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Govt allows pvt power producers to import fuel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's private power producers will now be able to import fuel on their own as Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) is unwilling to bear huge costs for soaring fuel imports.

Cabinet committee on economic affairs at a meeting yesterday approved a Power Division proposal in this regard.

Chaired by Finance Minister AMA Muhith, the meeting also decided to conduct a feasibility study for building the country's third sea port in Patuakhali under Public Private Partnership (PPP).

The private power producers can import diesel or furnace oil on their own if they want so, the finance minister told journalists.

Earlier this month the Energy Division wrote a letter to the Power Division expressing concern over huge fuel imports. It said BPC has been incurring huge losses for selling fuel at prices lower than those on the international market.

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Indian manpower minister Kapil Sibal welcomes Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the airport in Agartala yesterday. PHOTO: PID

BNP talked beyond agenda

Ashraf says about president's dialogue

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam yesterday said the main opposition BNP's demand for the caretaker government system was not on the agenda of the ongoing president's dialogue with political parties.

"The president initiated the dialogue to seek suggestions about appointing chief election commissioner and other commissioners, but BNP raised

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

IBRAHIM MURDER MP Shaon not charged

His bodyguard, 5 others accused

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday pressed charges against six people excluding ruling Awami League lawmaker Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon in connection with the killing of Jubo League leader Ibrahim Ahmed in August 2010.

The accused are Shaon's bodyguard Delwar Hossain, driver Kamal Hossain Kala, personal secretary Sohel Ahmed, Jubo League

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Petrobangla in a hurry to set up LNG terminal

Pre-bid meet today

SHARIER KHAN

After taking nearly a year in picking four bidders to participate in a tender for setting up a floating terminal in Maheshkhali for importing Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to ease the country's gas crisis, the Petrobangla is pressing them to submit their request for proposals (RFP) within just 45 days.

Sources said the Petrobangla is hurrying because it feels that if the contract to set up the terminal is not signed by March, it would not be completed within the tenure of the Awami League-led government. Therefore the government would not get the political mileage from it.

But a couple of the selected bidders already sought extension of deadline for submitting their RFP as it requires them to get equipment providers' delivery confirmation as well as financial arrangements. They said the Petrobangla fixed the RFP deadline on December 23, when most of the companies were on holidays and therefore they lost valuable time to prepare their RFP.

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BCL-Shibir clash at Sust 20 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 persons were injured yesterday evening as activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir clashed on Shahjalal University of Science Technology (Sust) campus.

Police contingent was deployed on the campus around 8:30pm after they

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Pak army warns Gilani over criticism

Defence secretary sacked

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's army warned yesterday of "grievous consequences" for the country over criticism by the prime minister that has ramped up tensions between the military and civilian leadership.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani immediately sacked the top bureaucrat in the defense ministry over the row, with the

government saying the official had been the cause of the "misunderstanding" with the military.

The spat centers on a Supreme Court inquiry set up to investigate a controversial unsigned memo allegedly delivered to the US military seeking its help in curbing Pakistan's highly powerful armed forces in May.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

BNP protests ISPR views on Khaleda's remarks

UNB, Dhaka

The main opposition BNP has clarified ISPR's statement on Khaleda Zia's remarks at a public meeting in Chittagong city on Monday.

In a press statement on Wednesday, BNP said the words used in the press

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Dr Kamal Hossain that the caretaker government system should be restored for the sake of a free and fair general election?

Yes (62.8%)
No (36.3%)
No Comments (0.9%)

TOTAL VOTES: 976

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with ISPR that opposition leader Khaleda Zia's remarks on Monday about the army were misleading and provocative?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING January 12

Asan	Jamaat
Fajr 5-30	6-05
Zohr 12-45	1-15
Asr 4-00	4-15
Maghrib 5-36	5-40
Esha 7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Coming out next FRIDAY

BREAK THE SILENCE
Not the Woman

This week, the Star magazine's cover story focuses on the violence women in our male-dominated society fall victim to at the hands of their partners. Along with the regular sections, it also has features on the ruling Awami League's declining popularity, the BCL-led thugism in the campuses across the country and the abuse and uncertain future that some senior citizens in the country face in their old age.

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21st Anniversary of The Daily Star

BANGLADESH THE YOUNG AND THE FUTURE

On the occasion of our 21st anniversary, we at The Daily Star have decided to dedicate our anniversary supplement to recognise and profile the achievements and visions of our youth. The supplement which will be titled "Bangladesh: The Young and The Future" will aim to highlight the work of young achievers from every corner of the country and bring them to national focus.

If you know of any extraordinary young people in the categories given below please send us their brief profiles. The categories are:

1. Technology (also science)
2. Public Service (also professionals)
3. Politics
4. Entrepreneurship
5. Academia (also vocational learning, skill development, etc.)
6. Environment
7. Arts (music, film, etc.)
8. Agriculture
9. Social activism
10. Labour
11. Sports

Please send stories of our young achievers to elita@thedailystar.net with a detailed profile (no longer than 400 words) of what they are doing. Deadline for submissions is January 15, 2012. This is your chance to get recognised. So get your nominations in.