

Thailand goes to polls tomorrow

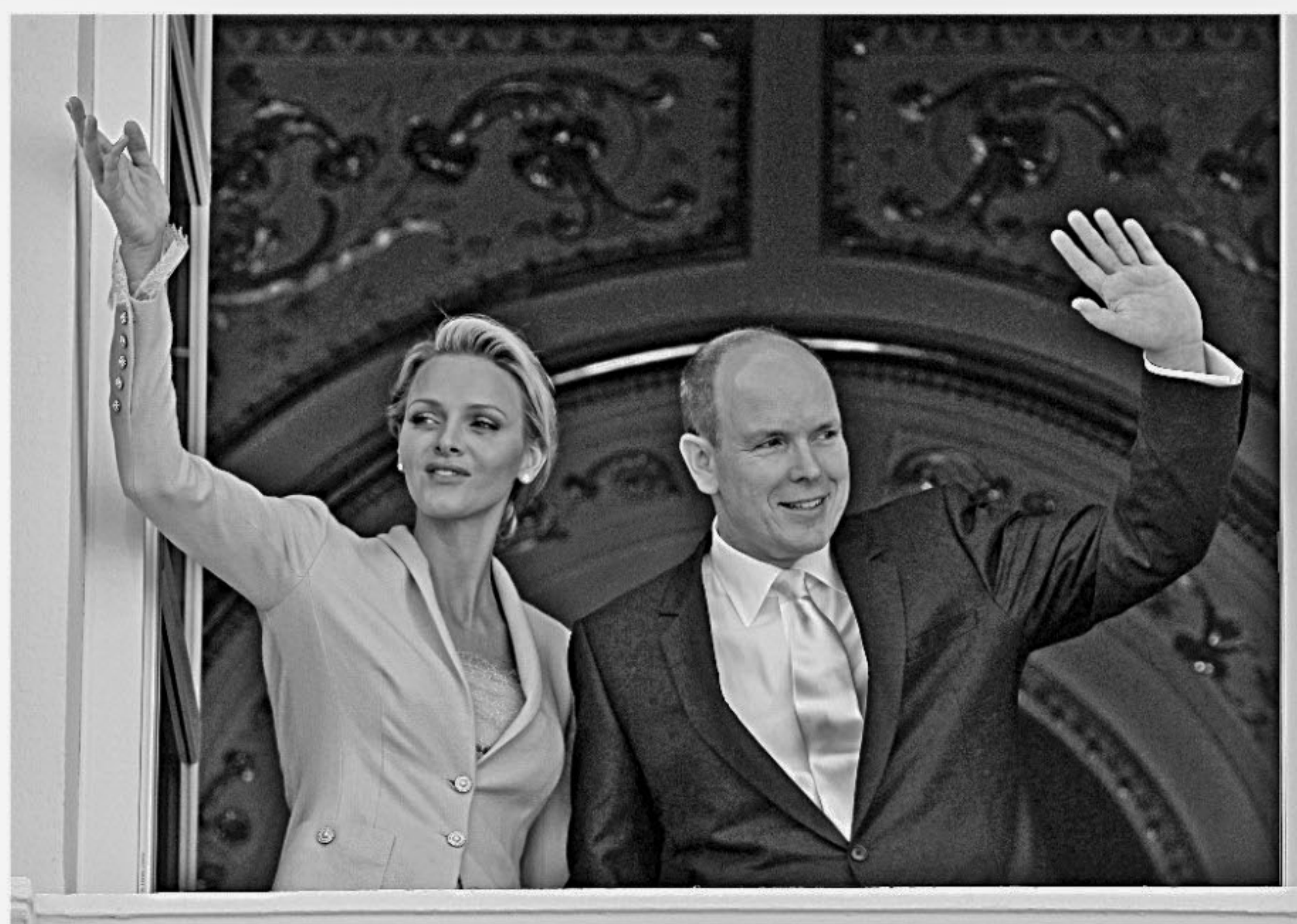
AFP, Bangkok

Thailand votes tomorrow in an election which will test the kingdom's ability to emerge from a long and bloody political crisis, pitting the ruling elite against the disenfranchised poor.

The poll is the first since the country was rocked by its worst civil violence in decades last year, when two months of crippling anti-government protests sparked a military crackdown that left more than 90 people dead.

The vote looks set to mark a political comeback for Thailand's fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Polls show his sister Yingluck Shinawatra, a political newcomer, enjoying a hefty lead over the ruling Democrats led by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.



