

Did you know?

The Hassan II Mosque, located in Casablanca is the largest mosque in Morocco and the third largest mosque in the world. It stands on a promontory looking out to the Atlantic, which can be seen through a gigantic glass floor with room for 25,000 worshippers. A further 80,000 can be accommodated in the mosque's adjoining grounds. Its minaret is the world's tallest at 210 m (689 ft).



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DU dismisses seven teachers

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University yesterday dismissed seven teachers for not joining their services though the time they were permitted to stay abroad had long elapsed.

They are Prof Jakir Hossain of Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Prof AFM Mofijul Islam of business faculty, Assistant Prof Monmoy Jafar of English department, Prof Anwar Hossain of Modern Language Institute, Assistant Prof Iqbal Ahmed of economics, Assistant Prof Mahmudur Rahman Bhuiya and Jahid Hasan Chowdhury of political science department.

The authorities also warned another teacher, Assistant Prof Ridwanul Haque of IBA, as he went abroad without their permission.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Last chance for world

UN chief warns nations against failure in climate negotiation

AFP, Cancun, Mexico

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has warned that the world is missing its last chance to control climate change, appealing to nations at talks in Mexico to ramp up progress.

In an emphatic address to the 194-nation talks on Tuesday, the UN chief highlighted studies by scientists who say the world has a limited gateway to cut carbon emissions or risk irreversible damage to the planet.

"I'm deeply concerned that our efforts so far have been insufficient, that despite the evidence and many years of negotiation we are still not rising to the challenge," he said as the two-week talks entered the final four days.

"Business as usual cannot be tolerated," the UN chief said. "Cancun must represent a breakthrough."

"The world, particularly the poor and vulnerable, cannot afford the luxury of waiting for the perfect agreement," Ban

Ki-moon said, adding: "Every country can and must do more."

Host Mexico has encouraged nations to look for building blocks to an eventual climate accord, hoping to undo some of the damage from last year's Copenhagen summit, which disappointed many environmentalists.

To the surprise of some of the hardened negotiators, the talks have appeared to bear fruit with a compromise eyed on one of the key stumbling blocks -- verification of nations' promises to fight climate change.

China climbed down from its past refusal on verification after India drafted a compromise under which all countries responsible for more than one percent of emissions would submit to verification but not face "punitive consequences."

"It does represent progress," US lead negotiator Todd Stern said.

The draft is "definitely not adequate yet, but it is a step in the right direction. If we can keep moving a few more steps, we

might actually get there," Stern said.

But Stern warned that another dispute remained "very tough" -- on the future of the Kyoto Protocol.

With few expecting a new full-fledged treaty anytime soon, the European Union has led calls to extend the Kyoto Protocol past the end of 2012, when requirements under the landmark 1997 agreement are set to expire.

The EU position has triggered protests from Japan. It says Kyoto is unfair by not involving the two top polluters -- China, which has no requirements as a developing country, and the United States, which rejected the treaty in 2001.

"It is absolutely imperative that we deliver something, something substantial," EU Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard said. "To come out of Cancun with nothing is simply not an option."

Even if countries carry out pledges they have already made, they are off track to meet the goal agreed in Copenhagen to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Unrest at EPZs over wage

STAR REPORT

Ten officials of a garment factory in Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) were injured as workers of the factory agitating over wages yesterday beat them up, and production was suspended.

And in Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DPEZ), production remained suspended at a factory yesterday as a section of workers abstained from work over wage-related demands.

Three of those injured in the CEPZ -- Production Manager Tapan Das, assistant production manager and Line-in-Charge Jamal Hossain--were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. The others were sent to the CEPZ hospital.

According to a report from our Chittagong bureau, the CEPZ incident took place at Korean garment factory GS Haewae as its workers protested "reduction" of their wages.

But the situation came under control following a meeting between the factory management and the workers around 2:00pm. The management assured the workers of meeting several demands including payment of basic wages at the previous rates.

The workers said their wages decreased as the management adjusted their previous extra allowances with the new pay structure that came into effect on November 1.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Hartal called over edn policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ulama Mashayek Parishad, an anti-government forum of religion-based political leaders, yesterday called a nationwide dawn-to-dusk hartal for December 26 if the government doesn't comply with their recommendations regarding the national education policy within this time.

They will also demonstrate

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

OnlinePoll

Do you think it is unethical for the opposition lawmakers to receive pays and facilities of MPs as they are continually boycotting the parliament?

- Yes (76.8%)
- No (21.8%)
- No Comments (1.4%)

Total votes: 772

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the release of hundreds of secret US diplomatic cables is the prime reason behind the arrest of whistleblowing website Wikileaks' founder Julian Assange?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

December 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Celebrations or a misuse? A high-rise in the capital is adorned with bright lights in contrast to National Electricity Week's message for people to save power.

Electricity not saved

Govt's no-waste call goes in vain on first day of nat'l electricity week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Power conserved by one means power available to another, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday, requesting everyone to make a habit of saving electricity at the inaugural of the first ever 'National Electricity Week'.

"There may be no other country in the world wasting electricity as we do," he said, urging each citizen to consider the energy and economic limitations of the country.

A pointless practice in our country, especially in most offices, is to set air conditioners at very low temperatures, unlike Japan where they strictly maintain it at 26 degree Celsius throughout the year, he said.

Everybody should be personally aware of it, he suggested.

The minister was addressing as chief guest at the programme organised by Power Division of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, in the capital.

Electricity is the key to employment generation and enhancement of productivity -- a sector which has been ignored during the previous government's tenure, Muhith said.

"A total of 971 megawatts of electricity has been added to the national grid till October this year" he said, adding, "By January 2011, 300 MW more will be produced and 2000 MW more will be generated by

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

FIRE AT CHILE PRISON

At least 83 killed

AP, Santiago

A fire set off by rioting inmates in a severely overcrowded prison killed at least 83 prisoners yesterday and seriously injured at least 14 others, firefighters said.

Chileans nationwide could hear the screams of dying inmates in the background as a prisoner used an illegal cell phone to call state television for help.

National prison police director Luis Masferrer said the blaze broke out at about 5:30am local time at the San Miguel prison south of the capital, and it was brought under control three hours later.

Chile's health minister, Jaime Manalich, called it an "enormous calamity" after arriving at the prison, "probably the worst in the history of our penitentiary system. There's a significant number of dead."

Hundreds of anxious and angry relatives of inmates gathered in a chaotic scene outside the prison gates.

Some told state television that prison police initially closed the gates to firefighters, impeding efforts by 10 responding units to control the blaze.

Police operations director Jaime Concha insisted police acted quickly despite coping

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

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আর মাত্র ০৩ দিন বাকি

ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ (ডিপিডিসি) ও ঢাকা ইলেকট্রিক সাপ্লাই কোম্পানী লিঃ (ডেসকো) এর আওতাধীন উত্তরা-মহাখালী-শহীদ জাহাঙ্গীর গেট-শাহবাগ রুটের ঝুলন্ত তারসমূহ অপসারণের জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের উদ্যোগে ভূগর্ভস্থ বিতরণ লাইন নির্মাণের কাজ ৩০ সেপ্টেম্বরের মধ্যে সম্পন্ন করে ৩০ অক্টোবরের মধ্যে ক্যাবলসমূহ অপসারণ করতে বলা হয়। এ বিষয়ে ইতোপূর্বে বিভিন্ন জাতীয় দৈনিকে একাধিকবার বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশিত হয়েছে। কিন্তু ঝুলন্ত ক্যাবলসমূহের অপসারণের কার্যক্রম সম্পন্ন না হওয়ায় উক্ত রুটের ক্যাবলসমূহ অপসারণের তারিখ ৩০ নভেম্বর পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হয়। বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগের সম্মেলন কক্ষে ০৫/১২/২০১০ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত সভায় উপস্থিত সদস্যগণের ঐক্যমতের ভিত্তিতে গৃহীত সিদ্ধান্ত অনুযায়ী আগামী ১১/১২/২০১০ তারিখের মধ্যে উক্ত উত্তরা-মহাখালী-শহীদ জাহাঙ্গীর গেট-শাহবাগ রুটের আইএসপিএবি, কোয়াব, এএমটবসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে তাঁদের ঝুলন্ত ক্যাবলসমূহ অপসারণের জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে। আগামী ১২/১২/২০১০ তারিখ সকাল ১১:০০ টায় সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের উপস্থিতিতে উক্ত ক্যাবলসমূহ অপসারণের কাজ আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে শুরু হবে।

ডিপিডিসি কর্তৃকপক্ষ

ডেসকো কর্তৃকপক্ষ