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POWER PROJECTS FINANCING

Summit manages 1 with local banks

Fate of 2 others uncertain

SHARIER KHAN

Failing to secure international loan of about \$800 million for three large projects, local power company Summit has turned to home banks to manage fund for one of them.

The company is set to miss the February-end deadline for arranging fund for the remaining two power projects, Bibiyana 1 and 2.

Summit chief Muhammad Aziz Khan said the fund for the two projects would be arranged in March. Government officials,

however, are doubtful about this.

The situation implies that the construction of the gas-fired Bibiyana 1 and 2 projects (each with 341 megawatt capacity) will be delayed.

The other one, Meghnaghat 335MW dual-fuel (gas and oil) power project, is expected to be commissioned in due time, from late 2012. To make it happen, Summit has raised \$275 million from local Trust, Janata, Islamic, Brac and Shahjalal banks, and its own accounts.

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Three participants from Cherry Blossom International School at Mirpur in the capital make it through to the second round of The Daily Star Spelling Bee.

PHOTO: STAR

SPELLING BEE

British School, Shaheed Smrity College students take challenge

SHAHNOOR RABBANI

Students of The British School and Shaheed Smrity College turned up for the Spelling Bee contest in the city yesterday.

Okhil Priyo Jamali of class VII, Jubayer Khan and Aga Maved of class IX got through to the second round from The British School.

Md Naimur Rahman, Ahmed Sakib Rashid and Salman Palak, all students of class X at Shaheed

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ABSENT FOR 143 JS SITTINGS

Speaker bats for SQ Chowdhury

Says his membership won't go

STAR REPORT

BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury remained absent from parliament proceedings for 143 consecutive sitting days as of yesterday without permission, according to sources in the Parliament Secretariat.

His MP status was supposed to be scrapped in June last year as per a consti-



tutional provision when his absence crossed the 90 consecutive sitting-day limit.

Article 67 (1) (b) of the Constitution says a Member of Parliament shall vacate his seat if he is absent from Parliament, without the leave of Parliament, for ninety consecutive sitting days.

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Mahmudul to become MP

Kashem loses Tangail-5 JS membership as SC upholds HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court has paved the way for BNP leader Maj Gen (retd) Mahmudul Hasan to be a member of the ninth parliament.

The Appellate Division of SC yesterday upheld a High Court verdict that had directed the Election Commission (EC) to declare

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Abul Kashem

DEATHS IN TOXIC SYRUP

Trial of Rid Pharma finally starts

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

Three years into the deaths of 28 children from consumption of Rid Pharma's paracetamol syrup, the trial of the high-profile case finally began in a Dhaka court yesterday.

Five officials including the company's managing director, stand accused in the case, facing charges of using toxic diethylene glycol in the syrups -- brand named Ridaplex Syrup and Temset

Suspension.

If convicted, the accused persons may get up to 10 years in jail, according to the relevant laws.

The 28 kids, aged between two and six years, died in Dhaka, Sylhet, Narayanganj and Brahmanbaria between June and August 2009 after taking those syrups, case documents say.

A government test concluded that the syrups lacked specified manufacturing

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Rickshaws use a low opening for pedestrians in the central reservation to make U-turns in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday. Not only is this violation of traffic rules, it is dangerous as it blocks the fast lanes of the street. Oncoming traffic may not see the rickshaws due to the plants on the central reservation. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Home minister denies 'forced disappearances'

Tells Sangsad 537 abducted, 480 rescued in 3 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is nothing called forced disappearance in the law, Home Minister Shahara Khatun said in parliament yesterday.

She made the remark when BNP lawmaker AM Mahub Uddin Khokon of Noakhali-1 constituency in a scripted question enquired how many incidents of forced disappearances and secret killings happened since the Awami League-led government took office in 2009.

The home minister, however, talked about abduction cases.

She said a total of 537 people were abducted in the last three years, of whom 480 were rescued. Efforts continue to rescue others.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

How do you look at Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan's demand for making extortion legal to stop rampant corruption in the transport sector?

Justified: (6.2%)

Ridiculous: (93.8%)

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with the BNP chief Khaleda Zia that the government has a subservient foreign policy?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

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

PRAYER TIMING February 15

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-57	6-01
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

China ready to help solve EU debt crisis

AFP, Beijing

China's Premier Wen Jiabao said yesterday his country is ready to increase its participation in efforts to resolve Europe's debt crisis, after holding talks with EU leaders in Beijing.

Wen said China wanted to see Europe -- its biggest trading partner -- "maintain stability and prosperity", a day after ratings agency Moody's downgraded Italy, Spain and Portugal.

The two sides also agreed during the talks to give fresh impetus to Beijing's efforts to attain full market economy status (MES) for China in the European Union, according to a joint communique issued after the summit.

"China is ready to increase its participation in resolving the EU debt problems," the Chinese premier told journalists after meeting EU president Herman Van Rompuy and European Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso.

China was considering using Europe's bail-out funds to help address the continent's fiscal woes, Wen added, without elaborating further on how the Asian power

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ঢাকার বসুন্ধরা আবাসিক এলাকায়

বেসিক ব্যাংকের ৪৮তম শাখার

শুভ উদ্বোধন

আজ বুধবার, ১৫ ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০১২ই

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চেয়ারম্যান, বেসিক ব্যাংক

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