

# \$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 Ashrafur 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).

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 Dhanmondi, 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.

It also decided to select councillors for the central council from nine districts where the party council had not been held for several years, if it is not possible to hold the councils there by this time.

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 chief whip.

## 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 Modasser 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 Modasser suspects involvement of a number of people including two former advisers to the last caretaker government Barrister Moinul Hossain and Brig Gen (ret'd) 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.

# 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 Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan 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 certi-

fications 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, former Ducus 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.

Dhaka University started its journey on the first day of July in 1921 with 10 departments. Now this highest seat of learning has 67 departments, eight institutes and 13 faculties.

It had played a key role in different social, economic and political movements of the country, the language movement of 52, mass upheaval of 69, liberation war in 71, fall of autocratic jackboot in 90 and retrieval of democracy in 91.

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.



## Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers 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 Sandwip.

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



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).

The updated law would also provide them an opportunity for equal participation in social, economic, political and cultural activities, they mentioned.

At an view exchange meeting in the LGED auditorium in the city, experts also said very few people get benefit from the law titled 'Bangladesh Persons with Disabilities Welfare Act 2001' as the rights issues are seen from welfare perspective.

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

share the draft law and to include recommendations so that PWDs can use the law as a weapon to ensure their rights.

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.

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.

Secretary General of NFOWD Zoharul Islam Mamun said to ensure rights

of PWDs who constitute 10 percent of the total population, the draft law is prepared in the light of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the constitution.

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.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam stressed the need for creating a PWD-friendly environment along with updating the law.

"Our attitude towards the persons with disabilities should be changed and, at the same time, the domestic law be updated complementing the UN document," she added.

Chaired by NFOWD President Khondoker Zahurul Alam, the discussion was also addressed by Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury, Benazir Ahmed M, Dr Nafisur Rahman and Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan.

## 3 militants placed on five-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court yesterday placed three top organisers of JMB's new offshoot 'Islam O Muslim' on a five-day remand.

The three are the chief of the outfit Abdur Rahim alias Shahadat of Gomostapur in Chapainwaganj, a regional commander Sajedur Rahman alias Hanif of Jhikra, Bagmara, and Bagmara upazila commander Jalal Uddin alias Jalal of Naogaon.

All the three were produced at the court from Rajshahi Central Jail.

"We have received the accused persons from the court and we will start interrogating them from tonight (Saturday)," said Harun-Ur-Rashid, officer-in-charge of Bagmara police station.

The third court of judicial magistrate Asaf-ud-Doula held the hearing of the remand at his courtroom a day earlier considering the importance of the matter, said M 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 (Ka) 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 Islamic books from their possession.

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

## Obituary

BSS, Chittagong

Prof Afzal Matin Siddique, editor of the Daily Purbatara, passed away due to old-age complications at his KB Makhul Hossain Lane residence in Chittagong yesterday at the age of 68.

He left behind his wife, two daughters, one son and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

Prof Afzal also taught at Islamia Degree College in the city and served as honorary magistrate at Chittagong District Collectorate.

## Shamsun Nahar Ruby

METRO DESK

Shamsun Nahar Ruby Hasnat, wife of Dr Abul Hasnat, former dean of faculty of engineering,

Buet, passed away in Los Angeles, California, USA, on July 2, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, four children and a number of grandchildren.

Friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to pray for the departed soul.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 9th death anniversary of Dr AKM Samul Huda, a Language Movement veteran and freedom fighter, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at Mirpur martyrs intellectuals graveyard mosque and food will be distributed among the orphans.

## Razia Begum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Razia Begum, wife of late Advocate Md Wazed Ali, and mother of freedom fighter Rezaul Karim Manik, Bir Pratik, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Bara Maghbazar mosque and at her residence after Asr prayer.

# Dangerous joyrides

FROM PAGE 1

stop the culprits in latest expensive cars to prevent recurrence.

In many cases rich teenagers illegally replace their vehicle's normal exhaust system with a highly noisy system called 'howler' to generate fear for other road users and fun for themselves as they speed through the residential areas in expensive vehicles.

