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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



BUDGET 'NOT LARGE'

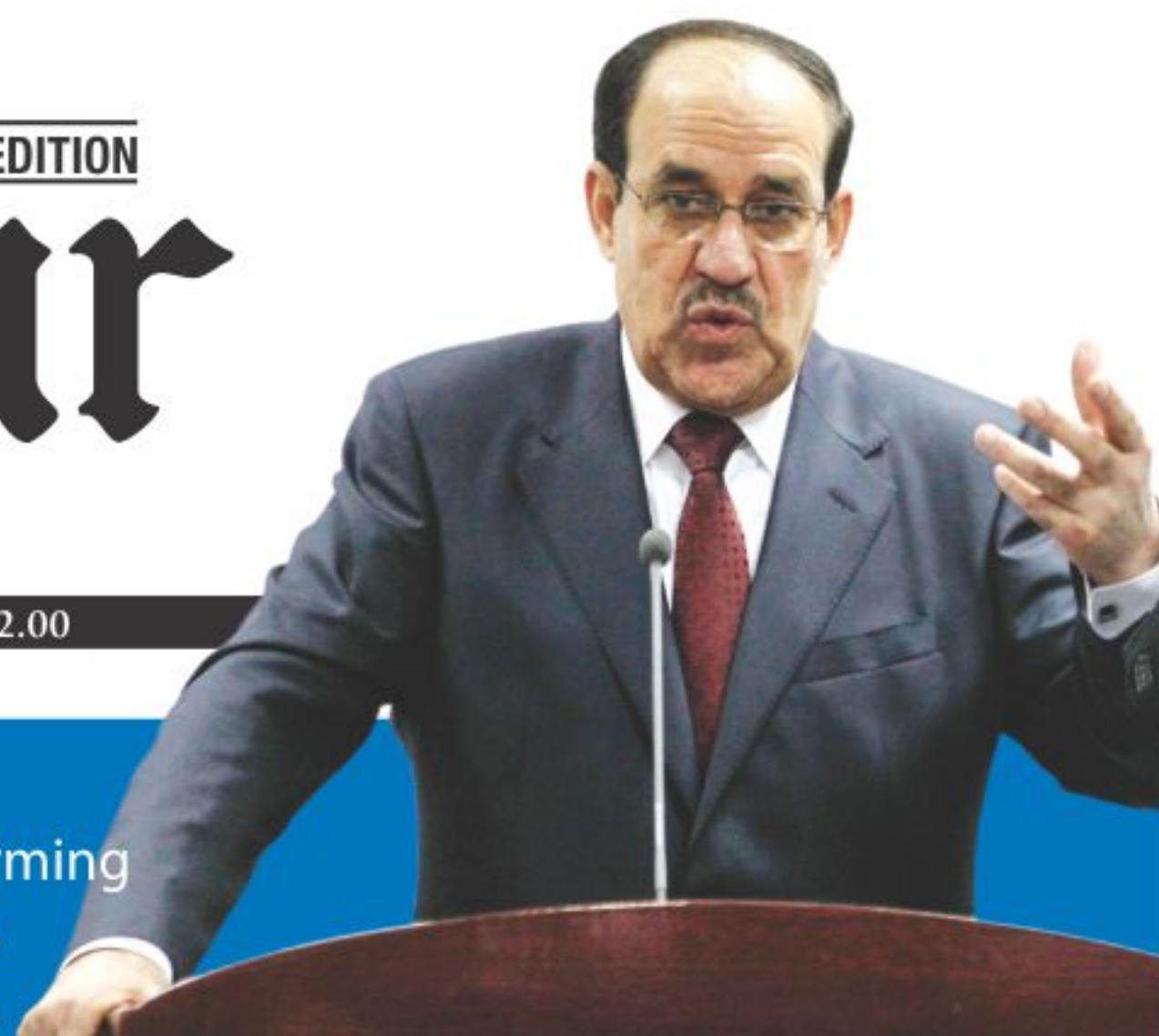
The WB says the upcoming budget is in line with needs

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IRAQ IN TURMOIL

The country's premier rejects calls for forming a unity government to confront jihadists

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Power price goes higher, loss too

Only coal-based plants can bail out PDB; hamstrung projects hurt prospects

SHARIER KHAN

Despite repeated hikes in power tariff both at customer and bulk power distribution levels in the last five years, the power sector will not recover from incurring losses before 2018 until the large and cheaper coal-based power plants come into operation.

According to experts, people will continue to pay high prices for power and the government will have to continue providing subsidy to the Power Development Board (PDB) till then.

"The power sector losses might go beyond 2018 if the government today does not address the problems in implementation of various large power projects," said Alamgir Kabir, former chairman of PDB. "Many projects are facing financing and other problems that urgently need the government's attention and innovative solutions," he added.

