



Hilsa habitats under threat

Environmental impact of coal-fired power plants nearby to hamper hilsa production

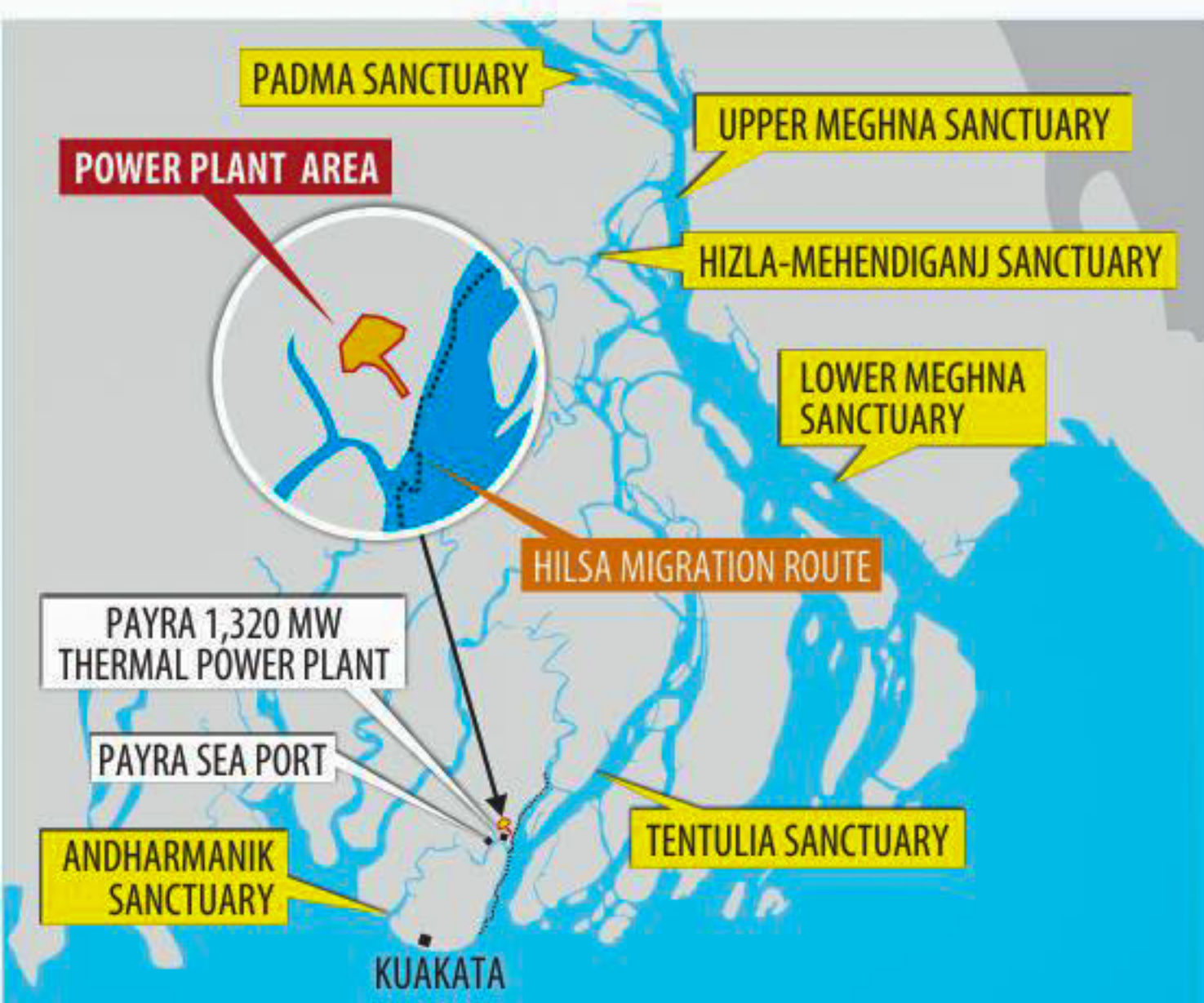


PINAKI ROY and SOHRAB HOSSAIN

The government has approved multiple power projects near hilsa sanctuaries in Patuakhali coastal area, posing a threat to the breeding and nurturing of the national fish.

Experts fear that hilsa production may sharply decline due to the environmental consequences of three under-construction coal-fired

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THE LONESOME BRIDGE... With no approach roads, this bridge has been lying unused at Chilarkandi village in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila since its construction 21 years ago. The picture was taken recently. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

PM'S TALKS OFFER
BNP to decide
after knowing
the agenda

Says Mirza Fakhrul

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said his party would consider joining a fresh dialogue with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina only after knowing about its agenda.

