

# \$3b needed to implement power projects

BSS, Dhaka

Power Development Board (PDB) has assessed that around three billion US dollar is needed to implement the government's robust plan to increase power production at a satisfactory level.

PDB, the state-run agency, in its proposal to the power division said the amount is needed to install four big coal-fired power plants, excluding other options, to install 21-35 power plants with a generation capacity of 25 to 100 megawatt (MW) based on furnace oil or diesel.

At the same time, PDB said the company needs another two to three billion dollar to add power to the national grid.

"We are going to present the proposal to the prime minister, who is also in charge of the power division. According to our assessment, we need another amount of \$600 million to implement the small power plant projects," Alamgir Kabir,

acting chairman of PDB, told the news agency yesterday.

Under this plan, PDB has set to address the gap between the power generation and supply which now stands around 2,000 MW. It also plans to add 2,500 MW fresh generation.

The power division identified that it needs a huge fund to address three crucial things -- (i) ensuring subsidy from the government to pay the bills of the IPPs (independent power producers) for purchasing power, (ii) ensuring budgetary allocation on regular basis for the payment for purchasing power from the rental power plants and (iii) mobilise \$3 billion for setting up new power plants to address the nagging power crisis which was a major election pledge of the government.

To address the financial constraints in implementing the plans, Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury said the government is taking an initiative to raise funds for the power

sector by issuing bonds and offloading shares of the state-owned power entities in the stock market.

He said the government is now planning to establish a financing company, adding: "We could raise money from public-private leasing agency and also from the stock market that could help us reduce the burden from budgetary allocations."

The state-owned energy companies, including Desco, PGCB, Meghna, Padma and Jamuna Oil, have already enlisted themselves in the capital market and we have a plan to issue bonds at home and abroad to raise more funds," he noted.

The PDB report said if it goes to install 500 MW rental power plants, it might need a subsidy of Tk 6,000 crore per year.

However, PDB is now paying Tk 1,000 crore as subsidy per year to purchase power from the rental power plants and Tk 500 crore subsidy per year to the IPPs.

## NATIONAL COUNCIL

# AL to seek six more months from EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League yesterday decided to seek six more months' time from the Election Commission (EC) to hold the party's national council to ratify provisional changes made to its constitution for registration with EC.

The decision came at a meeting of the AL presidium, the highest policymaking body of the party, with party president and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

As per the EC timeframe, the deadline for holding the party council is July 25.

"As there is a risk of flood now, it would not be possible to hold the party council within the deadline. So, we have decided to seek six more months' time from EC to hold our council," AL spokesperson Syed Ashraful Islam told reporters after the meeting.

EC had earlier told the party that the time could be extended, if necessary, he

said, adding that the party would formally approach to EC in this regard.

Sources said the meeting decided, in principle, to hold the council by December.

Before the ninth parliamentary election, political parties were allowed to be registered with the EC by making interim changes to their charters to meet the registration criteria laid out in the Representation of the People Order (RPO).

Ashraf said the meeting also decided to strengthen organisational activities of the party across the country.

The meeting also decided that the government would respond to the letter of Opposition Leader in parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia regarding their plan to send a team to the Tipaimukh dam site and might seek names of two representatives, sources said.

The parliamentary standing committee chairman on water resources, Abdur Razzak, or the ruling party chief whip Abdus Shahid might reply to Khaleda's letter or convey government's decision to the opposition chiefwhip.

But they had to give an undertaking that they would have their amendments approved by the national council within six months after the first sitting of the ninth parliament.

Held at Hasina's political office at Dhammandi, the presidium meeting also decided that the central committee would form committees in several districts where councils were held but full-fledged committees have not yet been formed.

# Adopt master plan on bldg construction on DU campus

Edn minister tells seminar

DU CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday suggested that a master plan be adopted to avoid haphazard construction of buildings on the Dhaka University (DU) campus that affects its education-friendly environment.

"Buildings were constructed at different times on the campus randomly without a proper plan. I think there should be a master plan in case of building modern infrastructures to revive the past glory of the university," he said.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on 'Oxford of the East, Dhaka University: Past and Present' at Naba Nabab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban at DU.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the seminar organised by DU Alumni Association on the occasion of the Dhaka University Day 2009.

Nahid hoped that DU would play a pioneering role in expanding the country's education to resolve existing crisis and develop quality of education.

"This university is run by general public's money. So, we are responsible to the nation," Nahid observed and made an appeal to teachers, students, alumni and all staff to work unitedly to restore its lost pride and tradition.

"A basic qualitative change should be brought in the country's education," he said, adding that the stream of education related to practical life should be encouraged and expanded.

The minister said the allocation in education sector should be increased, as the present allocation for research works and libraries at university level is poor in terms of necessity.

Prof Arefin said the task of DU is not only to issue certifi-

cates to the students, but also to build an enlightened generation who would be able to make their position meaningful abroad.

Former VC Prof SMA Faiz called on the government to increase budgetary allocation for carrying out more international standard researches to revive the past glory of the premier education institution.

Addressing the session, Ducusi leader ASM Abdur Rob said a museum or collection centre should be built on the campus to preserve the existing symbols of the historic movements which had begun from DU and university's role to the country.

The left-leaning leader stressed the need for making present students aware of the glorious past of the university.

Former VC Prof M Moniruzzaman Mia, DUJA President Shahjahan Shuvo, General Secretary Riadul Karim, and some former and present students also spoke at the programme moderated by DU Alumni Association Secretary General Rakibuddin Ahmed.

As their movements were suspicious, locals enquired about them and came to know about their fate.

Light to moderate rain or thundershowsers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:50pm today and rises at 6:16am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest of 24.5 degree at Sylhet.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.6	25.5	82	80		
Chittagong	31.4	24.7	74	76		
Rajshahi	34.6	26.0	89	77		
Khulna	31.7	26.0	93	84		
Barisal	31.0	25.5	100	96		
Sylhet	30.5	24.9	89	96		
Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.3	75	76		

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## POISON-MIXED FOOD

### Delwar demands fair probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain demands a fair investigation into allegation of serving "poison-mixed food" to the prime minister and the leader of the opposition when they were in sub-jails.

He made the demand while talking to reporters at the party central office in Naya Paltan in the capital.

Delwar alleged attempts are on to shift the charge of serving poison-mixed food onto others to hide the real culprits.

"Mentioning anyone's name without a probe is motivated," he said, adding, "If the incident of serving poison-mixed food to the premier took place, then it should be investigated properly to punish the people accountable."

Prof Dr Modassar Ali, health adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday, alleged poison was mixed with the food served to her while she was in sub-jail during the caretaker rule.

Dr Modassar suspects involvement of a number of people including two former advisers to the last caretaker government Barrister Moinul Hosein and Brig Gen (retd) MA Matin.

## Four children rescued from trafficker

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Police yesterday rescued four children from a human trafficker in Keorakandi Ferryghat area at Shibchar in the district yesterday.

However, the trafficker managed to escape.

The children are now under police custody.

They were identified as Robin, 8, Shakil, 7, Shamim, 5, and Mirajul Islam.

Shakil said that he was playing with Robin and Shamim in an open place at Kamrangirchar in the city when the trafficker approached them and promised them of cellphones if they go with him.

The three, along with Mirajul, who was picked up from Nandibazar, started from Barisal with the trafficker. When the launch reached Keorakandi Ghat area, the children became sick and started vomiting.

As their movements were suspicious, locals enquired about them and came to know about their fate.

