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# Govt seeks 600MW from rental by Aug

PM to review power project progress today

SHARIEF KHAN

Irrked by the power ministry's failure to make much headway in new power project implementation, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sits today at the power and energy ministry to review progress of existing schemes, sources say.

The power ministry would make a presentation on the progress and how it could quickly minimise the ongoing load-shedding scenario, partially worsened due to rental power projects failure.

To minimise the load-shedding, the prime minister has already directed the ministry to take up any measure to quickly implement some power projects for short-terms.

The ministry has accordingly decided to invite unsolicited offers from international rental power companies instead of novice local companies, which had failed to deliver in due time.

But to get benefits from such unsolicited deals, the government would have to make exclusive decisions.

This is being considered as the only practical solution to the existing power crisis.

International professional rental power companies can install 500-600 megawatt power generation system within four months.

"If the prime minister and the purchase committee approve of such deals, we can conclude some deals within this month so that we can reduce the level of load-shedding by July-August," comments a top Power Development Board (PDB) source.

However, these deals will have duration of six to nine months, the source adds.

Sources say the Power Division will seek the premier's approval for modification of the existing procurement policy to accommodate the unsolicited deals.

Local power companies having no experience had bagged all but one rental power projects in different tenders. But all of them failed to deliver power in time. The PDB's last year bid to award eight rental power contracts totalling

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## Baby girl molested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

She is just three years old, yet she had to go through the most inhuman experience as an unknown pervert violated her at an abandoned house in the city's Uttar Khan area on Tuesday.

The victim was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Police detained a youth of the area on suspicion.

The child lives with her domestic help mother and paralysed rickshaw-puller father in Ambagan area of Abdullahpur.

Her condition was stated to be still critical after a team of four DMCH doctors operated on her yesterday morning.

The girl's mother filed a case with police, accusing detained youth Shahin and his brother Nayan alias "Langra" Nayan who is now on the run.

Locals staged an angry demonstration and held rallies yesterday, demanding

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## AUDIT REPORTS

# PAC hopes to clear backlog by this year

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Jatiya Sangsad has stepped up efforts to clear a huge backlog of unresolved audit reports piled up since fiscal year 1972-73 by disposing of the objections to those within this year, committee members said.

Four sub-committees formed by the PAC in May last year has started submitting their recommendations for disposal of the audit objections made from FY 1972-73 to 2005-06.

On scrutiny of the objections at a series of meetings, the sub-committees are recommending realising the money from people responsible for the financial damage caused, or settling the objections, committee officials said.

"It is possible to get rid of the backlog of audit reports this year if we can work properly," Ali Ashraf, who heads a sub-committee, told this correspondent yesterday.

Since 1972-73, around 1,000 audit reports involving thousands of crore taka were placed before parliament. But only 206 reports were

discussed till expiry of tenure of the last eighth parliament.

In another development, the PAC yesterday decided to meet almost every working day to expedite disposal of the unresolved objections till FY 2005-2006 so that it can scrutinise audit on recent expenditures.

"We asked the office of comptroller and auditor general (CAG) to update audit reports as far as possible. We want to examine recent expenditures of public money," PAC Chairman Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir said, when contacted after its meeting yesterday.

The office of CAG is yet to furnish reports after FY-2005-06.

"We observed that the reports are mostly superficial lacking substantial information. So, we asked the CAG to compile reports primarily based on performance of various ministries and government departments," the committee chief said.

The PAC yesterday asked the office of CAG to inform it in 15 days about compliance of

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## Stalker beaten to death in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The man who was severely beaten on Tuesday allegedly for stalking a girl in Mirpur upazila of the district succumbed to his injuries yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was Asadul Islam alias Asha, 30, son of Moslem Uddin of Atigram village of the upazila.

According to police, Asadul

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## High-rises must have solar panel

Says JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday suggested formulating a law making it mandatory to install solar panels on high-rise buildings to be built from now on.