"I don't know why the dialogue is being called for. But if it turns out to be like the last one [held before the national election], it would not be meaningful," he told journalists at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RM) in the city.

Asked about the BNP's agenda for the dialogue, Fakhrul said, "We have only one agenda -- cancellation of the December 30 election."

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UPAZILA PARISHAD POLLS Schedule likely next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is likely to announce the schedule for the upazila parishad polls in the first week of February.

The commission may start holding the election in phases from the first week of March, Election Commission Secretary Helal Uddin Ahmed said yesterday.

The EC is mulling whether to use Electronic Voting Machines in every sadar upazila of the country, he told a press conference at the EC office.

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READYMADE GARMENT SECTOR

Revised wage sees protests subside

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA and AKIAKUR
RAHMAN AKASH

The weeklong protests in the apparel hub in Gazipur, Ashulia, Savar and Mirpur ebbed away yesterday, a day after the government announced revised wages in six grades for garment workers.

Apart from one or two incidents in Ashulia, where a few thousand workers took to the streets before being driven away by

the police, the situation was normal elsewhere. Apparently, the unrest in the country's largest foreign export earning sector has been resolved.

But industry insiders say weaknesses in trade unions in the sector have been exposed by the way things have been handled from the start of negotiations for the 2018 wage board to the lead-up to the protests. The sector has suffered frequent

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PM reappoints her 5 advisers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reappointed her five advisers.

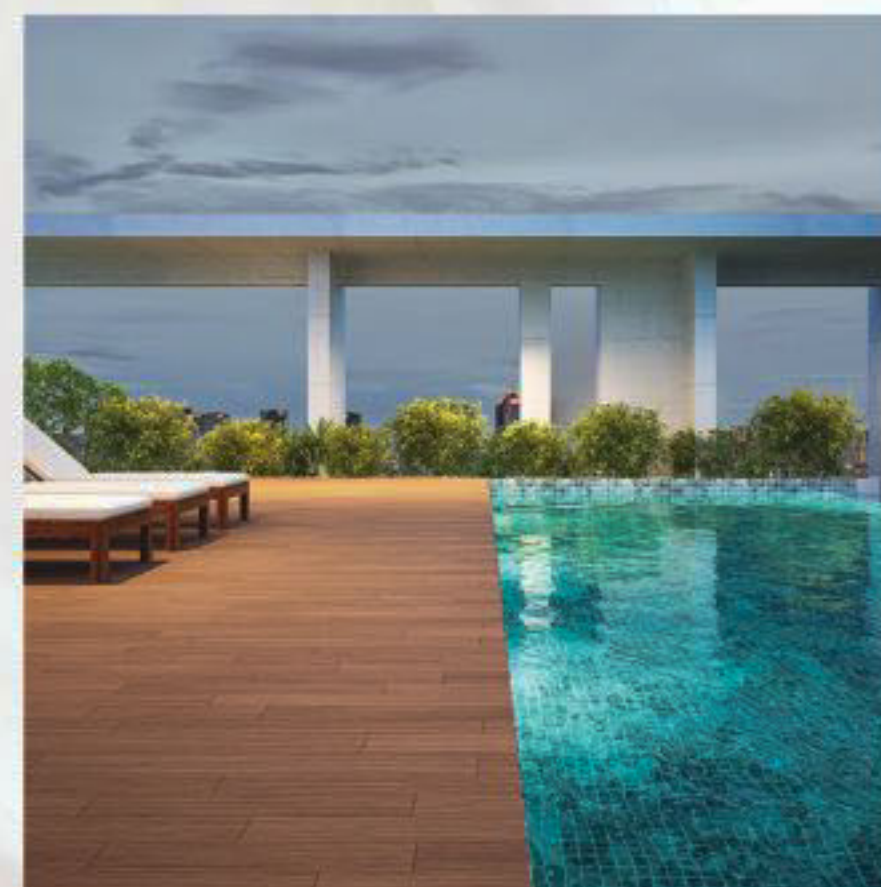
They are HT Imam for political affairs, Mashiur Rahman economic affairs, Gowher Rizvi international affairs, Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury power, energy, and mineral resources affairs, and Maj Gen (retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique security affairs.

All of them except for HT Imam have been in the post

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