



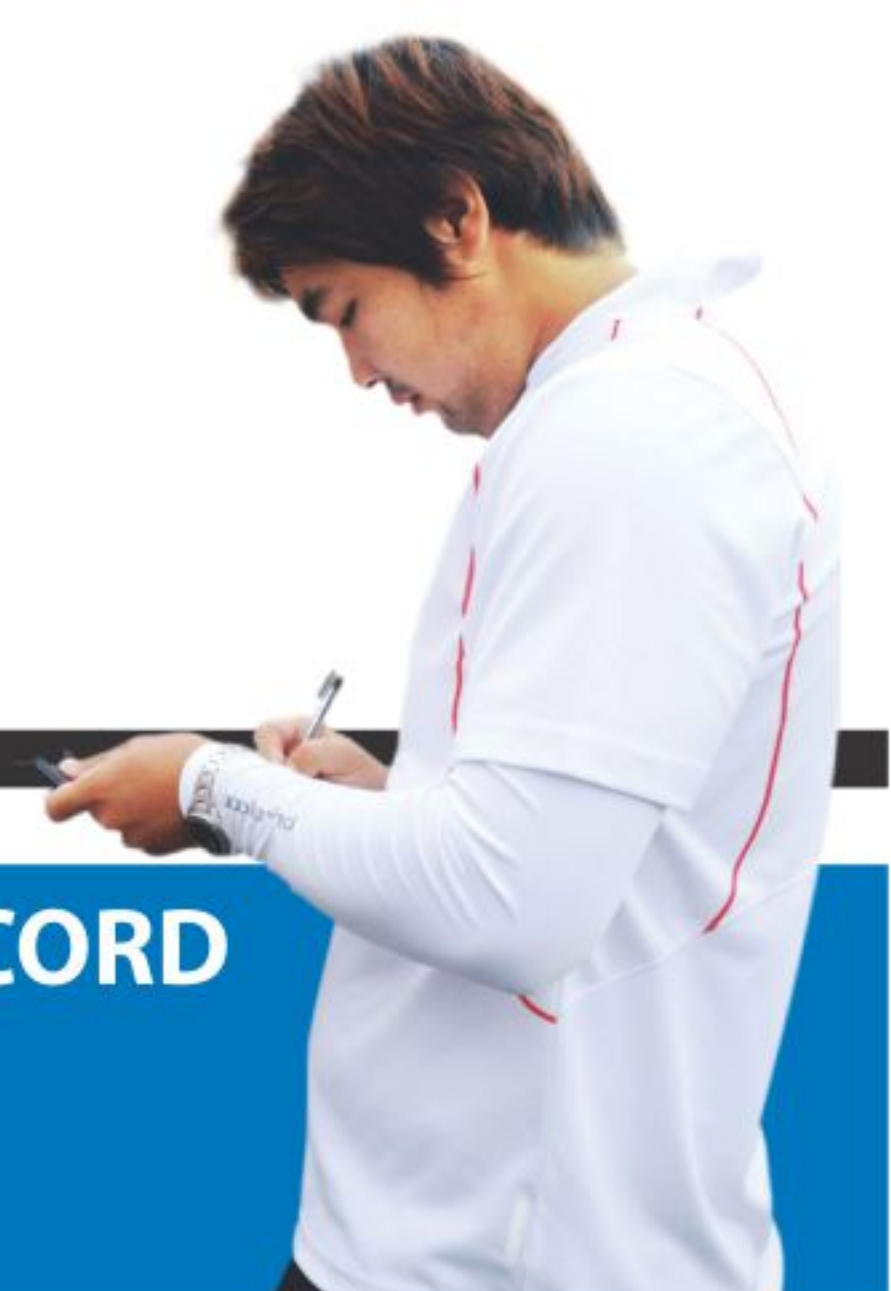
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'ASSAD'S FALL CERTAIN'

It's only a matter of time, says ex-boss of UN observer mission in Syria

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THOSE MAGIC WORDS

Star Literature pays tribute to Humayun Ahmed

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BLIND ARCHER SETS WORLD RECORD

South Korean Im Dong-hyun, legally blind, posts first world record of London Olympics

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Fake note maker held

Tk 1cr seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of police nabbed six people and recovered fake currency amounting to Tk 1 crore from their possessions in separate drives in the capital between Thursday afternoon and early yesterday.

The law enforcers also seized a laptop, a printer and currency-making materials from the counterfeiters.

