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## Ministers to be fired if found corrupt: PM

**HASAN JAHID TUSHER**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said ministers will be fired if graft allegations against them are proved. Reiterating that her government has zero tolerance for corruption, she said, "Ministers will be sacked if anyone comes up with documents or other evidence proving their corruption. But no verbal statements alleging corruption will be accepted."



Hasina, also president of Awami League, was addressing a joint meeting of AL Central Working Committee and Advisory Council at her official residence Gono Bhaban. The latest political developments and organisational matters were among the issues discussed at the meeting. The prime minister said many have lately been addressing rallies in Shaheed Minar accusing ministers, particularly the communications minister, of corruption. "I will request them to bring specific documents detailing in which areas corruption took place. I assure them the minister will be removed and actions will be taken," she said. She claimed the government did not indulge in corruption in any sector in its last two and a half years. "Had there been any corruption, we would not have been able to clock a GDP growth of 6.7 percent



Heavy downpour floods the main street in Muradpur in Chittagong making it difficult for vehicles to ply the road. Low-lying areas in the port city got inundated due to heavy rainfall in the last two days. Story on page 2. PHOTO: STAR

## Teesta water deal to be signed soon

**PM assures people**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday gave an assurance that the treaty on Teesta water sharing will be signed with India soon. "I will not mention any specific timeline for it. Rather, I will say that it is a matter of time. The two countries will ink the Teesta deal through discussion," Hasina said at a joint meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee and party advisory council at Gono Bhaban in the capital. He urged people not to get frustrated over the treaty not being signed during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan

## Save JS complex from metro route

**Architects, environmentalists ask govt, suggest relocation of military sites from city**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The air force's pressure to realign the proposed metro rail route through Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises is not acceptable, leading architects and city planners said at a media briefing in the capital yesterday. They instead demanded relocation of all military installations from the core of the capital to make way for solutions to Dhaka's transport problems, and planned urban development. The Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), and Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) jointly organised the briefing at Dhaka Reporters' Unity. The experts condemned the air force's suggestion, as it will deface the masterpiece of Louis I Kahn, a maestro of world architecture. No encroachment on the master plan of Sangsad Bhaban, an architectural marvel, will be accepted, they said. Sangsad is the symbol of sovereignty and the people's power; they said adding that a suggestion for an onslaught on its master plan for the sake of an abandoned airport is impudent. Bangladesh Air Force objected to the metro rail's current proposed route along Bijoy Sarani and suggested realignment along Sangsad Avenue through Khamarbari, encroaching about 55 metres of the Sangsad complex. The air force is claiming that a metro rail route along Bijoy Sarani will hinder air operations at Tejgaon airfield. Prof Sarwar Jahan, president of BIP, said the argument is unfounded, the air force apparently has a commercial motive to hold on to the old airport land. "Dhaka's horrendous transport problem will not be permanently solved unless

## PDB faces huge loss from oil-based power

**SHARIER KHAN**  
As the government has turned to generating power using costly imported fuel oil, the Power Development Board is set to incur an extra loss of around Tk 8,000 crore until June next, said a top official of the board. As a result of increased dependency on fuel oil for power generation and decreased use of cheaper local gas, the actual power production cost has gone up to Tk 4.8 per kilowatt hour (or an unit), up by at least one taka from that of last year. Presently, the PDB bulk power sales rate is Tk 2.8 a unit, way below the generation cost. To cover the loss, the government has been heavily subsidising the power board. To reduce the subsidy burden, the government has been following a policy to increase power tariff by 15 percent every six months. However, the hike did not take place according to the plan. The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), which decide power tariff increase based on government proposals, in July did not agree to increase the **Tk 8,000cr extra loss likely till June next; generation cost way above sales rate; govt for tariff hike every 6 months** tariff by 15 percent and allowed just 6 percent hike. The PDB is waiting for a power tariff increase by 15 percent next December. "If the BERC had approved a 15 percent hike in July and if it does so in December, our losses would reduce by Tk 2,500 crore," said PDB Chairman ASM Alamgir Kabir. That means its projected loss of Tk 8,000 crore could have been lower. The PDB started counting loss significantly from the last fiscal year due to its increased reliance on imported oil based power plants as a short term and quick solution to the persistent power crisis. Natural gas generated more than 90 percent power even a couple of years ago but its share has gone down below 76 percent. Natural gas is the cheapest source of power generation in the country, but its short supply for the last several years has compelled the government to turn to imported fuel oil as a short term solution. The top PDB official added that fuel oil contributed to an insignificant percentage of power generation until a few years ago. With the addition of some rental power projects

## Woman kills herself after facing village arbitration

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi**  
A young housewife allegedly hanged herself after she was harassed in village arbitration at Boteswar village under Belabo upazila of the district Thursday night. She was identified as Yasmin Sultana, 27, daughter of late Suruj Mia of the village. Yasmin was married off to Asad Mia 14 years back, villagers said. Following family feud and financial crisis, she joined a garments factory at Gazipur on September 4 this year. Six days later Yasmin's mother Johora Begum took her back to the village. Johora got her daughter divorced and married her off to Abul Kalam of Rajarbag village on the same day. Hearing the news of the



Aman seedlings are brought to a floating market in Kawkhali in Pirojpur with the planting season nearing its end. The demand for the seedlings is high this time, as many seedbeds in the area got damaged by heavy downpour. PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

## Bangladeshis out of DV-13 lottery

**Citizens of 18 other countries cannot apply next year**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The United States has declared 19 countries including Bangladesh ineligible for the upcoming Diversity Visa (DV) 2013. The State Department in an announcement said the nationals of these countries are not eligible to apply, as the countries sent more than 50,000 immigrants to the US over the last five years. The 18 other countries are: Brazil, Canada, China (mainland-born), Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, South Korea, United Kingdom (except northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and Vietnam. Persons born in Hong Kong SAR (special administrative region), Macau SAR and Taiwan, however, are eligible for the programme, the announcement said. It also mentioned that for 2013 fiscal year, 50,000 diversity visas will be available and the annual DV programme makes visas available to persons meeting simple, but strict, eligibility requirements. **CHANGES IN ELIGIBILITY:** For DV-2013, natives of South Sudan and Poland are now eligible for selection. The Department of State implemented the electronic registration system beginning with DV-2005 in order to make the DV process more efficient and secure.