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CNG station shut boosts electricity

New rental plant generates 100 MW power

SHARIER KHAN The country achieved a new record of electricity generation Friday as the evening shutdown of CNG stations boosted gas supply to power plants and a new rental power plant of a British company launched operation. Plants under the Power Development Board (PDB) network generated 4,698 megawatt of power Friday, insiders say. This is a jump of around 700 MW from what PDB could best produce even two weeks ago. Consequently, the level of load-shedding across the country has now almost halved. The PDB continued producing over 4,600 MW yesterday which was reflected in the lesser frequency of load-shedding across the country. But there will still be load-shedding of around 500-1,300 MW in the coming days. These figures are equivalent to a quarter to half of capital Dhaka's demand. To achieve this improvement, the government had to take a drastic measure like shutting down the CNG stations between 3:00pm and 9:00pm every day. While this has caused inconvenience for many people, it has actually diverted enough gas to increase 200 MW power during the evening when power demand is maximum in the day. Earlier this year, PDB achieved a record of 4,600 MW power generation by maximising gas supply to the power plants. That move was made possible temporarily by shutting down some major fertiliser plants that run on gas. However, for most of the times this year, PDB has been supplying around 4,000 MW power leaving enough shortfall to make people feel miserable. SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



Former British premier Tony Blair and his wife Cherie Blair meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka yesterday.

Blair hails Hasina's climate role

UNB, Dhaka Visiting former British prime minister Tony Blair has highly praised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's strong leadership in consolidating democracy and combating negative impact of the climate change. Blair lauded the premier's prudent leadership when he, accompanied by his spouse Cherie Blair, met with the premier at Gono Bhavan yesterday morning, said PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad. In response, Hasina said since taking the office, her government has taken initiatives for countering terrorism and has been making efforts SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Small firearms drive in the doldrums

Police blame it on poor manpower, other assignments

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN Metropolitan Police deploy squads to patrol their respective areas. To improve the situation, the DMP conducted a weeklong special drive to recover illegal firearms but it turned out to be almost a futile exercise. The drive launched simultaneously in the 41 police stations on May 23 ended with the recovery of only one pistol, two revolvers, 16 bullets and a cocktail. According to DMP sources, 22 illegal firearms were recovered in April, 13 in May and 12 in June, showing a declining trend. All this has made the criminals feel largely secure, and not scared of being netted by the law enforcers, some police officials said preferring anonymity. Contacted, DMP Additional Deputy Commissioner Walid Hossain said on average 400 police teams patrol the city areas. Each of the 41 police stations on an average deploy six patrol teams and the 52 police outposts three patrol teams each. "Patrol teams operate round the clock in two shifts," he added. Some DMP high officials said long working hours at a stretch reduce efficiency of patrol teams to some extent. SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Most criminals using small firearms stay out of police dragnet in crime prone areas of the capital due to lack of proper vigilance in the areas, causing a sense of insecurity among the city dwellers. These criminals use motorbikes, private cars and minibuses to commit crimes at intersections, around shopping malls and banks and on narrow lanes in different residential areas specially at the dead of night. And the situation appears to have deteriorated though all the 41 police stations and 52 outposts of Dhaka

MURDER CASE AGAINST MP Autopsy says homicide, cops find no proof

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Investigator did not find any evidence of homicide in the case of deceased Awami League activist Ibrahim Ahmed even though Dhaka Medical College morgue mentioned the word "homicidal" in its autopsy report. Detective Branch of police said they received the autopsy report yesterday but they are yet to receive the forensic and ballistic reports of the pistol and the bullet from the CID. Ibrahim was left at Dhaka Medical College Hospital by some people with a gunshot wound to his head on Friday the 13th. Later, Awami League lawmaker Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon's driver filed an unnatural death case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station saying Ibrahim was handling Shaon's gun in the lawmaker's car parked near the parliament when it went off and killed him. Five days after the incident, Ibrahim's family filed a murder case with a Dhaka court accusing Shaon and 15 others. A DB high official preferring anonymity said they are sure that Ibrahim succumbed to his bullet wounds but it is uncertain whether he got shot while handling the lawmaker's gun or he was shot on purpose. He added that the morgue could only say that his death was caused by a bullet but the morgue cannot say whether Ibrahim was SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

3 Shibir men held at CU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg Police arrested three leaders of Islami Chhatra Shibir of Chittagong University (CU) unit including its general secretary yesterday afternoon for their alleged involvement in injuring a Bangladesh SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Standard Chartered saadiq Islamic Financial Services Iftar & Sehri timing for Dhaka & neighbouring areas Today's Iftar 6:29 pm Ending time for tomorrow's sehri 4:14 am



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Preparation for a ten-day iftar party arranged by Zaker Party at Chairman Bari playground in the capital's Banani area yesterday.

