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# Nuke power project gets go-ahead

*EcneC okays Tk 5,242cr phase-1*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday approved the first phase of a 2,000-megawatt nuclear power plant project at Rooppur in Pabna at a cost of Tk 5,242 crore.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) granted the approval at a meeting at the NEC auditorium, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

A planning ministry official said the initial infrastructure would be built in the first phase. Besides, assessment of technical feasibility and overall viability of the project will also be done by 2017.

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) will implement the project. Of the Tk 5,242 crore, Russia will provide Tk 4,000 crore (\$500 million) as hard term loan.

Bangladesh will provide around Tk 4,800 crore for the second phase (2017 to 2022).

In January, Bangladesh entered into a \$500 million

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3



PHOTO: ISPR

Members of Bangladesh Navy are searching for bodies of missing fishermen in the Bay of Bengal at Kutubdia of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

SHIBIR ATTACK

## Colleagues of Rajshahi cop failed to act

*Alleges victim's family*

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Family members of the two police officials, who were critically injured in Rajshahi on Sunday and Monday, have alleged that their beloved ones fell victim to violence by Jamaat-Shibir activists because of failure of fellow policemen.

Policemen who had been with Sub-inspector Jahangir Alam, 58, in-charge of Upashahar police camp, Monday morning at Shalbagan left him alone when Jamaat-Shibir men swooped on him, Jahangir's son Foysal Siddiki yesterday said by phone.

"None of my father's colleagues came to his rescue."

A woman, journalists

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## Jamaat-Shibir activists chop AL, JSD men

*Rab unearths*

*Jamaat-Shibir den*

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Chapainawabganj

Jamaat-Shibir men chopped and wounded an activist of Awami League and a leader of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal in the district's Shibganj upazila last night, police said.

The injured are Ariful Islam, general secretary of Shibganj upazila unit JSD, and AL activist Taslim Uddin.

A group of Jamaat-Shibir men chopped them

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

## Focus on connectivity, hydropower deal

*Dhaka to host tri-nation meet involving India, Bhutan this month*

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka will host a discussion between Bangladesh, Bhutan and India later this month on connectivity and cooperation in hydropower among the countries.

The potential and feasibility of hydro-electricity and connectivity between the countries will figure in the tri-nation discussion, expected to take place on April 16 or 19.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Shahidul Huq gave the news at a press briefing after the first round of foreign office consultations between Bangladesh and Bhutan yesterday.

"This will be a brainstorming session where the three sides will explore different aspects of connectivity, power generation and trade," the foreign secretary said.

Bangladesh has long been trying to import hydroelectricity from Bhutan but India has already signed an agreement to import electricity from the landlocked country.

Despite the agreement, said Shahidul, Bhutan is ready to discuss the matter with Bangladesh and forge cooperation in water management in the three countries.

The foreign secretaries of Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

## HALL-MARK SCAM Submit wealth reports

*ACC asks ex-Sonali board members*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has asked the former chairman and eight members of the Board of Directors of Sonali Bank, and two high officials of the bank to submit their wealth statements to the commission within seven days.

The ACC will file cases against them if they fail to do so, or give false information in their statements, ACC lawyer

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

## Govt firm about war crimes trial

*Ashraf tells Ctg rally Jamaat to be banned thru' legal means*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The government would not retreat from completing the trial of war criminals and implementing the verdicts, Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam said yesterday.

He was addressing a rally organised by the AL-led 14-party alliance at Laldighi Maidan in Chittagong city.

About a ban on Jamaat, he said the government was bound by the constitution and the laws. Therefore, it must go about banning Jamaat-Shibir legally.

Besides, he added, the government has amended the International Crimes Tribunal law to allow trial of organisations for war crimes. Now if the Jamaat-e-Islami was convicted at the tribunal, the party would be banned.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

## N Korea to restart its nuke reactor

*Tension with South mounts; UN chief says crisis can go out of control*

AFP, Seoul

North Korea yesterday said it would restart a nuclear reactor to feed its atomic weapons programme, in its clearest rebuff yet to UN sanctions at the heart of soaring tensions on the Korean peninsula.

After the announcement, UN chief Ban Ki-moon warned that the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

## Hindu temple torched in Tangail

STAR REPORT

Religious fanatics set the largest Hindu temple at Bhuiyanpur upazila in Tangail ablaze in the wee hours yesterday.

The identity of the culprits could not be confirmed but local Hindus alleged that Jamaat-Shibir men were involved in torching Sarbojonin Kali Mondir at Falda Bazar.

Quoting witnesses, Abu Obaida, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Bhuiyanpur Police Station, said the criminals entered the temple around 1:00am and set it on fire after pouring petrol.

Six idols inside the temple were damaged before fire fighting units from Tangail and Bhuiyanpur fire stations rushed to the spot and doused the fire, he added.

Hares Ali Miah, officer-in-charge of the police station, said police detained Mohammad Asad, 20, of Falda village,

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*Top:* Remains of a Hindu temple that came under attack by unidentified arsonists at Bhuapur upazila in Tangail yesterday; *Below:* Broken idols lie scattered as unidentified attackers went on the rampage inside a temple of goddess Kali at Galachipa upazila in Patuakhali on Monday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Myanmar school fire kills 13 boys

AFP, Yangon

A fire blamed on an electrical fault killed 13 teenage boys at a Muslim school in Myanmar's main city yesterday, police and witnesses said, raising fears of a further eruption of tensions after a wave of religious unrest.

Police and soldiers flanked the scorched blue mosque and religious school in central Yangon, where dozens of children had been sleeping when the blaze broke out early yesterday.

Authorities launched an inquiry into the fire, stressing that early indications suggested a tragic accident. Police said two guards at the building had been charged with negligence.

The assurances came amid Muslim suspicions that they had been targeted following a spate of Buddhist-Muslim killings and arson that has spread across central Myanmar in recent days.

Hundreds of mourners, many praying and weeping, packed into a Muslim cemetery in a suburb north of Yangon to bury the victims, with many among the crowd

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

## Man shoots tree, tree fires back

YAHOO NEWS

Using a tree for target practice sounds harmless enough, right? That wasn't the case for an Iowa man who is recovering at a hospital after the tree he aimed his gun at fired back.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4




Fallen trees have long been a risk but trees themselves rarely return gunfire.

PHOTO: AP


PRAYER TIMING			April 3
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat	
	4-40	5-15	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	4-45	5-00	
Maghrib	6-21	6-24	
Esha	7-45	8-15	
Source: Islamic Foundation			

The Daily Star


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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Communications Minister Obaidul Quader that all types of mismanagement and corruption at the Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge will be stopped?

Yes

(22%)

No

(78%)

TOTAL VOTES: 283

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think our political parties are sincere about resolving the ongoing political turmoil?

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