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Tripura power coming in at Tk 6.44/unit

Reasonable tariff fixed at fresh talks between two governments; 100MW may start to flow in next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will buy 100 megawatts of electricity from India's Tripura for a reasonable rate of Tk 6.44 per kilowatt-hour, officials said.

The rate was announced at a press briefing at Sonargaon Hotel in the capital yesterday following a meeting between Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power of Bangladesh, and Manik Dey, minister for power of the Indian state of Tripura.

The meeting fixed the electricity tariff at \$0.08 per unit. The price stands at Tk 6.44 and Indian 5.5 rupees per unit, said an official of the power ministry.

Sources said the supply of electricity from Tripura's Palatana Power Plant might start next month.

The electricity supply was supposed to begin in December last year, and the infrastructure for transmitting the electricity was already in place. But it did not happen, as India was asking Tk 10 per unit.

As a result, the ministry, without signing any power purchase agreement with Tripura, sent the proposal to the Prime Minister's Office.

The new tariff was fixed following discussions between the two governments, sources said.

Once the electricity supply starts, the amount of power

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Some 10,000 tea garden workers and their families attend a protest rally on Chandpur Tea Estate at Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj yesterday. Some of them even came with bows and arrows, inset. They say they would rather fight and die than let the government acquire 'their agricultural land' for setting up an economic zone there.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



SETTING UP SEZ Cancel move by Jan 25

Tea garden workers to govt; threaten indefinite strike

MINTU DESHWARA,
from Chandpur Tea Garden, Habiganj

Tea garden workers in Habiganj yesterday issued a 16-day ultimatum to the government to cancel the move towards setting up a special economic zone (SEZ) in Chunarughat upazila.

Thousands of workers from all the 23 tea gardens in the district attended a mass rally yesterday at Chandpur Tea Garden to press home their demand. They threatened if their demand was not met by January 25, they would go on an indefinite strike, joining forces with workers from all the 164 tea gardens in the country.

They said establishment of an SEZ in the area would further impoverish them as it would take the arable land away from them. They also expressed their fear that they would not be provided any compensation if the SEZ

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Apologise for arson attacks

Hasina to Khaleda, says BNP chief should be tried for 'burning' people

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday came down heavily on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for "termining" voters, election officials and others who were present at polling stations during the January 5 national election "dogs".

"I saw some statements in the newspapers ... She [Khaleda] said no voter was there at the polling centres ... There were only police and dogs," the PM said in her introductory speech at a meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee at the Gono Bhaban.

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\$2.5 BILLION METRO RAIL

Construction starts next month

Says communications minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The construction of much-awaited metro rail will begin at the end of next month, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said.

Works of a 10km stretch from Uttara to Agargaon, half of a metro line that will go as far as Motijheel, will be completed by 2019, he said at a roundtable titled "Padma Bridge-New Lifeline of Development" at

The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Of the six proposed metro routes, the 20-km line identified as MRT Line 6 will cost Tk 22,000 crore (\$2.5 billion). The ambitious project is aimed at easing traffic congestion in the capital through an improved, faster, comfortable and time-bound public transportation service.

As many as 60,000 passengers would travel to and from Uttara and Motijheel in

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This footpath along the Panthakunja Park was meant for pedestrians. However, with no other place available to live, the homeless have occupied the footpath and made it their home. With the state barely doing anything for them, they continue to live there in an inhuman condition, eventually making pedestrians suffer as well.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

'Whole region being dragged into crisis'

Iran complains to UN about Saudi Arabia's 'sectarian war mongering'

AGENCIES

Iran's foreign minister has complained to the United Nations about Saudi Arabia's "provocations" toward Tehran, as a diplomatic crisis between the region's two major powers entered its second week.

In a letter to the UN Secretary-General

Ban Ki-moon published by Iranian news agencies yesterday, Mohammad Javad Zarif said "some people" in Riyadh seemed bent on dragging the whole region into crisis.

The two powers, both major oil exporters, have been locked in a diplomatic battle since Saudi Arabia executed Shia cleric Nimr

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'El Chapo' captured

The world's top drug lord sent back to prison he escaped from

REUTERS

Mexico recaptured the world's top drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman in a pre-dawn shootout and chase through drains on Friday, returning him to the same prison he escaped from six months ago, in a boost for the beleaguered government.

The head of the powerful Sinaloa Cartel was captured in a car wearing a filthy vest after fleeing through tunnels and drains from a raid on a safe house in the city of Los Mochis, in his native northwestern state of Sinaloa.



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Don't give up

Stephen Hawking to depression sufferers



MAIL ONLINE

Professor Stephen Hawking alluded to depression in a lecture when he told his audience it is possible to escape from a black hole of despair.

The illustrious scientist made his comments at the Royal Institution in London, speaking on the eve of his 74th birthday.

In a Reith lecture for the BBC he told the 400-strong crowd that new thinking means that it is possible to escape from even black holes.

In the conclusion to his lecture he said: The message of this lecture is that black holes ain't as black as they are painted. They are not the eternal prisons they were once thought.

"Things can get out of a black hole both on the outside and possibly to another universe. So if you feel you are in a black hole, don't give up -- there's a way out."

Professor Hawking was diagnosed with motor neurone disease in 1963 at the age of 21, when he was given just two years to live.

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11-year-old house help dies of burns

Mystery over who set her on fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eleven-year-old domestic help Joba Akhtar, who on Friday suffered severe burns inside a city flat, died at a hospital yesterday, leaving confusions over who had set her on fire.

Police and her employer, a bank official, claim that she set herself afire. However, Joba's family suspects it was a murder by the members of the family she worked for over a year and a half.

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SIBL

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PRAYER TIMING

JANUARY 10

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-00

JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-40 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION


টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (স্রেডা)


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জ্বালানি সাশ্রয়ের অনুরোধ

- অপ্রয়োজনে ঘরের বাতি, পাখা, এসি, গ্যাসের চুলা জ্বালিয়ে রাখবেন না।
- গরম খাবার রেফ্রিজারেটরে রাখবেন না, ঠান্ডা হলে তারপর রাখুন।
- চার্জ হয়ে গেলে মোবাইল ফোন বা ল্যাপটপের চার্জার সকেট থেকে খুলে রাখুন।
- দাঁত ব্রাশ বা গোসলের সময় পানির কল খুলে রাখবেন না।
- উন্নত চুলা ব্যবহারে জ্বালানি বাঁচবে, খরচ কমবে এবং শ্বাসকষ্ট বন্ধ হবে।
- দিনের বেলা বাতি না জ্বালিয়ে ঘরের/অফিস কক্ষের পর্দা সরিয়ে দিন, সূর্যের আলো ব্যবহার করুন।
- বাসার ছাদে সোলার প্যানেল ব্যবহার করুন, বিদ্যুৎ খরচ কমান।
- জ্বালানি সাশ্রয়ী বৈদ্যুতিক যন্ত্রপাতি ব্যবহার করুন। প্রয়োজনে বিশেষজ্ঞের পরামর্শ নিন।
- পুরানো বাতি পাল্টে জ্বালানি সাশ্রয়ী এল.ই.ডি বাতি ব্যবহার করুন।







চেয়ারম্যান

স্রেডা