

COMMITTED TO  
**People's Right to Know**

## Outages upend public utilities

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 With the sweltering summer heat back just when it usually starts to decline, frequent power cuts have wrecked havoc on normal life, as it triggered a domino effect on water supply.  
 Although the government claims improvement of overall power situation, the city dwellers are experiencing repeated load shedding lashing with full weight for the last few days.  
 On top of the load shedding at every alternative hour, the nagging traffic nuisance amid scorching heat, humidity and lack of water has made the life in the capital utterly miserable.  
 Citizens complain that the level of load shedding has significantly increased in the last two days.  
 "Amid this blistering heat life has turned into a complete mess without

power and water. I couldn't sleep for the last four-five days, as power went off at midnight," said Mahmud Khayer of Jatrabari.  
 Met officials say the monsoon is now weak and the humidity is high which is the reason behind the heat temperature. In addition, it did not rain for a few days.  
 With the mercury hovering around 35 degrees Celsius, the residents of the capital said they are experiencing power cuts eight times a day, each lasting for at least an hour affecting the water supply badly.  
 The official concerned came up with the same old cliché blaming increased consumption due to heat and poor gas supply to power plants for which around 500 megawatt of power could not be generated.  
 "Increased use of cooling devices at houses, offices and other establishments is also a reason behind the power short-

fall," said an official of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).  
 The official load shedding yesterday was around 1,180MW. About 4,014 MW of power was generated in peak hours in the country yesterday against the official demand of 5,350MW. However, the unofficial demand is around 6,000MW. The electricity generation was over 4,100MW four to five days ago, said the officials concerned.  
 According to Managing Director of Dhaka Power Distribution Company Abdus Sobhan, a power shortfall of 1,300MW in Dhaka Zone forces the company to distribute load shedding in all city areas every hour.  
 Against the backdrop, the government yesterday claimed that the country's overall power situation is improving. "The present power situation is better than the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## SLATING MEDIA IN JS PM unhappy, demands explanation

**HASAN JAHID TUSHER**  
 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed disappointment over the derogatory remarks by two ministers and a few lawmakers on some newspapers and electronic media in parliament recently.  
 The premier talked to some of her cabinet colleagues about the matter yesterday after the weekly cabinet meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## 25 power deals to come in 6 months

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 The government will sign 25 more deals within the next six months to install as many power plants and meet the increasing electricity demand in the country.  
 Prime minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad announced this yesterday after the weekly cabinet meeting at the secretariat. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Secularism back

*HC says original constitution automatically restored thru' 5th amendment verdict; nobody can be forced to wear burqa, cap, dhuti*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 The High Court yesterday ruled that Bangladesh is now a secular state since the original constitution of 1972 has been automatically restored following the Supreme Court judgement on the fifth amendment.  
 In this secular state, everybody has religious freedom, and therefore no man, woman or child can be forced to wear religious attires like burqa, cap and dhuti, the HC said in a verdict.

But nobody could be prohibited from wearing religious attires if he or she wishes to wear those, it said.  
 The court also directed the authorities to immediately issue a circular asking all educational institutions not to compel students to wear religious clothes.  
 A division bench of the HC came up with the judgement after hearing a suo moto rule issued by it on August 22 asking the government to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Don't put extra pressure on kids

**PM asks parents to change their mentality**

**UNB, Dhaka**  
 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday criticised the over enthusiastic attitude of parents and teachers for putting mental and physical pressure on children.  
 "You have to keep in mind that all children don't have same merit and attention. Stop pressuring the children merely to study and also allow them time to do what they want," she said this while inaugurating the World Child Rights Week-2010 at the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Alternative fibre optic link with India