The arrestees are Md Selim, 30, Jalal Uddin, 45, Abid Mia, 42, Shahidul Islam, 30, his wife Mariam Begum, 20, and Rozina Begum, 30.

The detectives produced them before a press briefing at the DB headquarters yesterday.

Moshiur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner (west) of DB, told newsmen that Selim counterfeited the notes while the others were assigned to sell those to

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Huge chimneys emerge from the greens of the Olympic Stadium to symbolise the industrial revolution during the spectacular opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games. It all started with the ringing of a giant bell as sheep, geese and cows frolicked on the new stadium floor in front of 80,000 spectators and VIPs from all over the world.

PHOTO: AFP



The show is on

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM
From London

At 8:12 am on Friday morning, all the bells in England rang. Martin Creed's signature "Work Number 1197" rang in the 30th Olympiad to the only city that has so far played host to it thrice. In the evening, another bell rang. This, the largest harmonically tuned bell in the world, part of Danny Boyle's three-hour three-act magnum opus of an opening ceremony kicked off the London 2012 games in style.

The excitement rose as the torch relay entered its final leg and there remained momentous speculation about who will light the torch;

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Row over overtaking leads to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rickshaw puller died a tragic death yesterday when a fellow rickshaw puller hit him during a punch-up over overtaking on the Dhaka University campus.

The dead is Suja Miah, 30, of Rangpur.

Suja was trying to

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PADMA LOAN REVIEW

WB not happy yet

Another key figure under graft-cloud not removed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank is still not satisfied with Bangladesh's anti-corruption move over the Padma bridge issue despite the resignation of a key minister.

On Wednesday, presidents of the WB and Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) discussed the issue in Washington, but the global lender remained uncertain whether to review its cancellation of the Padma bridge loan

agreement, sources in Dhaka said.

In its move, the government has launched an investigation into alleged graft in the Padma bridge project and had Syed Abul Hossain resign as ICT minister. However, the lender thinks Bangladesh has not yet met all its conditions.

One of the four conditions the WB had tagged with the bridge financing was that the government send on leave the senior officials and a minister accused of

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IRRATIONAL ELECTRICITY BILLS

Old billing system to return

Power tariff hike likely in mid-August

SHARIER KHAN

The power distributors are persuading Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (Berc) to increase bulk and retail electricity tariff by 30 to 35 percent by mid-August to cover their losses.

But as the recent hikes have already made consumers aggrieved due to change of a billing slab in March, the government is working on restoring the old common lowest

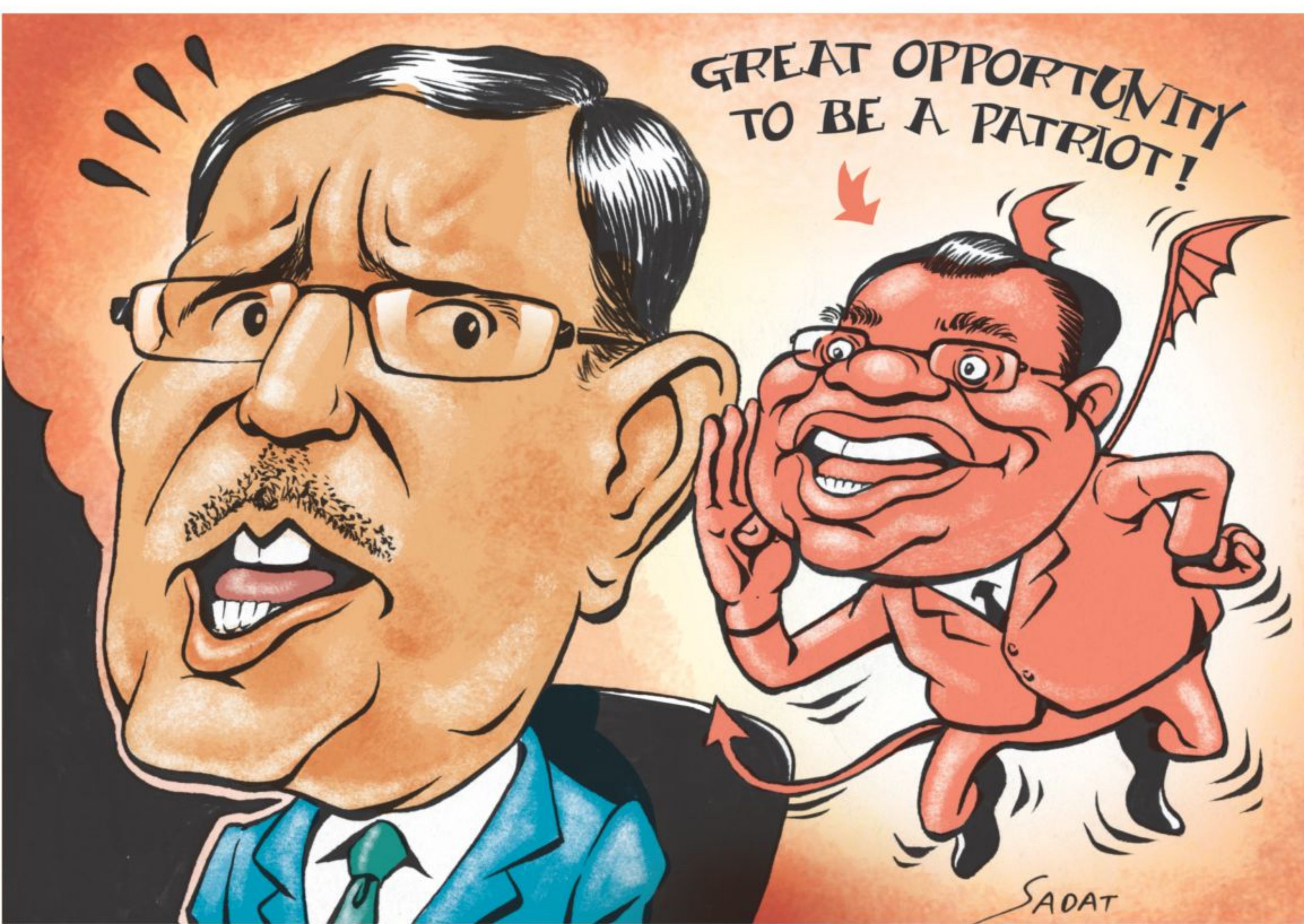
slab with some modifications so that the public do not feel the pinch.

