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UNDERSEA PIPELINE Diesel to start flowing to ERL from Feb 29

MD NAZRUL ISLAM, Chattogram

Diesel transportation from Moheshkhali's storage tank terminal through the pipeline laid under the sea will finally start on February 29.

From February 29, the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) will begin to pump the 60,000 metric tons of diesel imported recently to the pipeline Chattogram's Eastern Refinery, said Sharif Hasnat, the project director of the Tk 7,124 crore Single Point Mooring (SPM) project.

For now, it will take about 17 hours to pump 60,000 metric tons of diesel through the pipeline. However, the pipeline can pump 900 cubic metres per hour.

From next month, crude oil will be transported through the other pipeline under the project in the first week of next month, said Mohammad Lokman, managing director of Eastern Refinery.

This would mark the end of the SPM project.

The BPC, the government and the Chinese Exim Bank are funding the project that is expected to save the country Tk 800 crore a year in fuel transport costs.

Diesel and crude oil would be transported from floating moorings in the sea to the storage tank terminal at Moheshkhali through two 16 km long pipelines of 36 inches width. From the storage tank, two other pipelines of 94 km in length and 18-inch width will transport the fuel oil to the Eastern Refinery in Chattogram.



A crowded sea beach in Cox's Bazar as offices were closed yesterday, the International Mother Language Day. Some people have taken the day off today to enjoy a four-day weekend. Bangladesh Railway arranged a special train between Dhaka and Cox's Bazar on Tuesday to meet the high demand. PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVU

Mention price, variety on sacks of rice Govt directs millers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday asked millers to ensure the price and variety of rice is mentioned on the sacks in which they are sold from the rice mills.

As the country grapples with rising prices of essentials, the food ministry issued a circular in this regard to ensure the price of rice in the market is rational.

However, millers have alleged the government did not consult them before issuing the circular.

Signed by the food secretary, the circular says the millers will have to obey the new instruction from April 14 this year.

It also said millers have to mention other information, such as net weight, production date, and name and address of the particular rice mill.

According to the circular, food ministry officials recently visited different districts and found that the same rice grain is being sold at different prices.

"When rice prices go up, nobody takes the responsibility, while millers, retailers, and wholesalers blame each other. Consumers cannot purchase rice at a fair price and they lose money, which is not acceptable.

"The government wants to bring an end to this," it said, adding that the ministry aims to ensure fair prices for both buyers and sellers.



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SHARIF-BHUTTO ALLIANCE Dynastic parties set to rule Pakistan again

AFP, Islamabad

After a split-verdict in Pakistan's general election this month, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) announced the coalition late Tuesday, naming former premier Shehbaz Sharif as prime minister and Asif Ali Zardari as president.

The agreement ends days of uncertainty and negotiations after the February 8 elections produced a hung national assembly.

PPP chairman Bhutto Zardari confirmed at a late night press conference in Islamabad that former premier Shehbaz Sharif, who was seated beside him, would be the coalition's candidate for prime minister.

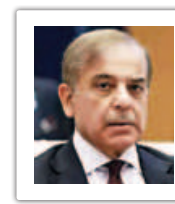
He added that his father Asif Ali Zardari will be the alliance's candidate for the country's president.

PML-N's Shehbaz Sharif, the younger brother of Nawaz, said the two parties had the numbers to form government, and also had the support of other smaller parties.

PML-N is the largest party with 79 seats and PPP is second with 54.

They, along with four other smaller parties, have a comfortable majority in the legislature of 264 seats.

The arrangement between the PML-N and the PPP mirrors the one that ousted Imran Khan back in 2022 -- kickstarting two years of political chaos which saw his party survive a crackdown to deliver surprise success at the polls. Here is a look at the main players:



Shehbaz Sharif



Asif Ali Zardari

THE SHARIF CLAN

The Sharifs are one of the two families who have ruled Pakistan for decades, and were expected to claim victory in the February 8 polls with the backing of the powerful military establishment.

Their Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) will be the senior coalition partner and, according to a deal announced late Tuesday,

Shehbaz Sharif will be the prime minister.

In the run-up to the election, his elder brother Nawaz -- a three-time former prime minister -- returned from self-imposed exile in the UK and was touted as the candidate for premier.

Dubbed the "Lion of Punjab", the PML-N puppetmaster is often draped in a Gucci scarf and yet admired by supporters for his approachable "man of the soil" demeanour.

The 74-year-old was sidelined from the 2018 election which carried Khan to power with the military's blessing. His return was seen as a sign that his relationship with the top brass was mended.

But with weak election results, the task of leading has been handed to 72-year-old Shehbaz -- considered a softer personality, a better mediator and more pliable to military influence.

Shehbaz, who is a cancer survivor and often appears in public sporting a facemask, was prime minister in the coalition ousting Khan. But analysts say Nawaz will be the "power behind the throne".

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Tallest man, shortest woman reunite

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The world's tallest and shortest people had breakfast together in California on Monday, reuniting six years after they first met for a photo shoot in Egypt.

There's more than six feet in height difference between Sultan Kosen from Turkey and India's Jyoti Amge, who posed for a new set of photos after their meeting.

Kosen, 41, who holds the Guinness World Record for the tallest living man at 8ft 2in, can be seen towering over Amge, 30, the shortest living female measuring just 2ft 0.7in.

In one of the images, Amge is just a little taller than Kosen's shoe, as she stands alongside it smiling ear to ear. In another she can be seen barely reaching his shoulder -- despite him being seated, and her standing on a chair near him.

The photos of the meeting were released by Turkey's Anadolu news agency, and it's not immediately clear who organised their visits to the US. Anadolu reported that the pair had travelled to Los Angeles at the invitation of an unnamed American producer, who also planned to record their meeting.

The duo last met in 2018 when they visited Egypt, posing next to the Great Sphinx of Giza. The sphinx also holds a Guinness World Record -- it is officially the largest monolithic sculpture in the world.



People on the street covering their faces as dust kicked up by vehicles shroud the neighbourhood in Nayabazar area of the capital yesterday. Poor air quality in the city has made headlines in recent weeks.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Ukraine downs 13 out of 19 Russian drones Denies losing Dnipro bridgehead as Moscow touts successes

AGENCIES

Russia launched 19 attack drones at Ukraine overnight and six missiles, with the Ukrainian air defence systems destroying 13 of the drones and one missile, Ukraine's air force said yesterday.

Some of the drones that were not destroyed did not reach their targets, the air force said on the Telegram messaging app, without providing further detail. It said that the 13 drones that were destroyed were downed chiefly over regions close to the frontline.

The air force also said that it destroyed a Kh-59 air-to-surface guided air missile in the Poltava region, reports Reuters.

Ukraine's army yesterday denied Russian claims that it had lost a key bridgehead on the Dnipro river frontline that has faced fierce attacks since

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ
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