Most have no driver's licence and many are under-aged to qualify for driving.

There are instances when happy-go-lucky drivers are found driving their vehicles on busy thoroughfares with a child on their lap steering the vehicle. This dangerous and illegal manoeuvre takes place without the slightest respect for the traffic laws.

Accidents involving these reckless youngsters and careless drivers often go unreported.

In one recent case a housewife, a mother of three, while returning home sustained serious injuries when the rickshaw she was travelling in was hit by a hit-and-run joy rider from behind.

People who witnessed the

incident said the driver was a very young man accompanied by four others and played loud music from the car's modern stereo system. The black Toyota was fitted with a howler and made enormous noise. As the housewife lay on the road by the damaged rickshaw unconscious from the impact, the joy riders sped off.

Dhanmondi and Gulshan police say most of these kids involved in noisy joyrides in expensive vehicles belong to the top echelon of the society and enjoy some sort of 'unwritten immunity' from the law.

Speaking anonymously, a sub-inspector at Gulshan police station said most of their officers are always overburdened with various other cases and overlook crimes related to traffic.

"I would not bother about a joy-rider recklessly speeding through Gulshan or a driver seating a kid on his lap. I'm constantly busy protecting the VIPs in the area," the SI added.

Shah Alam, officer-in-charge of Dhanmondi police station, had a different story. He said his force is aware of the rising problem with gangs of

youths speeding through the residential areas on expensive cars and motorbikes.

"Last week we arrested six youths on powerful motorbikes who were creating public nuisance in the area and prosecuted them," he said.

Following reports of accidents and public nuisance, all police patrol teams in Dhanmondi have been instructed to clamp down on the joy-riders or any suspicious looking vehicles.

"We arrested several young drivers over the last few days, summoned their parents to the station and asked them to remove the howler exhausts and then released them on cautionary notes and made them sign an undertaking before leaving," Shah Alam said.

According to the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority and Traffic Department officials, it is forbidden under the Motor Vehicle Ordinance, 1983 to alter any parts of the vehicle without permission from the engineers involved in issuance of fitness certificates.

It is also forbidden to do anything while driving that may distract the driver.

# Nurses missing in medicare

FROM PAGE 16

Sheikh Hasina in 2000 gave directives to promote the senior staff nurses giving pay scale equivalent to 2nd class employees, it was not implemented. In 2003, those nurses were promoted only as staff nurses. However, there is no post of staff nurse under the nurse recruitment rules.

Shortage of teachers is common in some 34 public nursing institutes and four nursing colleges when the private nursing institutes are struggling to manage part time teachers from the public institutes or retired teachers.

The nurses have no opportunity of doing post graduation degree under public initiative. Only a very few of them can do Masters of Public Health (MPH) from National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM). It is possible to initiate masters degree under Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical

University (BSMMU) to ensure quality nursing in the country, experts say.

Vice-chancellor of BSMMU Pran Gopal Datta told The Daily Star that a proposal has been made to establish a nursing faculty at the university and it would be submitted to the BNC within a short time.

Besides, due to lax monitoring of BNC, a huge number of nurses are working in different private clinics and hospitals without taking any licence from it.

BNC is well aware of the illegal practice of the nurses and steps will be taken in this regard, said BNC Registrar Shamsunnahar adding that BNC has the power of taking action against the illegal practitioners with provisions of jail and fine.

But an illegal practitioner or hospital is yet to be given punishment, she said.

Many hospitals in the city, including Shamaria, Central

Hospital and Kumudini Hospital, are recruiting nurses who have no formal training or licence from BNC. They are provided with a 'name only' three-month long training by the hospitals, BNC sources said.

"A significant number of private hospitals are trying to get licences from the BNC for their semi-trained nurses but it won't provide them the license anyway," the BNC registrar said.

Nursing is now an unattractive profession due to government's indifferent attitude towards giving them incentives and recognition, sources said.

Sufficient number of teachers, development of teaching methods, good environment and coordination among the government bodies are necessary for developing the quality of the nurses, experts say. They stress the need for strengthening the BNC and DNS.