

# PM okays 600MW

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Frustrated with the poor performance of project implementation agencies under the power ministry, the prime minister emphasised quality instead of just low prices in securing power deals.

She asked the authorities to expand existing power deals with companies performing well so that they could increase power generation. "The prime minister expressed her satisfaction with our planning of different power projects. But she expressed her unhappiness with their implementation," said the power ministry source.

The ministry made a presentation on the on-going and upcoming power projects, and pinpointed some problems that were slowing down the implementation process.

It also sought the PM's decision on a speedy approval process for power projects. "We have suggested that different ministries and agencies involved in the approval process of a power project be brought to a single table to speed up implementation. Such agencies include the finance ministry or the planning ministry. The PM has agreed to this proposal," the source added.

The premier also asked the ministry to expedite power tenders which are gathering dust due to inefficiency of different agencies or other bureaucratic tangles. But the meeting did not discuss anything about influence of powerful lobbies which are responsible for slowing down some power projects.

The PM asked officials why PDB's latest bid to ensure 530 MW of rental power failed. She said if PDB could ensure the bids from qualified companies, the country would not have faced so much power crisis now.

The power secretary then told the PM that as per the government's procurement regulations, the authorities had to award contracts to the lowest bidders even if they were not competent enough for the job.

Sheikh Hasina also discussed with the one-year old tender for a 300 MW power project in Siddhirganj funded by the World Bank had become totally uncertain due to opposing stance of the tender authorities Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh (EGCB) and the WB. The WB had imposed a condition that it would not fund the project if the selected bidder used Siemens equipment till the end of 2010.

The WB was investigating a corruption charge against Siemens. But the EGCB wanted to award this contract to a Chinese company that uses Siemens equipment. The PM noted that Siemens had become controversial and therefore the authorities should avoid awarding contracts that would benefit Siemens.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and agriculture department of the US are working to provide the assistance, said a food ministry press release.

Leishman, the US attaché for Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, said the food management system in Bangladesh is impressive, but the country takes a lot of time in floating tenders to import food, which discourages other countries to bid.

"Food prices change rapidly in the international market. If Bangladesh cuts time in floating tender, more and more countries and exporters can participate in the bidding," he told the minister. The US will help Bangladesh enhance its capacity for food security and agriculture, Leishman said.

He, however, mentioned the US does not provide food grains free of cost, except for specific programmes like feeding of school children. Abdur Razzaque said the country has seen an increase in food production, but it is yet to achieve autarchy. However, the government is working to that end, he noted.

The bench yesterday asked the secretary to transfer upazila education officer Arif Hamed who made the offensive remark on Sultana Arjuman Huq, headmistress of Atmaram Bishweshwar Government Primary School. Earlier in January this year Arif apologised to Arjuman before the HC and the court acquitted him of the charge, as Anjuman pardoned him.

The daily Shamokal on June 26 last year reported that Upazila Education Officer of Kurigram Arif Ahmed had called Sultana Arjuman Huq 'Beshya' (prostitute) at an open meeting in the upazila auditorium on June 25.

Anjuman felt insulted and became sick after the incident, there reported said. Following the report, Salahuddin Dolon, a Supreme Court lawyer, filed a writ petition seeking HC directive upon the government to take action against the accused and to prevent harassment of women working at educational institutions.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Service Trust later became a party to the petition. Barrister Sara Hossain appeared for the petitioner.

She also discussed the slow progress of Bibiyana 450 MW, Sirajganj 450 MW, Khulna 150 MW and Sirajganj 150 MW power projects.

Later in the day, the newly formed committee on urgent rental power held a meeting with British company Aggreko for installing a 100 MW power plant for six to nine months. Further discussions will be held next week, sources said.

The power ministry has also contacted US companies General Electric and Alstom Rental, and some other international companies. All of them have experience of installing and operating at least 2,000 MW rental power plants.

"We aim at concluding some deals within this month or early next month so that these rental power schemes can start partial operation by late May or early June," said a top official of the PDB.

## SQ Chy cannot go abroad

HC order in his favour stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed the High Court order for a week that directed the government to allow BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury to go abroad.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Md Muzammel Hossain passed the order upon a petition filed by the government against the HC verdict.

