

POWER CRISIS

# PM blames it on BNP

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the country would not have faced power crisis if BNP-Jamaat government had continued various development programmes undertaken by her government in power sector.

The premier said this when the newly elected members of Board of Directors of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) led by its President A K Azad called on her at her office.

"During our previous tenure from 1996 to 2001, we have raised the country's power production to 4,300 megawatts from 1,600 MW and undertaken various projects to raise generation up to 5,500 MW," Hasina said.

But, she regretted, the BNP-Jamaat government after assuming office did not take any initiative to raise power production considering its growing demand in the country. "Rather, they had destroyed the vital sector through looting and mismanagement that increased sufferings of the people," she added.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam

Azad briefed newsmen after the meeting.

Referring to the existing power and gas crisis, Hasina said her present government is working relentlessly to solve the crisis although it is not possible to overcome the situation overnight as the BNP-Jamaat government kept the sector in a fragile state.

"We are making all out efforts to improve the situation to minimise sufferings of the people," she added.

Despite many obstacles, she said, the present government has been able to add 1,000MW electricity to the national grid during the last one and a half years although the BNP-Jamaat government could not add a single megawatt of power during its five-year tenure.

Apart from this, Hasina said her government has taken steps to raise power production through setting up new plants along with repairing the old ones.

Regarding gas, she said her government has also taken measures to dig new gas well to solve the gas crisis.

In this context, she said the BNP-Jamaat government did not taken any

initiative to explore oil and gas that deepened the crisis further.

The PM called upon the countrymen to maintain austerity in using electricity, gas and water in the greater national interest.

Lauding the role of private sector for economic development of the country, she said her previous government had taken various steps for strengthening private sector.

The PM said her government has attached importance to agriculture and industry sectors as well as decentralisation of power for overall development of the country.

She mentioned that her previous government shifted the responsibilities of Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory to Bangladesh Army and Khulna Shipyard to Navy that are doing very well.

During the meeting, the FBCCI leaders appreciated the PM's leadership in keeping the wheels of the country's economy moving even during the global economic downturn.

Regarding power situation, they appraised the premier that the World Bank will finance in setting up two

1,200 MW each power plants in Chittagong and Khulna in private sector that would immensely help to improve the existing power situation.

The FBCCI leaders also appreciated the present government for ensuring smooth supply of fertiliser and other inputs and said these steps have enormously helped increase agricultural production.

In this context, they recalled that farmers had been killed when they demanded fertiliser during BNP's tenure. "But, now you have ensured that fertilisers will go to the farmers' doorsteps, farmers would not have to come to fertiliser," they added.

On wage increase of garment workers, the business leaders told the premier, "We have increased their wages due to your personal initiative."

The garment workers are very happy with increase of their wages, they added.

Former FBCCI President Salman F Rahman, Kazi Akram Uddin, Ambassador-At-Large M Ziauddin and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister M A Karim, among others, were present.

# ASP to work as OC at model police stations

Says DMP boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday said first class gazetted police officers will be initially tasked with working as officers-in-charge at the model police stations.

Shahidul said this at a press briefing followed by DMP's monthly crime conference at Police Telecom Auditorium in city's Rajarbagh.

The rest of the model police stations across the country will come under the new move, the DMP chief said.

Community police will be deployed in front of business centres and busy intersections in the capital besides traffic police personnel in a bid to ease nagging traffic congestions during Ramadan and before Eid-ul-Fitr, he added.

Replying to a query, the DMP commissioner said no discontent will prevail among police personnel regarding the government's move to deploy Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) as chief of police stations.

The ASP will also bring police inspectors more scope to be promoted to ASP, Shahidul

added.

He said DMP traffic wing is going to recruit 650 more traffic police personnel within a year.

Till then, the traffic wing will rely on community police and personnel from DMP crime zones.

Each DMP deputy commissioner will be provided with additional 200 policemen to ensure infallible security to the shoppers and businessmen in the capital during Ramadan, he added.

The DMP chief said the drive against age-old vehicles will continue despite scarcity of public vehicles in the city.

"I requested the transport owners' association to introduce more vehicles in the capital and they gave me words to do it by August 15" he said.

On July 12, illegal firearms were recovered and a total of 6352 people were arrested on different charges.

The lawmen also recovered some 30 stolen vehicles and arrested 45 people in this connection while 48 vehicles were stolen in the last month.

DMP high officials including OC's were present at the press conference.

## Drive against age-old vehicles will continue despite scarcity of public vehicles in the city

# Ensure rights of people with disability

Noman tells citizen's reception

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A person with disability is not someone to be pitied as he or she also can do anything if opportunity is given, said winner of Ramon Magsaysay Award 2010 AHM Noman Khan at a programme yesterday.