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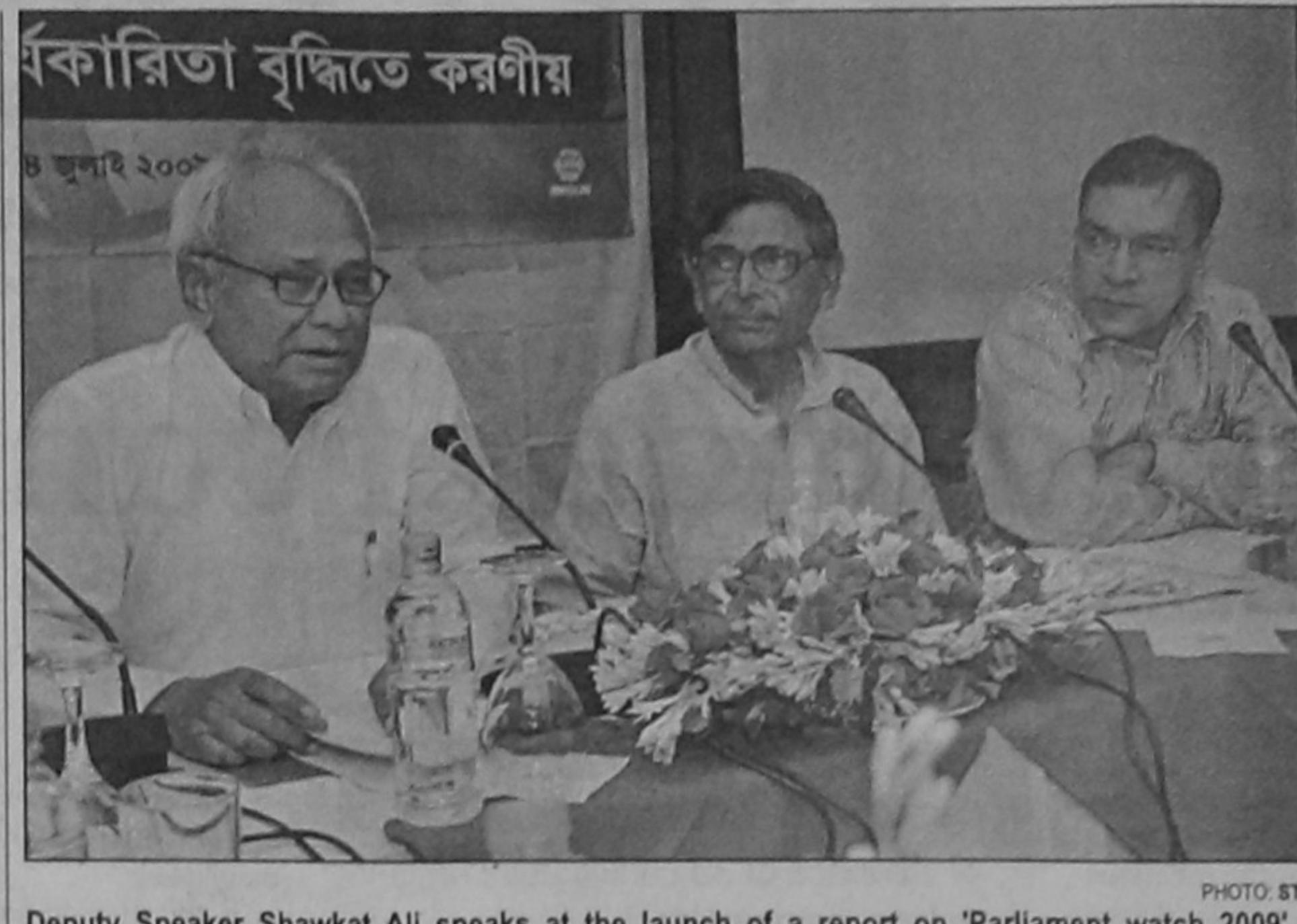


PHOTO: STAR  
Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali speaks at the launch of a report on 'Parliament watch 2009' of Transparency International Bangladesh at Brac Centre Inn in the city yesterday. On his left are Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Dr Iftekharuzzaman. (Story on Page 1)

## Update law to protect rights of persons with disabilities

### Experts tell view exchange meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a discussion yesterday said as the existing law enacted in 2001 failed to protect rights of the physically and mentally challenged people properly, it needs to be updated and the 'Rights to Persons with Disabilities Act 2009' would be a tool to ensure the rights of the people with disabilities (PWDs).

Consisting of 13 chapters and 50 sections, the draft law highlights equal legal recognition to PWDs, ensuring their justice, freedom and security, right to information, health, employment, information technology and real statistics.

He also said the Awami League government in its electoral manifesto pledged to upgrade the law to ensure rights and justice to the persons with disabilities.

Speaking as the chief guest, Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haque Mostofa Shaheed said the law should be prepared in such a way so that the persons with disabilities are not deprived of their rights through the loopholes.

"A clause should be there to ensure job opportunities for the educated unemployed persons with disabilities," the minister said, adding that full implementation of the law is also important.

National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFWOD) organised the programme in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) to ensure rights

of PWDs who constitute 10 percent of the total population, so that PWDs can use the law as a weapon to ensure their rights.

Prof Md Hedayetul Islam, acting court inspector of Rajshahi.

On Friday, Sub-inspector Firoz Kabir of Bagmara Police Station filed a case against the three on two separate charges under Section 19 (K) of Arms Act and Sections 8, 9, 10 of Anti-terrorism Ordinance of 2008.

The three were accused of possessing firearms, reorganising the militants of the banned outfit JMB and of anti-state activities.

A Special Branch team from Dhaka arrested them from different areas in Rajshahi and Gazipur districts and seized a one-shooter gun and Islami books from their possession.

The top militant Abdur Rahim alias Shahadat also faces murder and robbery charges.

## Obituary

BSS, Chittagong