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Commuter trains to link Dhaka with nearby dists

Says PM, opens Tejgaon link road
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government would take an initiative to introduce commuter train services between Dhaka and adjoining districts to improve the communications system in the capital.

Once launched, anybody from adjacent districts will be able to come to the capital and return the same day on commuter trains after the day's work, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after formally opening the Bijoy Sarani-Tejgaon Link Road yesterday.

Hasina inaugurated the 1,114-metre-long and 60-foot-wide road, which connects the Old Airport Road to Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani near Nabisco intersection.

She said her previous government took an initiative to start the services and launched it in some districts including Narayanganj and Brahmanbaria, but the four-party alliance government discontinued it.

On recent power situation, Hasina said some officials and employees of DPDC and Desco are out to make a fast buck and destroy the image of the government through "false load-shedding". Some officials and employees of DPDC and Desco sometimes impose load-shedding in some areas unnecessarily and some of them have already been held for that, she added.

Similarly, some pumps of Wasa also start operating without the keys being opened, for which people do not get water, she said.

The premier said these officials sell water to city dwellers at higher price by creating water crisis and they even take Tk 2,000 to break queue, whereas the price of a water lorry is Tk 400 only.

"Anybody, if held for doing these kinds of work, will be dismissed from their service," she warned.

Urging people not to waste water, power and gas, Hasina said she herself tries to save electricity by switching off fans, lights

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PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

The flyover on Bijoy Sarani-Tejgaon link road gets the first taste of Dhaka traffic yesterday after being open to public.

Tailbacks greet new road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of vehicles that took the just inaugurated Tejgaon-Bijoy Sarani Link Road for the first time remained stuck on one side yesterday afternoon. Commuters were surprised to see the unexpected congestion on the road, which was obviously meant to reduce the menace.

A biker asked a TV reporter, who was filming the city

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Work on Kuril flyover to start May 2

HELEMUL ALAM

The construction work of 3.1 km Kuril flyover to connect the capital with Purbachal New Town is going to start on May 2.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the construction work formally on the day, said Rajuk Chairman Md Nurul Huda.

This will be the fourth flyover in the city and two others--Mohakhali flyover

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HM Ershad hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman (JP) and former president HM Ershad on Monday was admitted to the United Hospital in the city as his physical condition deteriorated.

Ershad, also an MP, was kept under the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and his condition was stable yesterday, the doctors said.

ICU consultant Dr Mohammad Maniruzzaman told The Daily Star that Ershad had Hypo Volumic Shock due to a sudden loss of huge blood perhaps from colon.

He overcame the shock after resuscitation and his blood pressure was normal. He was talking and fed normally, said the doctor.

After keeping him under direct observation today we might release him tomorrow, the doctor added.

Ecneec okays revised power projects

Chandpur, Sylhet plants to generate 300MW by 2012
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council yesterday approved two revised power projects at Chandpur and Sylhet involving a cost of Tk 2,080 crore.

Two other projects costing Tk 520 crore were also approved by the Ecneec at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

According to the revised time schedule, Chandpur and Sylhet plants are to start generating 150 megawatt power each by June 2012.

The government will have to spend an additional amount of Tk 1,353 crore for the two projects due to a delay of about 10 years in implementing those.

Originally the two projects were to cost Tk 728 crore, and those were approved in 2001. Meeting sources quoted the prime minister as saying if the two projects were implemented in time, they would have saved the additional cost and added 300 MW power to the national grid mitigating public sufferings.

The Ecneec approved the Tk 1,201 crore project for construction of Chandpur 150 MW combined cycle power plant and associated power evacuation facilities (2nd revised) project. The original project cost was Tk 386 crore,

approved in April 2001. The Ecneec meeting also okayed the Tk 878 crore project for building 150 MW combined cycle power plant in Sylhet as well as transmission system. The project was first approved in April 2001 with an estimated cost of Tk 342 crore, and it was to be completed by 2004.

According to a planning ministry report, the project was not implemented at that time as no foreign aid agencies came forward. Later, it was decided that the project would be implemented with suppliers' credit.

But this time also the project sees complexity in getting suppliers' credit and delay in inviting tenders, sources said.

After assuming power, the present government took an initiative to implement the project, and the purchase committee approved awarding contract to Chinese company Shanghai Electric Group Co Ltd.

And in the case of Chandpur plant, despite approval by the purchase committee, work order was not issued to the selected company. Yesterday, the Ecneec approved a Tk 40 crore project titled Construction of Liquid Fuel System for Sirajganj 150 MW Peaking Power Plant.

Planning ministry sources noted that since

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Procurement targets fixed for rice, paddy

Prices raised
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday set a target to buy 11 lakh tonnes of rice at Tk 25 a kg and 1.5 lakh tonnes of paddy at Tk 17 per kg in the upcoming Boro season.

The procurement will start from May 1 and continue up to August 31, Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque told reporters after a meeting of the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit at the food ministry.

Last year the public procurement rate of rice was Tk 22 a kg. "We have increased the procurement rate considering the high rice prices in the international market and ensuring farmers' profit. If farmers get good price, they will produce more crops," the minister said.

