# NEWS

# Power investment

FROM PAGE 1 investing in the power sector.

The Power Division organised the conference, which was the first of its kind in Bangladesh, to reflect the government's commitment to move forward with the ongoing activities in the power sector.

Speaking at the inaugural session as the chief guest Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith said despite many hurdles, the economy of Bangladesh is growing reasonably and there is a huge potential of investment in various sectors, including power.

He said about 40 percent of the country's power plants are over 40 years old and not in a position to produce at their capacity. "The gas shortage is also causing problem," he said.

He suggested to double the price of compressed natural gas (CNG) as the present CNG price is one-fourth of liquid fuel. However, he reaffirmed that the government would continue the subsidy to keep electricity within the reach of common people.

"Please do not expect we will double the price, but we will adjust the price in phases," he

"We need huge subsidy to meet the urgent demands by generating electricity with some costly resources," said the minister.

The government has taken initiatives for setting up rental power plants, which will be very costly, said the finance minister.

"I am sure gas supply will eventually increase with concerted and sustained efforts in exploration, which will help attract more investment in the power sector, and eventually ensure growth of much higher than the present rate."

He said investors in the power sector have long been sceptical about the government's ability to pay for purchasing the power they will generate.

Muhith said the government is working to prepare a coal policy to extract the country's coal deposit for power generation. He hoped that the policy would be finalised by the year.

The finance minister emphasised the need for introducing regional energy trade and said Bangladesh should not have power crisis from mid 2012 as the government ha taken many projects to mitigate the shortage.

"We can easily take the country's growth rate up to eight percent by quickly solving the power crisis," he observed.

Chairman of Power Development Board (PDB) SM Alamgir Kabir gave details of the country's present power situation, the demand and supply gap, and the scope for investment, the government mega plan and financial challenges in generating power.

Giving a year-wise projection of power generation, he said the government has planned to generate about 10,000 megawatts of electricity

# Thai 'Yellow Shirt' party picks leader

AFP, Bangkok

The political wing of Thailand's pro-royalist "Yellow Shirt" protest movement appointed a new leader on Saturday as the party gears up for a general election expected next year.

The New Politics party backed Somsak Kosaisuk, a former leader of the powerful Yellow Shirt group, whose protests helped to topple two governments allied to fugitive former prime minister

party and our place in Thai

politics, as well as to map out

Thailand recently saw two

months of deadly demonstra-

Sheikh Helal

City Corporation Mayor

Talukder Abdul Khaleque,

Khulna district AL Secretary

Mostafa Rashidi Suja, among

Earlier on Friday, Faridpur

municipality authorities also

gave a 3.5-tola gold key to

Labour, Employment and

Expatriates Welfare Minister

Engineer Khandaker

Mosharraf Hossain as gift at a

citizen reception.

others, attended the function.

reporters.

Thaksin.

in May.

FROM PAGE 16

Thaksin Shinawatra. added. "We will discuss how to make our party a truly mass

mentally during interroga-

our strategy for the next election," Suriyasai Katasila, the party's secretary-general told as an opposition, he noted.

tions by the anti-government FROM PAGE 16 'Red Shirt" group, whose He told AFP: "What is certain is

members are largely loyal to that the toll will get higher". The search was continuing "for more charred bodies", the Ninety people were killed

source added. and nearly 1,900 injured dur-Dozens of homes, many ing the rallies, which ended in built from earth and straw, a bloody military crackdown

were engulfed in the nighttime fire. It was unclear whether the

truck exploded when it crashed or whether the blaze was started later.

Marcellin Cisambo, governor of South Kivu, told Reuters: "Some people were killed trying to steal the fuel, but most of the deaths were of people who were indoors

watching the [World Cup] match. The officer, who did not give his name, said that many of the villagers who surrounded the vehicle before it

exploded were children.

by 2015 by setting up of power plants in private and public sectors. "The government is promoting private sector investment in Bangladesh," he added.

Energy adviser to the prime minister Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury said all the organisations of the government are making concerted effort to achieve the target. "We are very open to you," he told the investors.

He invited investors to come forward and take the benefit of investing in the power sector and help meet the huge present and future power demands.

Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment SA Samad said the energy sector needs 24 percent growth if the country's economy grows at eight per-Summit Group Chairman

Aziz Khan came up with the drawbacks of re-tender of bidding and delays. He said this costs a lot to the investors of Bangladesh and abroad. He identified the large differ-

ence between cost of electricity and the sale price as a major challenge.

Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Power, **Energy and Mineral Resources** Mohammad Shubid Ali Bhuiyan, State Minister for Power Enamul Huq and power secretary Abul Kalam Azad also addressed the inaugural ses-

In the first working session titled "Investment Opportunities", the government executives, investors and representatives of development partners meticulously explained the investment opportunities in power, gas, liquid fuel and transport sec-

Genting Energy, Daewoo International, Getco Ltd, Sinha Power Generation, Dutch-Bangla Power, Dana Engineerings, Bangla Cat, GBB Power Ltd, Spectra Group, Vito Asia Private Ltd, Cap Asia, New Line Groups and Tek Energy were among about 80 local and foreign companies that took part in the conference. Different ministries also set

up stalls at the conference venue highlighting their activities and the opportunities of investment. The conference ended with

one-to-one meeting between government officials and potential investors.

### Man tound dead Jhapjhapia High School

around 1:30pm. The four were rushed to

Bhangura upazila health complex, where Moynal succumbed to his injuries.

The three injured who are now undergoing treatment at the health complex had been arrested, said police.

Investigation officer of the incident Sub Inspector Shah Alam confirmed the incident.

He said the motive behind Ramzan murder is still unknown. Criminals killed him with sharp weapons. His body had been sent to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

### Jamaat's FROM PAGE 16

of Muslims.

The Jamaat leaders were

placed on remand for 16 days in five cases on June 30. The party on the same day

announced a two-day programme including protest rallies across the country. Azharul at the yesterday's

conference said the three have been doing politics peacefully and lawfully.

People of the country know them well, and there is no evidence of their involvement

in any illegal activities, he He also said the detainees were being severely tortured

Jamaat is a legal political party but the government is not allowing it to play its role

firms for five years and said it

every year for this purpose while Tk9 crore will be required to pay the private firms.

The ministry said, if the tax and fees are paid online, the accounts would be simultaneously shown at BRTA offices. Customers will also be able to know whether the money has been deposited.

that the then prime minister (Khaleda Zia) did not know about the attack, Hasina said.

She said this while inaugurating the two-day extended meeting and political workshop of Sechchhasebak League at Gono Bhaban.







JAMAAT MEN GO BERSERK: Clockwise from left, a windshield of a

car being torn out by Jamaat activists rampaging through the capital's Fakirapool yesterday. A Jamaat activist is on the run after vandalising a microbus with the hammer in his hand. Jamaat men set fire after pouring petrol on the road in Paltan to obstruct traffic. Another activist rages at a covered van. Leaders and activists of the party were agitating in protest against the arrest of their top brass.



by machines.

"But the Middle Eastern

countries want the names of

legal guardians in the pass-

ports," said an official at the

ministry, preferring anonymity.

photocopies of passports to

their employers, who submit

those to the immigration

refuse visas as the names of legal

guardians are not printed in the

consulted them before intro-

ducing MRPs, the official said.

Many Gulf nations might

The home ministry had not

Abdul Mubid, director

"But we are bound to issue

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni

an emergency manual passport

sits with the envoys of some Gulf

and South East Asian countries

today to discuss issues relating

Adios Argentina

German coach Joachim Loew

said the team had played "like

nearly perfectly today," he said

"The result is nearly unbelieve

able because Argentina have a

strong defensive team. It was

first class that we were able to

his fourth goal of the tourna-

Schweinsteiger free kick after

lead in the 68th minute when

Lukas Podolski out in a perfect

pass from the left and the

striker tapped in from close

first international goal in the

74th minute, finishing from a

metre out after

Schweinsteiger's cross, before

Klose completed the rout with

Dictating the pace early in

his second in the 89th minute.

the first half, Germany refused

to fall back after their quick

lead, pressing high in

Argentina's half and coming

close to a second through Sami

Germany, who bear

Argentina on penalties at the

same stage of the tournament

in 2006, gradually allowed their

opponents to come forward

responding with lightning-

playmaker Lionel Messi often

stifled by two or three defend-

ers, tried desperately to level

with long-range shots before

Klose doubled the German

third six minutes later, before

Klose volleyed home a cross

from Mesut Ozil for the fourth

knew they could be dangerous

Friedrich then added the

The Argentines, with

quick counter-attacks.

Khedira and Klose.

Friedrich got a third with his

Klose doubled Germany's

Germany got off to a dream

"The team did everything

general of Department of

Immigration and Passports,

authorities for visas.

