



Power cuts to be up to 3 hours a day in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The residents in the capital are going to experience more loadshedding in the coming days as the power distributors have expanded the schedule for power cuts up to three hours a day.

According to the websites of Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC) and Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (Desco), both the companies introduced a three-hour loadshedding schedule in some areas yesterday.

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Man accused of laundering Tk 1,400cr arrested at HSIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, City

A businessman accused in 29 money laundering cases was arrested from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport while fleeing to Italy on Saturday night.

The cases were filed by the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) with Dhaka's Paltan Police Station in November 2019 against Shahidul Alam and five others.

Between 2016 and 2017, the gang had laundered about Tk 1,400 crore using fake import documents and the names of four non-existent companies, according

to the CIID's investigation report.

They imported alcohol, cigarettes, LED TV and old photocopy machines in 29 consignments by declaring those as capital machinery for preparing animal feed.

The items carried duties ranging from 125 to 612 percent, whereas capital machinery has only 3 percent duty.

Of the 29 consignments, 12 containing liquor, LED TV and cigarette worth about Tk 132 crore were seized in March 2017 by the Chattogram Custom House while the gang was trying to release those without any kind of scanning.

It was then that the issue of money laundering came to the fore.

The four companies paid about Tk 30 crore through the banking channel against the goods and laundered Tk 1,396.14 crore through illegal channels, the CIID report said.

After the investigation, the CIID filed 29 cases against six people in the forgery: Alam and Suruj Mia, the owners of the four companies; Muhammad Selim, manager (operation) of IFIC Bank's Shantinagar branch; MA Zafar, Maksudur Rahman Sumon and Morshedul Alam, all involved

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Rare microscopic crab discovered in Scottish caves

AGENCIES



Two caves in Scotland, one of which was previously connected to murders committed by a notorious highwayman in the sixteenth century, may be home to a rare species of microscopic crab, according to a report from Newsweek.

These small stygobitic crustaceans have been discovered living in the water pools of two Scottish caves, Allt nan Uamh Stream in

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

The Dhaka South City Corporation knocked down some illegal structures near Railway Market in the capital's Gulistan around five months ago. But the debris is yet to be removed from the pavement now partly occupied by hawkers. Locals said pedestrians often get nicked by the debris. The photo was taken yesterday.

Can govt hike fuel prices sans hearing? HC asks state counsel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned whether the energy ministry can increase prices of fuel without holding any public hearing on this issue.

The bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo asked this to the state counsel, Deputy Attorney General Arobinda Kumar Roy, while hearing a writ petition on the legality of the government's decision of raising fuel prices.

The HC posed the question as the petitioner claimed that only the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) can hike the fuel prices. The commission can only do it after it solicited public opinions through holding a mass hearing under the BERC Act, 2003. Therefore, the government cannot do it, the petitioner said.

"It is a violation of law and constitution," said the petitioner.

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Statements of Swiss envoy, govt, ACC contradictory: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The statements made by the Swiss ambassador, the government and the Anti-Corruption Commission regarding seeking information on money deposited by Bangladeshis to Swiss banks are contradictory, said the High Court yesterday.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Khizir Hayat made the observation after the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit and ACC placed two separate reports before it that showed they had requested information on various occasions from the Swiss government since 2013.

The BFIU has sought information from the Money Laundering Reporting Office Switzerland (MROS) through Egmont Secure Web about 67 persons and organisations who have allegedly deposited money to banks in Switzerland.

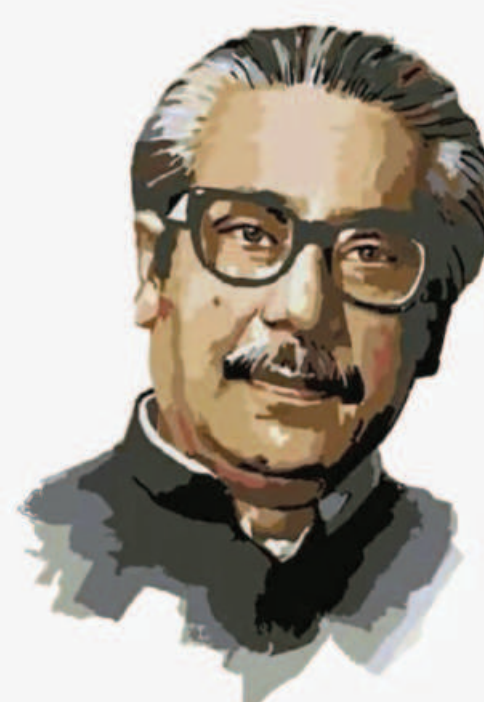
But the MROS said it had information on just one of them, said AKM Amin Uddin Manik, the deputy attorney general.

The ACC had requested information from MROS in 2014, 2019 and 2021 through the BFIU but in vain, said Khurshid Alam Khan, its lawyer.

The HC bench asked the two to place their written statements through swearing affidavits before this court by August 21, which is the date set for passing further order on the issue.

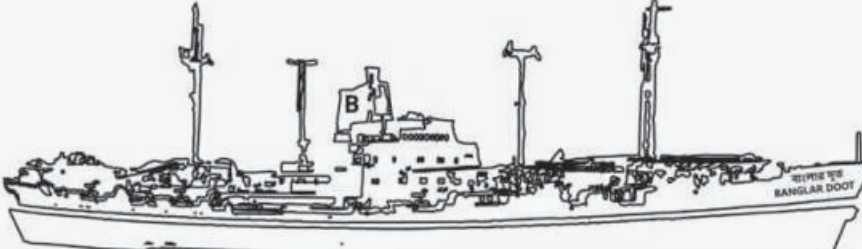
Earlier on August 10, Nathalie Chuard, the Swiss ambassador

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15 AUGUST
National Mourning Day

We Pay Our
DEEPEST RESPECT
*To The Father of The Nation and
The Founder of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman,
To Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib and
To All The Martyrs of The 15th August 1975
On The 47th National Mourning Day.*




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১৫
আগস্ট

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