Prince Albert II of Monaco and Princess Charlene of Monaco greet people on the balcony after their civil wedding at the Prince's Palace yesterday in Monaco. PHOTO: AFP

PAYMENT DISPUTE Iran may halt oil supplies to India

REUTERS, New Delhi

Iran has threatened to halt oil supplies to India in August as it presses New Delhi to solve a payments dispute that has cast a shadow since December over the two countries' \$12 billion annual crude trade.

National Iranian Oil Co (NIOC), the state oil firm that supplies around 12 percent of India's oil imports, set the deadline in a letter dated June 27 to Indian refiners, sources at the refiners and NIOC told Reuters yesterday.

But Iran might be leery of losing market share in its second-biggest customer with Saudi Arabia already offering India up to 2.6 million barrels -- some 3 percent of the fast-growing Asian giant's imports -- as extra supplies for July.

Iran, facing increased isolation internationally, and energy-hungry India have been looking to resolve an impasse triggered in December when the Reserve Bank of India ended a regional clearing mechanism under U.S. pressure.

Chinese president warns comrades over corruption

China Communist Party marks its 90th anniversary

AFP, Beijing

Chinese President Hu Jintao warned the ruling Communist Party faced severe "growing pains" as it turned 90 yesterday and that corruption, and alienation from China's people, could erode public support.

In a speech on the anniversary of its 1921 founding, Hu lauded the party for leading China's rebirth but made clear that pitfalls lie ahead as it continues to strike an unbalanced balance between economic openness and political rigidity.

"The entire party must clearly see that, with the deep changes in the world, national and party situations, we face many new problems and challenges to improve the party's leadership and rule and to

strengthen the ability to resist corruption and risks," Hu said.

Hu, who has been head of the party for nearly a decade, singled out corruption -- typically named in opinion polls as a top source of public discontent -- as a clear and present danger to the party's ruling legitimacy.

The fight against corruption is the key to "winning or losing public support and the life or death of the party," he said.

"Corruption will cost the party the support and trust of the people," the Chinese president warned.

Hu delivered the speech in a ceremony in the Great Hall of the People that was attended by thousands of party leaders and members and broadcast live on state television.

Japan begins power restrictions

AFP, Tokyo

Japan yesterday began restricting electricity consumption in the Tokyo and Tohoku regions, more than three months after a tsunami sent nuclear reactors into meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi plant.

The power-saving drive, which for many began shortly after the huge March 11 quake and tsunami but which became official yesterday, will last through the peak summer months to September to cut blackout risks after the loss of capacity.

Large companies that violate the decree to cut useage by 15 percent will face fines of up to one million yen (\$12,400). Smaller users and households have also been asked to voluntarily cut power use by 15 percent.

To cope, Japan has taken its annual summer "Cool Biz" campaign -- aimed at limiting air conditioner use and encouraging workers to ditch jackets and ties -- to a new level.

Factories have changed shifts to make use of cooler evenings and early mornings, prompting nursery schools to also open weekends to cater for the needs of working parents.



Passengers on a US Gaza-bound boat prepare to set sail from Athens yesterday to join the flotilla to Gaza. Activists accused Israel of sabotaging ships in a bid to force them to quit the movement. PHOTO: AFP

Gaddafi threatens attacks in Europe

France informed UN on arming rebels

AGENCIES

A defiant Muammar Gaddafi threatened yesterday to carry out attacks in Europe against "homes, offices, families," unless Nato halts its campaign of airstrikes against his regime in Libya.

The Libyan leader, sought by the International Criminal Court for brutally crushing an uprising against him, delivered the warning in an audio message played to thousands of supporters gathered in the main square of the capital Tripoli.

It was one of the largest pro-government rallies in recent weeks, signaling that the embattled Libyan leader can still muster significant support.

Addressing the West, Gaddafi said Libyans might take revenge.

"These people (the Libyans) are able to one day take this battle ... to Europe, to target your homes, offices, families, which would become legitimate military targets, like you have targeted our homes," he said.

"We can decide to treat you in a similar way," he said of the Europeans. "If we decide

to, we are able to move to Europe like locusts, like bees. We advise you to retreat before you are dealt a disaster."

It came just four days after the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Gaddafi and his close associates for crimes against humanity.

Nato has been bombing government-linked targets since March.

In his speech, Gaddafi denounced the rebels as traitors and blamed them for Libya's troubles.

Meanwhile, France said their supply of arms to rebels was to protect civilians from the threat of Gaddafi's forces and insisted that UN knew of the move.

"We informed our partners in Nato and the Security Council about these deliveries," French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told reporters after talks with Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

That admission prompted Russia, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, to accuse France of a "gross violation" of a UN arms embargo.

Editor Abed Khan quits

FROM PAGE 1

Matiur Rahman, editor of the largest circulated Bangla daily Prothom Alo, which Abed Khan believes is an unethical and non-journalistic report.