Attorney General Mahubey Alam prayed to the court to stay the HC order and permit the government to file a regular leave to appeal petition with the apex court against the HC order.

He told the court that Salauddin is a suspected war criminal, and a process of trying the war criminals is underway.

If he is allowed to go abroad, he may not return home to avoid the trial, Mahubey Alam said.

The HC on November 24 last year asked the government to allow Salauddin to go abroad for two months, which the court extended to three months on January 18 this year.

Advocate Shah Manjurul Hoque stood for Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

## Obama

FROM PAGE 1

A food ministry official said the decision was taken on the basis that the country showed efficiency in handling food crisis in the periods after the natural disasters.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and agriculture department of the US are working to provide the assistance, said a food ministry press release.

Leishman, the US attaché for Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, said the food management system in Bangladesh is impressive, but the country takes a lot of time in floating tenders to import food, which discourages other countries to bid.

"Food prices change rapidly in the international market. If Bangladesh cuts time in floating tender, more and more countries and exporters can participate in the bidding," he told the minister. The US will help Bangladesh enhance its capacity for food security and agriculture, Leishman said.

He, however, mentioned the US does not provide food grains free of cost, except for specific programmes like feeding of school children. Abdur Razzaque said the country has seen an increase in food production, but it is yet to achieve autarchy. However, the government is working to that end, he noted.

The bench yesterday asked the secretary to transfer upazila education officer Arif Hamed who made the offensive remark on Sultana Arjuman Huq, headmistress of Atmaram Bishweshwar Government Primary School.

Earlier in January this year Arif apologised to Arjuman before the HC and the court acquitted him of the charge, as Anjuman pardoned him.

The daily Shamokal on June 26 last year reported that Upazila Education Officer of Kurigram Arif Ahmed had called Sultana Arjuman Huq 'Beshya' (prostitute) at an open meeting in the upazila auditorium on June 25.

Anjuman felt insulted and became sick after the incident, there reported said. Following the report, Salahuddin Dolon, a Supreme Court lawyer, filed a writ petition seeking HC directive upon the government to take action against the accused and to prevent harassment of women working at educational institutions.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Service Trust later became a party to the petition. Barrister Sara Hossain appeared for the petitioner.

He added they need at least three acres of land for the plant.

# MOLESTATION Baby girl out of danger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-year-old girl, who was violated by an unknown pervers in the city's Uttar Khan on Tuesday and later admitted to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, is now out of danger.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, the doctors also said that sample has been collected from the victim for forensic DNA testing to identify the criminal.

Meanwhile, police arrested Shahin against whom the girl's mother has filed a case in connection with the incident.

Police already started quizzing Shahin after a Dhaka Court granted one-day remand for him yesterday, said Uttar Khan police.

Sub-Inspector Yunus Khandker of the police station said that they are searching for the other teenaged suspect Nayan, also brother of Shahin.

The Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association appointed a lawyer at the One Stop Crisis Centre of the DMCH for her legal aid.

## Take action

FROM PAGE 16

endorsed a 246-page probe report of the sub-committee and made the recommendations.

The committee also recommended cancelling appointment of 313 staff including teachers, consultants and medical officers as they were appointed illegally during the time.

Of the 313, 42 are teachers while 61 consultants, 198 medical officers and 12 officers.

"The committee also suggested taking stern actions against the chairman, members and member-secretary of the selection board, chief of the central purchase committee and its member-secretary and members and depositing the money to the university fund after realising it," Selim, chief of the committee, told reporters.

The committee also asked the authority concerned to realise Tk 59.44 lakh from those who spent the money unlawfully on the occasion of the visit of the Saudi health minister to BSMMU in 2004.

The report says the Saudi minister did not come finally but the then authority showed expenses on the visit in the name of various purposes.

Even 2,076 staff, including officials and doctors, drew Tk 84.71 lakh illegally from the ultra-poor medical fund, the report adds.

According to BSMMU rules, no staff and official is entitled to receive grant from the fund, which helps treatment of the ultra poor people, it says.

On irregularities in recruitment at DMCH, the committee chief said they have asked the health ministry officials to take proper measures to this end.

## 'Toxic' ships

FROM PAGE 16

Interestingly, the environment ministry itself took a position in favour of polluters and more countries and exporters can participate in the bidding," he told the minister. The US will help Bangladesh enhance its capacity for food security and agriculture, Leishman said.

He, however, mentioned the US does not provide food grains free of cost, except for specific programmes like feeding of school children. Abdur Razzaque said the country has seen an increase in food production, but it is yet to achieve autarchy. However, the government is working to that end, he noted.

The government considered both development and environmental issues while changing the previous decision, he added.

A source working with the ministry concerned said as huge money is involved in this business, some high-ups in the commerce, shipping and environment ministries are keen to favour the shipyard owners.

Import of such toxic ships poses risks of health for ship-breaking workers and widespread environmental pollution in the country's coastal belt.

Every year around 100 ships are scrapped in Sitakunda, meeting around 25 percent demand of iron scraps for producing iron bars.

But it takes heavy tolls on the lives of the workers. In the last two years, 38 workers died and 49 became maimed while working in shipyards.

According to a report of the International Labour Organisation, 551 minor and 42 major accidents took place in Bangladesh's 36 ship-breaking yards during 1996-1998.

# Murder too over

FROM PAGE 1

A gang of 25 led by Jubo League activists Hossain Ali, Murad, Shamim, Rahul and Dony attacked Bangladesh Railway contractor Ali Asgar Hossain, and his friends including Sanjit at a club at Tigerpass at about 7:30pm.

Equipped with iron rods, sharp weapons and firearms, the attackers dragged Sanjit out of the club and beat him up.

A fatally wounded Sanjit was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where a doctor declared him dead.

Police said the attack stemmed from a dispute between Ali Asgar and local criminals over submission of bid documents at Bangladesh Railway.

DINAJPUR VIOLENCE  
At least 10 people were injured in Dinajpur as two Awami League factions clashed over dropping tender documents for a Tk 14 crore work of Dinajpur Public Works Department.

Some activists of district unit AL and followers of Mirza

Ashfaq, joint secretary of Dinajpur AL and APS of State Minister for Land Mostafizur Rahman, took position in front of the PWD office in the morning and prevented bidders from dropping bid documents, a PWD official said.

When district AL activists tried to drop tender document, Ashfaq's followers attacked them with sharp weapons and sticks, leaving 10 people wounded.

The injured are Shamiul Islam, Rafiqul Islam, Towhid, Jasim, Chhutu, Jemi, Tutul, Jaman and Ananda Mohan. They received treatment at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

In Patuakhali, a group of 10-12 AL cadres led by Safiz Uddin entered Baufal municipality office at about 4:00pm yesterday, the last day for submitting tender documents for lease of Baufal Bazar.

They snatched tender documents from present leaseholder Mizanur Rahman and damaged office document when a few officials tried to stop them.

## Water crisis

FROM PAGE 16

their relatives' houses in other areas.

While people are suffering like Kanchan and Ekram, many others, who are having a modest quantity of supply water, are complaining the supply water is stinky and filthy. In the blistering summer, the water crisis is just adding to the people's sufferings.

The severely affected areas in the capital include parts of Mirpur, Kazirapa, West Kafrul, Sheorapara, Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Uttara, Purba Nakhalpara, Uttara Badda, Manda, Madartek and Shah Alibagh.

"We have no choice but to dig wells to survive this two-month-long crisis," said Arifur Rahman of Mirpur section-12 who actually started digging a well like others.

Another resident of Mirpur-12 Tito claimed that the pump of the area has been selling water in lorries while they could supply it through pipelines.

Operator of the pump Md Ali said the production of the pump has reduced to 2,600 litres per minute from 3,000 litres for the last two months. It remains

inoperative for about 10 hours a day due to load shedding, as the generator is out of order, he added.

Wasa Managing Director Taqem A Khan said load shedding is causing low water pressure in the pipelines due to which many pocket areas including some parts of Gulshan and Dhanmondi are facing water crisis.

"As an alternative, we are providing water to the affected areas in lorries," he said.

Wasa Deputy Managing Director (Operation and Maintenance) Liakat Ali said the army has been assisting Wasa distribute water in the crisis zones from Wednesday.

