

Power crisis acute in Ctg: mills face losses, inhabitants suffer

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 30: Chittagong city again has come under the onslaught of power crisis leading to frequent loadshedding regularly.

Consequently, sufferings of the city dwellers mounted as most areas of the city plunge into darkness after evening regularly for several hours.

Besides, frequent loadshedding both at day and night badly affect the economy of this commercial capital triggering worries among the industrialists, entrepreneurs and businessmen of electricity from the national

Mills and factories at Nasirabad, Sitakunda and Kalurghat industrial belts have been facing production losses due to unplanned loadshedding, sources said. Many mills and factories failed to meet the delivery orders for their products due to power failure, sources added.

The residents however, blamed the PDB officials for unplanned loadshedding that affect the country's second largest city severely.

The PDB officials attributed the power crisis to poor supply

gridline and fall in power generation at Kaptai Hydroelectric Project from 230 MW to 130 MW regularly.

The water level at Kaptai Lake marked a record fall now varying between 80 MSL and 90 MSL, from normal standard of 106 MSL, affecting the operation of four of its five units, officials said. Talking to this correspondent the Chief Engineer of PDB in Chittagong Shamsul Hoque said, due to shortage of rainfall this season the water level at Kaptai Lake had continued to fall alarm-

ingly hindering the power generation.

"If the drought situation continues, the Kaptai Lake will dry up posing a threat to power generation and as a result Chittagong will be heading towards a severe power crisis shortly," the Chief Engineer added.

Earlier in the months from March to May this year, Chittagong experienced power crisis, worst of its kind in recent years, that caused economic losses amounting to hundreds of crores of taka.

WB sanctions \$2.80 lakh for Khulna

KHULNA, Aug 30: The World Bank has sanctioned 2.80 lakh US dollar for a project to improve water supply, sanitation and drainage system in Khulna City Corporation, reports BSS.

An official source said that the government from its development budget had sanctioned Taka 4.50 crore for this project.

The source said that another important project of the corporation, surface water treatment plant project, is a waiting implementation with Japanese financial aid.

Alpha Tobacco declares 25 pc dividend

Alpha Tobacco Manufacturing Company Ltd declared a dividend of 25 per cent among the shareholders of the company, says a press release on Sunday.

The dividend was declared in the company's 25th Annual General Meeting (AGM), presided over by Agha Yusuf, Chairman of the organisation.

The AGM, held at the Jessore factory of the company were attended by Kafiluddin Mahboob, a former Finance Advisor and Director of the company, Directors, Badrup Nahar, Anwar Yusuf, Director-in-charge Agha Ahmed Yusuf and shareholders.

Rabita donation to madrasa

Makkah-based Rabita Al Alam Al-Islami has donated Taka 1,03,200 to Madrasa Islamia Darul Ulam of Rangunia, Chittagong for its development, reports UNB.

Al Ahmad Abdalwahab, Charge d' Affaires of Saudi Arabian Embassy in handed over the cheque to the Principal of the Madrasa in Dhaka Saturday, said a Press release.

PHE instals 687 Tara pumps, 39 shallow tubewells

RAJSHAHI, Aug 30: Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department sank 687 Tara pumps and 39 shallow tubewells in the district in the last financial year for supplying pure drinking water, reports BSS.

During the time 7799 disordered tubewells were repaired and 104 shallow tubewells were resunk by the department.

The PHE also sank 544 Tara pumps and 12 shallow tubewells in Chapainawabganj district during 1991-92. The department repaired 7513 tubewells and resank 32 shallow tubewells during the period.

Meanwhile, the PHE has undertaken a programme to sink about 650 tubewells and resank another 100 in the current fiscal year in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts to enhance the supply of pure drinking water.

Shortage of capital impeding industrial growth: Saifur

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman on Sunday singled out "colonial" system of banking as the main factor responsible for industrial sickness in the country, reports UNB.

