

Ctg power cut continues for third day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

People in Chittagong continued to suffer from power crisis for the third consecutive day yesterday as engineers of Power Development Board (PDB) failed to reinstate the second transformer to restore normal supply.

The scant power supply disrupts normal life, forcing many industries to suspend their production. Supply of water has also decreased due to the power crisis.

An unprecedented power outage hit the city after two transformers at Khulshi substation tripped at about 2:00pm on Saturday, leaving 60 percent of the city areas, under five substations at Stadium, Patharghata, Bakalia, Jalalabad and Muradpur, without electricity.

The PDB engineers repaired one

SIDDHIRGANJ 210 MW SECOND UNIT Orion-NEPC to get contract despite costly proposal

Orion-NEPC to get contract despite costly proposal

SHARIER KHAN

Amid a gross policy anomaly, the Power Development Board (PDB) is set to award a contract to Bangladeshi Orion along with US NEPC to set up the Siddhirganj 210 megawatt second unit power plant on commercial loan basis when the bid was floated under supplier's credit.

Since the government pays the cash directly under a commercial credit system, a project should cost much lower than the one under a supplier's credit which is a costly and non-transparent financial system discouraged by the government. But in this case, Orion-NEPC's

financial proposal is as costly as under a supplier's credit one.

Last week the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) asked the PDB to send the proposal to award the contract to Orion-NEPC to the Cabinet's Purchase Committee within 21 days. This bid was floated three years ago.

Being close to some influential ruling party policymakers, Orion has recently been awarded, along with UAE based company Belhasa, the massive Jatrabari-Gulistan flyover project. In addition, the Cabinet's economic affairs committee okayed Orion-Belhasa's faulty proposal on setting up the 450 megawatt

Meghnaghat-2 power project.

The government approved a Tk 644.46 crore budget for the Siddhirganj-2 project on supplier's credit in 2001. Orion-NEPC's proposal sought a cost of Tk 643.45 crore, but it did not spell out any repayment period or grace period.

The PDB floated the tender for the project on August 21, 2002. After the government framed the Public Procurement Regulation (PPR) 2003 restricting supplier's credit scheme as the last resort of project financing, the PDB suspended the bidding process.

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People fetch water from a supply pipe almost submerged in stagnant dirty water in Nabadwip Housing Society area in Mohammadpur, Dhaka.

Igloo fined not for quality, but for not using expiry date

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two recently formed mobile courts yesterday levied fines totaling Tk 1,34,000 to Igloo ice cream company, Banoful sweetmeat and Sarola Bakery for not mentioning the expiry date on the label of their products and for not maintaining hygienic environments in their factories.

The courts instantly sent to jail two employees of Banoful sweetmeat as they were unable to immediately pay Tk 40 thousand.

Following a series of reports published in The Daily Star on 'Eating dangerously', the government formed two mobile courts to conduct drives in different restaurants and

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\$2.5B INVESTMENT PM's nod to be sought again for Tata proposal

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

The high-powered ministerial committee on Tata investment in a meeting yesterday decided to take a clear mandate from the prime minister for the second time to go ahead with the investment.

The committee headed by Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami will call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia before July 31 for the purpose.

"We have to get approval from the prime minister before setting our stance on the sensitive investment deal," a member of the committee told The Daily Star after the meeting.

The ministerial committee wants to get approval from the PM for the proposed gas supply guarantee to be awarded to the Indian conglomerate Tata.

The will also inform the PM about the proposed allocation of 1.25 trillion cubic feet (TCF) gas and around 3 million tonnes of coal annually for the Tata projects.

They decided that the government negotiation team will finalise the government stance on each and every points of the investment negotiation before starting the third round negotiation with Tata team.

"The professional multinational corporate giants do not want to make their deal lengthy. They may shift their mind against investment in Bangladesh if the government fails to maintain the set timeframe," the member said.

The Tata team is scheduled to come to Dhaka next month for the third round negotiation.

