

Country experiences 1100mw power shortage

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The country experienced about 1100mw of electricity shortage in peak hours yesterday although it was the weekly holiday when electricity consumption usually goes down.

According to Power Development Board (PDB) sources, electricity demand across the country was 4,000mw but all power plants generated around 2900mw.

Although the Haripur 360 MW power station came to production on Thursday after experiencing suspension three times over last 15 days, the 450 MW Meghnaghat generated half of its total capacity due to the suspension of its gas turbine-2 from Friday night.

The PDB yesterday supplied around 940mw electricity against the demand of 1500mw in the capital city.

When contacted, a high official of PDB informed that at least 12 units of some power plants remained suspended till Friday forcing them to resort to load-shedding across the country.

PDB sources said, the unit-5 (150mw) of Ashuganj plant, unit-1 (55mw) and unit-4 (210mw) of Ghorasal plant, unit-1 (125mw) of Barapukuria plant, 60mw Khulna plant, 80mw Tongi plant, 100mw Baghabari plant, three units (100mw capacity) of PDB-operated Haripur plant, two units (70mw-capacity) of Sahibzazar plant and three units (140mw-capacity) of Kaptai hydraulic power plant were out of production due to technical glitches or for undergoing overhauling.

Meanwhile, as the grid-line of Ulan-Dhamondi remained closed the whole area under the grid is experiencing 4-5 hours power outage over last one week.

One killed as villagers clash over Jatra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

One person was killed and 20 others injured in a clash between the inhabitants of several villages of Sylhet Sadar upazila.

The deceased was identified as Khalilur Rahman Muson, 52, a freedom fighter hailing from village Umaigaon Pashchimpara.

Among the injured, one with critical wounds was admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

It is learned that Khalil, along with other leading people including UP member Abdul Jabbar, organised a Jatraagan at Umaigaon on Wednesday night. The organisers had an exchange of hot words among themselves over sharing the proceeds of the event on Thursday.

Afterwards, when Jabbar was going through Pashchimpara yesterday morning, supporters of Khalil attacked him.

As the news spread that Jabbar was beaten up, several hundred villagers from Jangali Foud, Purbopara and Majhpara swooped on the villagers of Pashchimpara with lethal weapons. The two-hour clash left Khalil dead and 20 others injured.

Police force was deployed in the villages to avoid further clash.

Sec 144 imposed in Kalapara to avoid clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Kalapara upazila administration under Patuakhali district imposed section 144 in a meeting place and its surrounding areas after both the ruling and opposition parties had called meetings there at the same date and time on Friday afternoon.

Mahbubur Rahaman Talukdar, local lawmaker of Awami League and central vice president of Awami Svechcha Sebok League condemning the imposition of section 144 and programme of Jubo Dal, said Kalapara municipal Sewchchha Sebok League called a pre-scheduled programme at Badutala sluice gate area to be held on Friday afternoon.

But on Thursday local Jubo Dal suddenly announced a programme at the same place and time, he added.

On the other hand, Akkas Ali and Harunur Rashid, president and secretary of Kalapara upazila Jubo Dal, alleged that despite knowing about a pre-scheduled programme of Jubo Dal, the opposition party on Thursday announced their programme at the same place and time.

Abdul Bari, upazila nirbahi officer of Kalapara, said section 144 was imposed from 2:00pm Friday noon to Saturday early hours to keep law and order situation under control.



Sammilita Nari Samaj takes out a procession at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding resignation of Eden College Principal and an end to 'seat trade' at the dormitories of the college.

SPGRC threatens self-immolation

UNB, Dhaka

Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) has threatened self-immolation on March 23 if the government fails to take initiative to hold tripartite meeting by March 22 to solve their long-standing problems.

The stranded Pakistanis who have been staying in various camps since 1971 are demanding that the government either repatriate them to Pakistan or allow them to settle in Bangladesh permanently.

Mahmud Alam Khan, joint secretary of SPGRC, told UNB yesterday that their problems must be resolved through tripartite meeting between the governments of Bangladesh, Pakistan and the representatives of the SPGRC.

He demanded that the Bangladesh government take an initiative to hold the meeting by March 22.

To press home their demands, the SPGRC has been observing token hunger strike at its different branch offices in the city.

They staged token hunger strike from 8:30am to 12:15pm at the SPGRC branch office at Mirpur yesterday. The token hunger strike will continue for next few days.

The SPGRC will also hold a grand rally at Geneva camp in Mohammadpur on March 21.