"The old British system of non-responsive banking practice, inherited by Bangladesh as well as other South Asian nations, is not conducive to promotion of industries," he said inaugurating a workshop on Rehabilitation Finance Management of Non-Performing Export-Oriented Enterprises at a local hotel.

Dearth of timely working capital has been the major handicap to industries, Rahman said holding banks responsible for the problem impeding industrial growth in the country, as in the region at large.

Citing the current banking practices across the world, Saifur Rahman said now banks themselves take initiatives to remove crisis of enterprises they financed.

But here, he observed, bankers have never been considered as active partners in

industrialisation, the Finance Minister observed.

The week-long workshop has jointly been organised by International Trade Centre (ITC), Bangladesh Bank and the Institute of Bank Management with an objective to identify causes and prescribe antidote to sickness of non-performing export industries.

The Finance Minister pointed out higher pricing as a major cause of in competitiveness of local exportables.

He suggested export industries to be extremely careful about costing and quality to get into international markets.

Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed, who was a special guest at the inaugural session of the workshop, stressed proper and constant monitoring of enterprises by financing agencies in restricting their ailment.

The country now requires an effective "exit policy" to get out of the crisis of industrial sickness, he said.

DP Gupta, Senior Adviser of ITC, giving his global experience, said management defi-

ciency was much more responsible than financial matters for sickness.

He also said banks had great responsibility of coming up with assistance to haul up the sick industries out of their crisis.

Swedish Charge d' Affaires, BB Deputy Governor Mahubul Amin Chowdhury were other speakers. The workshop is being financed with Swedish assistance.

Some 30 senior government officials and bank personnel are participating in the seven-day workshop.

The workshop in its 27 sessions, to be conducted by a number of international and local experts, will deal with the issues relevant to identification of non-performing export-oriented industrial units and formulation of recommendation on a rehabilitation package.

It is being held in the wake of a government drive for overhaul of the moribund industrial units where a large chunk of mopey from the public exchequer is stuck up in default loans.



The visiting Italian industrial team led by Cariteauro calls on Shamsul Islam Khan, Industry Minister at his office on Saturday. —PID Photo

Urea export drops by 40pc

Country's urea fertilizer export dropped by 40 per cent in the last fiscal year from previous year's level of external sale, reports UNB.

Officials quoting report of the Management Information System Cell at the Industries Ministry told UNB on Sunday that the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation exported urea worth Taka 93.41 crore in 1991-92 against Taka 154 crore in 1990-91, down by 40 per cent.

The MIS report attributed the shortfall in export to late permission obtained by the corporation for exporting the fertilizer.

On the other hand, it said, overtime bills for BCIC's 27665-strong staff shot up by nearly Taka 26 lakh.

Among the 22 enterprises of the corporation, overdraw by eight units from different banks stood at about Taka 55 crore, the report said.

Four units fell short of production targets last year. All

other concerns of BCIC, however, crossed their targets.

North Bengal Paper Mills fell short by 14 per cent, Kohinoor Chemical Company 50 per cent, Kohinoor Battery Manufacturers 44 per cent and Lira Industrial Enterprises 3 per cent.

However, BCIC contribution to the national exchequer grew by nearly Taka 3.5 crore to Taka 127.80 crore during the period.

Total sale of the BCIC products in domestic market stood at Taka 1316.59 crore, 101 per cent of the target, according to the MIS report.

It praised all concerns of the BCIC management for their overall performance, but cautioned that efforts should be made to make the losing concerns profitable.

MIS also recommended that measures be taken for reducing loss of raw material, controlling administrative expenses and production cost.

Italy keen to supply leather equipment

The visiting six-member Italian leather delegation led by Cariteauro, Coordinator of Vipel, an industrial equipment for leather goods and shoes co of Italy, called on the State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan at the latter's secretariat office in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

The delegation stayed with the State Minister for some time and they discussed matters relating to mutual interest.

They also exchanged views on the prospects and development of leather garments in Bangladesh.

