

# Daylight Saving Time and energy management

MIR RAZUDDIN HAROON

ENERGY management in the developed world was taken up more critically than before after the oil shock of 1973 followed by 1979 when the world economy was in a period of transition. Due to persistent effort of the developed world to promote efficient use of energy resources, the crude oil price was crashed in the mid 80's. We have seen the development of combined cycle power plant for efficient use of primary energy resources for power generation and its use in electricity supply industry.

So far only thirty percent of our total population has access to electricity. So we have a long way to go, and far from reality to provide electricity for all by the year 2020. There is no doubt that the power crisis is likely to be more in summer 2005 than last year despite two power plants. Shiddirganj 210 MW and Tongi 80 MW, will be added in power system after a long gap. Where addition of new electricity consumers is a part of the development process, small addition of power generation capacity after a long gap cannot make any significant improvement. Majority of consumers cannot expect any relief from load shedding during the long summer period of our country. Besides, low quality of power supply damages equipment, particularly burning of motors used by the farm-

ers for irrigation during hot summer months. In this situation, it is the responsibility of the consumers, too, to give some thoughts on energy management which is being practiced in many countries around the world, mostly in the developed countries like European Union and North America. This is Day Light Saving Time (DST).

The idea of Day Light Saving Time (DST) was first conceived by

**As no investment is required to get the benefit from Daylight Saving Time, it is the responsibility of civil society, the professionals to come forward and discuss the issue. Its necessity for implementation is immensely beneficial in Bangladesh where energy is scarce.**

Benjamin Franklin. DST has been used in the United States and many European countries since World War I. To day about 70 countries practise DST around the world.

Energy management is a kind of motivation of the consumers in short term and changing the design of the existing equipment including electric wiring design of residential buildings, commercial complex and industrial installations as a long term planning. When the consumers will see that the changes bring financial benefit, they will adopt it. Every electricity consumer will

welcome a system which will give him some relief from frequent load shedding, low voltage and power fluctuation which damage their equipment. We neither in the past gave, nor at present are giving any emphasis on energy management through which a poor country like Bangladesh could derive much more benefit in terms of optimising investment in power sector development, improve quality of power supply and ensure access to electric-

ity by more people. As a part of the energy management, Day Light Saving Time is a system through which the electricity consumers will be benefited. On the other hand, no investment is needed for its implementation. We have a long summer period in a year, starting from March to October. We have and will have in future years with greater intensity load shedding and low quality of power supply during entire summer period, as we don't foresee any dramatic change in addition of generation capacity due to our financial constraints and

dependency on foreign assistance for the development of high capital intensive power sector. Our electricity consumers are badly affected during the entire summer period. Students suffer due to load shedding in carrying out their studies, besides production at industries also suffer and eventually the economic growth of the country. On the other hand, we have evening shopping culture in our society and thus a sharp rise in demand for power in the evening. It is not possible to come out of this situation easily. So, we will have to take some measures through which society can be benefited.

The Day Light Saving Time is a measure to be undertaken by the government. It is just to advance your clock time by one hour at the beginning of the summer in the month of March and pull back by one hour at the end of the summer in the month of October.

What happens in this case is that in summer, we get sunlight from 5 in the morning. During this period when the clock will be forwarded by one hour, the time in the clock will show 6. When the people will attend office following the new time at 9 AM, the actual time will be 8 AM. Similarly, when the office will end at 4 PM in the new time shifting, the actual time will be 3 PM during the period from March to October. People will get enough time to go for shopping after reaching home. At shopping centers, when the clock will show 8 in the evening, the actual time will be 7 and at 9 in the evening when the actual time will be 8, people will have a tendency to go back home for safety and security reasons.

On the other hand, shopping centers will not face any constraint to carry out their business activities. In this situation the power system will face difficulty only for one hour of the real time, from 7 PM to 8 PM. Students will face less difficulty of shedding as the major shopping centers will be closed early due to time shifting, when the actual time will be 8 PM. And at the end of October, the clock will be turned back and continue with the original time till the end of February. Eventually a healthy society can be expected to grow if we really feel that we will have to survive in a most competitive world of this century.

Studies done in the 1970 by the US Department of Transportation show that USA trim the entire country's electricity usage by about one percent each day with Day Light Saving Time. Day Light Saving time has been around for most of this century and even earlier. British Summer Time was introduced by an Act of Parliament in 1916. Clocks were put one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) during summer months. Seventy countries around the world use Day Light Saving Time method.

Even the oil rich Iran takes advantage of Day Light Saving Time. Unfortunately, Bangladesh never thought of this despite our necessity both economically and socially.