MRPs, he said.

MRPs," he said.

if someone wants it."

to MRPs, officials said.

FROM PAGE 1

champions".

get so many goals."

just three minutes.

Jobseekers have to send

at Chandipara bazaar in the area for sale.

Acting on information, Tapan Kumar Dey, conservator of forest, wildlife division, Dhaka, directed the forest officials in Rangpur to save the dolphin.

The officials found that the

dolphin was 38 inches long

Dolphin

FROM PAGE 16

and 20 kilogram in weight and was kept in a pond, its tail tied with a rope. Sources said this is the first

time a live dolphin was rescued and released. The Sushuk is one of eight marine mammal species found in Bangladesh rivers including the Brahmaputra,

Padma, Meghna, Karnaphuli,

Sangu, Madhumati Nabaganga and Bhairab. Pollution, shallow waters and hunting of the species for medicinal value have sharply reduced dolphin population, internationally recognised as endangered species.

### Probe focuses

FROM PAGE 16

decision without the high-ups' nod," said the official wishing anonymity.

In reply, Mojahid said they have already ousted some members with such links, the interrogator continued.

He added as they mentioned names of a number of Jamaat rokans from Lalmonirhat Chapainawabganj, Nilphamari Dinajpur and Gaibandha with JMB connection, the Jamaat duo seemed apparently confused and kept mum.

Earlier on Thursday, police took Mojahid and Sayedee to the Detective Branch headquarters for questioning in a case filed with Paltan Police Station for violence, attacking law enforcers and obstructing their work in February.

Jamaat Ameer Motius Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Mojahid and Nayeb-e-Ameer Sayedee were detained on June 29. They were remanded for 16 days the next day in connection with five

Nizami has yet to face quizzing. Police sources say he would be quizzed after interrogation of Mojahid and Sayedee

in this case ends. Meanwhile, the two leaders will be produced before a Dhaka court today as their three-day remand in the case ended yesterday, police say.

### Govt misses

FROM PAGE 16

will cost them half that post offices claim for collecting the revenues.

About Tk 20 crore is spent as commission to the post offices

Khaleda

### FROM PAGE 1

# Cops telling lies FROM PAGE 1

bore several marks of injury. Abdul Malek, officer-incharge of Darussalam Police Station, however, identified Mujibur as a local drug peddler and said that Mujibur's rivals killed him over a feud.

Mizanur's story: Mizanur's 10-year-old daughter Liza said, "A thrashing sound on the door woke me up. Afraid, I took shelter on my father's lap and he forbid me to make any sound. A few minutes later police broke open the door, threw me onto the

Strong thrashing marks with bricks on the door and broken plaster over the doorframe are still evident at

ground and dragged my father

Mizanur's house. Mohammad Tazul Islam, 35, son of Mizanur's house owner, said he was there when police broke inside the house and drag him away.

He said Sub-Inspector Anis of Gulshan Police Station who led the raid gave him Tk 500 to

repair the door. Kalam, a resident on the ground floor of the two-storey building, said when he came out hearing noise around 3:30am he found police per- said Yunus' allegation against sonnel waiting in a white microbus in front of the build-

Police forced him to take them to the house owner and he took them to Tazul who lives in a near by building, Kalam added.

According to the neighbours, who knew Mizanur for over 20 years, they never saw Mizanur involved in any unlawful activities.

Mizanur's elder sister Taslima alleged that she and Mizanur's wife, who is also called Taslima, borrowed Tk 8,000 from the house owner's wife to manage Tk 10,000 which SI Anisur demanded for not implicating Mizanur in any case and his safe bail out from

Taslima, the wife, claimed that the SI earlier demanded Tk lakh, which finally came

down to Tk 10,000. Taslima, the sister, said they received a phone call around 4:00am on Thursday that informed that Mizanur was in a critical condition at the hospi-

tal and urgently needed blood. When they reached the hospital they found him groaning and within a few minutes he breathed his last.

Meanwhile, Manik, who according to police was found bullet-hit with Mizanur and brought to the hospital, said SI Anis from the lock-up took them to an unknown place blindfolded around 1:00am. They were shot and brought to the hospital from there. MUIIBUR'S STORY

Igbal Hossain, minor son of

deceased Mujibur, told The Daily Star that when he with his father reached Melartek Ghat, three policemen in civil dress and three of their informers intercepted them and put handcuff on his father's hand and tied his neck with rope. The police mercilessly beat

him up with their rifles and drag him to a boat, on which they took off, added Iqbal.

