

Environment friendly company having ETPs in all the factories

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

Plus Star Campus

REGD. NO. DA 781 • VOL. XX No. 308 • DHAKA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2010 • AGRAHAYAN 14, 1417 BS • ZILHAJ 21, 1431 HIJRI • 28 PAGES PLUS STAR CAMPUS PRICE : Tk 10.00
www.thedailystar.net

3 PLANTS MISS PROJECT DEADLINE

Two rental flops pay Tk 57cr fine

SHARIER KHAN

The Power Development Board has realised Tk 57 crore in penalty from two local rental power companies for grossly failing to launch within the deadlines three rental power plants having a total of 315 megawatt generation capacity.

This is the highest ever penalty collected by the PDB for failure to meet contractual obligations.

The staggering amount of fine realised on Tuesday also demonstrates the PDB's seriousness about enforcing contractual terms and conditions which many local entrepreneurs implementing rental power projects have not taken as seriously as they should have had, said a well-placed PDB source.

While these penalties would affect the business aspect of these two rental power companies, their failure is presently depriving the

country of smooth power supply to a great extent as they were supposed to launch their operation by November 1.

Of the two companies, Quantum Power Ltd alone was fined Tk 51.7 crore for missing the deadlines by up to 120 days of two rental power projects having 215 MW production capacity.

The other company -- Desh Energy -- was fined Tk 5.25 crore for 30 days of delay in launching its 100 MW power plant in Siddhirganj.

Both Quantum Power and Desh Energy will have to pay more penalties as implementation of their projects will be delayed further.

The PDB realised Tk 46.2 crore for delaying the launching of Bheramara project by four months up till now. Quantum Power was supposed to launch this plant on June 4. As it could not, the PDB had earlier collected Tk 11 crore in penalty for missing the deadline by one month.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Early morning clouds press in at Thindu, about six hours' boat ride from the last outpost inhabited by Bangalees at Thanchi. The hills and the jungle are the perfect habitat for wildlife. The clouds also signify thriving evergreen rainforest. As forests vanish, so will the cloud formation.

COURTESY: SANJIDA JUI

PM blasts Khaleda for hartal

UNB, Brussels

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Khaleda Zia has "no right to cause sufferings to people by giving hartal just to save her illegally grabbed property."

Hasina said this while addressing her second meeting with Bangladeshi expatriates at her hotel conference room in Brussels.

The premier, who left Brussels for Frankfurt, Germany en route to Tokyo, Japan yesterday noon, wondered if the opposition leader called the hartal against the verdict of the court.

"She herself went to the court and it has ordered her to leave the cantonment house. Why then is she now giving hartal?" Hasina questioned.

"Khaleda Zia should give compensation to the people

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Fear lurks on way to justice

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Widowed housewife Aklima with her two children lives in a modest suburban house haunted by a strange fear, apparently alienating themselves from the rest of the world since her husband was brutally shot dead by police in 2004.

"Where did you get my address?" were the first words a frightened Aklima said after she found out a journalist who was knocking on the doors.

Mohammadpur police during a chase for an identified gang in 2004 sprayed a dozen bullets into court clerk Muhammad Ali inside his Rayer Bazar house when they found a fleeing criminal under his bed.

Aklima's fears are not for herself but for her children. "I believe if I pursue justice, it won't bring any good result. Threats were issued upon our lives for one year after my husband's death," she said.

"We will have you killed by Rab," she quoted an unknown caller threatening her with the name of the elite force.



As newsmen continued following up on the killing and Aklima prepared herself to sue the policemen, threats began to pour upon her through cellphone. At one stage, she was turned down by Mohammadpur police when she wanted to file the case.

Finally she sought justice from the civil court.

Aklima narrated her lawyer's reaction when she wanted to file a case against the policemen. The lawyer categorically told her she would require blessings from powerful people.

"The lawyer told me that in order to get justice, a helpless woman like me would need at least a minister and a powerful journalist to back me up," she said.

With fresh media reports emerging every day, intimidation and harassment increased. "At midnight somebody used to keep tapping on my doors for hours," she said.

Finally she sold the house and went into virtual hiding. Her only son Johnny was forced to leave college and start the career of a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Lonely hills, deadly hunters

INAM AHMED

In the gathering darkness of the fast-falling evening in the valley, a man appears with a monkey in one hand and a strange gun in the other.

As he climbs up the slope from the Sangu river and steps into the Tindu market square, people gather around him, appreciative of his prize. A single bullet had pierced the rhesus monkey's chest and come out his neck. Blood still drips down its ruddy coat.

The man displays the monkey for us to take snaps. His gun is primitive it is hard to believe that it can actually kill anything. A normal water pipe tied to a heavy stump of wood carved in the fashion of the stock of a shotgun. It is front-loaded you just thrust the gunpowder inside and put in a lead ball.