The committee expressed satisfaction as both the government

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6 outlaws to die for killing Rajshahi UP chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A court here yesterday awarded death penalty to six members of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) and life imprisonment to five others for

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British cops race against time to nab bombers

REUTERS, AFP, London

British police scrambled yesterday to find four bombers behind last week's failed attacks on London's transport system, fearing they had gone to ground after security camera pictures of the suspects were released.

The men tried to set off bombs on three underground trains and a bus last Thursday, exactly two weeks after suicide bombers killed 56 people in an attack officials linked to al-Qaeda.

London police were keen to shift the focus back onto what they called the biggest manhunt in their history after mistakenly shooting dead a

Brazilian electrician they believed to be a suspected suicide bomber.

A police spokeswoman told Reuters the bombers "may strike again so it is a race against time. It is still a very fluid situation. The inquiry is moving at a rapid pace."

"There is no reason to believe they have left the country. They could be harboured in safe houses," she added.

The attacks have sparked frequent security alerts in London, as commuters become alarmed over abandoned packages or people behaving suspiciously.

Weekend newspapers were full of the grainy closed-circuit television

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'Criminal' dies in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

An alleged criminal was killed in 'crossfire' between police and his accomplices in Bazidpur in the town on Sunday night.

The victim, Mohammad Minhaz, 38, was chief of local criminal band Bhoot Bahini and accused of 18 charges including four for murders.

Police said they arrested Minhaz from Ashekpur in the town on Sunday evening and took him on a raid at around 3:00am. A team from Kotwali Police Station led by its officer-in-charge went to Bazidpur to seize his firearms, they added.

The police claimed the team came under fire and immediately countered the attack and drove away Minhaz's accomplices.

After the 15-minute gunfight, they found Minhaz dead on the spot with several bullet wounds.

Four policemen including Sub-inspector Abdur Razzak were hurt and admitted to Tangail Police Hospital.

Police seized one submachine gun with bullets and one machete from the spot.

AK47, ammo seized after gun battle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Bangladesh Army on Sunday night recovered a cache of arms and ammunition after a heavy gunfight with criminals in Machalong of Khagrachhari district while paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday recovered an AK47 rifle and ammunition from two dens of crimi-

nals in Naikhongchhari of Bandarban.

The army went on an operation in Machalong and Sazek areas of Baghaichhari upazila of Khagrachhari as part of its drive to eliminate criminals from the area. When they reached Machalong, a group of criminals started raining

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Murder case filed against 2 cops, 4 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Six people including the former officer-in-charge (OC) of Pallabi Police Station and husband of slain garment employee Hosne Ara was yesterday accused of killing her.

Hosne Ara's sister Nazma Begum filed the case with the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka 29

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Prime Minister Khaleda Zia addresses a meeting of the Army Selection Board at the Army Headquarters in Dhaka yesterday.

11 Rajshahi militants to face sedition charge

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The police are likely to bring sedition charges against the 11 militants held in Rajshahi following a government suggestion after they brought them back here from the Joint Interrogation cell (JIC) yesterday.

At the end of a seven days' remand against them, the police produced the militants before a magistrate court informing that steps are on the way to gather necessary home ministry order to file the case.

The court of first class magistrate Muhammad Lal Hossain granted the police prayer and sent the militants to jail custody.

The police explained in their prayer that they suspected the militants were planning subversive and anti-state activities as they gathered together in an isolated

house with training lessons on modern arms, ammunitions and detonators.

They added that the militants gathered at the Puthiapara house in Paba upazila, from where they were arrested on July 19, to learn combat training that is not meant for any civilians.

Many of the training lessons are found to be taken from local and foreign combative resources, said the prayer, adding that they must be plans for anti-state activities.

The police did not seek an additional remand against the militants, who will seek bail today.

Superintendent of police in Rajshahi Abdullah Al Mahmood said a letter will be sent to the home ministry shortly seeking the necessary

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Prayer Timing		
July 26		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation