



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

32 PAGES PLUS STAR CAMPUS PRICE: Tk 10.00

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXI No. 51 | FALGUN 22, 1417 BS | RABIUL AWAL 30, 1432 HJRI



US' MIDEAST STRATEGY

The superpower favours protecting long-term Middle East allies

PAGE 7

THE PRICE BLOW

Rising prices of rice hit the poor hard

PAGE B8

BYE-BYE ROCK

British singer Phil Collins is set to end his rock career for health problems

PAGE 11

Quick power bid clicks

Govt's unsolicited rental projects to spell some relief by April; contractors behind schedule by few weeks, some fail

SHARIER KHAN

The government's drastic bid to meet power demands during the upcoming irrigation season through unsolicited "quick" rental power plants appears successful to a great extent, although some of these deals have flopped.

The Power Development Board (PDB) forecasts a dozen power plants with 1,100 megawatt power generation capacity would come into operation between March and April when the power demand for irrigation surge to an unmanageable height.

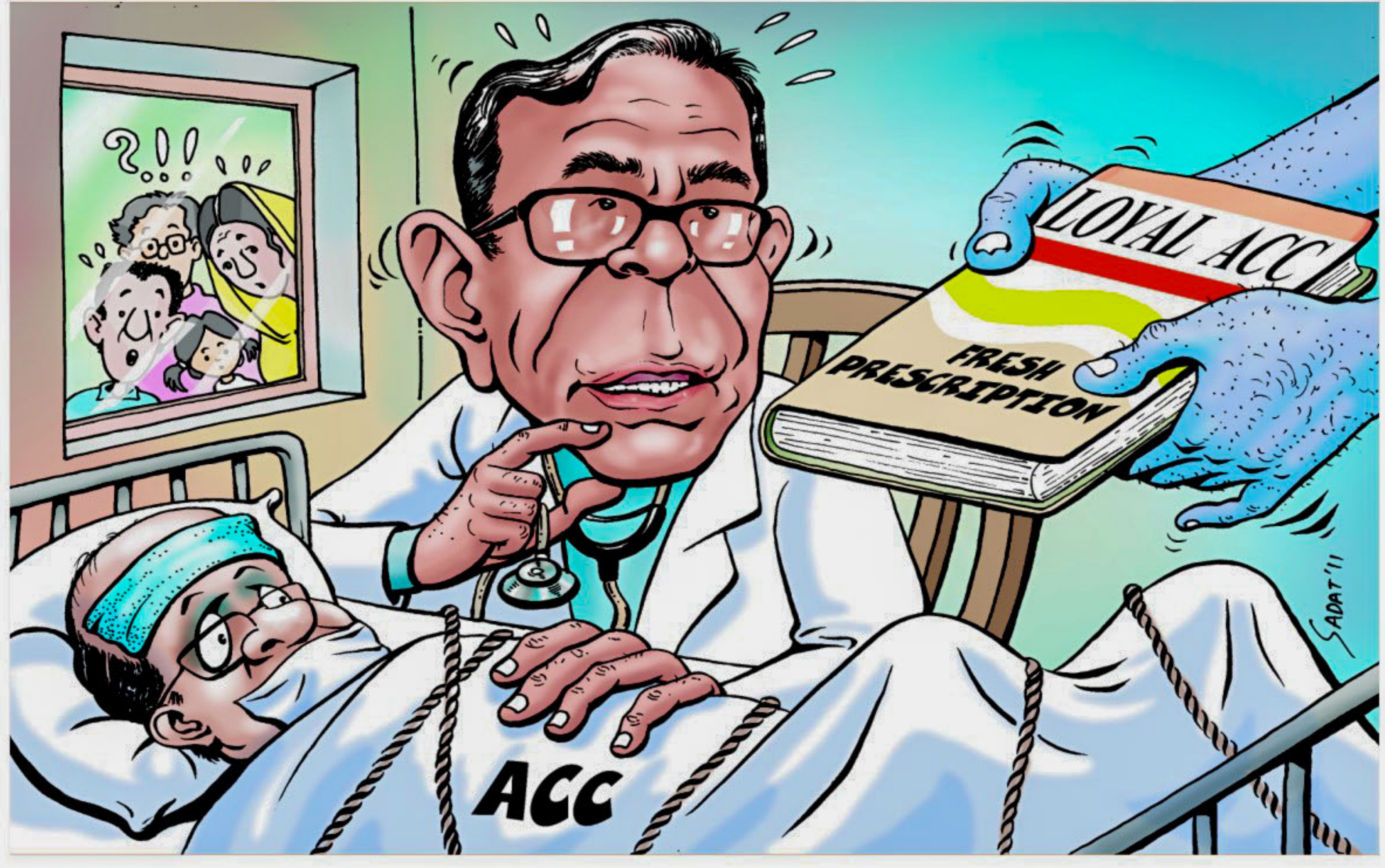
Despite these new additions, there still will be around 1,000 MW of load-shedding

during March-April. Another 300 MW power would be added to the national grid by July.

Already four such plants started operation and are supplying 350 MW of power to the national grid. Another 70 MW gas-fired unit set up by British company Aggreko started test run from February 21 in Brahmanbaria and is currently running the full capacity test. The plant is likely to go commercial within a couple of days.