Tindu is a six-hour boat ride from Thanchi, the last outpost of Bandarban where any Bangalee people live. After that is wilderness just a fast-flowing river flushing through hills. Here, only hill people live; mainly Marmas.

Huge boulders block the river's way at bends, and the water roils. On the undulating hills, the real trees tall and straight are few. Most have been



COURTESY : BIPESH RAJ

A man proudly displays his kill at Thindu.

replaced by shrubs or slash-and-burn cultivation.

Through such landscapes we row another three hours to reach Remacri, a Marma neighbourhood further upstream. In the evening, a group of

hunters appear with a barking deer. The villagers gather around, appreciating the kill.

In this harsh land, life is difficult but certainly not so desperate as to force these hunters to turn to wild animals. Both had chickens and pigs at home. One has a shop in the market. Still, they hunt regularly.

The Remacri man laughed when we asked him why he hunts when he does not have any shortage of protein sources. After all, life is harsh in these remote hills.

"My father did it. I do it too," he said in broken Bangla.

Although rations have arrived and farming has taken a timid root, tradition and instincts persist. The laws prohibiting hunting make no sense in these villages. People just laugh when told a law makes it punishable to kill wildlife.

At Remacri, they said they kill one or two deer every day once the Jhum harvest is over. Monkeys, pheasants and red jungle fowl are hunted regularly. There is no check or balance. No one has any idea what the animal population is of deer, monkeys or anything for that matter. No one knows if any population

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

SC reopens today

Hears Khaleda's pleas tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court reopens today after a two-week vacation and will deal tomorrow with the issue of the much-disputed Dhaka Cantonment residence of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The full bench of the Appellate Division of the SC is scheduled to hear four petitions filed by Khaleda regarding the house, the most contentious political issue of the time.

One of the petitions is for a leave to appeal against a High Court verdict that on October 13 this year upheld the government notice asking her to vacate the cantonment house allowing 30 days to do so.

Another petition seeks a stay order on that HC verdict.

In two other petitions, the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



3 hurt in 'gunfight' with Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three alleged extortionists were injured when they locked in a "gunfight" with Rapid Action Battalion forces near Motijheel Colony in the capital early yesterday.

The bullet injured criminals -- Ismail Hossain Billal, 35, Faruq Hossain, 44, and Mamun, 28, -- were given treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) and taken into Rab-3 custody yesterday morning.

Police chief Tofazzal Hossain said, the three muggers on Thursday snatched passport and visa from an expatriate at Paltan and over the phone demanded Tk 1 lakh from him for releasing those documents.

Later, the victim informed Rab-3 officials of the incident. Rab sources said their team followed the victim to Motijheel Colony area where the criminals had asked the victim to come with the ransom around 3:00am yesterday.

Sensing the presence of Rab, the criminals opened fire and a "gunfight" ensued between Rab men and them.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Tripura beckons Bangladesh

Chief minister tells The Daily Star of business prospect

REZAUL KARIM

Bangladesh can be economically benefited by exporting products to north-eastern region of India, taking advantage of proximity, said Chief Minister of Tripura state Manik Sarkar.

"Tripura is a potential hub for trade with Bangladesh in the entire north-east India. It is surrounded by Bangladesh on three sides, which enables easy access to the eastern, central, southern regions and, to some extent, to the north-eastern parts of Bangladesh from Tripura," he said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star at his secretariat office in Agartala on November 12.

Sarkar said India expects to continue using Ashuganj as a port of call for transit and transshipment after the Palatana power plant project in Tripura is over. Bangladesh has signed a memorandum of understanding allowing India to transport heavy power plant equipment for the project.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

FULL INTERVIEW ON PAGE 11

Now with an improved network and within your reach

Robi Internet

Minipack 10 MB @ Tk10 only

To configure your internet settings dial *140*7#

To activate Minipack, dial *8444*80#

Your Minipack will be activated immediately

Validity from time of activation till mid night of that day.

For Prepaid customers only.

For more details, call 123

an axiata company

MTDR @ 12% (1 Year)
MTDR @ 14.4% (5 Years)

Our 92nd branch @ Pirojpur

The Dhaka Mercantile Co-Operative Bank Ltd.

Based on "Islami Shariah"

19, Indira Road, Farmgate, Tejgaon, Dhaka - 1215
Ph: 8129438, 8128507, 8120050 E-mail: info@dmcbl.com

Micro Investment

JOIN US TO MAKE "POVERTY A HISTORY"

Website : www.dmcbl.com Please Call : 01730-701608

* The profit rate has been shown provisionally, the final profit rate will be declared after Annual Accounting.