

## Fast-track energy deals for 2 years

Govt okays draft law for unsolicited tender

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The cabinet yesterday approved a draft law that would allow the government to award energy sector contracts on unsolicited negotiation basis on a short notice for next two years.  
The draft of the Power and Energy Fast Supply Enhancement (Special Provision) Law, 2010 comes with 14 clauses that cover the whole process from project planning to

procurement approval.  
If parliament approves it to make it a law, this would be applied for the tenders for large-scale power projects and a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal. These projects are worth several billion US dollars.  
According to the summary on the draft submitted to the cabinet by the Power Division of the energy ministry, the law would allow tendering authori-

ties to quickly publish tender notices on newspapers and websites, make correspondences and negotiations with bidders through emails to fix service prices.  
"This will give tendering authorities like the Power Development Board (PDB) exemption from time bindings for holding a tender dictated by the concerned laws so that the government can quickly

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## Police to open control room to curb crime before Eid

UNB, Dhaka

Police will set up a special control room to give instant order to curb crimes like extortion, mugging, ticket black-marketing, highway-river-way robbery as well as tackle garment workers' unrest ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr.  
The planned control room will also take steps to ensure secure transfer of people's money from one place to another.  
The control room to be

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## Eid transports get ready for extra trips

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Both public and private operators have more than doubled the number of transport of various modes to carry over seven million people home from the capital ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr.  
Bus operators yesterday increased daily trips to 2,600 from 1,700 while the number of launches was raised from 35 to more than 100. The operators will continue running extra trips for the next three days.  
Bangladesh Railway has added extra compartments to its 78 trains running on domestic routes.  
People are leaving the capital in droves by trains, buses and launches to spend the Eid holiday from Thursday with their

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## Shab-e-Qadr observed

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Qadr, a night of blessings, was observed across the country last night.  
Muslim devotees spent the night seeking divine blessings for peace and progress of the country and the Muslim Ummah.  
The night is considered as

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Pond herons are sold at the traffic lights at Dhaka Sheraton intersection yesterday despite capturing, selling, buying and consuming of such wild birds being illegal in Bangladesh. Such illegal trades go on right under the nose of law enforcers who find it convenient to turn a blind eye. Prof Anwarul Islam saw this trading yesterday at the intersection and managed to seize four of the pond herons before the seller managed to flee the scene with the rest of the birds. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## GAMA KILLING CONVICTS President pardons 20

KAILASH SARKAR

President Zillur Rahman granted presidential pardon to 20 death row inmates of the Jubo Dal leader Sabbir Ahmed Gama killing case.  
Only one condemned in this case was not pardoned and that person is on the run.  
Gama was the nephew of former BNP deputy minister Ruhul Quddus Talukdar Dulu and he was gunned down in 2004 in Natore.  
The home ministry yesterday sent an official order to jail authorities concerned for their immediate release.  
Inspector General of Prisons Brig Gen Ashraful Islam Khan told The Daily Star last night, "We are verifying the home ministry

order and other documents regarding the case. Besides, we also informed all law enforcement and intelligence agencies in this connection.  
"If everything is found okay, we will arrange their immediate release."  
Last night he said they could even release them before morning.  
Jail officials said among the 20, 10 are in Dhaka Central Jail while the rest 10 are in Rajshahi Central Jail.  
The pardoned convicts in Dhaka Central Jail are: Naldanga Awami League unit former secretary SM Firoz, 46, his brother school teacher Fazlul Huq Shah, 56, Ansar Uddin, 65, Sentu, 28, Faisal, 40, Faruq, 52, Rahidul, 28, Shahjahan Ali, 29,  
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## SPREAD OF ANTHRAX Govt asks people not to panic

UNB, Dhaka

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque yesterday urged people not to be panicked about the outbreak of anthrax, a disease now spread in six districts with its first appearance in Sirajganj on August 20.  
"There is nothing panicking as anthrax is not a deadly disease. Local physicians can easily treat the anthrax patients and prescribe medicines available in the market," he said.  
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## A policy shift on SoE, privatisation

Cabinet okays new industrial policy

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

In an apparent shift from the existing industrial policy, the government in its new plan has put stress on strengthening state-owned enterprises to both supplement and compete with the private sector.  
The existing policy lays emphasis on privatisation and denationalisation of state-

owned-enterprises (SOEs).  
The cabinet approved the new Industrial Policy 2010 at a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday.  
Economists say creation of alternative employment for retrenched workers is a good initiative. But generation of jobs will be hindered if the SOEs are not pulled out of losses.  
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## PM for allocating plots to all MPs

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed authorities concerned to allocate government land in the capital to lawmakers who do not have any piece of land of their own in the city.  
The directive came at the weekly cabinet meeting held at Bangladesh Secretariat with the prime minister in the chair, according to highly placed sources.  
The legislators will have to apply for land following certain procedures.  
The premier told the meeting that there is specific provision  
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## NASIM MURDER RU expels 6 BCL men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Six activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League unit of Rajshahi University have been temporarily expelled last night on charges of killing Nasirullah Nasim, a fellow activist following a row over Iftar token.  
Prof M Abdus Sobhan, vice-chancellor of RU, told The  
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setting standards

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The Eid-day morning was gloomy for Rahman uncle. His 3-year-old granddaughter spoiled his mobile phone settings while playing with it. He could neither make any call, nor receive any. Not being able to connect to dear ones on Eid is sad indeed.  
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