This Daylight Saving Time can contribute significantly in a persistent power generation shortage which is likely to continue for the next 3 to 4 years. Even if money is available today to build power plants, transmission and distribution system to utilise the generated power efficiently, some procedures have to be followed like inviting international tenders, evaluation of tenders, the bitter approval procedures, interference etc. These are well known and have become acceptable facts of our society. It is not very easy to say how and when we will be able to come out of this situation. But this can be predicted that we will have to travel a long way and carry out our development activities accepting this situation.

Energy saving is obviously beneficial in an energy scarce country like Bangladesh. Extra hours of daylight means less hours of burning light and that should be our objective. In our power system, we have a sharp evening peak and for which the majority electricity consumers who cannot afford to live in posh areas mostly suffer for the entire summer period. Daylight Saving Time benefits society by adding more daylight when people are active. It saves energy and more outdoor recreational time benefits public morale.

Daylight Saving Time (or summer time as it is called in many countries) is a way of getting more out of the summer days when we are badly in need of it. Daylight Saving Time prevents crime, because people get home from work and students from school in daylight. Daylight Saving Time reduce people's exposure to various crimes, which are more common in darkness than in light.

As no investment is required to get the benefit from DST, it is the responsibility of civil society, the professionals to come forward and discuss the issue. Its necessity for implementation is immensely beneficial in Bangladesh where energy is scarce. We will have to fix up the strategies, find out the avenues and approach the policy makers to think for its implementation. Day Light Saving Time is a small step but can bring greater welfare for the citizens.

# Doing away with spelling demons

REZINA SULTANA

ONE apocryphal story tells us about a girl who, when asked to spell 'fish' wrote 'GHOT' on the blackboard. Though seemingly bizarre, it makes perfect sense, if we get the same 'gh' sound from rough, the same 'o' we hear from women, and the same 't' we hear in nation. So, spelling mistakes can often stun people with their peculiarities and absurdities. Besides, since it has little to do with a person's intelligence, one shouldn't be surprised if one sees the best of writers stepping into the trap of misspellings once in a while.

As far as writing is concerned, spelling errors are often considered as the most costly mistakes committed on papers. So, it has become a recurring concern for students as well as teachers throughout the world. Students struggle to overcome this particular handicap in order to muster standardised writing capabilities. Even tutors at times also find themselves in a spot of bother in helping students overcome misspelling as they too are often afflicted by the same kind of confusions. However, there are few approaches that might help both to gain a semblance of spelling competency.

In Bangladesh, most schools (both Bangla and English medium) use drill-skills and memorisation methods to teach spelling at the primary level. Under this method, students learn spelling but they often remain weak in vocabulary. So, there is a general dissatisfaction with this traditional spelling method since students are prone to forget what has been learnt through memorisation and thereby risk confusing one word with another.

In the west, however, schools have moved away from the formal spelling materials and began using words from different compositions as the only source of words to be studied.

Some of the English medium schools in Bangladesh also follow the modern method of spelling at the beginners' level. They start teaching the sound first and then gradually move on to letters. Under this 'phonics-sense method' students learn to differentiate the sounds made by the same letter.

Suraiya Morshed, Director of

Studies at Scholastica said, "Under this system, students learn spelling better and make less mistakes later on in their advanced academic lives." She, however, pointed out that due to improper implementation of the method some students often continue to suffer from the curse of misspellings.

When Wasima Hussain, teaching at the secondary level in a US school, was asked to explain the common

**Self-correction is, in fact, a natural outcome as students meet their goals and manage their own learning. It can be enhanced if students keep records of their learning or word journals. Like many great people who had put in active efforts to overcome spelling handicaps, most students find self-correction empowering. Teachers can play a pivotal role in this empowerment process because they act as guides for the development of self-correction.**

causes for misspelling among students, she also blamed it on the 'lack of phonic awareness'. She said: "The students who don't have proper phonic awareness are the worst victims of misspelling."

Meanwhile, Begum Shahnaz Sinha, associate professor of English in Dhaka University said: "Students face spelling problems because there are no unified rules governing the art of spelling. So students, whose mother tongue is not English, find it impossible to iron out their spelling errors."

There is no denying that lack of 'phonic awareness', improper implementation of spelling teaching methods at the school levels and complex spelling rules are prime reasons for misspelling.

But those are only the methodical reasons that create bad spellers. There shouldn't be any disagreement that the main barriers to correct spellings are inattentiveness, indifference and lack of practice by the users of the language.

It is, therefore, unanimously agreed that of all the spelling techniques, 'self-correction' is generally the most effective approach. According to a research finding: "Students using self-correction methods learn an average of one word more each day than those

using traditional methods and self-correction methods are effective for the acquisition, maintenance, and generalisation of spelling words." Besides, the tasks under this method can be individually customised depending on the need of individual learners with immediate feedback mechanisms.