"Let rights of the disabled be established in the world through this award, which would be meaningful if the

rights of the persons with disability are ensured," said Noman, founder and executive director of Centre for Disability in Development (CDD).

A citizen's reception, organised by National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD), was given at LGED auditorium to Noman appreciating his success in promoting rights of people with disability.

"Our government has to come ahead. We feel proud when the international community gives us prize but our government does not award us for reasons unknown," said former adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury.

Farah Kabir of Action Aid, and CRP Executive Director Emdad Muslim were, among others, present at the programme.



Founder and Executive Director of Centre for Disability in Development AHM Noman Khan, second from right, is honoured at a civic reception, organised by National Forum of Organisations Working with Disabled, at LGED Auditorium in the city yesterday for winning Ramon Magsaysay Award 2010 for his contribution to the efforts in establishing rights of the challenged.

RID PHARMA CASE

# Charge framing on Oct 10

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Brahmanbaria District and Session Judge AKM Nasir Uddin Mahmud yesterday fixed October 10 as date for framing charge against the accused in Rid Pharma case.

On the previous date, an order of publishing an advertisement in the newspaper against three absconding accused were issued. Yesterday the copies of the newspapers carrying the advertisements were placed before the judge.

During the court hearing yesterday, out of five accused, only the Rid Pharma Managing Director Mizanur Rahman and a representative of co-accused Shiuli Rahman were present.

Abdul Khayer Chowdhury, assistant director of Bangladesh Drug Administration

Department's Comilla Zone, filed the case at Brahmanbaria District and Session Judge's Court accusing five persons of the company on August 11, 2009 for manufacturing toxic paediatric syrup.

The accused are: Md Mizanur Rahman, the managing director of Rid Pharma Limited, its two directors Begum Shiuli Rahman (Mizanur Rahman's wife) and Md Abdul Goni, and two pharmacists Md Mahbulul Islam and Md Enamul Haque.

Of them, Md Mizanur Rahman got bail from Brahmanbaria District and Session Judge's Court earlier and Begum Shiuli Rahman is also under the bail granted by High Court Division while Md Abdul Goni, Md Mahbulul Islam and Md Enamul Haque are still absconding.

# Court summons Dev Narayan

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned Dev Narayan Moheswar, president of the Universe Peace Council, to appear before it on September 4.

Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Emdadul Haque issued the summons hours after a case was filed against Narayan for hurting religious sentiment of the Muslims.

Mufti Mohammad Masum Billal, president of Bangladesh Fetna Protirod Committee, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

Narayan Moheswar, who claimed himself to be a converted Muslim, filed a petition with the High Court on July 26 stating that Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) was going to sacrifice his son Hazrat Ishaque (AS) for the satisfaction of Allah as mentioned in the holy Quran, Enjil and Taurat.

But, Narayan stated, Islamic scholars have mentioned in their books on Islam that Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) was going to sacrifice his son Ismail (AS) to satisfy Allah, which is "incorrect and contradictory" to what the holy books said.

He prayed to the HC to ask the government to take steps to insert the name of Hazrat Ishaque (AS) in the books on Islam. The HC on August 5 summarily rejected the petition and fined the petitioner Tk 5,000.

# Opposition lawmakers' protest today

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition MPs will form a human chain today to protest Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent remarks against Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia.

The human chain will be staged in front of Jatiya Press Club at 1:00 pm.

Opposition Chief Whip

Jainul Abdin Farooque told UNB that they would form the human chain to protest 'verbal terrorism' of the premier, as he said that Hasina has urged Khaleda to give her the snub.

The PM while addressing a function reportedly asked Khaleda to snub committing any more corruption and indulging anyone to corruption.

# Court allows DB to take Mirza Abbas on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday allowed the Detective Branch (DB) of police to take BNP Standing Committee Member Mirza Abbas on a three-day remand granted earlier in connection with a case filed for torching a private car the day before hartal that killed one of its passengers on July 1.

Metropolitan Magistrate SK Tofael Hassan passed the order after DB Inspector Ziauzzaman, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted a petition seeking its permission to take the BNP leader in his custody.

Mirza Abbas was placed on a three-day remand on July 7 after its IO submitted a seven-day remand prayer for his alleged involvement with killing of passenger Faruque Hossain.

He was produced before the court yesterday on completion of his eight-day remand in two cases filed against him with Motijheel and Paltan police stations on charge of preventing police from discharging their duties during the hartal hours on June 27.

Faruque, an employee of an electric fan shop at Nawabpur in the city, lost his fight for life on July 1 suffering burn injuries for five days at the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A group of politicians stopped the private car near Moghbazar level crossing and torched it on the fatal night before June 27 hartal. His friends managed to come out of the blazing car while Faruque was badly injured.



Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh Tasanawadee Miancharoen calls on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

# Mon sighting body meets today

UNB, Dhaka

A meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee will be held at Islamic Foundation today to ascertain the commencement of the holy month of Ramadan.

State Minister for Religious Affairs and Chairman of the committee Advocate Mohammad Shahjahan Mia will chair the meeting to be held at the conference room of Islamic Foundation (Baitul Mukarram) at 7:20 pm.

Anyone sighting the moon of Ramadan anywhere in the country's sky has been requested to contact the Islamic Foundation over following telephone and fax numbers:

Telephone: 9559493, 9559643, 9555951, 9556407, 9558337, 9555947. Fax: 02-9563397.

# WEATHER

## Sultry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dhaka divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00 pm today.

Hot and sultry weather condition will continue over the country.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:35pm today and rises at 5:32am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 25.4 degrees Celsius at Feni.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.1	29.0	65	72
Chittagong	32.8	27.5	75	87
Rajshahi	37.8	28.0	74	61
Khulna	35.4	27.4	67	67
Barisal	34.1	27.5	74	92
Sylhet	35.5	26.8	76	67
Cox's Bazar	33.0	27.0	82	92



Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley speaks as the chief guest at the launching ceremony of a book titled "Recipes From The Rasoi," 7th Cookbook written by Shawkat Osman, at Dhaka Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Khademul Islam and Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam and on his left are Syed Shamsul Haq, Dr Sonia N Amin and Shawkat Osman.

CASE AGAINST TARIQUE, MAMUN

# Next hearing on Sept 26

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred the date for taking the charges into cognisance against BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman and his business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun in connection with a money laundering case.

Judge Ismail Hossain of the Senior Special Judge's Court, Dhaka fixed September 26 for the next hearing of the case following a time petition submitted by Tarique's lawyer.

The lawyer in his petition said they have filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) challenging the legality of the case.

After hearing the writ petition, the HC issued a rule asking the government to explain why the money laundering charges against Tarique and Mamun should not be declared illegal.

Following the situation, the lawyer prayed for the adjournment of the hearing.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on July 6 pressed money laundering charges against Tarique and Mamun.

ACC Assistant Director Mohammad Ibrahim submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka, accusing the two of laundering Tk 20.41 crore between 2003 and 2007.

Mohammad Ibrahim filed the case with Dhaka Cantonment Police Station on October 26 last year.

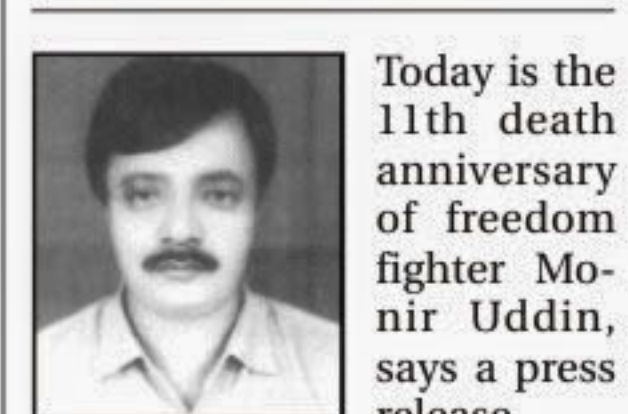
The two were arrested during a massive drive against corruption in 2007.

On bail from the Supreme Court, Tarique is now in London for treatment. He stands accused in 14 criminal cases.

Mamun, accused in a dozen cases, is now in jail custody and convicted in three cases, including an arms case and two graft cases.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



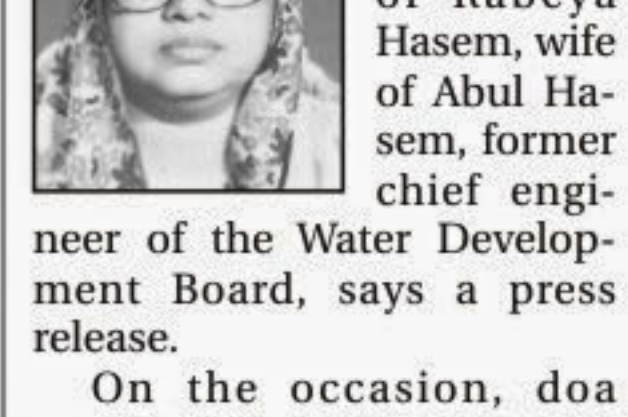
Today is the 11th death anniversary of freedom fighter Monir Uddin, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa mahfil will be held at his Dhanmondi residence after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the mahfil.

Rabeya Hasem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Rabeya Hasem, wife of Abul Hasem, former chief engineer of the Water Development Board, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa mahfil will be held at the Ramna thana mosque at Maghbazar after Asr prayers. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the mahfil.