Mujibur's brother Zakir Hossain said Iqbal can identify the police personnel as the officers used to come to their house for bribe.

Replying to a query on how dependable was Iqbal's claim

of police taking his father in custody,

Zakir Hossain and his other brothers said right after Iqbal informed the family about the incident, they rushed to Melartek Ghat and Darussalam Police Station to verify it.

They said police and locals gave them the names of the officers who were on duty there that day. The names matched with the names that Iqbal gave. Mujibur's father Mohammad Ibrahim alias

Yunus secretary said he went to Darusalam Police Station on Friday to lodge a complaint against Sub-inspector (SI) Masudur Rahman, ASI Sayeed and ASI Hekmat Ullah but police, instead, recorded the case against the three informers--Mohibul, Nayan and Kajal.He said police refused to incorporate the names of the policemen as accused saying that there was no evidence

against the police personnel. The Daily Star, however, could not be contacted over the last two days.

The OC of the police station

told The Daily Star yesterday that he was not there when the case was filed but he came to know about it on his return. He the police personnel was not However, police have arrested two of the informers in

the case and produced them before a Dhaka court seeking a five-day remand for each. The court placed each of them on two days' remand, said Darussalam police. Mujibur's wife Shamsunnahar alleged that

police killed her husband as he

failed to pay the money police demanded from him as bribe. Yunus secretary said, three days before the death, ASI Moshiur came to his son and demanded Tk 50,000 saying that all his problems will be solved. "Your son will be able to move freely. But if you don't pay the amount your son will

not see his parents faces any more," added Yunus. He said police caught Mujibur thrice in the last one month but did not take him to the police station. They released him after taking a total of Tk 24,000 in three instal-

Mujibur used to take care of their family transport business. Family members of Mizanur did not take the body from Dhaka Medical College morgue till yesterday, three days after autopsy, in protest of the police action.

of Mirpur Division Selim Mohammad Jahangir said, two separate three-member committees were formed yesterday. The committee headed by

Foundation Elina Khan said,

"Under no circumstance we

accept deaths in police cus-

tody. In such killing case police

investigation is not acceptable,

a judicial probe is required to

ensure justice to the families of

people about it."

Deputy commissioner (DC)

the UAE authorities. DMP Joint Commissioner (headquarters) Manzur Kader Khan will investigate Mizanur death case while the other led by Mohammad Humayun Kabir, DMP joint commissioner (operation) the Mujibur tinue jobs. Chief Executive of Bangladesh Human Rights

> Bangladeshis. Bangladesh.

the victims. National Human They said the names of legal Rights Commission may look guardians are not there in the into the matter and inform the MRPs. They could be read only

Wishing anonymity, an official in Bangladesh mission in Dubai said there had been a mix-up between the mission and the UAE authorities over issuance of MRPs and emergency manual passports by Bangladesh.

Manpower

The mission in a letter told the UAE immigration that Bangladeshi nationals will have MRPs from April. The Consulate General of

Bangladesh in Dubai sent the letter to the Department of Immigration in Sharjah, UAE on June 23. The Daily Star obtained a copy of it. A good number of Bangladeshi nationals, who did not possess passports before or whose passports have already expired, are now travelling

reads the letter. "As a result, Bangladeshis who are currently coming to the UAE for new employment may

abroad on newly issued MRPs,

have MRPs. Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) Secretary General Ali Haider Chowdhury said he found two cases of refusal of visas by the UAE for not having the names of the parents or legal guardians in the MRPs of jobseekers.

"These are matters of grave

concern," he said. Ali Haider feared that the country's overseas employment sector could be in jeopardy if the problems are not addressed urgently.

It is the UAE that has been hiring Bangladeshi workers at a time when overseas jobs are on the decline. Over seven lakh Bangladeshis now live in the UAE that hired 2.5 lakh Bangladeshi workers last year.

A high-up in Dubai

Consulate General's Office told

The Daily Star that the UAE had

earlier been irritated at the flaws in manual passports and was waiting eagerly for MRPs. A few jobseekers applied for visas with MRPs after it was introduced in line with an agreement with the International Civil Aviation

Organisation (ICAO). Others however applied for visas with emergency manual passports with validity for three

Nazmul Quaunine, Bangladesh ambassador in Abu Dhabi, said the UAE refused to issue visas to Bangladeshi jobseekers without MRPs a week back.

