

Electro
Reliable Power Source

EUROPEAN STANDARD GENERATOR

EM POWER LTD.
Hotline: 01714097956
Address: House 99/9/20A, Road 4, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net



REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXIII No. 188 | SRABON 9, 1420 BS | RAMADAN 14, 1434 HIJRI | Your Right to Know | 20 PAGES PRICE : Tk 10.00

'ASSAULT AND SECURE'
Top US general informs Congress of military options in Syria
PAGE 8

WHEN WOMEN 'ENDANGERED'
Article says the battle against women oppression should not be lost
PAGE 6

ENCHANTING HEPBURN
The account of her Bangladesh visit narrates her loving character
PAGE 9

Ganges Barrage project goes slow

Feasibility study not completed in a decade due to inaction of successive governments

PINAKI ROY

The Water Development Board even in a decade could not complete the feasibility study and structural design of the Ganges barrage, a project crucial to check rising salinity in the country's southwest region.

When implemented, the barrage in Rajbari will retain water of the trans-boundary river Ganges, known as the Padma in Bangladesh, during the rainy season for use over the rest of the year.

And, the flow of fresh water would reduce salinity by leaching out salt from soil and thus improve agriculture and livelihoods in the region.

The WDB conducted a pre-feasibility study for the barrage in 2002. But the then BNP government shelved the board's proposal to go for a feasibility study. The Fakhruddin-led caretaker administration also did nothing in this regard.

The board finally got the go-ahead in 2009. It has completed one part of the study and is set to complete the rest by December.

WDB officials say building the barrage would take seven years. "For the work, the government will float international tender next year," said one of the officials, requesting anonymity.

Implementation of the 2,100-metre barrage would cost around Tk 31,414 crore. It would also have two small hydropower plants of 76 megawatt and 36MW.

According to the partial feasibility study, after the barrage is built, the saline-hit area would annually produce another 25 lakh tonnes of rice and 2.4 lakh tonnes of fish.



The dried up Gorai river under the Gorai bridge at Kamarkhali in Magura. The construction of Ganges barrage in Rajbari is crucial to revive the water flow of this river during the lean period. The photo was taken in April.

PHOTO: AMANUR AMAN

MOBILE COURT OPERATIONS

Home ministry, DCs for new police wing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry yesterday suggested that the government form a separate police wing that will assist deputy commissioners in conducting mobile courts.

The suggestion came following recommendations of the deputy commissioners who feel they are not empowered enough for the lack of police support.

The DCs made similar recommendations during their three-day conference last year for empowering them to improve law and order.

On the first day of this year's conference that began yesterday, the DCs attended several working sessions with ministers of seven ministries, including home, public administration, education, and primary and mass education, at the secretariat.

The DCs highlighted several issues along with their suggestions.

Earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the conference at her office.

The DCs made a proposal to the prime minister to set up an immigration post at

Stay alert

PM asks DCs to be cautious so that undemocratic forces could not return to power

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the deputy commissioners to work attentively so that unconstitutional government does not return to power in future.

"In the past, (the voice of) people was suppressed due to the rules of the military, quasi-military or army-backed caretaker governments.

"You [deputy commissioners] will have to remain alert



SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

APPEALS IN QUADER MOLLAH CASE

SC verdict any day

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Any day, the Supreme Court could deliver the verdict in the appeals filed against the conviction and "inadequate sentencing" of war criminal and Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah.

The appeals hearing went on for 39 days and the five-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, wrapped up the hearing yesterday with the attorney general's closing argument.

During the closing argument, Attorney



General Mahubey Alam prayed to the apex court to accept the government appeal and award death penalty to Quader Mollah for his crimes against humanity during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

He said if proper punishment for the crimes was not ensured, justice would not be done.

Five out of six charges brought against Quader Mollah were proved beyond reasonable doubt but the International Crimes Tribunal-2 on February 5 sentenced him to life imprisonment in two charges and

SEE PAE 11 COL 2



William and Catherine show their baby to the media outside the Lindo Wing of St Mary's Hospital in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Meet the future king

AFP, London

Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate gave the world its first glimpse of their newborn baby son yesterday, cradling the future king in their arms as they left hospital to go home.

The Duchess of Cambridge told the massed international media that it had been a "very emotional" experience, while the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



British Telecom tower, left, displays "it's a boy" marking the birth of the royal baby, and Niagara Falls, above, takes on a blue hue for the occasion yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS/AFP

Rony not resigning

Defends what he had done

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After hours of high drama, Awami League lawmaker Golam Maula Rony yesterday finally did not step down as an MP over beating two journalists.

Before meeting the Speaker in parliament, Rony told newsmen around 12:30pm that he was going to resign. Even he posted a status on



Facebook, "Probably I am going to resign."

But within three hours, the controversial AL legislator reversed his decision and briefed reporters that he was not going to step down at this moment.

"I haven't done anything wrong on that day [by beating two journalists]. I have

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

AFL-CIO slams amended labour law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organisation (AFL-CIO) yesterday criticised the recently amended Bangladesh labour law, saying it has failed to address key concerns raised by workers and their rights advocates.

"Many of those changes were not substantive and fail to address the concerns

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BASIC Bank rejoinder, our reply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BASIC Bank has sent a rejoinder to a news story headlined "Scam-hit BASIC Bank: Tk 601cr financial anomalies found", which was published in The Daily Star on July 14.

In the rejoinder, the bank came up with the latest development about the issues pointed out in the story, which was based on a government audit conducted between February 3, 2013 and April 22, 2013 on the bank's 2012 accounts.

Here is the full text of the bank's statement:

1. OPE Properties: Till date, the bank lent Tk 9,300 lakh to OPE Properties and its allied concerns against collateral security of Tk 13,341 lakh - in Dhanmondi, Baridhara

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Royal Baby!

britannia
holdings & management ltd.

Corporate office: H # 17, R # 35, Gulshan - 2, Dhaka -1212
Web: www.britannia-bd.com, E-mail: sales@britannia-bd.com

a British - Bangla joint venture