He said Wasa now has 295 generators for 546 pumps. A process of purchasing two hundred generators at a cost of around Tk 54 crore is underway.

Dual connections of electricity have already been given to 82 pumps in DPDC and DESCO areas to keep them running round the clock. Some 40 to 50 more pumps will soon be brought under the initiative, added Liakat.

# Lashkar organiser

FROM PAGE 1

youths for LeT and carrying funds for its activities in Bangladesh from Pakistan as assigned by the top Lashkar leaders, they add.

The sources say apart from LeT, he used to look after the interest of different local and foreign militant organisations as an ISI agent. He used to reside in Uttara Sector 4.

Hailing from Karachi, Yahia is skilled in using various types of firearms including AK47.

"We are trying to determine how many people he recruited, his source of funding, network in Bangladesh and whether he maintained connection with other militant organisations in Bangladesh," Commander Sohail said replying to a query.

Rab officials say they arrested Yahia in Chankharpoal around 11:30pm on Wednesday with a laptop and a notebook. They add he came out of jail a couple of weeks ago on expiry of a four-month detention but was always under their surveillance.

Speaking anonymously, a senior official of Dhaka Central Jail however said Rab arrested Yahia at the jail gate soon after he was released on bail.

Yahia's seized passport reveals before his arrest he visited Pakistan 12 times and once he entered Bangladesh

## Markets

FROM PAGE 1

Sheikh Hasina who holds the charge of the Ministry of Energy, Power and Mineral Resources.

The meeting decided that power supply from the national grid to the markets and shopping malls in the capital would be stopped at 7:00pm on Thursday.

Hasina also asked the authorities concerned to ensure that load shedding at a particular time does not continue for more than an hour.

"If anyone wants to keep one's own shops or malls open beyond 7:00pm, they will have to make their own arrangement for electricity," PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said.

However, weekly holidays for respective shopping malls and markets will remain unchanged, he said.

Earlier, Detective Branch of police arrested a number of top LeT leaders from India and Pakistan who were residing in Bangladesh. The detectives also arrested four suspected LeT operatives in Chittagong and Dhaka last year on charge of devising a plot to attack the Indian and US missions in Dhaka.

The LeT was founded in 1990 to fight Indian rule in Kashmir and is blamed for a number of terror attacks in India including that of Mumbai in November 2008.

The militant outfit was banned in Pakistan in 2002.

## AL candidate

FROM PAGE 16

Nayapaltan, party leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday said the local administration is helping to ensure victory of AL candidate Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shawon in the upcoming by-election, and the commission is silent.

Against this backdrop, a team consisted of party's standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan and senior joint secretary general Mirza Fakhruul Islam Alamgir will visit the area.

They will also participate in electoral campaign of party candidate Hafizuddin Ahmed, also vice chairman of the party.

Alamgir informed The Daily Star that they were to leave the capital for Bhola yesterday.

The Bhola-3 by-election will be held on April 24. Rizvi, also BNP's joint secretary general, said the ruling party candidate is violating electoral laws as he is staying at the government dak bungalow in Lalmoan upazila and campaigning for the election from there.

He also said his party had lodged complaints with the local administration and the election commission regarding the issue but did not get any response yet.

The BNP leader alleged that ruling party activists are obstructing electioneering of their candidate, and in doing so the AL activists even attacked their workers during electoral rallies.

Earlier on March 22 and April 5, a BNP delegation met Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda and placed their demands.

# WAR CRIMES TRIAL Only citizens of Bangladesh would be tried

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh would try only its citizens found guilty of war crimes, said Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday.

Bangladesh would not dispense "Victor's Justice," she said when the visiting two-member delegation of German Parliament's Committee on Economic Cooperation called on her. The members are Jurgen Klimake MP and Niema Movassat MP.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral issues like investment, water management, climate change, human rights, and trial of war criminals.

The minister sought more cooperation in energy and renewable power generation projects.

German Ambassador in Dhaka Holger Michael was also present.

## POWER, WATER CRISES BNP threatens movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main opposition BNP threatened to forge a strong movement against the government if it failed to immediately get rid of the ongoing power and water crises.