Mannan said, there was a good prospect of setting up leather garments factory in Bangladesh through joint ventures. The delegation showed keen interest in supplying leather machinery, technical know-how and expert in this field.

Mohammed Ershadul Haq, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles was also present.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 30/8/92

Berth No	Name of vessels	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Cargo
J/2	Banglar Shobha	Pena	BSC	23/8	6/9	GI
J/3	Mchedinti	Pena	BSL	27/8	30/8	GI
J/4	Oryx	Mong	Agua	28/8	01/9	GL
J/5	Hafez	Cal	SSL	22/8	02/9	GL
J/6	Iyeverett	Cal	EBPL	29/8	02/9	GI
J/7	Banglar Gourab	Mong	BSC	10/8	04/9	Urea
J/11	Al Mohammedi	Mong	KSL	10/8	30/8	Urea
J/12	Miramir	Mong	KSL	28/8	03/9	GL
MPB/1	Peter Starostin	Sing	CT	28/8	31/8	Cont
MPB/2	Fong Shin	Sing	BDShip	28/8	31/8	Cont
CGJ	Shalmar	Col	PSAL	28/8	7/9	Cement
GSJ	Solbulk	Para	LAMS	25/8	30/8	Wheat
TSP	Al Tabith	Al Juba	BSL	18/8	4/9	R Sulp
RM/4	Flying Dragon	Sing	USTC	23/8	10/9	Cement
DM/6	Tanary Star	Sing	PSAL	24/8	3/9	Cement
DDJ/1	Banglar Shourabh	BSC	R/A	30/8	C/Oil	
DDA/1	Endurance	BSC	R/A	30/8	C/Oil	
Sea/Attach:27/7		Apaba	EOSL	25/1	5/9	Repair
DDJ/2	Banglar Baani	BSC	R/A	8/9	8/9	Repair

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Susan Glory	30/8	Seacom	GI		
Andromache	01/9	Col	ESL	Cont	Mong
Andrian Goncharov	01/9	Sing	CT	Cont	Mong
Bervilla	01/9	Mong	BSL	Cont	Sing
Pong Yun	02/9	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Caravos Explorer	02/9	Stork	Alamin	Wheat	
Safina-e-Haider	02/9	Kara	ASL	GI/CI	Karachi
Delos	02/9	Rouen	Royal	Rapeseeds	
NGS Ranger	03/9	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Horn	03/9	Hong	Prog	GI	
Optima	03/9	Sing	BSL	Cont	Sing
Pacific Timur	05/9	Cal	OTL	Logs	
Shaplaeverett	05/9	Sing	EBPL	GI	Japa,FE,St
Asian Queen	05/9	Sing	EBPL	DI	
New Genior	05/9	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Weser Star	05/9	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Diamond Star	05/9	Sing	BSC	Steel	
K Rosal	05/9	Peng	Sunbeam	Copra	
Safina-e-Ismafil-2	08/9	Sing	ASL	GI/CL	Karachi
Kota Buana	09/9	Sing	CTS	Cont	
Avon Delta	20/9	Sing	Aqua	Wheat	Sing

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banglar Asha	Wheat		LAMS	R/A(24/8)
Banglar Jyoti	C Oil		BSC	R/A(27/8)

VESSELS NOT READY

Yao Sheng	Cement	Sing	Bright	17/8
Georgios-M	Cement	Visu	Paragon	27/8

VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Alyan	Cement	Sing	Alamin	R/A(18/9/91)
Nehal	Scraping	Col	UMAL	10/6
Ultra Sea	Wheat	P Syed	LAMS	27/8
Banglar Sampad	Wheat		LAMS	R/A(26/8)

The above were the Sunday's Shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Raw Jute Prices