Self-correction is, in fact, a natural outcome as students meet their goals and manage their own learn-

ing. It can be enhanced if students keep records of their learning or word journals. There are two self-correction methods designed to improve spelling of students with learning disabilities. The first one called 'letter-by-letter proofing', focuses on the orthography of letters. A five-column paper is used in which the first column contains the list of words to be learnt. The other four columns are blank. Words are dictated by a teacher, a peer or another adult and recorded by the student in

the second column. Using a system of four proof-reading marks, the student corrects the word misspelled in the second column and writes those correctly in the third. This sequence is completed in the final two columns. This practice needs to be repeated throughout the week for maximum results.

The second self-correction method -- 'whole-word proofing', is similar to the first one. However, proof-reading marks are not used here. The cells in column two through to five are divided horizontally. Students use the upper part of each of those cells to correctly spell a word they have misspelled earlier. They write the words again in the lower portion of the cell. Then they mark correctly spelled words with an 'X' in both the methods. As in the first method, words are practiced on a daily basis. Words that are not spelled correctly by the end of the week are added to following week's assigned words.

Like many great people who had put in active efforts to overcome spelling handicaps, most students find self-correction empowering. Teachers can play a pivotal role in this empowerment process because they act as guides for the development of self-correction. In the end, frequent meaningful reading and writing, self-regulated and corrected learning of high frequency spelling words, spelling patterns and strategies -- all piece together to make the self-corrected spelling puzzle complete.

Rezina Sultana teaches English at the State University of Bangladesh.

We seek a world of hope, tolerance, and social Justice, where poverty has been overcome and people live in dignity and security.

## Invitation - Proposal

CARE-Bangladesh is inviting proposals from reputed firms/individuals for Developing of Regional Resources Inventory under the Strengthening Household Abilities for Responding to Development Opportunities (SHOUHARDO) Program.

**The proposal should include**

- Experience in relevant work.
- Organization profile with resume of resource person.
- Financial Proposal with detail breakdown including mode of payment.
- Procedure/ Techniques proposed (based on SOW)
- Name of resource person (s)
- Time line and Outputs

Interested firms/individuals are requested to collect "Scope of Work (SOW)" from CARE-Bangladesh, Pragati RPR Center (8<sup>th</sup> Floor), 20-21, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215 from 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m. or through E-mail<shahrin@carebangladesh.org>. Proposals must be submitted within January 31, 2005 the General Manager, Human Resources Development & Management (HRD&M). CARE-Bangladesh reserves the right to cancel the consultancy work without assigning any reason.

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Position must be mentioned at the top of the envelope.  
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Mir Razuiddin Haroon, a former director of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPD), is a Senior Energy Specialist, Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP).

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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- 1. Post: General Manager.**  
Qualification: Candidate must be Masters in any discipline, preferably an MBA, having minimum 10 years experience in garment sector and ability to run a large RMG factory. Candidate should have knowledge in computer literacy and expected to lead a large team of Bangladeshi supervisory staffs. The incumbent will be required to communicate with renowned garment importers located in different countries.
- 2. Post: General Manager Planning**  
Qualification: Candidate must be Masters in any discipline, preferably an MBA, having minimum 10 years experience in planning production schedule centrally. The incumbent would be required to handle and co-ordinate large volume of orders and placing them in different factories of the group. Should have ability to communicate with buyers both at home and abroad.

Remuneration: Attractive packages will be offered to deserving candidates of both above posts.

- 3. Post: Manager Merchandising & Order control-(Two)**  
Qualification: Master in any discipline with 4/5 years experience in woven garments. Must have good communication skill and knowledge in computer literacy.
- 4. Post: Manager Merchandising (Sweaters)-(One).**  
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- 5. Work Station:**
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Intending candidates may apply with CV, attested copies of academic certificates, other certificates with a recent photograph to P.O. Box # 3965, G.P.O - Ramna, Dhaka-1000 by 31st January, 05. Only short listed candidates will be called for interview. The applicant must mention the name of the post and place applied for and underline the same on the envelope.

ঈদ মোবারক

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- Prepare project proposal and periodical reports for Donors, NGOAB and management.
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- Organize and ensure internal & external evaluation.

The incumbent should be a Masters Degree holder from a reputed university. S/he should have a well understanding of contemporary development approach and willingness to visit project areas frequently. S/he should have at least 7 years demonstrated experience in the field of monitoring and evaluation, excellent inter-personal communication, leadership skills and good command in English as well as Bangla.

Approximate salary: 25,000/= According to experience and qualification salary could be negotiable.

Application along with CV and a recent passport size photograph should be submitted on or before 7 February, 2005 to The advertiser, Box No. C-02, C/O. The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka 1215. Only short listed candidates will be invited to face the interview.

**Women are specially encouraged to apply.**