

Frequent power outages add to water crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Water crisis has deepened in the port city due to frequent power outages. Besides, the power situation is feared to deteriorate further in the city with the water level of Kaptai Lake dropping to a record low. Frequent power outages with an average daily loadshedding of around 250 megawatt has been wreaking havoc on city life side by side with hampering production in different industrial units, including the garments and the frozen foods sector, since April. The port city experiences three to four hours of unscheduled loadshedding everyday. Though the situation has marked some improvement since May 8 the loadshedding during the time ranged from 160MW to 180MW, said the sources. It still causes the city dwellers

to experience outage, on an average, for around two hours a day, complained the city dwellers. The power crisis is causing unbearable sufferings to the city dwellers, particularly to the candidates of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations. Meanwhile, the drastic fall in the water level at Kaptai Lake forced four units, out of five, of Kaptai Hydroelectric Power Plant to remain out of order since May 4. The water level at Kaptai Lake was recorded at 68 MSL (Mean Sea Level) on May 4 and May 5 as against around 81.4 MSL required for normal functioning of all the units. Fall of water level in the lake to 66 MSL can cause the entire plant of 210-MW hydroelectric project collapse completely, the plant experienced 27 years ago, said the PDB sources. The water level in Kaptai, however, started rising since

May 8 and it was recorded at 68.28MSL on May 14. With this only Unit No. 2 of 50-MW capacity of the plant could produce 20 MW of power. Besides, Unit 4 and 5 have been out of order since long. Of them, Unit No. 5 had began operation on an experimental basis before the lake water level started falling forcing the suspension of operation of Unit No. 1 and 3 as well. With all other plants operational, 392 megawatt of power could be produced in Chittagong till filing of this report on Sunday. Raozan Unit-1 and Unit-2 generated 170 MW and 160 MW respectively, the lone functional unit of Kaptai plant supplied 20 MW, the 60-MW Shikalbaha Thermal Power Plant produced 40 MW, Shikalbaha Barge Mounted (28 MW 2 units) Plant delivered 20 MW power, said the sources. They said the total generation of all the plants, if function with full capacity, was supposed



Acute crisis of water following frequent power outages force people, left, to wait in long queue for water defying the scorching sun at Enayet Bazar in the city while children, right, form a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club on Saturday demanding uninterrupted power supply. Consumers' Rights Protection Committee (CRPC) organised the human chain.

to be 766 MW. But the plants could never function with full capacity due to frequent mechanical glitches. Meanwhile, the frequent power outage also hampered the water production by

Chittagong Wasa that provides only one third of the total demand of water for some over 35 lakh people in the port city. With all its plants operating at full capacity, Chittagong Wasa has a capacity of producing a

total of 180 Million Liter Per Day (MLD) of water, 36 per cent of the total demand of 500 MLD. Of this, Mohra Water Treatment Plant produces 90 MLD of water while the rest 90 MLD can be produced by its 56

deep tube wells. But, the power crisis forced the daily production of water to come down to as low as 155 MLD last month, said sources in Chittagong Wasa. With a bit improvement in

power supply, Chittagong Wasa, however, produces around 170 MLD to 175 MLD at present, sources said. The power crisis also hampers distribution of Wasa water, said the sources.

theweekthatwas



Prof Dr Anisuzzaman speaks as the key speaker at 'Masterda Surya Sen Memorial Lecture' at the Theatre Institute Chattagram (TIC) auditorium in the port city on Thursday. Society for Social Studies organised the function in memory of

Workshop for English teachers

A daylong workshop titled "Teaching Practices in the ELT Classroom" was held here on Tuesday. American Corner, Dhaka and BELTA jointly organised the workshop for the English language teachers at American Corner in Chittagong. A total of 60 teachers from different colleges and schools participated in the workshop. The Corner Coordinator Sabrina Hossain gave a brief introduction of the Corner and its activities while officials of the both organisations discussed different topics related to the workshop. BELTA President Dr Arifa Rahman, American Centre, Dhaka Deputy Director Michelle Jones, Rehana Alam Khan, Micah Risher, David Pater, Richard Boyum, Mohammed Golam Faruk and Harunur Rashid Khan spoke at the workshop.

Musical concert with high volume protested

Different environmental organisations here on Thursday formed a human chain demanding an end to the musical concert with high volume at city's Foy's Lake, which has been disrupting normal life of the animals in the neighbouring zoo. They also protested hill cutting and water pollution in the amusement centre in the name of beautification of the lake. Environmental organisations Jano Udyog, Barnali, UTSA, Young Geographers Environmental Forum and Save Chittagong jointly organised the human chain in front of the main gate of the Concord Amusement Centre at Foy's Lake while different voluntary and social developing organisations of the port city joined it.

Workshop on photo journalism

Later, the speakers at a rally urged all to come forward to protect the animals of the zoo, hills and water from pollution. Chittagong University Geography and Environment Studies Department Prof Dr Shahidul Islam presided over the rally while Chittagong Nagorik Udyog President Journalist Muhammad Idris, Consumer Rights Protection Committee General Secretary Shahriar Khaled, Jano Udyog Coordinator Sharif Chowhan and Barnali President Seroz Kanti Das addressed the rally.

Youngone Corporation Managing Director CS Sohn passes time with children after inauguration of the Youngone Child Care Centre on Tuesday. Kihak Sung, chairman and chief executive officer of Youngone Corporation, inaugurated the centre for the children of Youngone staffs and employees at Chittagong Export Processing Zone.

