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## OMS of rice in divisional HQs soon

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government yesterday decided to expand open market sales (OMS) of rice to all divisional headquarters soon and increase the number of dealers from 70 to 100 in the capital from today.

"In each divisional city, 25 tonnes of rice will be sold at Tk 22 a kilogram through 25 dealers. If necessary, the number of dealers will also be increased in the divisional headquarters," said an official handout of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management.

The decision was taken at a high level meeting at the ministry with Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque in the chair.

The move comes after the recent OMS in the capital, Gazipur, Narsingdi, Munshiganj and Narayanganj has made little impact on lowering the coarse rice prices as it is still being sold at Tk 26-28 a kg.

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## Stop dumping in Buriganga

*Authorities urged at citizens' rally*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Stopping Dhaka City Corporation from dumping rubbish into the river and moving tanneries from Hazaribagh would solve half the pollution problem of the Buriganga, said speakers at a citizens' meeting.

The Dhaka Citizens Right and environmental group Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) organised the meeting at the Sadarghat Launch Terminal yesterday under the banner "Buriganga, Government Initiatives and Public Opinion".

Members of parliament, ministers, environmentalists, ward councillors, an upazila chairman and several hundred members of the Sadarghat-based labour unions and transport workers joined the meeting.

Hasan Mahmud, state minister for environment and forest and chief guest of the meeting, urged people of the area to come forward and help save the rivers for which the government would extend all cooperation.

"Our country is one of the most densely populated in the world. We have to work on waste management and many other aspects. This is a serious challenge and we will overcome it," he said, adding that his ministry will soon release Tk 24.90 crore of the Climate Change Trust Fund for cleaning the rivers around Dhaka.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, president of Bapa, alleged that the list prepared by the deputy commissioners based on the Revised

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Workers constructing a jetty at Shyambazar of Farashganj in the capital yesterday dump soil into the Buriganga when authorities concerned are conducting a drive to clean up the river. Dumping of garbage in the river goes unabated despite campaigns to save the lifeline of Dhaka. PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

## Ratna shoots 2 golds for hosts

**SPORTS REPORTER**

There was conviction when Bangladesh won their first gold in the 11th South Asian Games on Monday. But the efforts of three young shooters led by a magnificent Sharmin Akhter Ratna were as pure as 24-carat gold at the National Shooting Range in Gulshan yesterday.

Ratna rewrote the Games history by winning the women's 10m air rifle gold with a fabulous score of 499.4 out of 509.

The 21-year-old lass from Magura also won the 10m air rifle team event gold along with Syeda Sadia Sultana and Tripti Datta in a nail-biting contest on what was the opening day of the shooting competition.

Ratna's double delight and Sadia's silver in both the individual and team events were



Sharmin Akhter Ratna

something no one had expected, especially after a disappointing performance by the men's team.

Ratna was right to say after an effort that no other shooter of the country has achieved before that the sports fraternity would now notice her like another fine sports person from

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## BOTANICAL GARDEN HC orders status quo in setting up dredge pipe

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The High Court yesterday directed the government to maintain status quo for four weeks on setting up a dredge pipe through the national botanical garden and Dhaka Zoo.

The HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Borhan Uddin also issued a rule upon the government to explain within two weeks why setting up of this pipe should not be declared illegal.

The bench came up with the order upon a writ petition

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## GRAFT AT BANGABANDHU MEDICAL JS probe suggests sacking of 313 staff

**MAHBUBA ZANNAT**

Some 313 employees including 42 teachers and 61 consultants of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University may lose their jobs or posts as per the recommendation of the parliamentary sub-committee formed to investigate massive corruption at the university.

The parliamentary sub-committee submitted its report to the parliamentary standing committee on January 27.

The report says the investigation found the recruitments of those employees along with 198 medical and 12 administrative officers were not in accordance with the rule.

The sub-committee recommended legal steps against the then president of the selection board, members and member secretary.

It said some 79 people were promoted in

violation of rule and recommended their cancellation.

Following the allegation of massive corruption in procurement, recruitment irregularities and other administrative anomalies during the period of 2001-2008 the parliamentary committee was formed on June 7 last year.

Prior to this, two more investigation committees had been formed to investigate corruption and irregularities at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

The committee formed on May 6, 2007 headed by Prof Nazrul Islam submitted its report in July with 80 recommendations. The other committee was formed with the former director general of the Directorate General of Health Services Shahjahan Biswas that submitted its report in November the same year.

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## Booklovers throng fair venue

**NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN**

Crowds of curious booklovers flocked to Bangla Academy yesterday for the second day of the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela.

Booksellers are reportedly expecting huge crowds to attend the national book fair over the next few days.

Law enforcers were kept on their toes throughout the afternoon as visitors poured in through the two entry points to the fair.

Thirty-seven new books covering a wide range of genres, including novels, poetry, essays, research texts, biographies, and accounts of the

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## Fake revenue stamps on sale

*Tk 30 lakh stamps seized, 2 held*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Rapid Action Battalion seized fake revenue stamps, court fee stamps and non-judicial stamps worth around Tk 30 lakh and arrested two persons including a stamp vendor yesterday from the capital's Motijheel area.

Rab also recovered Tk 41,118 from their possession.

Nurul Alam Majumder, 50, a stamp vendor (license no-67/2000) and Shakil Ahmed, 27, an employee of stamp vendor Dhiren Rajbongshi (license no-203/2001) were held from their stamp sales centres adjacent to the industries ministry in Motijheel.

Major MM Shafiqur Rahman of Rab-3 told The Daily Star that they arrested the two in guise of buyers and seized fake stamps at around 1:00pm.

He said when they sent one of their members in guise of fake

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## REVISED ADP 29pc cut in power sector allocation

**REJAUL KARIM BYRON**

In the revised Annual Development Programme (ADP) of the current fiscal year the government is going to cut the allocation for the power sector by 29 percent, as many projects in the sector could not progress as expected.

Due to the same reason, allocations for many other important sectors like health and transport will also be slashed. Allocations for agriculture and water resources sectors will however be increased in the revised ADP.

The original allocation for the power sector in the current fiscal year was Tk 3,574 crore which will be brought down to Tk 2,528 crore.

Planning ministry sources said in the first six months of this fiscal year the Power Division could spend only 22 percent of its total allocation.

In the original ADP, 11 power generation projects were approved for implementation, comprising setting up of new plants and rehabilitating some old ones.

Tender processes for only two new plants have been completed so far, while the processes for the rest have started but yet to get to the final stages, although those were supposed to be completed within 2009.

The new power plants for which the tender processes are yet to be finished are Shikabaha

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## BCL men stop admission again

*Stick to demand for 'political quota' at Dhaka College*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Bangladesh Chhatra League men yesterday halted interview of first year honours admission at Sathkhira City College for about half an hour demanding a "political quota" and continued barring holding of interview at Dhaka College.

Meanwhile, the admission process at Kushtia Government College resumed yesterday, a day after it was halted by BCL.

Moreover, the council of teachers of Dhaka College held an emergency meeting yesterday and decided to suspend all admission activities today.

Witnesses said some BCL workers, loyal to its Dhaka College unit President Sagir Ahmed and General Secretary Tutul, entered its hall room and stopped the interview process soon

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## BCL factions clash at DU

*Cops among 25 hurt*

**DU CORRESPONDENT**

A fierce clash between two factions of the Bangladesh Chhatra League at Dhaka University injured at least 25 people yesterday, including seven policemen and a journalist.

Sources said the fight erupted around 2:15am when a supporter of Hall Unit President Saiduzzaman Faruk allegedly hit General Secretary Mehedi Hasan over the head with an iron rod in the Sir AF Rahman Hall.

Faruk had allegedly angered Mehedi by distributing seats to

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## Quit if city tailback not reduced

*Lawmaker tells communications boss at JS*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Ruling Awami League lawmaker Prof Nazma Akhtar yesterday said in parliament that the minister and bureaucrats of the ministry concerned should resign if they

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## Efficient lighting scheme to save 500MW

*Ecneec okays project targeting June next year*

**UNB, Dhaka**

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) has approved a project titled Efficient Lighting Initiative for Bangladesh with an aim to save some 500-megawatt electricity by June next year.

The Ecneec at a meeting held in the NEC Conference Room yesterday with its alternate chairman Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair also approved seven other development projects.

Of Tk 1,532 crore for eight projects, Tk 830 crore will come as project aid while Tk 702 crore from government exchequer.

The Efficient Lighting Initiative for Bangladesh (Part-I & Part-II) project under the power division will be implemented at a cost of Tk 279 crore, including government of Bangladesh (GoB) amount of only Tk 3 crore.

The rest of the project cost of around Tk 276 crore will come from the World Bank as soft loan.

The Rural Electrification Board is the lead implementing agency of the project while PDB, DESCO, DPDC and WZPDCL are the other implementing agencies.

Under the first part of the project (August 2009-June 2010), some 1.05 crore Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL) will be distributed free of cost among the PDB, DESCO, DPDC and WZPDCL residential consumers replacing their incandescent lamps, which is expected to save around 200MW power in the evening (6:00 pm to 10:00 pm).

In the second part of the project (July 2010 to June 2011), some 1.75 crore CFL bulbs will be distributed among the PDB, DESCO, DPDC, WZPDCL consumers, which is also expected to save around another 300MW electricity during

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**OnlinePoll** ✓

Do you think dividing Dhaka into seven zones for staggered holidays for shops, malls and business establishments will have a positive impact on the traffic congestion?

Yes (56.4%)  
No (42.3%)  
No Comments (1.3%)

**Total votes: 1133**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think the ruling Awami League is not taking any steps intentionally to restrict Chhatra League from various criminal activities?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

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