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7,000MW by 2013

PM also pledges electricity for all by 2020

UNB, Sylhet

Mentioning power as the driving force for the development, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina promised yesterday to ensure electricity for all within 2020 while unveiling the plaque of newly-built 51 megawatt rental power plant at Fenchuganj of Sylhet.

Blaming the past governments for nagging power crisis in the country, she said her government inherited acute crises of power, gas, water and food as well as global economic recession while assuming power.

She alleged that the last BNP-led four-party government was engaged in plundering public money in the name of making of electric poles.

"There were only poles but no electricity connection though demand for power was increasing day by day," the prime minister said.

Saying that the government worked for the last 14 months for the power sector's development, she listed her government's various efforts to free

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Now it's turn for trading co

No experience, still wants to set up power plant

SHARIER KHAN

The power ministry is now pressing for an unsolicited deal to generate 70 megawatt electricity, this time with a 'trading company' located in Baitul Aman residential area in the capital.

Though an unsolicited deal goes against the existing policy, the ministry has gone for it following Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's call for any quickest possible solution to ease persisting load-shedding situation that has almost crippled public life and businesses at the start of summer.

The ministry, which on March 18 forwarded the trading company's proposal to the Power Development Board (PDB) for its opinion, is promoting the deal mainly for the "low" tariff proposal, forgetting once more the experience aspect of a bidder.

The latest move came on the heels of the government's frustrating experience with rookie rental power companies that failed to deliver as yet after winning contracts with "low" tariff proposal.

Sources say the authorities like in the past are once again downplaying the background and

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Manpower outflow at low ebb

Regulatory flaws, anomalies in recruitment cause continued fall despite recovery from global meltdown

PORIMOL PALMA

The manpower outflow continues to dip, as major importing countries are reluctant to hire workers from Bangladesh despite their economies showing signs of recovery from the financial crisis.

Regulatory loopholes and unscrupulous recruiting agencies are partly to blame. The country sent 60,896 people in January and February this year, averaging the monthly figure of 30,448. The monthly average figure of migrants was 39,606 in 2009, way down from 72,921 a year ago.

According to the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training, about 8.75 lakh people left for overseas jobs in 2008,

which plummeted to 4.75 lakh in 2009.

The global economic recession caused a significant decline in manpower export last year. This year when some countries have already started hiring workers, Bangladesh is lagging because of what recruiters and experts say is a lack of comprehensive approach to address labour-related problems and promote markets.

Around 6 million Bangladeshi expatriates sent a home record \$9.69 billion last fiscal year. Remittance helps the country maintain its balance of payments. The government and private sector businesses believe a decline in remittances would cost them heavily.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Malaysia, Kuwait and Singapore are the major markets for Bangladesh's workers. The KSA and Kuwait have kept their doors almost shut for long, apparently due to anomalies in recruitment process.

The KSA, home to over 1.5 million Bangladeshis, hired 14,666 workers and Kuwait only 10 jobseekers last year.

A Bangladesh delegation led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited KSA last year and Kuwait recently when manpower figured prominently in the talks, but there was no progress.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas

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DB defends Star, Alo report

Bins in a rejoinder Kaler Kantha claim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Kaler Kantha yesterday in a report headlined "Duti patrikar oti utshaha o DB police karmakartar kirti" said The

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WARD COUNCILLOR KILLING

Cops issue notice

Ask Bashundhara chief to show up April 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday summoned Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam to appear before investigators on April 11 in connection with the Dhaka City Corporation ward councillor Ahmed Hossain killing case.

Shah Alam was asked to appear at the Minto Road office of the Detective Branch after Nazimuddin, chairman of Keraniganj Shuvaddah Union Parishad, mentioned the Bashundhara Group chairman's name to investigators.

Nazimuddin, who was arrested and placed

on remand Monday, told investigators that he hired Dakat Shahid for Tk 50 lakh to have Ahmed Hossain eliminated for obstructing Shah Alam from buying an LPG cylinder factory in Hasnabad in Keraniganj.

Ahmed Hossain and Nazimuddin were both major shareholders of the factory, Pak-Bangladesh Household Manufacturing Ltd.

Ahmed was gunned down on February 9 at Alubazar in Old Dhaka as he was about to leave a mosque after saying prayers.

DB Assistant Commissioner Sanwar Hossain said Nazimuddin was a close aide of Shah Alam and was given a well-furnished

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Schoolgirl takes her life for teasing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unremitting teasing by local youths led yet another schoolgirl to kill herself at Madhya Nandipara in the city yesterday.

Umme Kulsum Elora, 14, ended her life by swallowing pesticides in their house at around 3:00pm.

She was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where she died a little after 4:00pm.

A class eight student of Dakkhin Banasri Model High School, Elora had been bearing the torment of street harassment by Rezaul Karim, 19, and his friends for over a year.

They would disturb her over phone as well. The girl's parents had taken the matter up with the local leaders and Rezaul's parents, but



Umme Kulsum Elora

to no avail. In a late night development, police arrested Rezaul at around 12:40am. In primary interrogation, he claimed he had a relationship with Elora, said Sub-inspector Aslam Hossain of Khilgaon Police Station told The Daily Star at 1:20am.

Earlier in the evening, Elora's mother Halima Begum was wailing and pulling at her daughter's body at DMCH.

"I went from door to door pleading for help to save my daughter from Rezaul, but no-one did anything," she said as tears streamed down her face.

Elora was the youngest of three daughters

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Tk 5 lakh snatched from trader

A gang of six claiming to be Rab men commit the hold-up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six men identifying themselves as Rab personnel snatched Tk 5.4 lakh from a cloth trader in Keraniganj yesterday.

In a similar incident on Friday night, a constable posing as a sub-inspector took away Tk 4 lakh from a money exchanger at Shahjalal International Airport.

The airport police however held constable Aminul and recovered the money within four hours.

In Keraniganj, six armed men waylaid cloth trader Rabiullah and his assistant Lokman at Konakhola around 2:30pm yesterday, said locals and police sources.

The two were going home in a human haulier from Nayabazar.

Claiming to be members of the Rapid Action Battalion, the group of six asked the human haulier's passengers to get down for a body search.

After they found Tk 5.4 lakh on Rabiul and Lokman, they took

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