Adivasi Festival begins in city tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

A three-day 'Adivasi Festival' will begin at the National Museum in the city tomorrow.

Kumudini Hajang, a veteran woman leader in the historic Tanka Movement, will inaugurate the festival, organised by the Environment and Human Development (SEHD).

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selina Hossain will attend the function as chief guest while Chingku Roza, a leading intellectual of hill tracts, Khush Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, and Prof Mahmudul Haq, director general of the National Museum, will be present as special guests.

With the participation of Adivasi artistes, traditional cultural programmes will be held from 5:00pm to 7:30pm everyday.

As part of the festival, a seven-day photo exhibition begins at Drik Gallery today. The exhibition will focus on the 'Aranya O Arannya Sangskriti' (forest and forest culture). It will remain open from 10:00am to 8:00pm daily.

Some politicians unhappy with arrest of militant kingpins

Says Moudud

BSS, Dhaka

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said leaders of a political party were unhappy with the arrest of Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai.

He said that the people of the country were happy after the arrest of the top leaders of the banned militant groups.

He said the leaders of a certain political party did not want arrest of them, rather they wants to go to power by utilising the evil forces.

The law minister was speaking as chief guest at a view exchange meeting titled "The Role of the Government in Checking Militancy: Propaganda by the Opposition and Obligation of the Nationalist Force" organised by Shadhinata Forum at the Jatiya Press Club here today.

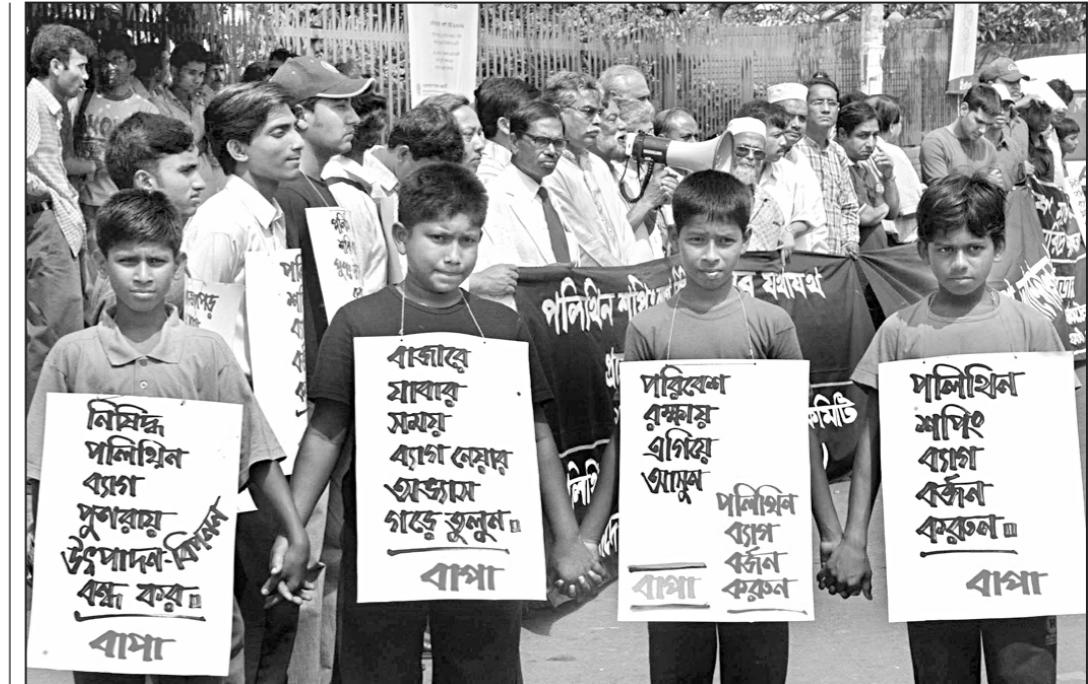
Joint Secretary General of BNP Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, leaders of Islami Oikya Jote Prof Ahmed Abdul Quader, general secretary of Jubo Dal central committee Moazzem Hossain Alal, MP, and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Prof Mojibur Rahman addressed the meeting as special guests.

General secretary of the city BNP Abdus Salam, vice-chancellor of Moulana Bhasani Science and Technology University Prof Khalilur Rahman also spoke on the occasion. President of Shadhinata Forum Abu Naser Mohammad Rahmat Ullah presided over the meeting.