Since coming to power in 2009, the government in phases laid out massive plans for increasing power generation on the back of severe load-shedding that had affected the country's growth. This plan was designed keeping in mind the crisis of gas, the cheap indigenous source of power generation.

As a result of these plans, the country has

doubled its power supply up to 7,200 megawatt in the last five years and largely addressed the problems of persistent load-shedding.

A good part of this new power comes from heavy fuel-based power plants, which were built for supplying electricity for three to five years. As a result, the cost of power generation has jumped from Tk 2.75 per kilowatt-hour (or a unit) in 2009 to Tk 6.12 in 2013.

To deal with this, the government has hiked the power tariff at retail and distribution levels in phases. But this could not cover the losses being incurred by the PDB that buys electricity from power plants and sells in bulk to different power distributors, Desco or Rural Electrification Board (REB) for instance.

"The PDB in 2009-10 incurred a loss of Tk 1,100 crore by selling each unit power to distributors at Tk 2.36. It was buying power at Tk 2.75 per unit," said a well-placed source on the

Board.

This loss shot up to Tk 4,500 crore the following year as more power was being generated through using heavy fuel oil (HFO), which became significantly costly that year. This pushed up the generation cost to Tk 4.15 per unit.

PDB'S LOSS

2009-10

Tk 1,100cr

2010-11

Tk 4,500cr

2011-12

Tk 4,000cr

2012-13

Tk 5,100cr

2013-14

Tk 4,500cr

(projected)



Lionel Messi is elated after putting Argentina ahead only in the third minute against Nigeria during their World Cup Group F match at Estadio Beira-Rio in Porto Alegre on Wednesday. He later added another goal to his tally as Argentina beat Nigeria 3-2.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Messi puts Argentina on top

Bosnia's maiden win sends Nigeria through

AFP/REUTERS, Porto Alegre

A double from Lionel Messi a day after his 27th birthday inspired Argentina to a 3-2 win over African champions Nigeria and assured them of finishing top of Group F at the World Cup finals on Wednesday.

Nigeria's defeat -- their fourth in four meetings at the finals against Argentina -- came with the consider-

France drew with Ecuador 0-0 and meet Nigeria in Round of 16

Switzerland beat Honduras 3-0 and face Argentina in Round of 16

able consolation that they still progressed to the second round as Iran lost 3-1 to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the other group game.

Argentina began to turn on the style after low key wins over Bosnia and Herzegovina and Iran.

Nigeria are appearing in the second round for the first time since 1998.

The match got off to a stunning start as Messi fired home his third goal of the finals after two-and-a-half-minutes -- the fastest goal of his career -- to finally crack a Nigerian defence

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Sushma Swaraj in city

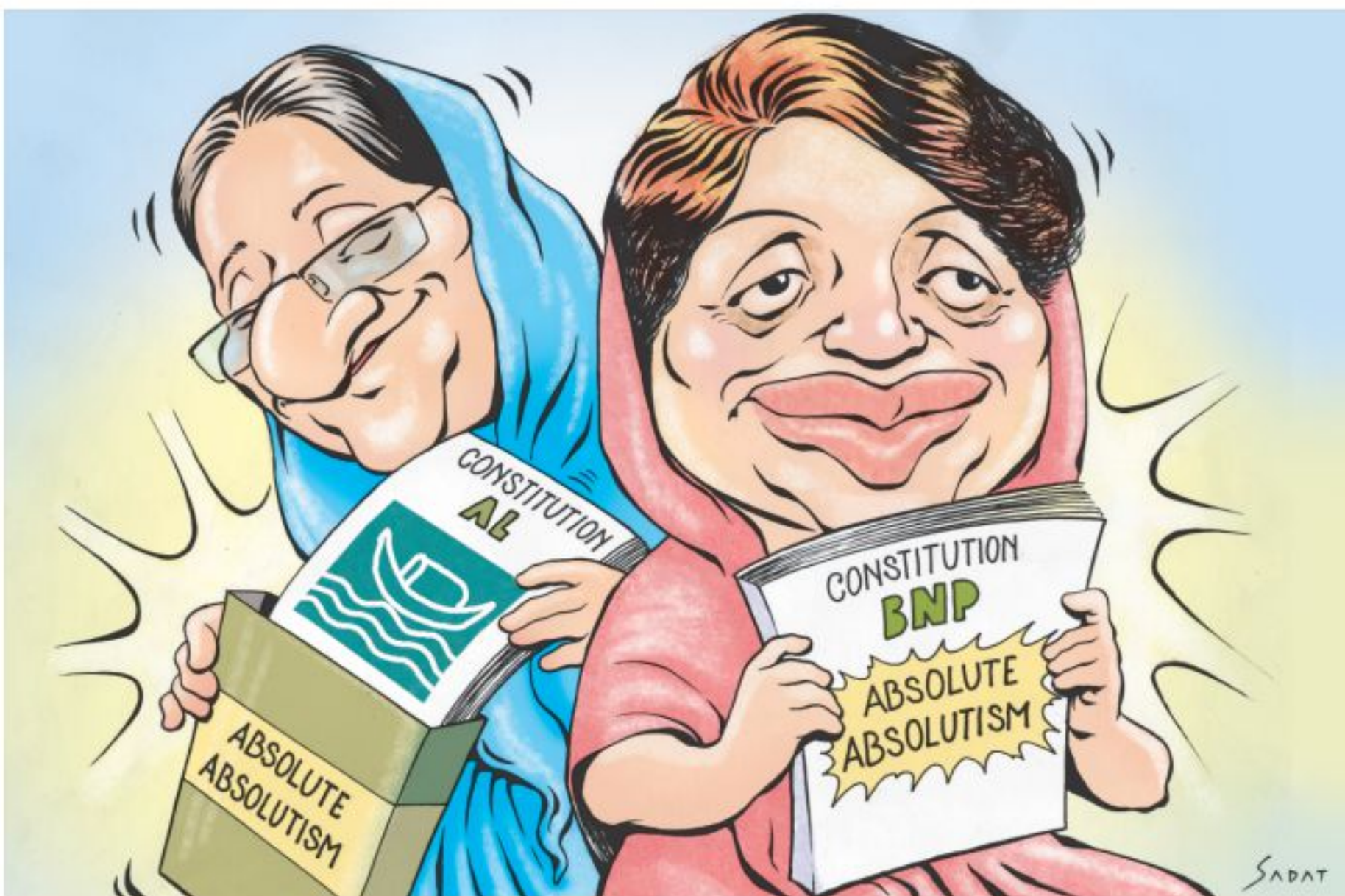
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj arrived here last night on a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

