

Women must not be forced to wear veils
It's their personal choice, declares HC
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday in a ruling said none can force women, working at public and private educational institutions, to wear veils or cover their heads against their wills. The court directed the education ministry to ensure the execution of its order. It is their personal choice if they wear scarves or cover their heads, the court said. The HC asked the education secretary to make sure that women are not harassed

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Cleaver wielding ruling party cadres chase a man who went to the Public Works Department, Dinajpur to drop tender documents for a Tk 14 crore construction project yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Murder too over tender

1 killed, 20 hurt as BCL, Jubo League clash in Panchagarh, Dinajpur; 1 beaten to death over document submission

STAR REPORT
 A Bangladesh Chhatra League activist was killed and 20 people were injured yesterday in factional clashes among ruling party men over submission of bid documents in Panchagarh and Dinajpur. Also in Chittagong, an electrical engineer was beaten dead on Wednesday night allegedly by Jubo League men after a bidding dispute. Police said two groups of BCL and Jubo League activists got into an altercation at Panchagarh Upazila Nirbah

Office shortly before 12:30pm, as both tried to turn in bid documents to lease 10 government ponds. The situation hurtled into gangland violence as the Jubo League men attacked BCL activists with sharp weapons, leaving 11 people injured. Faruk Hossain, 17, organising secretary of ward-1 BCL unit and son of Akbar Ali of Mithapukur village, bled to death on his way to Thakurgaon hospital at about 2:30pm. Liton, 24, son of Rezaul Karim, and Aminul Islam, 24, son of Syed Ali of Jalashi village, and others were taken to

Panchagarh Sadar Hospital with wounds. Later, angry BCL men attacked the house of district AL leader Toyabur Rahman. They barricaded Panchagarh-Tentulia road for hours. In the port city of Chittagong, Jubo League cadres allegedly beat to death Sanjit Das, electrical engineer of Holy Zipper Garments in Kalurghat, and son of Nirmol Kanti Das of Patiya upazila. Police early yesterday arrested tea vendor Jahurul Islam with links to the murder.

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PM okays 600MW urgent rental power

Unhappy with poor implementation; emphasises quality power projects; forms committee for fast implementation

SHARIER KHAN
 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday approved a power ministry proposal for urgent installation of power plants with a total production capacity of 500 to 600 megawatt by July-August on the basis of unsolicited negotiation with international rental power companies having wide ranging experiences, said a highly placed source in the ministry. To spearhead this scheme and to negotiate

with the international companies, the PM also formed a high-powered committee headed by the power secretary and comprised of representatives from the Power Development Board, National Board of Revenue, law ministry, power ministry and the Prime Minister's Office. She took the steps when she sat at the power ministry for around four hours to review the progress of a large number of power projects initiated by the government since last year.

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Obama to show Bangladesh as model of food security
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US President Barack Obama has selected Bangladesh as a model for food security and will present it in the next G-8 summit. In that light, the US will provide Bangladesh with a good portion of the assistance of \$100 million pledged for food security of the developing nations, said US Agriculture Attaché David Leishman to Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque at his office yesterday.

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Rental plant starts 17 months after time

SHEIKH MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Brahmanbaria
 After 17 months of delay, local company Precision Energy Limited (PEL) at last began commercial power generation from its 55-megawatt gas fired rental power plant at Ashuganj in Brahmanbaria yesterday. The Ashuganj project was supposed to come into operation on October 27, 2008 under a three-year contract with Power Development Board (PDB). It has already exhausted almost half the contract period. After bagging the deal in mid-2008 posing as a rental power company with power plant equipment and investment ready for this project, PEL couldn't proceed with the scheme for many months. At one point, the company told the PDB it had been unable to arrange loan for the project. After repeated warnings of PDB to cancel this deal, the government gave the company an ultimate deadline of March 31, 2009 for finishing the project. The PEL failed to do so and didn't give the PDB adequate liquidated damage for the failure.

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Markets to be shut at 7pm

Can be kept open with own electricity
UNB, Dhaka
 All shopping malls and markets in the capital will now be kept shut at 7:00pm every day until further order to tackle the present power crisis. Beyond 7:00pm, owners of shopping malls and markets may operate their businesses by arranging electricity on their own. The decision came at a meeting of the Power Ministry yesterday at the Secretariat in presence of Prime Minister

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Lashkar organiser captured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested a Pakistani national in the capital suspecting him to be an organiser in Bangladesh of Pakistan-based outlawed outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The arrestee, Mobashwer Shahid Mubin alias Yahia, 25, got involved with LeT in 1998 and came to Bangladesh in guise of a buying house businessman in 2006, Rab legal and media wing director Commander Mohammad Sohail told a press briefing yesterday. Sources say Yahia was first held by an intelligence agency from Shahjalal International Airport area in December 2008 on his way to Pakistan. Later on January 6 last year he was handed over to airport police and shown arrested in a currency counter-feit case. Before his arrest, Yahia was working for recruiting local

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Mobashwer Shahid Mubin alias Yahia

Police not yet finding violent stalker, proof

Family, classmates, locals tell how schoolgirl Pinky harassed for 2 years; burnt to death in the end

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN with TAFSILUL AZIZ back from Tarail

Before she died of severe burn injuries, the girl on her deathbed said her stalker had doused her with kerosene and set her on fire.

Scores of local residents including classmates of the 16-year-old girl talk about the way the young man used to stalk and harass her everyday. Yet the investigator of the case says he found no evidence that the alleged perpetrator used to pester and torment the class nine student.



Pinky

Not only that, Syed Mannan Ali, officer-in-charge (OC) of Tarail police station, the area where the incident took place, even went on to depict the stalker as an "illiterate simpleton". Pinky, the victim, died on April 5 after his stalker Tabarak poured kerosene on her, and set her on fire. Before her death, she told her mother that it was Tabarak who had set her on fire, and he had been stalking her for quite some time.

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