



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

LIFE style

'BAKYO-BAGISH' IN DHAKA

Anupam Roy, popular singer of Kolkata, releases album for Bangladesh audience

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SCOTLAND COULD STILL DO IT

Salmond says referendum was the "best route" to statehood but there are others

Deals signed to build mega power plant

PDB strikes joint venture with Malaysian consortium for 1,320MW coal-based plant at Maheshkhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday signed two memorandums of understanding with Malaysia to set up a 1,320-megawatt coal-based power plant in Maheshkhali at an initially estimated cost of around \$2 billion.

The final cost of the thermal power plant in the country's future energy hub in Cox's Bazar will be known after a feasibility study.

The plant on 550 acres of land will include two units with a production capacity of 660 megawatt each, and could start commercial production any

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JOINT VENTURE: PDB and TNB-PB, Malaysia

LAND REQUIREMENT: 550 acres

YEAR OF COMPLETION: 2019 or later

COAL REQUIREMENT: 11,000 tonnes per day

FINANCING: Debt 70-80%, equity 30-20%

CONCEPT: Build, Own, Operate basis

ZIA ORPHANAGE, CHARITABLE TRUST

Graft trial begins in Khaleda's absence

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday opened the trial of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, her elder son Tarique Rahman and seven others in two cases on charges of raising fund illegally for two charities and embezzling the amount.

The Anti-Corruption Commission had filed the cases in 2008 and 2011. According to the charge sheet in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case, Khaleda, Tarique and four others embezzled Tk 2.1 crore by forming the charity that exists only on paper.

The other case statement said Khaleda and three others abused power during the 1991-1996 tenure of the then BNP-led government to collect Tk 6.19 crore for Zia Charitable Trust. The charities were named after late president Ziaur Rahman.

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Household gas may get costlier

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

The government has prepared a proposal to raise the household gas prices with a view to reducing consumers' reliance on piped gas and encouraging them to use liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

The proposal will be sent to Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) this month, said Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources.

A household currently has to pay Tk 450 a month for a double burner stove.

"It might be Tk 750 or 1,000 [after the hike]," Hamid told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that the prices of gas used in

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Police chase pickets in front of the BNP office at Nosimon Bhaban in Chittagong during the hartal enforced by the party-led alliance yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

President gives nod to 16th amendment

Lawyers boycott courts across country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The constitutional changes empowering parliament to remove Supreme Court judges on grounds of misbehaviour and incapacity came to effect yesterday as President Abdul Hamid gave his assent to the 16th amendment bill.

With the president signing the bill passed in parliament last Wednesday, the provision for the chief justice-led Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) also ceased to exist after more than 35 years of its introduction.

Thanks to the amendment, now parliament is also vested with the authority to

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Sporadic clashes mark hartal

One hurt as police open fire after pickets hurl bombs

STAR REPORT

Sporadic clashes between hartal supporters and policemen across the country marked yesterday's dawn-to-dusk shutdown enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

Except for a few incidents of picketing and processions by local leaders, no top or mid-level BNP leaders were seen on roads for demonstration in support of the hartal.

The presence of activists of the Jamaat-e-Islami, a strong ally of the opposition, was also very thin on the streets in Dhaka city.

At Sabujbagh in the capital, the police opened fire on hartal supporters around 11:30am after they hurled crude bombs at law enforcers leaving one police constable injured, said an officer of Sabujbagh Police Station.

A youth, Jony, was injured in his left knee in the police firing. The 23-year

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FAKE WAR HERO CERTIFICATES OF SECRETARIES

4 revoked, 1 withheld

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs has revoked the freedom fighter certificates that four top bureaucrats obtained last year through forgery to get their service period extended.

The ministry also withheld the certificate of another high official for not following proper procedures.

Following probe reports and rec-

ommendations from the Anti-Corruption Commission, the ministry took the steps and published a gazette notification in this regard yesterday.

The four -- Health Secretary Niaz Uddin Mia, Public Service Commission Secretary AKM Amir Hossain, ex-liberation war affairs secretary KH Masud Siddiqui (now an OSD), and ex-joint secretary to the

ministry Abul Kashem Talukder (now an OSD) -- would lose all the benefits they were enjoying with the certificates, sources said.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque told The Daily Star that they would write to the public administration ministry for departmental action against them.

Earlier, the ministry had cancelled

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