The Middle Eastern country was likely annoyed by the submission of photocopies of both types of passport by employers on behalf of workers, the official

"In some cases, visas were issued on our requests.' Nazmul said they have been trying to explain the matter to

Abu Zafar, consul general in Dubai, said a few Bangladeshi expatriates were refused renewal of residence permits, a must for any foreigner to con-

He told The Daily Star by and his 14th World Cup goal, phone that they issued letters to just one short of Ronaldo's all the immigration authorities time record. there, requesting them to renew "We just had a bad game. If residence permits of you make mistakes like that, you go home," Argentine Officials at the expatriates' forward Carlos Tevez said. "We

welfare ministry also mentioned some "technical deficiency" in the MRPs issued by

on set-pieces and on the counter-attack. Germany now play the winners of the other quarterfinal between Spain and Paraguay later on Saturday.

Gazipur locals FROM PAGE 1 government will do nothing

against public interest." After the announcement, the demonstrators left the rally venue in victory processions.

Contacted, a Rajuk official said they do not even have any project named Gazipur Satellite Town.

Kamal Uddin Talukder, Gazipur deputy commissioner, expressed frustration at the movement over the so-called project.

He said the way people behaved over a rumour was unacceptable.

Traffic movement on Dhaka-Mymensingh and Dhaka-Tangail highways got back to normal at 7:00pm.

The Bhogra rally was organised by "all-party action com-mittee", demanding cancellation of "satellite town project". Gachha, Bason and Pubail union parishad chairmen and

local AL and BNP leaders spoke

at the rally. Leaders of the committee said the "project", if implemented, would have affected houses of around 10,000 families and many mills and facto-

The local administration deployed four magistrates and a huge contingent of police to avert untoward incidents during the rally that began at 4:30pm. The law enforcers however

could not do much as rumours flew around inciting people to violence. Things spiralled out of control at around 3:30pm as thousands of locals wielding bamboo sticks and bricks went on the rampage along a seven-

kilometre stretch on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway. They damaged vehicles and blockaded the road with burn-

Few of the stranded buses

ingtires.

and cars had their glasses intact Panicked, passengers got off their vehicles and ran for safety. To make matters worse, workers of garment and other factories in the area joined the

demonstrators. As workers of Rose Knitting at Dhaka Bypass Road crossing did not participate in the agitation, locals got locked into a

They ransacked the factory building and set fire to it, said evewitnesses. Police said at least 50 people

clash with them.

including 12 cops were injured in the clashes. said they are aware of the prob-Gazipur Fire Service units

doused the flames at the gar-"I would suggest that the ment factory. names of the legal guardians Rafiqul Islam, deputy assisand their addresses should be tant director of fire service, said printed on the last page o

two tin-shed houses were

# gutted.

BNP, IOJ **FROM PAGE 16** meeting at BNP Chairperson

Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office in the capital. Khaleda, also leader of the opposition in parliament, had earlier invited leaders of IOJ, component of the BNP-led four-party alliance, to discuss

the latest political develop-

BNP standing committee

member Nazrul Islam Khan and Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir were present at the meeting. IOJ Chairman Fazlul Haque

Amini led a 10-member team that included Secretary General start when Mueller snatched Abdul Latif Nejami. Later, Nejami told this correment, heading in a curled spondent that they discussed a

against the government.

four-party united movement

"We (IOJ) also expressed our

solidarity with the antigovernment agitation programme of the BNP, including a human chain on July 7," he Talking to journalists, Amini said they have discussed waging

a united movement against the 'anti-Islamic, anti-people and anti-national' activities of the government. On the arrest of three top leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, a major component of the four-

party alliance, Amini said although they have difference of opinion with the party on many issues, arrest of its leaders is no doubt condemnable.

## Russian ship

FROM PAGE 16

'pass" of the space station. It did so at a safe distance of 3km and the gap between them is currently widening, Nasa said. It has not yet been revealed

what may have caused the

The ISS project is a partnership of five - the US, Russia, Europe, Japan and Canada. It currently has six crew, three Russian and three from the

The station functions as a research lab for various experiments in a low-gravity environment, as well as a platform for the testing of equipment

equipment failure. The Progress-type cargo ships have proved themselves reliable workhorses for resupplying the ISS over many years and a failure to dock is rare, says BBC science reporter Matt McGrath.

used in space travel.