daylight saving time (DST).

Different offices, educational institutions, hospitals and gov-
ernment and non-government organisations opened on sched-
uled with the exception of a handful of double-shift schools.

Majority of the people think there will be no negative impact
on the daily life due to observance of DST. A number of parents
of the school-going children, however, said they had trouble
getting their children up in the morning.

Bangladesh forwarded the clock an hour at 11:00pm Friday
night to save electricity by utilising the daylight better.

With the clock running an hour ahead, Bangladesh is now
Greenwich Mean Time plus seven hours (GMT+7) instead of
GMT+6.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

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