Iftar party, trade fair on playgrounds

TAWFIQUE ALI A political party and a forum of businessmen have occupied two playgrounds at the capital's Banani to arrange a ten-day iftar party and a trade fair throughout the rest of the Ramadan. Chairman Bari and Banani playgrounds are two of the three remaining open spaces in Banani residential area. Zaker Party holds the iftar party at the Chairman Bari playground from today. "It's a party programme in which leaders and activists from all the districts will take part every day," said Abdul Kabir, president of Dhaka city unit Zaker Party. DCC Estate Officer Tapan Kumar Saha said Zaker Party applied for permission to use the playground to hold Tarabi prayer for two days and the city corporation granted August 25 and 26. DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka said he failed to realise that the organisers would use the playground in this manner. "In fact, I forgot that playgrounds shouldn't be allowed for purposes other than sport." On the Banani playground, Jamdani and Handicrafts Development Society erected around a hundred makeshift shops for the fair. SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

26th Death Anniversary of Habibul Kabir (Nizam) On occasion of the 26th death anniversary of Habibul Kabir (Nizam) a milad mahfil will be held today 22-08-2010 after Asar Prayer at Union Centre, 68/1 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka. Relatives, Friends and all well wishers of the deceased are requested to kindly join the milad mahfil and pray for the salvation of his departed soul. Family of Habibul Kabir (Nizam)

One week needed to confirm anthrax 39 infected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj The laboratory tests will take one week to confirm whether anthrax has invaded Shahzadpur upazila in Sirajganj, said the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) yesterday. On Friday, two 10-member teams of experts visited the area and collected blood samples from the people who were complaining of blisters and lesions after having the meat and processing the hides of the sick cows slaughtered in the area a few days ago. Meanwhile, another patient suffering the same symptoms had been identified in Barabil village of the upazila yesterday. This took the official number of infected SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Rain-fed rivers overflow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Water level of the country's rivers is rising alarmingly for the last few days following the monsoon rain, increasing the possibility of flood. Three Northeastern rivers, Surma, Kushiya and Kangsha, are flowing above the danger level, while Jamuna and Bhramaputra rivers are about to cross the danger level. Water level measured at five stations of the first three rivers showed that water is flowing about 1 to 35cm above the danger level. According to Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), water level at 51 water-measuring points out of 73 measured so far has risen for the last few days. Assistant Engineer of FFWC Arifuzzaman Bhuyan said water level at Sirajganj and Bahadurabad points of the Jamuna river would cross the danger level within two to three days if the rain continues. Our Gaibandha correspondent reported that at the confluence of the Jamuna and Bramaputra rivers, water was flowing near the danger level while the Tista was close to cross the danger level. The danger level for the Jamuna and Bhramaputra rivers is 19.82m while water was flowing at 19.35m yesterday, the Water Development Board, Gaibandha, sources said. The Tista was flowing at 24.03m which is only 1.10cm below the danger level. If the seasonal rainfall continues in India and Bangladesh, SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

OnlinePoll Do you agree with opposition leader Khaleda Zia that the government has failed to run the country and should quit? 46.8% Yes, 51.8% No, 1.4% No Comments Total votes: 1848 TODAY'S POLL Do you agree with BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that the cancellation of Arfar Rahman Koko's parole is an act of "political vengeance"? Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net Prayer Timing August 22 Azan 4-14, 12-45, 4-45, 6-29, 8-00 Jamaat 4-24, 1-15, 5-00, 6-39, 8-30 Source: Islamic Foundation

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান মেমোরিয়াল ট্রাস্টে বেসিক ব্যাংকের এক কোটি টাকা অনুদান প্রদান

সম্মতি বেসিক ব্যাংক লিমিটেড বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান মেমোরিয়াল ট্রাস্টে এক কোটি টাকা অনুদান প্রদান করেছে। প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়ে বেসিক ব্যাংকের চেয়ারম্যান জনাব শেখ আব্দুল হাই বাচ্চু প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার হাতে ব্যাংকের অনুদানের এই চেক হস্তান্তর করেন। এ সময় ব্যাংকের পরিচালনা পর্ষদের অন্যান্য সদস্যবৃন্দের মধ্যে যথাক্রমে জনাব জাহাঙ্গির আখন্দ সেলিম, শাখাওয়াত হোসেন, নিলুফার আহমেদ, খাইরুল আনাম, প্রফেসর ড. কাজী আখতার হোসেন, আনোয়ারুল ইসলাম, ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক একেএম. সাজেদুর রহমান ও উপ-ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক শেখ মঞ্জুর মোর্শেদ সহ ব্যাংকের সকল মহাব্যবস্থাপকবৃন্দ উপস্থিত ছিলেন।