Moudud said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has taken tough stand against militancy as she is pledge-bound to root out terrorism in the country and the people of the country welcomed the prime minister's stand.

He said the main opposition Awami League does not want fulfillment of their demands of reform of the caretaker government system.

He underscored the need for discussions between the government and the opposition without any preconditions. He said the AL does not want reform of caretaker government, they just want to utilise the issue as a means for going to power.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Committee to Prevent Polythene and Plastic Products hold a rally at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding strict enforcement of the law banning polythene shopping bags.

Enforce anti-polythene law strictly

Bapa urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists at a rally yesterday called for strict implementation of the law prohibiting the production, use and marketing of polythene shopping bags and other plastic products.

They urged the government to refrain from giving permission to any company to produce Polypropylene and woven bags which is clearly against the law of banning polythene shopping bags.

They urged the government to formulate a policy on one-time

market.

The rally was organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) at Shahbagh intersection in the city.

The speakers said in the name of export, the government has reportedly decided to give permission to a company to produce Polypropylene and woven bags which is clearly against the law of banning polythene shopping bags.

They urged the government to formulate a policy on one-time



Justice Naimuddin Ahmed speaks at a discussion on 'Role of the Election Commission and the Caretaker Government in holding a free and fair election in Bangladesh' at Billa auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left is Walur Rahman and on his right is Forest E Cookson.



useable products and packaging materials and to increase import duty on the raw materials of plastic as well as to form a cell to monitor the overall situation.

The speakers also stressed the need for launching vigorous campaign in favour of bags made of jute, cloth and paper as an alternative to polythene shopping bags.

At the rally, a seven-point demand was placed to control the use and production of polythene and plastic goods in the country.

Presided over by Bapa leader Prof Baziul Haque, the rally was addressed by Prof Asif Nazul of Dhaka University, Member-secretary of the Committee to Resist Polythene and Plastic Products Amit Ranjan Dey, Executive Member Engineer Kazi Mohammad Shish, Bapa Joint Secretary Mihir Biswas, Dr Abdul Hai Majumder of Peace, and Dr Nuruddin of Sheba.

Representatives of different organisations including Work for Better Bangladesh Trust, Nagorik Sanghati, Green Voice, Nagorik Uddog, Asia Pacific University, and Citizen Movement Rights were present at the rally to express their solidarity with the demands.

Passing-out parade of Nat'l Maritime Institute held

BSS, Chittagong

The passing-out parade of the 6th batch of trainee crew of the National Maritime Institute (NMI) was held on the institute premises on Thursday.

NMI sources said 43 sailors of the 6th batch completed the maritime course receiving training.

Chairman of the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) AMM Shahad Hossain attended the parade ceremony as the chief guest while Principal of the institute Captain Kazi Ali Imam made the address of welcome, a press release said.

Speaking at the function, the CPA chairman called upon the seafarers to work together with sincerity and honesty to keep high the image of the country so that foreign ship companies would accommodate more Bangladeshi mariners at their vessels.

He said the trend of deserting ships at foreign ports illegally by the Bangladeshi seafarers was one of the main causes behind reducing their job opportunities at international markets although Bangladeshi are more efficient and hard-working.

Principal Kazi Ali Imam asked the mariners to be attentive to their responsibilities while on-duty and attain professional excellence through continuous learning and gathering experiences.

Local stakeholders visit protected forest areas of WB

The forest department under its protected area management programme known as Nishorgo arranged an exposure visit for local stakeholders to observe participatory management approach in protected forest areas of West Bengal (WB) from February 22 to March 1, says a press release.

A group of 29 rural stakeholders including women and nine foresters from Lawachara National Park, Rema Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary, Satchari National Park, Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary and Teknaf Game Reserve visited various protected forest areas encompassing Sylheti and Darjeeling.

Nishorgo Support Project in collaboration with USAID arranged the visit so that local people can gain experience in conserving biodiversity.



WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, said the Met Office.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 17.9 degrees at Srimangal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:09pm today and rises at 6:04am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
Max	Min	Morning	Evening	
Dhaka	32.3	21.8	46	40
Chittagong	33.8	23.0	78	45
Rajshahi	31.8	18.5	58	48
Khulna	33.0	21.8	65	57
Barisal	32.0	21.2	73	—
Sylhet	32.8	20.0	73	46
Cox's Bazar	34.6	22.8	72	55

Police sources said the statue is now kept at the Police Station and the department of archaeology and antiquities has been informed about it.