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# Direct bus service with Nepal likely

PINAKI ROY

Direct bus service between Dhaka and Kathmandu might start next year as Nepal has agreed in principle with a proposal made by Bangladesh to that end.

The government made the proposal last year considering the huge potential of the service, as a significant number of tourists visit Nepal and many students from the Himalayan country come to Bangladesh for higher studies every year.

A number of bus operators have already shown their interest to launch services on the route.

"We have already submitted a draft proposal to the Nepalese government. They are also interested in the direct bus service. It is under consideration of the Nepalese government," said Mashfee Binte Shams, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Nepal.

The Nepalese government had agreed in principle to launch the bus service and things would move faster after the Saarc Summit, she said when this correspondent met her along with a group of visiting Bangladeshis at the 'Bangladesh House' in Kathmandu last month.



There were a number of issues needed to be finalised through discussion at a joint technical committee level meeting before signing the protocol, she added.

Bangladesh has also submitted a proposed route map prepared by geographical information system experts of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

According to the proposed route, distance between Dhaka and Kathmandu is 1,184 kilometres and the journey would take around 22 hours by bus.

The proposed route map shows 510km

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Placards, with the photos of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, have been nailed to every tree on the central reservation of Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar distracting motorists. They have been placed on the road to the National Memorial which Hasina is scheduled to visit on Victory Day. Related story on page 5.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Thermal power plant Dhaka eyes joint venture in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

To bolster bilateral energy cooperation, Bangladesh has suggested setting up of a thermal power plant on a joint venture in India and allocation of a coal block to it.

According to a senior Bangladeshi official, the proposed plant would be in line of 1,320 MW thermal project in Rampal in Bagerhat -- being jointly developed by India's National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).

In New Delhi, Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, energy adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said the proposal of the joint venture was discussed during his meeting with Indian Power and Coal Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday.

The plan is to look at the possibility of Indian government allotting a coal block

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## Agitation soon after energy price hike

Khaleda tells N'ganj rally

RASHIDUL HASAN from Narayanganj

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday questioned why it would be an offence if people possess illegal arms as the ruling Awami League men "already have such firearms".

"Armed Awami League activists have been walking around in public. The government itself has supplied those illegal arms to its men who are involved in killings and extortion. Now, if people also take up arms, why should they be barred as both sides would be in possession of illegal arms?"

She was addressing a mammoth public rally at Kanchpur Balur Math in Narayanganj. The BNP-led 20-party alliance hosted the rally as part of its ongoing campaign to drum up public support for holding a fresh election under a non-party administration.

"Stop right away supplying illegal arms to your [Hasina] men. Recover all illegal arms. Otherwise, the consequences would be very dangerous," warned the BNP chief.

PHOTO ON PAGE 5



SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## YABA TRADE MP Bodi's nephew arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Law enforcers yesterday arrested Mong Mong Seta alias Momi, nephew of ruling party MP Abdur Rahman Bodi, from Chowdhury Para area in Teknaf municipality for his alleged involvement in Yaba smuggling.

Following instructions from higher authorities, police arrested him yesterday afternoon, said Mokter Hossain, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station.

Momi was on the list of Yaba traffickers prepared by

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Lucky Rabbit

Lost Disney film found in Norway

MAIL ONLINE

A copy of a 1927 Walt Disney cartoon film -- thought to have been lost to the world -- has been discovered in a remote part of Norway near the Arctic circle.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



## Two killed in train crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two men died after reportedly being hit by trains in the capital and Tongi yesterday. Their identities could not be known immediately.

In Dhaka, a youth, aged about 25, was hit by a Dhaka-bound local train when he was crossing the rail track near Cantonment Railway Station around 8:30am, police said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

PRAYER TIMING December 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



Holding clothes that are for the summer, a child, poorly clothed for the winter and suffering from a cold, reaches out for a jumper being given away to the destitute at Palashi intersection in the capital yesterday. People in need of warm clothes gather at the intersection where the more fortunate often go to distribute clothes.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**The Daily Star**

**Integral Energy Limited**

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you think that the Awami League-led government is delaying DCC and zila parishads elections fearing defeat of its candidates?

Yes (87%)

No (13%)

TOTAL VOTES: 171

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you agree with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia that there is no independence of judiciary in the country?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

UN CLIMATE SUMMIT

## Troubled talks scabble for exit strategy

AFP, LIMA

Negotiations on forging a UN pact to fight climate change headed into an unscheduled 13th day yesterday in a frantic quest to bridge a rift between rich and poor countries.

Ministers and senior officials from 195 states were to examine a compromise for calming a bust-up over who bears responsibility for fighting climate change.

The talks in Lima had been scheduled to end at 6:00 pm (2300 GMT) Friday, but ran into the pre-dawn as countries horse-traded over elements of a draft text.

Exhausted delegates were then given the chance of a few hours' sleep before a meeting at 1500 GMT yesterday to sound out opinion in a working group tasked with finalising the big document.

On the table is a text for shaping a

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

**BANGLADESH ECONOMIC ZONES AUTHORITY**

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Existing 110 kv substation

Proposed alignment of incoming power feeder to EZ

Proposed alignment of incoming water mains to EZ

Admin building

Proposed access road

Proposed Bridge on Ghona river

Temporary access road

Existing access road

Admin Building (planned)

All necessary off-site infrastructures will be developed by BEZA.

The Authority now invites prospective private developers to design, build, finance, own, operate and transfer the zone (205 acres) on PPP basis.

Bidders interested to purchase the bid document, are requested to visit the office of the Authority or its web-site.

**Bid Submission Deadline: 12 January 2015 at 02:00 PM**

Project Director  
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GD-4673