



PHOTO: STAR

The National Front of Teachers and Employees took out a silent procession in the city yesterday protesting October 1 attack on its procession by police.

Poor power distribution major problem for industrial growth

Experts tell seminar

BSS, Dhaka

Energy experts at a seminar yesterday identified poor power distribution as the major problem in ensuring reliable electricity as well as industrial growth in the country.

They said the existing position of generation and transmission of power could be acceptable to some extent, but the distribution system at the end users level is absolutely frustrating with fluctuating voltage and frequent interruptions.

"If Bangladesh wants to provide quality electricity to consumers, it has to bring discipline in the distribution system reducing the non-technical losses," said Sri Lankan professor Priyantha Wijayatunga in the seminar as keynote speaker.

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharrar Hossain attended the seminar on "Economic Impact of Poor Power Quality on Industry in Bangladesh" as chief guest at a city hotel.

South Asia Regional Initiative (SARI)/Energy and the Nexant conducted a study on the power sector, where they found Bangladesh accounts an annual loss of over Tk 4,500 crore due to poor power supply.

The loss is equivalent to 1.72 per cent of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 11.54 per cent of the industrial sector GDP. The study released formally at the seminar said the industrial sector is the worst sufferer of the power crisis, which alone faces a production loss of over Taka 1,160 crore per year.

The cost of doing business in Bangladesh has gone up due to erratic power failure. Almost 64 per cent of industries have to depend on generators to meet the emergency electricity that led industrialists for higher energy costs and adverse environmental impacts.

The RMG sector alone has to count 10 per cent extra cost for generating power from generators run by fossil fuels. The study said that almost 95 per cent entrepreneurs' feel that they have been



PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharrar Hossain speaks at a seminar on 'Economic impact of poor power quality on industry in Bangladesh' at a city hotel yesterday.

paying higher for low quality power consumption and 50 per cent expressed willingness to pay more provided reliable electricity is supplied.

Mosharrar said the main problem in the power sector lie on distribution system instead of generation or transmission.

The generation can somehow match the demand, but the distribution system makes things difficult, he said. Underlining the need for modernisation of distribution system, he said if the consumers are willing to pay more it would be easier to ensure reliable electricity in a short span of time.

Ferdous Ara of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI)

contradicted with the state minister saying the enhanced power price would only increase the cost of production and push products into more competition.

She also criticised the study for ignoring plastic, shrimp processing and ceramic industries. Alamgir Kabir of Power Cell said the power sector needs urgent investment to increase the generation and improve the distribution and transmission system.

We need 10,000 US dollar for producing only 1 MW of power, he said adding that private-public participation is a must to reform and restructure the fragile electricity sector.

He also underscored the need for inviting private entrepreneurs in

the distribution system and rationalisation of tariff for domestic consumers, who consume electricity with around 50 per cent subsidy.

Bruce McMullen of USAID said there must have a strong regulation in the energy and power sectors in the country. He also referred to the strong political will in this regard.

AMCHAM President Aftabul Islam, Deputy Director of DCCI Hasanur Rahman, President of Enertech International Kendrick Wentzel and Vice President of Nexant Hugh McDermott also spoke.

DHAKA TODAY

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Insomnia'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Workshop

A consultative workshop on 'Review of progress in the implementation of Montreal Protocol in Bangladesh', organised by environment department, will be held with Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj as chief guest. Venue: Auditorium of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council. Time: 3.30pm.

Seminar

A seminar on the necessity of coordination among the voluntary organisations, organised by Manobadhikar, will be held. Venue: Azimpur Estate Welfare Association auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.

Musical function

Bangladesh Sangeet Parishad organises a discussion and musical function to commemorate the death anniversary of noted singer Samar Das. Venue: Shilpakala Academy premises. Segun Bagicha. Time: 4.30pm.

Child parliament

Child parliament, a national children's forum, organises its second session on 'Quality education and our need'. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 10.00am.

Lecture

Yoga Foundation organises an introductory lecture on quantum method meditation. Venue: Pioneer Road, Kakrail. Time: 4.15pm.

Seminar

A seminar on 'Islam and inter-faith dialogue', organised by world religions department of Dhaka University, will be held with Professor Reffat Hassan of a US university as guest speaker. Venue: 5006 Arts Building.

Rally

On the occasion of International Day for Disaster Reduction, Disaster Management Bureau organises a rally with Disaster Management and Relief Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf as chief guest. Venue: In front of the Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 7.30am.

Certificate giving ceremony

The certificate giving ceremony of the Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) will be held. Venue: IDEB seminar room, Kakrail. Time: 4.30pm.