The parliamentary standing committee on public undertakings also cautioned power and energy ministry and other authorities about their duties.

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Sultana Kamal, executive director of human rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra, hands over some documented evidence of war crimes to Chief Investigator Abdul Matin, at the latter's office in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

## WAR CRIMES TRIAL Probe agency gets more evidence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a human rights organisation, and Muktiyoddha Sangsad Central Command Council yesterday handed over documented evidence of war crimes to the chief of the investigation agency.

ASK Executive Director Sultana Kamal handed over various documents including a documentary titled "Al Badr", a book named "Juddhaparadh" and reports on women repression in 1971 to the Chief Investigator Abdul Matin at his office.

She also gave a gazette notification issued by the then Pakistani government on the formation and duties of razakars (collaborators)

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# Free textbooks boost school enrolment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The enrolment rate in the primary and secondary schools has projected a significant rise, thanks to the distribution of free textbooks to primary and secondary level students this year.

The government printed and distributed around 18.68 crore free textbooks to 2.76 crore students of primary and secondary schools, for the first time.

According to the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), the demand has risen to 23 crore textbooks for the academic year 2011, which indicates that previously many students could not attend school due to their inability to buy textbooks.

At an inter-ministerial meeting at the education ministry yesterday, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, who presided over the meeting, directed the NCTB to print 22.87 crore textbooks by August 31 for distribution.

"No excuses will be accepted at all in this regard," Nahid said. Nahid said the laws for which printing and distribution are delayed would be amended if needed and asked NCTB to inform the ministry about its manpower by next Monday.

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## Threat to 'blow up' JS bhaban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man threatened Speaker Abdul Hamid and his deputy Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali of blowing up the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban when the house is in session to kill everyone in there.

Hailing from ward-1 of Valuka, Mymensingh, he identified himself as Mohsin and sent two letters to speaker's and deputy speaker's parliament offices Monday.

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## GULSHAN MURDERS Rubel's uncle arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday arrested Md Rubel's maternal uncle who allegedly provided Rubel with the firearm to kill the parents of a schoolgirl at Gulshan in the city on March 24.

Detective Branch of Police Additional Deputy Commissioner Mollah Nazrul Islam said they arrested Altaf Hossain at Rupsi of

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# Thai protesters storm parliament building

Emergency declared in Bangkok

AP, AFP, Bangkok

Emboldened anti-government protesters briefly stormed Thailand's Parliament building yesterday as lawmakers scaled walls to flee and a Black Hawk helicopter evacuated VIPs trapped by the encircling crowd, officials said.

"Red Shirt" protesters led by one of their hardcore leaders smashed through the Parliament compound gate with a truck and

rushed to the second floor while Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban and other lawmakers were still inside. But the protesters later withdrew from the building at the request of opposition lawmakers.

Thailand's prime minister declared a state of emergency in the capital and surrounding areas Wednesday in response to escalating anti-government protests.

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## NOTICE

Bangladesh International Tutorial (B.I.T.) regrets that the grades of these students were not correctly given for the special supplement of 11th Daily Star O' and A'Level Award Ceremony published on 31 March this year. Hence, we give out the correct results.

Reaz Uddin Ahmed



6As in A'Level (June 2008 - June 2009)

Afrid Alavee Sarker



5As in A'Level (June 2008 - June 2009)

E.V.G. Rochani Anurica Wimalakantha



4As in A'Level (June 2008 - June 2009)

Abu Shoaib Khan



4As in A'Level (June 2008 - June 2009)

Maruf Haider



4As in A'Level (June 2008 - June 2009)

Md. Sunny Alam



4As in A'Level (June 2008 - June 2009)



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## OnlinePoll

Do you think the government's decision to extend the term of the Speedy Trial Act by two years for effective and fast dealing with crimes is a correct decision?

- Yes (43.8%)
- No (46.1%)
- No Comments (10.1%)

Total votes: 436

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government has wasted its first year in terms of solving the power crisis?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

## Prayer Timing

April 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-24
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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