Following the change of slab in March, a consumer pays Tk 3.05 for per kilowatt (or a unit) of power if the total monthly usage is below 100 units. In the second slab ranging from 100 to 399 units, a consumer pays Tk 4.29 per unit. A user consuming 400 units and above pays Tk 7.89 per unit. And this rate will be applicable to the total amount of power a user consumes.

This means if a consumer has used just 400 units, his entire billing will be calculated under the fourth slab. This simply means Tk 1,440 additional charge for using power under the lower slabs which have already been paid for. But before March, the consumers paid for electricity incrementally for different slabs.

The Power Development Board itself found out that following the

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Abul is a corrupt, shameless man

Says BNP; other party leaders expected him to resign much earlier

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's remarks on Syed Abul Hossain's resignation have drawn flak from the main opposition BNP as it termed the former communications minister a "corrupt and shameless person."

The comment, however, prompted

mixed reactions from the ruling Awami League and its allies.

Talking to journalists in London on Thursday, Hasina said Abul had shown courage by resigning from the cabinet even though the World Bank could not provide any "concrete evidence" of his

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KITCHEN MARKET

Prices of edible oil drops a little

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The price of bottled soybean oil yesterday slid slightly in the city's kitchen markets thanks to an increase in supplies from the major refiners.

Five-litre bottles of the edible oil of different brands were selling at Tk 665-670 in the city markets yesterday, retailers told The Daily Star.

Visiting the kitchen markets at Karwan Bazar, Palassy and New Market yesterday, this correspondent found

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NEWS ANALYSIS

NEXT JS ELECTIONS

PM's remark, a few questions

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The constitution does not support Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's remark made in London Thursday that the next general election would be held as per the parliamentary democratic system in other countries.

The amendments to the constitution made last year have reinstated a peculiar provision that says parliamentary polls will be held within 90 days prior to the expiry of a parliament's tenure. If a parliament is dissolved before its tenure ends, the election will be held within 90 days of

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Govt firm on free, fair polls

PM tells UK Labour party chief

UNB, London

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government was determined to keep the country's electoral process neutral and free from government interference.

She made the remark while meeting UK Labour Party chief Edward Miliband in her hotel suite

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Cuba offers US olive branch

Asks its longtime foe to settle differences through talks

AFP, Havana

Cuba's communist regime marked 59 years Thursday since the launch of the revolution that brought it to power, using the occasion to offer to hold talks with its longtime foe, the United States.

President Raul Castro, during

impromptu remarks at the close of the celebrations, also denounced opposition groups he compared to Libyan and Syrian rebels in the "Arab Spring."

In his remarks, Castro offered to meet with US leaders to discuss any issues they have with his government or country.

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