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OIL-BASED POWER PLANTS Govt may ask pvt producers to import fuel

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government may ask private power producers to import fuel on their own, as Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation is unwilling to bear huge bills for soaring fuel imports, Power Division officials said.

The Division has sent a proposal to that end to the cabinet committee on economic affairs, which will be placed in a committee meeting today.

The Energy Division early this year sent a letter to the Power Division expressing concern over huge fuel imports. It said the BPC has been incurring huge losses for selling fuel at prices lower than that on the international market. BPC's cumulative loss stood at around Tk 20,000 crore till January this year.

The amount of losses will go up for supplying fuel to new power plants, and it will be difficult for the BPC to store up and supply large quantity of fuel, read the letter.

In its proposal, the Power Division mentioned that it requires 500 tonnes of furnace oil to run a 100-megawatt power plant for 24 hours.

Wishing anonymity, an official of the Division said they started importing additional fuel for quick rental power plants from the last fiscal year.

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Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, a pro-BNP student wing, blocks one side of the road between Shishu Park and Matsya Bhaban in the capital for hours yesterday afternoon while holding its anniversary programme at Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh.

PHOTO: STAR

JCD blocks road to hold programme

Commuters suffer
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shahbagh and adjoining areas of Dhaka city yesterday witnessed severe traffic congestion as Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, a pro-BNP student body, was holding a programme, blocking the road.

JCD held its 33th anniversary programme at Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh when its leaders and activists occupied one side of the road from Shishu Park to Matsya Bhaban from 3:00pm to 6:00pm.

Many commuters had to leave public buses or their vehicles to reach their destinations on foot.

"It took an additional one hour to reach Firmgate from Laxmi Bazar," said Rayhan Ahmed, a resident of Laxmi Bazar.

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PM takes a swipe at newspapers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a tone of sarcasm tinged with ridicule, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday hit out at newspapers for criticising her government's reliance on rental power plants as a way of resolving the electricity crisis.

Hasina was speaking at the launch of the 17th Dhaka International Trade Fair at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

The prime minister said on December 26, she

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Secret killings on the rise

Rights body ASK worried as 51 people went missing last year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of mysterious disappearances and secret killings saw an alarming rise in 2011 compared to the previous years, shows a report of rights organisation Ain O Salih Kendra (ASK).

Fifty-one people vanished last year, with 15 bodies being recovered later, according to the report published yesterday.

Allegations are that members of law enforcement agencies, particularly those of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), were involved in those incidents, ASK Executive Director Sultana Kamal said sharing the findings of the report at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

"People simply disappeared and, in some cases, their

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

MISSING SINCE 2008

Sajjad still waits for his father

M RAHMAN

Every night Sajjad goes to sleep in the hope that his father will come the next morning. Morning comes a little more harshly --- he finds that his hope has been misplaced. Yet he does not lose heart. He puts his father's T-shirt on the pillow as he sleeps. That way, he feels the presence of his father --- caring, loving, warm.

The T-shirt now hardly bears the familiar smell of the sweat of his father, who was abducted more than three years ago on July 22, 2008. And yet Sajjad Islam, a student of class IV, keeps his father's garment on his pillow in a vain attempt to



Sajjad



Titu

feel his father's presence in his life.

Indifferent to his studies, Sajjad writes letters to his missing father whenever he is left alone, says Begum Lipi Islam, wife of Titu, 27, who was allegedly picked up by

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

BNP standing body okays new alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee last night decided to form a new alliance, keeping the existing four-party alliance intact with an aim to forge a tougher anti-government movement.

Earlier on Thursday, leaders of the four-party alliance took the decision and empowered the BNP chairperson to finalise it in consultation with her party's highest policymaking forum.

Following the Thursday's meeting, BNP standing committee last

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the chief prosecutor of the war crimes trial should resign for 'failure' to submit charges properly?

Yes (65.4%)
No (29.3%)
No Comments (5.3%)

TOTAL VOTES: 379

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government will probe secret killings and the incidents of mysterious disappearance?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT
[facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)



Buet students stage sit-in at the administrative building of the university yesterday demanding expulsion of three Chhatra League activists for beating up a senior student.

PHOTO: STAR

'Muggers' kill Brac official

STAR CORRESPONDENT

The body of a Brac official was recovered from Tongi in Gazipur yesterday morning.

Abu Zahid Sarker, 55, an official of Brac's cold

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Quader for army help to tackle traffic jam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said he might take help of the army to tackle traffic congestion and stop plying of overloaded vehicles.

"If necessary, I will take assistance from the army upon approval of the prime minister to give people relief by tackling the nagging traffic congestion," Quader said while inaugurating a training programme for driving trainers of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL Ghulam Azam, Kamaruzzaman appeal for exemption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Jamaat-e Islami ameer Ghulam Azam, and its assistant secretary general Muhammad Kamaruzzaman yesterday appealed to the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) to exempt them from the crimes against humanity charges.

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Road crash kills 7

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Seven people including six of a family were killed as a car plunged into a roadside pond on Laksam-Sonaimuri road in Noakhali yesterday morning.

The deceased are Mostafizur Rahman, 50, his son Shahadat, 8, two daughters-- Shraboni, 13, and Jyoti, 3,-- relatives Sohagi, 30, and Mili, 22, and his driver Moshtaq Ahmed, 35.

The victims' relatives said Mostafizur Rahman, a trader,

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OFFICE SHIFTING

PROJECT BUILDERS LIMITED (PBL) has been shifted to PBL Tower, Floor 5th & 6th, 17 (North) C/A, Gulshan-2 on January 01, 2012, From 692/B, Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka. New Telephone Nos.: 8991187, 8991250 & 8991143. Fax No.: 8832508.

PRAYER TIMING January 2

Azan Jamaat

Fajr 5:30 6:05
Zohr 12:45 1:15
Asr 4:00 4:15
Maghrib 5:30 5:35
Esha 7:00 7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

ঢাকা ওয়াসা

● ঢাকা ওয়াসার সম্মানিত গ্রাহকগণের বিল পরিশোধের সুবিধার্থে ওয়াসা কর্তৃপক্ষ বিভিন্ন ব্যাংকের সাথে রিয়েল-টাইম অনলাইন বিল প্রদানের চুক্তি সম্পাদন করছে। ইতিমধ্যে সাউথইস্ট ব্যাংক লিঃ-এর সাথে চুক্তি করা হয়েছে এবং ওয়াসার সম্মানিত গ্রাহকগণ এ সুবিধা পাচ্ছেন।

● ১ জানুয়ারি ২০১২ থেকে প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংক লিঃ এর সবকটি শাখা থেকে উক্ত সুবিধা প্রদান করা হচ্ছে।

● ঢাকা ওয়াসা কর্তৃপক্ষ আরও কয়েকটি ব্যাংকের সাথে এ ধরনের চুক্তি সম্পাদনের কার্যক্রম চালিয়ে যাচ্ছে।

● সম্পাদিত চুক্তির আওতায় ঢাকা ওয়াসার যে কোন জোনের সম্মানিত গ্রাহকগণ সাউথইস্ট ব্যাংক ও প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংক-এর যে কোন শাখায় বিল প্রদান করতে পারবেন। বিলের অর্থ স্বয়ংক্রিয়ভাবে গ্রাহকের হিসাবে জমা হয়ে যাবে এবং সম্মানিত গ্রাহকগণ ঢাকা ওয়াসার ওয়েবসাইট থেকে তা নিশ্চিত হতে পারবেন।

পানি ও পয়ঃ বিল নিয়মিত পরিশোধ করুন
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দি প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংক

সে বা ই প্র থ ম

সাউথইস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড