

Electricity price hike protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political organisations yesterday protested the price hike of electricity and demanded withdrawal of the decision on it.

When the government is failing to provide uninterrupted electricity supply and the people are experiencing load-shedding for about eight hours a day, the price of electricity is being increased again and again, they said.

On March 29, the government again hiked the electricity prices by Tk 0.28 per unit for bulk consumers and Tk 0.30 per unit for retail users with retrospective effect from March 1 this year.

Leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at a protest rally before the Jatiya Press Club yesterday suggested the government repairing, renovating and expanding the power plants which are out of order as well as shifting all fuel-based power plants to gas-based power plants by more gas exploration.

Leaders of Jatiya Krishak Samity in a statement said though the government has increased the price of electricity, load-shedding has not reduced.

They said the government cannot put the responsibility on the shoulders of the people as it is installing expensive rental power plants instead of taking long-term power plant projects.

Ganotantrik Bam Morcha, Pragatishil Krishibid Kendra, Bangladesh Nationalist Awami Party-Bangladesh and Bangladesh Jubo Union also protested the price hike of electricity.



Outgoing Malaysian High Commissioner Jamaluddin Bin Sabeh pays a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office (PMO) in the city yesterday. (Story on Page-20)

Hearing on charge framing against 58 BNP, Jamaat men on April 10

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The hearing on charge framing against 58 leaders and activists of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami will be held on April 10.

A case was filed against them for creating violence in the city's Paltan area on December 18 last year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Erfan Ullah of the Speedy Trial Court-7 issued the order after scrutinising the case dockets and other relevant documents of the case.

The accused include Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal President Moazzem Hossain Alal and General Secretary Saiful Alam Nirob, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) President Sultan Salauddin Tuku and General Secretary Amirul Islam Khan Alim and Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebak Dal President Habib-un-Nabi Khan Sohel and General Secretary Sarafat Ali Safu.

Earlier, all the accused were granted bail from different courts on different dates.

The accused were charged with damaging vehicles, halting traffic, causing anarchy and preventing police from discharging their duties.

Muktar Hossain, sub-inspector of Paltan Police Station and investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the 58 on December 28 last year.

Several homemade bombs went off in the city's downtown as hundreds of BNP-Jamaat activists clashed with police and vandalised and torched around a dozen vehicles on December 18.

HSC AND EQUIVALENT EXAMS

8,749 absent, 33 expelled on first day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 8,749 candidates were absent on the first day of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations yesterday while 33 students were expelled for resorting to unfair means during the examination.

This year's figure of absentees on the first day is higher than that of last year's with 7,714 absentees and 64 expelled.

Eight education boards, one Madrasa Education Board and one Technical Education Board are conducting the two month-long HSC and its equivalent Alim and Business Management examinations for 2012.

Nearly 9.26 lakh students of 7,556 educational institutions across the

country have registered for the examinations this year.

The highest number of absentees yesterday was from the Dhaka Board with 1,757 students absent while Sylhet Board had the lowest number with 372 absentees.

Among the expelled students, 15 were from Technical Board while nine from Madrasa Board, three from Dhaka Board, two each from Chittagong and Jessore boards, and one each from Comilla and Barisal boards, said Dhaka Board control room sources.

Meanwhile, after appearing for the Bangla First Paper examination yesterday, examinees expressed satisfaction, though there was concern among them about the question pattern, which was formulated

in a creative question method for the first time in HSC examinations.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid also visited the examination centres at Dhaka College and Dhaka City College in the capital.

He urged the political leaders and parties to act responsibly till the end of the examinations.

Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, education secretary, Prof Noman ur Rashid, director general of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, and education ministry officials accompanied him.

The students will sit for Bangla Second Paper examination tomorrow. The written examinations will end on May 20.

AMINBAZAR KILLING

Wasim's bail prayer rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected a bail petition of an accused, who was arrested for his alleged involvement in the killing of six students in Aminbazar on the outskirts of the city in July last year.

Judge Mohammad Abdul Majid of the District and Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after a criminal appeal submitted by the accused lawyer of Mohammad Wasim against the lower court rejection order.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Tyebul Hassan on March 12 rejected a bail petition of Wasim as his involvement with the killing was primarily proved.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on January 9 this year arrested Wasim and later he was remanded for six days in order to gather information about the killing.

In a forwarding report, the investigation officer, Senior ASP of CID Sirajul Haque, said Wasim was found with his blood stained shirt and trousers after the killings.

Earlier on March 25, sand trader Abdul Malek, who filed a robbery case against the students, and his associate Abdul Hamid, confessed to the killing before a Dhaka court after they were arrested from the capital's Mirpur area on March 19.

A gang of 20 to 25 criminals beat to death six students—Tipu Sultan of Tejgaon College; Towhidur Rahman Palash, Kamruzzaman Kanto and Ibrahim Khalil of Mirpur Bangla College; Shams Rahim Shamam of Maple Leaf International School and Sitaf Jabi Munif of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology—on July 18 while their friend Al Amin survived with severe injuries.

The seven ill-fated youths faced the brutalities when they went to Aminbazar to enjoy the Shab-e-Barat night.

After killing the students near the Aminbazar Bridge, the killers took the bodies more than half a kilometre away to Keblarchar on the advice of local policemen and called the villagers saying that they had caught robbers.

Two Koreans arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested two Korean nationals on charges of possessing 3,000 bottles of foreign liquor illegally at their Banani residence in the city.

Identified as Jun Jeung Won and Lee Jong Heung, the Koreans were arrested at around 2:00pm from their rented house No-85, Road No-7 in Banani, Rab officials said.

They further said the duo had come to Bangladesh in 2010 for the purpose of supplying various garment goods.

Maj Mostaq Ahmed, deputy commander of Rab-1, said the arrested could not show any legal papers of the seized liquor preserved in a store of their house.

"They had been running the business of illegal liquor under the cover of their legal business," he added.

Rab handed them over to Gulshan Police Station. A case was filed with the police station in this connection.

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The Daily Star

নাট্য উৎসব

Theatre Festival
Theatre Institute, 31 March to 4 April and
Shilpokola Academy, 1-4 April, 2012, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ছবি রহাট

Painting Exhibition
Art Institute
30 March to 5 April, 2012, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

চিত্রময় চিত্রলা

Photography Exhibition
Theatre Institute
30 March to 5 April, 2012, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

চিরায়ত চিত্রগ্রাম

Historical Journey
Stadium Gymnasium
31 March to 5 April, 2012, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

তারুণ্য উৎসব

Youth Festival
Shilpokola Academy
3 and 4 April, 2012, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Inaugurating tomorrow:

Upcoming Events: Shampun Baich, Brands Expo, Film Festival, Chittagong and Science, Children Festival, Music and Dance Festival, Economic Conference

The festival will be till 10 April, 2012. Check The Daily Star regularly for updates.

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