During her stay in Dhaka, she is expected to talk to Bangladesh leaders on bilateral issues, including the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) and Teesta water sharing treaty.

On her first official visit abroad as

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Bosses bigger than parties

Khaleda constitutionally all powerful, Hasina eventually all powerful

The Awami League and the BNP claim that they are working for strengthening democracy in the country. But neither of them practises democracy within the party. The concluding part of our series focuses on how the two chiefs enjoy absolute control over the parties.

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Khaleda Zia's powers are more absolute in the BNP than those Sheikh Hasina enjoys in the Awami League, according to the two parties' constitutions.

As chairperson, Khaleda enjoys authority to control the overall functions of the BNP. Her party constitution also provides her with powers to abolish at any time the party's top bodies, such as the national executive and national standing committees, if she thinks necessary.

AL chief Hasina, however, does not enjoy such

powers. The AL charter limits her authority in many ways and has provisions for control over party affairs through collective leadership.

In reality, both Khaleda and Hasina have gradually emerged as supreme leaders in their parties--BNP and AL-- which have been running the country alternately since the restoration of parliamentary democracy in 1991. Currently, there is none in their parties to question and challenge their leadership and decisions.

Khaleda, according to the BNP's charter, is the chief

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BY-POLLS TODAY

It's Osmans vs N'ganj people

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The mighty Osman family of Narayanganj today faces power of commoners who will exercise their authority through ballots in a parliamentary by-election there, deciding the fate of an Osman aspirant.

Their verdict will also determine whether the political dominance of the family already mired in controversy for unlawful activities of its members will receive a blow or be consolidated further.

Voters of the Narayanganj-5 constituency have got the scope to express their will through ballots after more than six years. The last time they exercised their franchise was in the December 2008 parliamentary polls.

They were denied suffrage in the one-sided January 5 parliamentary polls as Nasim Osman, a member of the Osman family and who had allegedly been a crime lord of the city, was elected MP unopposed from the constituency. His recent death necessitated the voting again, allowing some 3.42 lakh voters to express their opinions.

Almost half of these voters, however, had got opportunities to express their choice in a fierce battle of ballots in the 2011 mayoral polls contested between Shamim Osman, an Osman who is feared by locals for his alleged control over the crime world of Narayanganj, and Selina Hayat Ivy.

In the battle, people had rejected ruling Awami League-backed Shamim and opted for Ivy, a candidate with clean image. She defeated Shamim by a huge margin of more than one lakh votes.

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মাস্টারকার্ড ব্যবহার করে
গাড়ির মালিক হতে পারেন আপনিও

তাই পুরো জুন-জুলাই ধরে বেশি বেশি সোয়াইপ করুন আর প্রস্তুতি নিন কীভাবে গাড়িটা চালাবেন। সাথে ফরেইন ট্রিপ, জুয়েলারি, ফাইভ স্টার হোটেলে ডিনার সহ আরও চোখ ধাঁধানো ১০০টি উপহারতো থাকছেই।

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