Sources in PDB say out of 18 unsolicited rental power deals signed last year to add nearly 1,500 MW power by April, at least 16 would be successful. But most of

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6



Abed points at trust of borrowers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sudden exit of the Grameen Bank founder from its Board of Directors and a legal battle between its board and the government may dent borrowers' confidence, putting the organisation's future in doubt, said Sir



SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

All eyes on HC

Order on Yunus 'removal' today; BNP asks govt to scrap decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court gives its order today on a writ petition of Prof Muhammad Yunus, who challenged his removal from Grameen Bank, amid calls at home and abroad for treating the Nobel laureate gracefully.

Bangladesh Bank sought to remove Yunus from the post of managing director of Grameen Bank for "holding on to the position without prior permission from the regulator." Yunus' removal from Grameen Bank set off an uproar in and outside the country.

The HC bench of justices Momtaz Uddin Ahmed and Gobinda Chandra Tagore on Thursday fixed March 6 for giving order on Yunus' petition after a hearing, Attorney

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Ministry snubs Grameen Bank claims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The finance ministry yesterday protested the Grameen Bank rejoinder published in different national dailies and said many claims made by the microlender are unfounded.

It is better not to make further comments on an issue that is being dealt with by court, the ministry said in a statement signed by its Senior Information

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

Anti-graft hope hinges on JS

Parliamentarians, civil society warn against changes to ACC law without proper consultation

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Amendments without having the opinion of the experts and stakeholders will weaken the Anti-Corruption Commission law, parliamentarians and civil society members said.

They made the observations after the government last week placed a bill in parliament proposing some changes to the ACC law.

The government, which enjoys two-thirds majority in parliament, is

expected to pass the amendments unopposed, while ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman is still in the dark about the proposed changes.

The bill, tabled on Monday, is now awaiting scrutiny at the parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry.

"Abrupt amendments without proper consultation with the experts and the people likely to be affected by the law will make the law worse instead of strengthening it," said

noted jurist Dr Kamal Hossain.

Dr Kamal, who was a member of parliament in 1972-75, explained that one of the most important aspects of making an effective legislation is to review public opinion and talk to people who know about the issue well.

"Otherwise, more will be lost than gained," he added.

Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to caretaker government, said, "The effort to amend the law is unnecessary

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

Yahya's call, Tikka Khan's entry

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The day began in anticipation of what action Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman planned to take through his address at the Race Course public meeting the next day.

All over East and West Pakistan, speculation was rife about a probable declaration of independence for Bangladesh by the Awami League chief, particularly against a

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Bangladeshis who fled trouble-torn Libya take their meals at a refugee camp near the Tunisian border town of Ras Jedir on Friday while others line up for food distribution.

PHOTO: AFP

TRAPPED BANGLADESHIS Two die after crossing border

Govt urges IOM for more flights

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladeshis died on Friday of heart attack in Tunisia and Egypt where they had taken shelter from the violence in Libya.

Of the two, Selim Chowdhury of Noakhali sadar breathed his last in Tunisia and Jahangir Afrad of Narsingdi in Egypt, Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes said briefing journalists yesterday afternoon.

Quayes, however, stressed that neither of the two had fallen prey to violence, and the government has initiated the process to bring their bodies through the Bangladesh missions in Cairo and Tripoli.

Meanwhile, the government has requested the International Organisation for Migration to charter more

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

Obituary



Al-Haj M. Ruhul Amin Chisty, the originator of courier service in Bangladesh, Chairman of Continental Group, Managing Director of Continental Oil, Social Worker, Freedom Fighter, Prominent Politician passed away on 25-02-2011 at 2.30 A.M. (Innalillaha ... rajeun).

He has left behind his wife, one son, four daughters and lot of relatives & well wishers. On 25-02-2011 Friday bad Jumma prayers has been buried at his residence "Chisty Nibas" of his own village in state honour.

We mourn his death with our distressed heart, we pray to Almighty Allah for his eternal peace. May Allah bless him. We all pray to the Almighty Allah to extend all support to his family to overcome the unfortunate situation.



All the Staff of Continental Oil Ltd.

Battle rages for key Libyan city

Arms depot blasts toll more than 30; anti-Gaddafi council announces first meet

AGENCIES

Fresh fighting was under way in Zawiya, 50km west of Tripoli, after rebels repelled an effort by government forces to retake the key Libyan city yesterday.

Government forces were pushed out of the city centre in heavy fighting yesterday morning, but regrouped for a fresh assault later in the day.

Casualty figures were unclear, but heavy gunfire could be heard.

Meanwhile, rebels fighting Col Muammar Gaddafi have taken control of the port of Ras Lanuf to the east of Tripoli.

Observers say the overall balance of power is difficult

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

MORE ON PAGE 7, 20

Head Office of Reliance Insurance Limited is moving to a new location from Sunday, 06 March, 2011



New Address

SPL Western Tower, Level-5, Space Nos. 503 & 504, 186, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208.

Telephones : 8818612, 8818614, 8818771, 8818774, 8818670, Fax : 8819674

e-mail : info@reliance.com.bd, Web: www.reliance.com.bd



রিলিয়েন্স ইন্স্যুরেন্স লিমিটেড RELIANCE INSURANCE LIMITED