Stressing the need for more stock to face natural disasters, Razzaque said the government

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Milk Vita sales boss suspended

Nanak passes the order at meeting
HASAN JAHID TUSHER

At a meeting in presence of officials and the media, the state minister for LGRD and cooperatives ordered the suspension of the marketing manager of Milk Vita in connection with corruption, mismanagement and irregularities.

State minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak gave the order at the meeting held at his ministry yesterday against manager (marketing) Bidyut Kumar Mandol of Bangladesh Milk Producers Cooperative Union Ltd, widely known as Milk Vita. Bidyut was present at the meeting among other top officials of Milk Vita.

Bidyut was suspended as he failed to deliver satisfactory answer to the state minister about mismanagement in milk distribution, Milk Vita officials told The Daily Star.

Three new distributors of the milk vita drew attention of the state minister to "the manager not delivering their required milk on time". He always intentionally delays milk supplies, General Secretary of Digital Plus Multipurpose Cooperative Society Anisur Rahman told the state minister in the meeting.

Digital Plus Multipurpose Cooperative Society is one of the three distributors. He also said the manager did not supply necessary amount of milk every day. The manager gives them only 3,000 to 5,000 litres a day but they were supposed to get 7,000 litres. Moreover, the manager does not receive their phone calls.

As Nanak asked about these mismanagements, Bidyut told him that he remains busy with meetings and this is why he failed to receive the new distributors' phone calls. As the minister

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Budget likely to be placed June 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The budget for fiscal year 2010-11 might be placed in the Jatiya Sangsad on June 10, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

After a pre-budget discussion with the ministries at the Finance Division under the non-medium term budgetary framework, Muhith said the budget session of parliament may start on June 3.

The minister also said all ministries and departments would be brought under the MTBF from the next fiscal year. Presently, 32 ministries and departments are under it.

The ministries and departments would be given resource packages for five years under the MTBF. They will prepare a list of projects and take initiatives to implement those according to the list of priorities, he noted.

The number of projects under the annual development programme should be reduced, he said.

No classes at CU, BCL men torch teachers' bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Academic activities of Chittagong University could not be resumed yesterday due to violent protest during the indefinite strike programme of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

Meanwhile, BCL activists set fire to a teachers' bus of CU near Sholoshahar area in the morning and also halted the movement of university bound shuttle trains and public vehicles to resist the students from going to the campus.

Police in separate drives in the city yesterday arrested eight BCL activists in connection with setting the teachers' bus ablaze. Panchlaih police arrested six persons--Rubel, Ershad, Khorshed Alam, Nizamul Alam, Subal Das and Nur Mohammad while Khulshi police arrested Alauddin and Anwar Hossain.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Rezaul Masud said four of the arrestees were activists of BCL CU unit while others were of BCL city unit.

Witnesses said a group of BCL men torched the bus near Baby Super Market at about 6:30am. On information, fire fighters rushed in and doused the flame.

BCL on Friday called the strike at CU protesting the death of their activist Asaduzzaman, a second-year student of Accounting Department, on April 16, who was allegedly stabbed by neighbouring villagers following an altercation at Pahela Baishakh festival Thursday night.

The CU authorities yesterday were set to resume academic activities after suspending all classes and exams for three days since April 17 following the death of Asaduzzaman. The demonstrators halted movement of shuttle trains at the Chittagong Railway Station to press home their five-point demand including resignation of the vice-chancellor and the proctor of the university for their failure to give security to the students.

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think the Election Commission's move to use video cameras in Bhola-3 by-election will help ease the tension between AL and BNP rivals?

Yes (52.0%)
 No (46.0%)
 No Comments (2.0%)

Total votes: 454

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government's decision to give more power to upazila nirbahi officers will have positive impact on development works?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing
April 21

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-27	6-31
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

গ্রাহকগণের MICR Encoded Cheque/Instrument গ্রহণ বিষয়ক বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা ক্রিয়ারিং হাউজভুক্ত সোনালী, জনতা, অগ্রণী ও রূপালী ব্যাংকের সকল শাখা সমূহের সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বাংলাদেশ অটোমেটেড ক্রিয়ারিং হাউজের কার্যক্রমের আওতায় সকল গ্রাহকের জন্য MICR Encoded Cheque/Instrument মুদ্রণ পূর্বক শাখা সমূহে সরবরাহ করা হয়েছে। এখন থেকে ঢাকা ক্রিয়ারিং হাউজে উপরোক্ত ব্যাংক সমূহের MICR চেক ছাড়া NON-MICR চেক গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

এ ব্যাপারে বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য সম্মানিত গ্রাহকগণকে নিম্নে উল্লিখিত নির্বাহীগণের সাথে সরাসরি যোগাযোগের জন্যও পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

<p>মোঃ আতিকুর রহমান মহাব্যবস্থাপক সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড ফোন : ৯৫৫৭০৮৪</p>	<p>মোঃ সিরাজুল ইসলাম মহাব্যবস্থাপক জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড ফোন : ৯৫৫৪৮৪২</p>	<p>মোঃ নূরুল হক উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড ফোন : ৯৫৫২০৯৩</p>	<p>মোঃ এনামুল ইসলাম খান মহাব্যবস্থাপক রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড ফোন : ৯৫৫২৬৩১</p>
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