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Bhutanese king due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck arrives in Dhaka today to attend the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the country's independence.

Khesar is coming on a five-day state visit at the invitation

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No load shedding from next year

Govt eyes surplus power; plans to shut fertiliser factories to divert gas to power plants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As rising power demand for irrigation is triggering frequent load shedding, the government has decided to shut down gas-fired fertiliser factories like last year, and divert the gas to many of the country's under-utilised power plants to increase power generation.

"Within the next four-five days, you can expect an additional 400 to 500 megawatt power generation," said Prime Minister's Energy Adviser Dr Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury at a discussion with news media editors in the capital yesterday.

Five factories including Chittagong

Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL), and Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company Ltd (Kafco) are being shut down to divert 250 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcf) to power plants. Gas supply shortfall has kept 800 megawatt (MW) power off the national grid for the last few years.

However, this addition will not completely end the on-going load shedding which is now spiralling up to 1,000 MW every day.

Within the next two months, new power plants will increase the country's daily power generation up to 5,000 MW from the present 4,000 MW, said Dr

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

17pc bigger ADP for next fiscal yr

Implementation of present ADP only 37pc in 8 months

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to take a hefty Annual Development Programme for the next fiscal year though the pace of implementation of the present ADP is far from the target.

According to a draft estimate, the ADP for the next FY may be Tk 41,000 crore which is around 17 percent higher than the revised ADP of the current year, said finance ministry sources.

The resources committee in a meeting on Sunday is likely to finalise the draft estimate of the budget including the ADP size for the next FY.

For the first time the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are going to impose conditions on implementation of the ADP to discourage the tendency towards large ADP, the sources said.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

Yunus gets support from Indian peers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than one hundred microfinance practitioners and experts of India have expressed their full support for Grameen Bank founder Prof Muhammad Yunus, saying the genius and vision of the Nobel laureate will be hard to replace.

Sa-dhan (The Association of Community Development Finance Institutions), one of the largest microfinance networks in India, in a statement said the removal of Yunus from Grameen Bank has pained

SEE PAGE 13 COL 7

TAHER TRIAL VERDICT BNP's protest rallies today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has termed the High Court verdict on Col Taher's trial and execution "politically motivated," and announced a country-wide demonstration for today in protest at the "conspiracy" to tarnish party founder Ziaur Rahman's image.

"The entire nation is disappointed and astonished over the verdict. It's [the verdict] the product of a deep-rooted conspiracy and ill political motive," Mirza

SEE PAGE 12 COL 8



PHOTO: AFP

A woman cries over the body of a relative at a temporary cemetery in Higashimatsushima in Japan yesterday. The Japanese usually cremate remains but local governments say a lack of fuel, which is desperately needed by homeless survivors for heat and transport, make burial a more sensible option.

Tokyo water unsafe for babies

Food bans imposed

AFP, Tokyo

Tokyo yesterday warned that radioactive iodine over twice the safe level for infants had been detected in its tap water due to the disaster at a quake-hit nuclear plant northeast of Japan's capital.

The revelation came after the United States barred imports of dairy and other produce from areas near the crippled Fukushima power station, and as the Chinese territory of Hong Kong became the first Asian economy to follow suit.

Japan also estimated the immense economic impact of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, saying it could hit \$309 billion-- double that of the 1995 Kobe quake and nearly four times more than Hurricane Katrina.

The confirmed death toll from the earthquake and tsunami that battered Japan's northeast coast rose to 9,452, and Japan holds out little hope for 14,671 officially listed as missing.

Japan has already

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

The broken furniture at the central canteen of Jagannath University yesterday after two factions of ruling Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League clashed over having food there on credit. Story on page 5.

Speaker rejects 144 notices of opposition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday rejected all 144 notices submitted by opposition MPs demanding discussions in parliament on various issues including deterioration of law and order and soaring

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

PRESIDENT'S TENURE JS special body mulls changes

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The parliamentary special committee on constitution amendment has taken a move to fix the president's tenure of office in conformity with the tenure of a parliament that elects him.

The House body discussed the issue at a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday and asked its members to come up with suggestions at today's meeting, a member said.

The committee's initiative is aimed at averting a "confrontational situation" between the president and the cabinet, he said.

If such a change is brought to the constitution, each parliament will elect a president at its inaugural session,

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think the government decision not to publish the wealth statements of ministers and MPs those would be submitted to the Cabinet Division loses its purpose?

Yes (86.3%)
No (12.7%)
No Comments (1.0%)

TOTAL VOTES : 401

TODAY'S POLL

Following Robert Blake's statement that the Yunus issue will have a bearing on Bangladesh-US relation, what should the Bangladesh government do?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING March 24

Azan Jamaat
Fajr 4-55 5-30
Zohr 12-45 1-15
Asr 4-45 5-00
Maghrib 6-16 6-20
Esha 7-45 8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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