Kutcha Bales FOB	Rejection	1450	230
Narayananj/Daulatpur	BT		
Varieties	Habtabji	1100	195
(Taka per 100 Kg)	BT		
Mid.	Rejection	1550	240
Bot. (B)	BT		
Bot. (C)	Habtabji	1150	205
Bot. (X)	Bangla		
	Cut Ropes	1100	205
Note: *FOB = Freight on board	Cutting		
Bot. = Bottom	BW Cutting		
	A	1200	195
Pucca Bales	BW Cutting		
Variety	B	1100	175
(Taka per bale)	BT Cutting		
	A	1450	230
	BT Cutting		
	B	1350	210
Bangla White (BW)	Meshta		
Special	Special	1700	
A	A	1600	
B	B	1550	
C	C	1450	
D	Spl Meshta		
E	Cutting	800	
	Ord. Meshta		
Bangla	Cutting	700	
Tosha (BT)	Meshta SMR	900	
Special	Remarks:		
A	Quality	— Normal	
B	Condition	— Average	
C	N'ganj imp	— 5,000/6,000mds	
D	Daulatpur		
E	imp	— 4,000/5,000	
	Market	— firm	

Price Index

Essentials	CHICKEN	
RICE (Taka per 17kg)	Large	54.00-56.00
Aman(17kg)	Moderate	58.00-60.00
16.00-17.00	Small	64.00-68.00
13.50-14.50	TEA	
VEGETABLES (Taka per kg)	Dust (Plain)	80.00-90.00
Potato (local)	EGG (4 per)	12.00-12.50
11.00-12.00	Hen	12.00-12.50
Brinjal	Duck	12.00-12.50
8.00-10.00	Firm	12.50-13.00
Karola	PULSES (Taka per kg)	
10.00-12.00	Mashur	28.00-30.00
Lalshak	Mung	30.00-32.00
5.00-6.00	Chicko	22.00-23.00
5.00-6.00	Kharai	15.00-15.50
5.00-6.00	FRUITS	
Green Banana (Four Pieces)	Green Coconut (Small)	(One piece)
4.00-6.00	Coconut (Large)	8.00-10.00
OTHER FOODGRAIN (Taka per kg)	Pineapple	8.00-12.00
Flour	Jackfruit	NA
11.50-14.00	Banana	(4 pieces)
11.00-11.50	Sugar (Large)	12.00-15.00
160.00-170.00	Chungu	3.00-4.00
FISH (Taka per kg)		
Rohibig		
120.00-130.00		
Karibig		
50.00-55.00		
Hilsha		
130.00-140.00		
Shrimp(big)		
90.00-100.00		
Singi		
110.00-120.00		
Koi		
120.00-130.00		
MEAT		
Beef		
55.00-60.00		
Mutton		
85.00-90.00		

Exchange Rates

The following are the Commercial Bank's BC selling and TT (C). OD transfer buying rates for some selected foreign currencies effective on August 30 and 31.

Currency	Selling B. C.	T. T. (C)	Buying O.D. Transfer
US Dollar	39.1326	38.9087	38.6339
Poundsterling	77.5383	77.1771	76.6727
DM	27.7733	27.5948	27.3999
FF	8.1569	8.1017	8.0445
S Riyal	10.4641	10.4042	10.3307
D Guilders	24.6458	24.4894	24.3164
S Kroner	7.5890	7.5382	7.4850
Singapore Dollar	24.4900	24.3499	24.1779
UAE Dirham	10.6911	10.6299	10.5548
Kuwaiti Dinar	135.2657	134.4918	133.5419
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.5104	1.5036	1.4961
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.5554	1.5452	1.5405

Authorised dealers will apply T. T. clean buying rate for purchase of remittances of Bangladeshis working abroad.
Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on August 30, 1992
Star Economic Report

Flourishing trading

Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) met with a flourishing trading on Sunday. Figures in both the turnovers were bright. Unfortunately the DSE index continued to give negative signal.

The day's volume finished at 38580 from Saturday's 14101, registering a rise of 173.59 per cent. Value ended at Taka 173041