Prize giving ceremony

The prize giving ceremony of the Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) will be held with Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 5.00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW
Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka will hold a meeting with British parliamentarians now attending the CPA conference including Lord Swaraj Paul, a member of the House of Lords. Venue: Chamber conference hall, Motijheel. Time: 11.45am.

Fair

The inaugural ceremony of a four-day Thailand Grand Fair will be held with Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Udhayan Thai, Baridhara. Time: 9.00am.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'Asoka'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Cultural evening

On the occasion of World Children's Day, Amra Kuri

Fake certificates of education boards recovered

Four arrested in Comilla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Police recovered fake certificates of different education boards and the National University and certificate-making equipment from a house in the town and arrested four people, including a master roll employee of Comilla Education Board and a journalist.

In a well-orchestrated way, a team of detective branch of police engaged an informant to unearth the forgery.

Posing as a client, the police informant made a contact with Asadul Haque, the master roll employee, who asked for Tk 1,700 in exchange of a SSC certificate to be issued in the name of Mohammad Kamal, son of Mohammad Shah Alam, with a pass in the second division.

Receiving the money, Asadul

asked the informant to wait at the board office at 11.00am. Later, he returned with a fake certificate only to be caught red-handed by the DB team who were earlier informed by their informant.

Acting on his statement, police raided the house of Abdul Halim at South Chartha and arrested him along with two other clients.

They also seized a number of fake certificates, certificate-making equipment, computer, monitor and a laser printer.

The two clients are Delwar Hossain and Mofzaler Rahman Munshi.

Munshi claimed himself to be a journalist working with a Dhaka-based weekly.

One gets life

BSS, Cox's Bazar

The District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday sentenced a person to life rigorous imprisonment for killing a boy 16 years ago.

Judge Motajidur Rahman delivered the judgement in a crowded courtroom here yesterday afternoon in presence of convict Nurul Alam. The court also fined him Tk 20,000 in default to suffer five months more rigorous imprisonment.

The prosecution story is that shepherd Abdur Rahim, 12, son of Abdus Salam of villager Para of Dulahazar union under Chakoria upazila, was chopped to death by his employer Nurul Alam on October 11 in 1986, while he was guarding cattle grazing in a nearby hillock.

Convict Nurul Alam is the son of Islam Ahmed of the same village. Locals recovered Rahim's body a day after his murder. Victim's father filed a murder case with Chakoria police station.

After investigation, police submitted a charge sheet accusing Nurul Alam to the district magistrate court here. The 12-year old Rahim was chopped to death following a conflict over monetary transaction between the convict and the victim's

father, police said.

Public Prosecutor Advocate Shamimara Shwapna appeared for the state while Advocate Zafor Alam stood for the defendant.

Journalists submit memo to PM today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ)

will submit a memorandum to the prime minister today demanding new wage board and 60 per cent dearness allowance for journalists, employees and workers of all newspapers and news agencies.

Their demand also included formulation of a national policy for the newspaper industry, says a press release.

Earlier, a rally will be held at the National Press Club at 11.00am.

BFUJ and DUJ leaders have urged all concerned to take part in the rally and the procession.



WEATHER
T O D A Y

Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Under the influence of the depression, light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely at most places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places hours till 6pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.1 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 23.0 degree Celsius at Dhaka and Barisal yesterday.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:39pm today and rises at 5:39am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.8	23.0	93	94
Chittagong	31.0	24.8	80	73
Rajshahi	25.4	23.8	96	96
Khulna	24.8	24.0	100	100
Barisal	25.5	23.0	96	--
Sylhet	28.2	24.2	95	91
Cox's Bazar	33.1	23.7	82	--

Train derails

BSS, Rajbari

At least ten passengers were injured when three compartments of a shuttle train derailed at Gualondo Station yesterday morning.

Police said the compartments derailed due to faulty rail tracks. Local people said the rail lines have no stones and the slippers are not fit

for train movement. Rail communication between Khulna and Gualondo was disrupted for six hours after the accident.

Obituary



A K M Shajaruddin, ex-district and sessions judge, died at his residence at Mohammadpur in the city on October 5, says

a press release.

He left behind two daughters and three sons.

His quikhwani will be held at his residence at 8/12 Sir Syed Road after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Ohidul Islam Khan

Ohidul Islam Khan (Akib), son of Amirul Islam Khan Bulbul, former director of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and film producer, died of stroke in New York, USA at the age of 17, says a press release.

His body will be brought back home from New York.

Relatives and friends have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



PHOTO: STAR

Visitors at an exhibition of handicrafts that began at the Bengal Gallery at Dhanmondi yesterday.