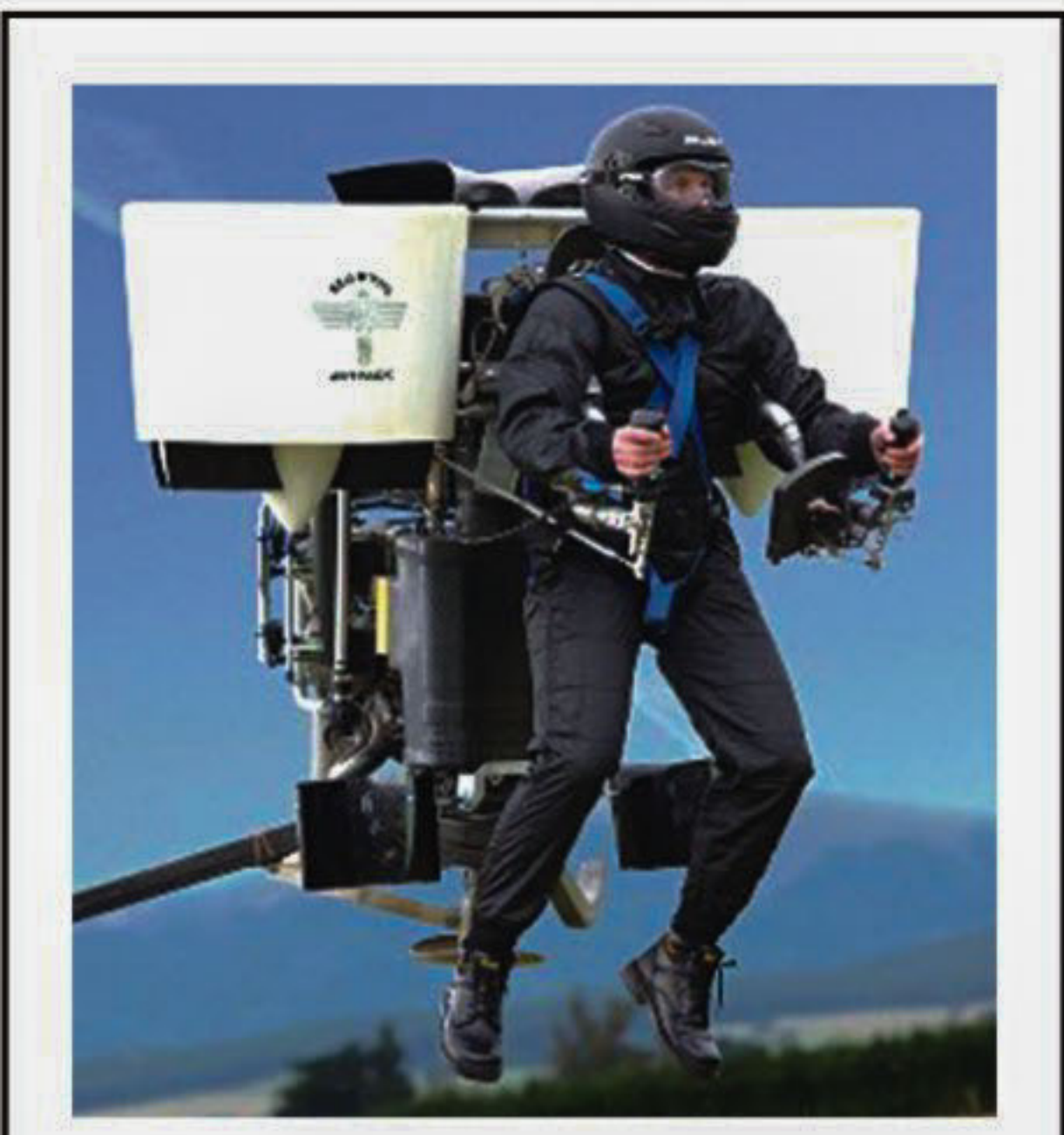
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Bangladesh may get connected with India by fibre optic by the first week of November.  
 A 25-km terrestrial cable will connect Darshana of Bangladesh with Krishna Nagar of India.  
 It will act as an alternative backbone to the submarine cable in case of emergency.

MORE IN STAR BUSINESS

## NEWS ANALYSIS NEW CJ'S REMARK An uncalled for debate

**SHAKHAWAT LITON**  
 An unnecessary debate was triggered by distorting the newly appointed Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque's observation on the constitution amendment.  
 During his swearing in last Thursday, he said the articles of the constitution that were either repealed or amended by martial law proclamations, have automatically been reinstated in the constitution after cancellation of the fifth amendment conclusively.  
 The new chief justice urged the law ministry to print copies of the constitution afresh with the reinstated articles in it.  
 Referring to the parliamentary special committee for constitutional amendment, Justice Haque said the committee is examining various aspects of the constitution. Parliament can bring any change to the constitution, excepting to its basic structures or features, he said.  
 This remark has now been made the subject of a so-called debate.  
 Is there anything inappropriate in his remark? Did he question the authority of parliament to amend the constitution with the observation?  
 The answer must be an emphatic 'no'.  
 But the debate was raised and it might continue for some more days. A number of political leaders and lawyers participated in the debate and media are giving it a wide coverage.  
 If anybody gives a very careful look into the events, s/he may find that the debate is completely unnecessary and as an effort to make Justice Haque controversial as he might lead the next caretaker government as chief adviser.  
 Some leaders of main opposition BNP and lawyers loyal to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



## It's time to fly Commercial jetpack looks to take flight

**DIGITALTRENDS.COM**  
 The Martin jetpack, a commercially developed jetpack, may soon be heading to a sky near you.  
 It is about time man flew among the birds -- alone. We may not have the homes on the moon, or the flying cars that our totally reasonable childhood imaginations ensured us would be waiting for us when we grew up, but with a little luck and a lot of money, we might soon be able to use "jetpack."  
 Imagine one day soon, you prepare for the commute

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



## We Mourn

With deep sorrow we bid farewell to **Md. Aminul Alam** – our Founder Director and Member of the Governing Body of BRAC.

Ever since the inception of BRAC Bank, **Mr. Aminul Alam** has been the key architect of our SME Division. His visionary leadership has helped gain the Bank a footing which has brought us to where we are today. His dedication in serving the under-privileged has been recognized at home and abroad, and has inspired the team at BRAC Bank to have trust in the potentials of the people of Bangladesh.

We are indebted to **Mr. Aminul Alam** – fondly known to us as 'Amin Bhai' – for his exemplary dedication, meticulous persuasion, and thoughtful guidance in our work. His absence will be deeply felt by his family, friends and colleagues, at home and beyond.

May his departed soul rest in peace.

**BRAC BANK**

MD. Aminul Alam  
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## Are you drinking safe water?