A daylong workshop on "Photo Journalism" was held here on Friday. Chittagong Photo Artist Club organised the workshop at the Photo Bank Gallery auditorium at Surson Road in the port city. Renowned photojournalist Shoeb Faruque conducted the workshop where a total of 25 photographers participated. Shoeb Faruque discussed about different aspects of photo journalism, its trend and professional behaviour. The Daily Purbokone Editor Taslim Uddin Chowdhury was the chief guest in the certificate giving ceremony with the club General Secretary Esa Khan in the chair. Eminent sculptor Prof Syed Abdullah Khalid was present as special guest. Later, the guests distributed certificates among the participants.

Blood donation programme

A daylong blood donation programme was held on the Purnachar International Buddha Bihar premises in the port city on the occasion of Buddha Purnima on Thursday. Lions Club of Chittagong organised the programme in cooperation with Leo Club of Chittagong. Region Headquarter Chairman Joydul Abedin was the chief guest in the programme. Proggatilak Bhikkhu inaugurated the programme donating blood while other Bhikkhus and officials of the Bihar Committee followed him. Region Chairman Tapan Kanti Dutta, MA Taher Khan, Club Secretary Mohammed Ismail Chowdhury, Mohammed Helal and Suparna Barua also attended the programme.

Seminar on VAT

A CPE seminar on "Value Added Tax" was held here on Saturday. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) organised the seminar at the ICAB Chittagong Regional office. Bangladesh Customs, Excise and Vat Training Academy Director General Mohammed Johurul Haque was present as the chief guest in the seminar. ICAB Past President MA Baree presented the keynote paper while ICAB Past President AK Chowdhury attended it as a session chairman. Chittagong Regional Committee Chairman Salim Uddin read out the welcome address.

Farewell at Sriyani Trust School and College

Sriyani Trust School and College accorded a farewell reception to its students who are appearing in the Higher Secondary Examinations (HSC). Chittagong Education Board Chairman Prof AJM Shahidullah was the chief guest with the Institute Principal Prof Dr Enayetur Rahman in the chair. Prof Shahidullah in his speech called upon the students to extend their hands for serving the country and the humanity as well. Founding chairman of the Institute Muhammad Musa Chowdhury was the special guest where Principal Karim Dad, Vice Principal Shamim Akhter, Nandita Palit and AHM Jahangir Alam spoke.



Online health check-up gains popularity

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Computer Meridian Diagnostics (CMD), an internet-based computerised health check-up system, is gaining popular in the port city. The system is capable to diagnose any illness and report on 12 main organs of a human body such as heart, lungs, kidney, liver, gall-bladder, stomach, digestive system and pancreas within 20 seconds. CMD technology provides one with the analysis of the latest state of one's health taking reading from skins of fingertips in a painless way, specialists said. They said the system makes a profile on fitness and gives the measurement of energy level of 12 vital organs of human body enabling one to take control of the health. The people in Chittagong came to know more about the technology when a stall offered CMD check-up facilities at the three-day IT fair that ended at the Agrabad Banani Complex in the city on Saturday. Around 70 people received the CMD check-ups at the stall, sources said.

The Bangladesh Softalk Online Private Limited, a Dhaka-based software firm, was the first to launch the system in the country originated in Europe, sources said. At present 23 centres, including two in Chittagong, offer check-up through the technology in the country. The two centres here have already generated a lot of interest among the people, particularly the young generation. Preventive Health Care was opened at Agrabad on March 26 last year while Advanced Health Care started CMD check-up facilities at Jamal Khan in January this year. Around 1,000 patients have received the basic check-up at the two centres so far, sources said. Prof Dr Hasanuzzaman Bhuiyan, working at Preventive Health Care, said scientists and researchers in China, Japan, Germany and Soviet Union developed the CMD system after research of 35 years at Russian Space Agency. This system, based on Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), was first used for medical check-up of Russian astronauts, says a website

information. They proved the effectiveness of the system staying in sound state of body and mind in the space station Mir for long 11 years, said Prof Hasanuzzaman, also head of the Forensic Medicine Department of Chittagong Medical College (CMC). The research for developing the he system was first started at the Russian Space Agency in 1984. The objective was to develop a system to monitor astronauts' health during prolonged stay in space flights. It also aimed at envisag-



A patient gets information about the latest state of his health through check-up by Computer Meridian Diagnostics (CMD) at a centre in the port city.

ing ways to overcome the problem of retaining the vitality and energy of the astronauts in weightlessness during a flight of long duration. A team of 400 scientists and technicians directed by professor Dr V Zagriadskij developed CMD-Prognosis in cooperation with Dr Valery Polyakov of the Institute for Biomedical Problems, in Moscow. They conducted more than 1000 medical experiments on astronauts abroad the Mir space station, using many types of test equipment to formulate the system, says the website. After the collapse of USSR in 90s, Germany bought the technology from Russia and conducted more research on it leading to the development of the CMD system, said Prof Hasanuzzaman. Dr Liton of Chittagong Medical Centre said any illness of the body can be detected through tracing out the imbalance in the body's energy system.

Any irregular signal in human body can be detected by CMD system and measures are taken accordingly for healing, said Dr Liton, also works as a specialist at Advanced Health Care. Prof Hasanuzzaman said, "We take measurements of the body's energy level using the unique CMD sensor. The readings are sent via Internet to the central CMD Server in Germany." They compare the data we send with those gathered from persons of the same age, gender and various states of health, and an evaluation report is made, he added. Abu Taher, a student of Chittagong College, said, "I was interested about this when I heard one of my friend's uncle was able to learn about his diabetes through CMD check-up and it was proved when he examined his sugar." Prabir, a Chittagong University student, said, "I was not aware of having my peptic ulcer that was detected through CMD reading." Several physicians of mainstream medical treatment also showed interest in this modern system of diagnosis. Dr Sushanta, a physician at Chittagong Maa O Shishu Hospital, said he was interested in the system. But he could not afford to receive training on it abroad.