"The government will not be able to control the mass movement with repression if it does not solve the issues without further delay," said Mirza Fakhruul Islam Alamgir, senior joint secretary general of the party, yesterday at Muktangan.

He was addressing a pre-procession rally organised by the Jatiyatabadi Swachhchasebak Dal, which placed the demands to solve the gas, water and electricity issues.

Alamgir said they would initially carry out peaceful demonstrations. "But the nation will not sit idle for long if the government fails to come up with answers," he said.

Later, party leaders brought out a procession from Muktangan, which ended in front of the party's central office.

Hundreds of supporters of the opposition party took part in the procession with slogans demanding electricity, gas and water.

## CA students stage demo for fee hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Institute of Chartered Accountants (CA) of Bangladesh last night staged demonstrations at the CA Bhaban in the city's Karwan Bazar in protest of increasing examination and registration fees.

The agitating students kept close the main entrance of the bhaban for around two and half an hour to press home their demand.

No one could enter the bhaban or exit from it causing sufferings to the people inside.

With the police members' initiative, students became calm and later a section of students held meeting with the authorities.

## Khoka's remark

FROM PAGE 16

sanction from the authorities concerned. A freedom fighter from Madaripur upazila, Siddiqur Rahman, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, on April 5.

In his order, the magistrate said the defendant had sought to create anarchy by making such comments against the state. But sanction from the authorities concerned is required for bringing a seditious charge against anyone.

The OC was asked to seek such sanction, if not already taken, so that the court can take the seditious charge against Khoka into cognisance, the court said.

The complainant alleged that at a March 27 discussion in the capital, Khoka said Ziaur Rahman is the proclaimer of independence, and also first president of the country.

Zia not only declared independence but also took charge of the government after the Liberation War in 1971.

Such comments amount to violation of the higher court verdict that had declared Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman the proclaimer of independence, and constitute seditious, Siddiqur said.

## BCL goes berserk

FROM PAGE 16

Earlier, the provost council led by its president Prof Belayet Hossain and steering committee members of Progressive Teachers' Society separately met RU VC Abdus Sobhan and demanded immediate action against the BCL workers.

# US, Russia agree

FROM PAGE 16

Agreed after months of hard bargaining, the two presidents signed the treaty in the renaissance Spanish Hall of Prague Castle.

Medvedev and Obama sat side by side to sign the successor to the 1991 START treaty, which was also a major step in efforts to ease the often-strained relations between their countries.

Obama called it "an extraordinary event" and an "important milestone" for attempts to restrict nuclear arms as well as for US-Russia relations.

He called the treaty "one step on a longer journey" which would lead to further cuts in the universal arsenal.

Obama said the two nations, which between them have more than 90 percent of the world's nuclear arms, had to show "responsible global leadership."

Medvedev said the treaty "enables us to rise to a higher level of cooperation between Russia and the United States" while also declaring that the negotiations "have not been simple".

It was in the Czech capital exactly 12 months ago that Obama gave a keynote speech committing the United States to the aim of a world without nuclear weapons.

He reaffirmed his comment from a year ago that disarmament was "a long term goal, one that may not be achieved in my lifetime."

The treaty was signed in a key year for efforts to contain nuclear proliferation with the international community struggling to persuade North Korea to disarm and to restrict Iran's nuclear drive.

Obama this week announced a new US nuclear posture under which the United States would not stage an atomic attack against a country that does not have nuclear weapons. Though he pointedly said that this would not include Iran or North Korea.

The US leader is to host a nuclear security summit in Washington next week and a nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference will be held at the UN headquarters in New York in May.

## Airport

FROM PAGE 16

senior security officer of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) told The Daily Star.

After a meeting around 9:30pm, the CAAB officials enhanced security at the airport withdrawing the alert.

Deputy Commissioner Nisarul Arif of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Uttara division) also confirmed that a red alert was put at the airport and later withdrawn.

He added vigilance was heightened at the entrance of the airport and additional police forces deployed.

Group Captain M Sayeedul Hasan Khan, a member of CAAB operations and planning, said as a daily routine, they had discussed the airport security.

## Ctg mayor

FROM PAGE 16

Tuesday. Ferdous