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Power from garbage

Govt-run plant to generate 50MW electricity using garbage of Dhaka city

HELEMUL ALAM

Using the garbage of Dhaka city, the government for the first time is going to generate 50 megawatt of electricity to add to the national grid.

KM Mozammel Hoq, additional secretary of the local government division of LGRD and Cooperatives ministry, said they had sought opinions of different ministries concerned in this regard and soon after the initiative gets the go-ahead they would opt for the final agreement with the selected company.

Italian company Management Environment Finance SEL has already been selected as the lowest bidder to install the power plant. The LGRD ministry is the implementing authority of the project.

Four agreements would soon be signed with the company, said an official of Dhaka North City

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



Devotees offer the Jumatul Wida prayers at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Suspected JeM leader remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Madrasa teacher Moulana Mohammad Yunus, a suspected leader of Kashmir separatist militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), was placed on a six-day remand yesterday.

Detective Branch (DB) of Police on Thursday arrested Yunus, 48, who they claim was designated to recruit Rohingyas for the outfit.

Additional Chief

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Multi-billion-dollar coal scandal rocks India

PM under pressure; opposition demands his resignation

AFP, New Delhi

India's auditor yesterday suggested the government lost billions of dollars by failing to auction valuable coal mining rights in a damning report that implicated Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

The hotly awaited findings, which led the opposition to step up demands for Singh to resign, criticised how coal blocks were given to companies in a murky allocation process instead of being sold by open bidding.



Manmohan Singh

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) estimated that since mid-2004 private operators who won

coal blocks without competition may have enjoyed "financial gains to the tune of 1.86 trillion rupees (\$33.4 billion)".

"A part of this financial gain could have accrued to the national exchequer," it added, without giving an estimate for the total loss to the state or alleging that there had been corrupt or criminal practices.

It said the problems of granting coal rights for free instead of inviting bidders had been raised as far back as

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Bangladeshi beaten dead in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Indian nationals beat a Bangladeshi citizen to death after he illegally entered the Indian territory through Rokonpur border in Chapainawabganj district on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Asadur Rahman, 34, son of Mozaffar Hossain of Akkelpur village under Gomostapur upazila in the district.

Asadur went to visit his

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Jamaat yet to amend party constitution

Deadline expired long ago, but EC took no action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the deadline for amending its constitution expired two and a half years ago, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami still remains a political party registered with the Election Commission, thanks to the inaction of the EC.

The party's aims and objectives and some other provisions stipulated in its charter do not conform to the country's constitution and Representation of the People

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



An overcrowded launch sets sail from Sadarghat Launch Terminal in Dhaka yesterday carrying Eid holidaymakers as the Eid home rush takes its final stride.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

3 more fake note makers arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three members of a gang involved in making and marketing fake bank notes were arrested by detectives early yesterday from the capital's Jatrabari with fake Bangladeshi currencies worth Tk 2.05 lakh.

The detainees -- Mehedi Hasan alias Samir, 38, his wife Shirin Akhter, 32, and their associate Soheli Elahi alias Apel, 26 - confessed that they had been doing the wholesale business of fake notes in

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Carjacking gang held

4 stolen vehicles seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of Police arrested eight alleged mugger and carjackers in Dhaka and recovered four vehicles, weapons and booty from their possession on Thursday.

The recovered items include three cars, a microbus, a pistol with four bullets, three machetes, a knife, Tk 15,330 in cash, 35 mobile phones, a tablet computer, six diamond rings, three gold ornaments and a laptop.

The arrestee are: Mohammad Gias Uddin, 25, Al Amin, 25, Anwarul, 30, Rubel, 20, Mahmudur Hasan, 18, Abdur Razzak, 52, Ashraf Hawlader, 49, and Farid Munsu, 40.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Mokhlesur Rahman of DB (South) said they conducted a drive in

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

MR. NOODLES

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

RAMADAN DATE	SEHRI	IFTAR
29	18 Aug	6.33 pm
30	19 Aug	4.11 am 6.32 pm

PRAYER TIMING August 18

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 4-16	4-21
Zohr 12-45	1-15
Asr 4-45	5-00
Maghrib 6-33	6-43
Esha 8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Violence flares up in Syria

UN ends observer mission; western nations boycott Russia meeting

AGENCIES

Syrian forces yesterday shelled the northern battleground of Aleppo and fierce fighting was reported in Damascus, a day after the United Nations called time on its observer mission.

The UN announced its decision on Thursday, with the international community still deeply at odds over how to end the bloodshed and also deal with the embat-

led regime of President Bashar al-Assad.

"It is clear that both sides have chosen the path of war, open conflict, and the space for political dialogue and cessation of hostilities and mediation is very, very reduced at this point," said deputy UN peacekeeping chief Edmond Mulet.

"The conditions to continue UNSMIS were not fulfilled," France's UN ambassador Gerard

Araud said, referring to the mission whose mandate is due to end at midnight Sunday.

Russia called off a meeting planned for yesterday of an international action group on the Syria conflict after western nations told them they would not attend, diplomats said.

Russia said the meeting at the UN headquarters, called by its UN envoy Vitaly Churkin, had been "postponed."

Diplomats said, however, that the United States, France and Britain had told the Russians they would not attend. Only China and a UN representative had confirmed they would go to the talks, one diplomat told AFP.

The observer mission is ending less than three weeks after Kofi Annan quit as envoy for Syria, complaining that divisions among world powers and the increasing

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