

Bad news zap the good one

SHARIER KHAN

The good news -- the last major under-implementation power scheme, the 450-megawatt (MW) AES Meghahat Power Project, would go into commercial operation this October, eight months ahead of the schedule.

The bad news -- the level of load shedding next year would hit an unbearable 600 MW as eight more under-implementation power schemes remain suspended.

Worse still, the load shedding

Power supply blues

trauma would escalate from 2004 as no new power schemes are in the pipeline.

Sources said even if the government resumed implementation of all the suspended power projects now, the country would still have to languish under significant power shortage.

These projects are Barapukuria 250 MW coal-fired power plant,

the Power Development Board (PDB) to review the suspended projects and identify the ones that could be implemented immediately.

These eight projects on suppliers' credit were grounded for various irregularities during the tenure of the last caretaker government. These projects are Barapukuria 250 MW coal-fired power plant,

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Cloning to revive extinct animal



A Tasmanian tiger (Thylacine), which was declared extinct in 1936, is on display at the Australian Museum in Sydney. Scientists now plan to recreate the species within a decade.

AFP, Sydney

A major breakthrough in efforts to bring back to life a long extinct creature known as the Tasmanian Tiger by genetic engineering was announced by an Australian research team here yesterday.

The animal, named scientifically as the thylacine, was the largest known carnivore marsupial (a creature with a pouch to carry its young) until it was pronounced extinct in 1936 after decades of being hunted as vermin.

But professor Mike Archer, director of the Australian Museum, said DNA from a 130-year-old thylacine female pup specimen preserved in ethanol had been successfully replicated by a team of scientists at the museum.

Two other high quality tissue sources, including bone, tooth and dried muscle from male specimens,

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Morientes headache

AP, Ulsan

Spain's goalscoring ace Fernando Morientes, who sprained his ankle in Tuesday's training, could recover in time for the team's World Cup opener against Slovenia, team officials said.

"We have to wait 24 hours to see how it evolves," said team doctor Juan Jose Ramos. "But from initial checks it doesn't look serious. He could even be fit for the first match."

Ramos said he hoped the centerforward would be able to work out in the hotel gym later in the day. Barring complications, Morientes might be able to take to the pitch again as soon as Wednesday, Ramos said.

"The first impression is good," he

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Shah Iqbal Mujtaba new navy chief

BSS, Dhaka

Commodore Shah Iqbal Mujtaba, NDC, PSC, BN, has been appointed Chief of the Naval Staff of Bangladesh Navy with effect from June 4, according to a notification issued by the Defence Ministry yesterday. He replaces Rear Admiral Abu Taher, NDC, PSC, BN, who will retire on June 3.

Shah Iqbal Mujtaba has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral with effect from June 4, ISPR press release said.

Shah Iqbal Mujtaba joined Navy on Nov 11, 1966 and was commissioned on June 1, 1970.

He has commanded all major ships and frigates and training

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Announcement

We regret that Star Chittagong page will not be published in colour till the end of the World Cup-2002 due to technical difficulties.



A launch at the Sadarghat in the city gets loaded with goods with no inspector around yesterday. Overloading continues even after the Meghna and Baleshwar tragedies.

Talks ruled out Musharraf's speech dangerous: India

REUTERS, New Delhi/Islamabad

India said yesterday Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's latest speech on the countries' military standoff over Kashmir was disappointing and dangerous and had stoked tensions rather than eased them.

Pakistan fired the last in a series of missile tests yesterday, just hours after Musharraf had said Pakistan did not want war but was ready to respond "with full might" if attacked.

Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw was in Islamabad for talks on the tension that has pushed South Asia to the brink of war as Pakistan fired a short-range missile, its third test in four days.

Indian External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh, in India's first official response to Musharraf's speech late Monday, accused the Pakistani military leader of "belligerent posturing".

"(Musharraf's speech) ... is both disappointing and dangerous," Singh told a news conference.

"Disappointing as it merely repeats some earlier assurances that remain unfulfilled until today, and dangerous because through belligerent posturing tension has been added to, not reduced."

But Singh said India was sticking to its policy of not using nuclear weapons first.

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Ctg dockers go on indefinite strike from today

Abdullah-al Mahmud, Ctg

Dockers at the Chittagong Port enforce an indefinite strike from 7:30am today to protest the authorities' decision to allow employment of workers from outside for loading and unloading consignments.

The Chittagong Dock Bandar Sramik Karmacheri Parishad (port workers' and employees' association) called the strike Monday after the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) issued a circular the same day allowing the stevedores to engage workers from anywhere they like.

The work abstention by some 30,000 workers and employees of the port is set to cripple the country's main seaport.

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The Parishad -- a forum of 22 trade union (TU) bodies working at Chittagong Port -- decided to enforce the indefinite strike after a meeting with the CPA fell through yesterday afternoon.

In the meeting, CPA Chairman Commodore Golam Robbani refused to cancel or make any changes in the circular. According to the dockers, the circular favours the Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association (BMSA), which represents the employers of port workers.

He said the CPA has to look after the interests of both the workers and the employers.

The chairman said if needs be, the CPA would take alternative

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