His resignation came in protest against publishing of the story on Friday's issue of Kaler Kantho ignoring his opposition or disagreement with such report.

He mentioned in his resignation letter that he stepped down from the post on professional and ethical grounds.

"I often protested the pressure to publish news that went against principle and journalism ethics," Abed Khan told The Daily Star.

Kaler Kantho, a newspaper of East-West Media Group, a sister concern of Bashundhara Group, had earlier published quite a number of false and fabricated reports on Matiur Rahman. Another Bangla newspaper of the group Bangladesh Protidin also carried similar stories on Matiur Rahman simultaneously with Kaler Kantho.

They also organised human chains and used posters and placards to establish their propaganda. Earlier this year,

Bangladesh Press Council gave two separate verdicts against both the Bangla newspapers terming the reports false and fabricated.

In a verdict delivered in April, the council declared false and fabricated the daily Kaler Kantho reports about Matiur Rahman being involved in the August 21, 2004 grenade attack.

Issuing a warning against the newspaper, the council had said the newspaper resorted to "yellow journalism by deliberate lying, fabrication and vilification."

The council also said Matiur Rahman has been falsely linked to the grenade attack and maligned publicly.

In another verdict delivered in May, the press council warned and reprimanded the editor and publisher of the Bangladesh Protidin for publishing false, fabricated and motivate reports against Matiur.

Abed Khan said he tried to protest against publishing such news in the newspaper earlier.

"After publishing such report the last time, I told the authority that I would resign a day before any unnecessarily imposed report on Matiur Rahman or any kind of non-journalistic report is

published in the newspaper," he said.

As per his earlier warning, Abed Khan announced his resignation Thursday night.

Some journalists of Kaler Kantho said a kind of gloomy atmosphere remained in the newspaper office following Abed's resignation.

An uncomfortable environment created at the newspaper office on Thursday night when the editor's disagreement came to light over publishing the news item on Friday's copy, they said.

The Daily Sun, another sister concern of Bashundhara Group carried similar story on Friday about Matiur Rahman. Some of its journalists told The Daily Star correspondent that they are also embarrassed and working amid an uncomfortable situation in their newspaper house.

Many promises made during the initial stage of the newspaper's inception were not fulfilled, said Abed Khan.

"I did not let the editorial sanctity get violated," he said, adding that he tried his best, but he stepped down from the post following the failure of repeated attempt to maintain the ethics and standard of journalism.

Many scrapped provisions in charter restored

FROM PAGE 20

Judges to hold any office of profit or practice law at courts, enactment of law prescribing qualifications for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court, and the president's mandatory consultation with the Supreme Court to control and discipline subordinate courts.

Brought into effect by martial law proclamations, two other changes -- introduction of Supreme Judicial Council to remove

Supreme Court judges and identification of citizenship as Bangladeshi -- were condoned by the Appellate Division in the 5th amendment verdict. However, the apex court had set the clock ticking and said the condonation will remain effective till December 31, 2012.

These two changes got parliament's approval and become a part of the constitution on Thursday.

The latest amendment also made the Arabic phrase

"Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim" part of the constitution by inserting its translation along with it "In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful/ In the name of the Creator, the Merciful".

Military ruler Ziaur Rahman through martial law proclamation inserted the Arabic phrase "Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim" above the preamble of the constitution.

Citing that the Arabic

phrase was not a part of the constitution as the country's charter begins with the preamble, the Supreme Court in the 5th amendment case did not deal with it. But Thursday's amendment made it part of the constitution.

In fact, parliament brought changes to the constitution Thursday following recommendations made by the parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment.

The special committee, led by Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, deputy leader of the House, prepared the recommendations in consultation with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The cabinet approved all the recommendations. The law ministry transformed them into the constitutional amendment bill and placed it in the House on June 25.

Asked about the rationale behind restoration of the changes scrapped by the Supreme Court, Suranjit Sengupta, who was co-chair of the special committee, said they made the recommendations considering the overall situation.

"The recommendations also prove that we were quite liberal and compromised in some cases particularly in the area of religious issues," Suranjit told The Daily Star recently. He cited Islam's status as state religion and the Arabic phrase "Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim" above the preamble.

About the provision for women empowerment, Suranjit said it was progressive. "But it was inserted in the constitution in a wrong way and to get support of women. We are now doing it

in right way and to establish women's right," he claimed.

The parliamentary special committee, however, backtracked from recommending restoration of the original article-96 of the 1972 constitution. The 1972 constitution's article-96 empowered parliament to remove Supreme Court judges on grounds of misconduct and physical inability. A source, however, said the committee could not make the recommendation because the premier was against it.

