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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.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

ABSENT FOR 143 JS SITTINGS

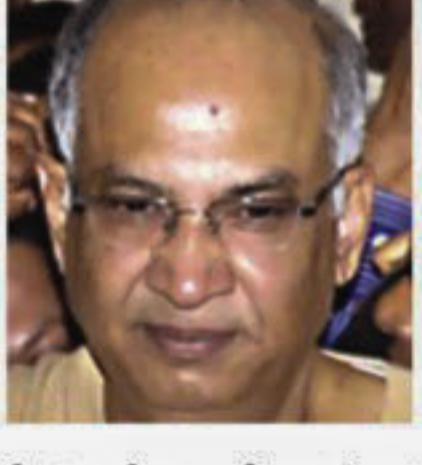
Speaker bats for SQ Chowdhury

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.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



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

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

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

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Abul Kashem

DEATHS IN TOXIC SYRUP

Trial of Rid Pharma finally starts

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

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SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

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 Mahbub 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.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

China ready to help solve EU debt crisis

AFP, Beijing

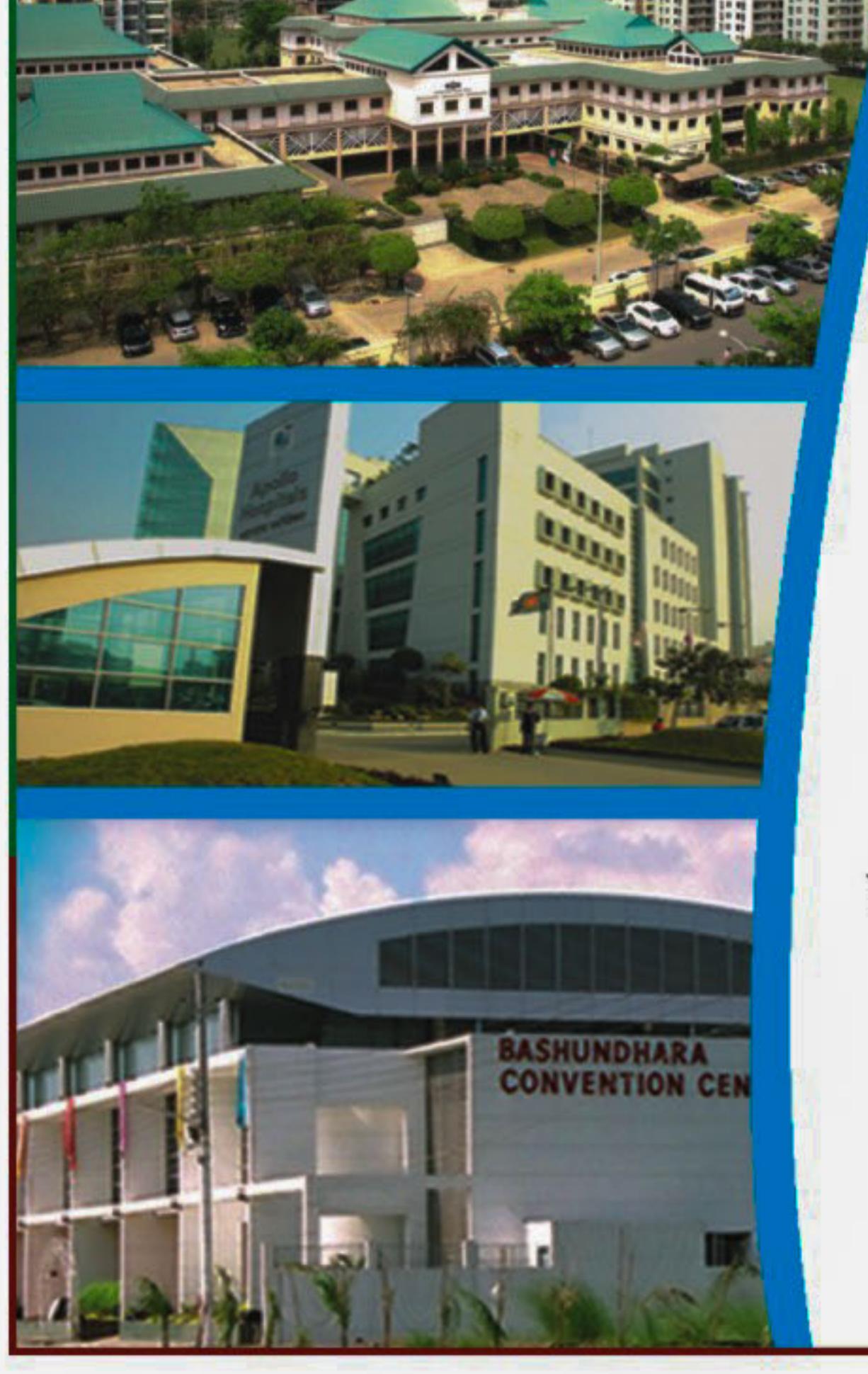
China's Premier Wen Jiabao said yesterday his country is ready to increase its participation in efforts to resolve Europe's debt crisis, after holding talks with EU leaders in Beijing.

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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