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CHAURASIA'S PRAYER

Playing flute is his worship, the maestro believes

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INDIA'S NEW GREEN WAR

It needs people's movement against destructive projects

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POPE IN ISTANBUL

Francis pauses at Blue Mosque alongside top Islamic cleric

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LARGE POWER PROJECTS

Financing hitch stalls progress

5 public sector projects could not start; several private projects also limping

SHARIER KHAN

The government's mega plans in the power sector may see some hitches, as several large projects have failed to make any headway over the last couple of years for various reasons, including a lack of financing sources.

The projects include Bibiyana-3 (450MW); Ghorashal (365MW); Chapainawabganj (100MW); Shahajibazar (330MW) and Ghorashal Repowering Project.

Besides, private coal-fired power projects were lagging behind schedule, said power board sources.

Among those are three coal-fired power plants of Orion in Khulna (totaling 1,200MW capacity) and two in Dhaka by S Alam Group (another 1,200MW capacity).

The Orion projects, awarded against a very low power tariff, are awaiting the government's environmental clearance from the middle of this year.

At least **11** power plants scheduled to go into full operation by 2017; **5** projects make

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RISKY RIDE TO SCHOOL

Huge buses whizz by as the rickshaw-van tootle on the hard shoulder of the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Narsingdi, risking a horrific accident. Seventeen children are crammed into this rickshaw-van taking them to school and they can't even keep their bags inside, inset.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Khaleda wanted martial law

PM tells Habiganj rally; accuses BNP of siding with war criminals

UNB, Habiganj

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Khaleda Zia had actually wanted to create a Thailand-like situation where martial law was declared amid the opposition's movement.

Speaking at a rally in Habiganj New Field, she said the BNP leader had tried to foil the January 5 election. "What would have happened had the election been stalled... Look at Thailand, martial law has been declared there, and there is no election schedule."

Sensing defeat, Khaleda Zia did not contest the election,



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Boycott AL to save democracy

Khaleda urges people, denounces current JS and laws passed by it

PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY, from Comilla

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday urged people to boycott the Awami League-led "autocratic" government to restore democracy in the country.

"A change has already begun. The people can now feel the wind of change -- change for building the country, creating employment for the youth and finally for the development of the nation," Khaleda said while addressing a huge rally at Comilla Town Hall.



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Rescue hope fades

No trace of 26 missing in trawler capsized in Bay; sunken vessel located

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The 26 people, who had gone down with the FV Bandhan in the Bay of Bengal early Friday, remained missing even after 32 hours.

Divers of Bangladesh Navy, however, located the sunken fishing vessel

yesterday morning, but could not enter it due to stormy currents. The missing crews are feared dead and the bodies are trapped inside the vessel.

Navy ship BNS Adama reached the spot from Chittagong in the wee hours of yesterday and joined the search and rescue operation.

BNS Adama's side-scan sonar detected an object like the vessel around 9:00am, said Commander Shamim Md Khan, in-charge of Navy Intelligence (Chittagong zone).

Around 11:00am, Navy divers reached the vessel and found it tilted

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 16

Reckless bus kills journo

Zaglul Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned journalist Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury died in a tragic road accident in the capital's Karwan Bazar last night.

He was 66.

Former chief editor and managing director of the state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha, Zaglul has

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BURDWAN BLAST Bombs 'meant for Bangladesh'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The explosives made in Burdwan were meant for use in Bangladesh against targets, head of the seven-member Bangladeshi team now visiting Kolkata told a Bangladeshi TV channel yesterday.

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