Instead, it proposed retaining the Supreme Judicial Council introduced in the constitution by a martial law proclamation, the source added.

When his attention was drawn to it, Suranjit said, "Article-96 of the 1972 constitution is one of the basic structures of the constitution. It ensured check and balance. So, I personally always favour restoration of the article to its original state. But the committee has decided otherwise."

During the first martial law regime, between August 15, 1975 and April 9, 1979, many changes were brought to the constitution through martial law proclamations.

Apart from inserting new provisions in the constitution, some provisions of 1972 constitution, which were changed by the 4th amendment act in 1975, were restored to their original state.

For example, the High Court was returned the power to enforce fundamental rights. The 4th amendment to the constitution revoked the High Court's authority to do so.

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Tongi, Gazipur

Ref.: TSS/PD-C/17/11/221 Date: 30/06/2011

Emergency Employment Notice

Applications are invited from bonafide Bangladeshi citizens (male/female) for the undermentioned posts to provide technical supports for the TSS Laptop/Netbook/Netbook assembling/manufacture Plant.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Number of Post	Pay Scale	Eligibility, Educational Qualification and Experiences
1.	Hardware Engineer	2 (two)	Negotiable	a) Age: Not above 35 (thirty-five) years. For suitable candidate age may be relaxed. b) Minimum educational qualification: B.Sc in Computer Science and Engineering from any government recognized university/institute. c) Should have 5 (five) years of knowledge in Laptop/Netbook/Notebook assembling/maintenance/overhauling task. d) Should be fluent in English and skilled in writing quality inspection report related documents.
2.	Software Engineer	2 (two)	Negotiable	a) Age: Not above 35 (thirty-five) years. For suitable candidate age may be relaxed. b) Minimum educational qualification: B.Sc in Computer Science and Engineering from any government recognized university/institute. c) Should have 5 (five) years of knowledge in Laptop/Netbook/Notebook assembling/maintenance/overhauling task. d) Should be fluent in English and skilled in writing quality inspection report related documents.

Instructions:
01. Applications are required to be submitted before 11/07/2011 with CV. Candidates are requested to send his application to e-mail address: md.ismail.tss@gmail.com. Only short-listed candidates will get interview card.
02. No TA/DA allowed for interview.

Md. Abdus Samad
General Manager

C-884

পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ
POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
150 9001-2000 CERTIFIED
Institution of Engineers Bangladesh, New Bhaban (4th Floor) 8/A Ramna, Dhaka-1000
Web: www.pgcb.org.bd
Date: June.30.2011

No. 01/PGCB/Sec(TSS)/2011/3148

Notice of Time Extension

Extension of Closing Date for Submission of Bids for procurement of various field test equipment such as DC high voltage test set {0-160 kv}, AC high voltage test set {0-180kv}, oil test cell [Model must be compatible with PGCB's existing FT-12, Presco AG, Switzerland Capacitance & ten-delta test set] for measurement of tan delta for liquid insulating and transformer insulating oil acidity test set.

Ref: Memo No.: 01/PGCB/Sec(TSS)/50.03/2011/148, Date: May 31, 2011

The closing date for submission of Bids for the above work has been extended from **July 3, 2011 at 11:30 am Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) to July 18, 2011 at 11:30 am BST.**

All other terms and conditions for the above Bidding Document shall remain unaltered.

Md. Ashraf Hossain
Company Secretary

ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LIMITED
(An enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Ashuganj, B.Barua-3402, Bangladesh.
Tel: Tel: 0088 08528 74611, Fax: 0088 08528 74014
Email: pd450south@apsc.com

Memo No. APSC/MD/Project-450MW (South)/2011/1051 Date: 30/06/2011
"Amendment of APSC Tender Enquiry"
(Amendment No.-1)

Tender Name, Enquiry No. & Date	Subject to be Amended	Existing as	Shall be Amended as
Detailed Engineering, Design, Manufacture/Procurement, Inspection, Testing, Delivery to site, Installation, construction of related civil works, commissioning and performance test on turnkey basis of Ashuganj 450 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant(South). APSC/MD/Project-450MW (South)/2011/808 Dated: 04/06/2011	Pre Bid Meeting	A pre-bid meeting will be held at 11:00 am Bangladesh Standard Time on 4 July 2011. You are requested to send your query (if any) at least 5 days before pre-bid meeting.	A pre-bid meeting will be held at 11:00 am Bangladesh Standard Time on 11 July 2011. You are requested to send your query (if any) at least 5 days before pre-bid meeting. Place: Conference room APSC

All other terms & Conditions shall remain unchanged.

Project Director 30.6.11
450 MW CCPP Project
APSC, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.