

Ctg reels under power crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong is reeling under acute power crisis as most of the plants here have suspended generation of power due to sharp fall of water level at Kaptai Lake and poor supply of gas for the last three weeks.

Apart from normal life, power crisis also dims industrial productions a lot.

The plants here are now limping along with an average daily production of 100MW to 130MW as against capacity of 746MW and as such the authorities go for an average loadshedding of over 220MW and at times beyond 250MW, Power Development Board

daily production of only 20MW to 30MW.

"We are getting 90MW to 100MW from Raozan Plant and 10-MW from Shikalbaha Barge-mounted Plant while 20MW to 30MW from Kaptai in the evening," said PDB, Chittagong Chief Engineer HM Aminul Islam.

He said the situation might improve a little when the other unit of Shikalbaha Barge-mounted Plant will be operational by the first week of March and if both the units of Raozan Power Plant could be made operational with sufficient supply of gas.

The PDB sources, however, dispel any possibility of getting the usual production from the Kaptai Project unless water level rises there with the onset of shower.

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(PDB) sources.

Statistics from last three weeks showed that most of the city areas were plunged into darkness for seven to ten hours a day even in this lean period of the year when the daily demand comes down to 470MW from around 600MW and yet the PDB authorities are unable to address the crisis or bring some sort of solace for its consumers.

Of the 11 units in Chittagong, four out of five at Kaptai Hydroelectric Power Project and one at Shikalbaha Barge-mounted Power Plant on the south bank of river Karnaphuli remained out of order for months together, while a 210MW unit of Raozan Power Plant and both the two units of 60MW Shikalbaha Thermal Power Plant were forced to suspend generation for non-availability of sufficient gas supply.

The situation gets worsened when water level falls drastically in Kaptai Lake, causing the 210MW Kaptai Power Project to cripple with a

Meantime, an unprecedented salinity in the drinking water supplies by Chittagong Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) has developed about three weeks' ago, causing serious problem to the city dwellers.

Physicians and environmentalists said the acceptable level of chloride in per litre drinking water is 250miligram.

But for the last few weeks the level rose beyond 13,000miligram, said a laboratory test of the department of environment here last week.

"This amount of chloride owing to salinity is really outrageous and may cause severe health hazards," said physicians.

The Wasa sources said the acceptable level is 600miligram. They, however, admitted that the level was found 2,000miligram in a recent lab test conducted by them.

The residents said they were taking measures to get rid of the salinity problem soon.

Panchlaish remains uncared for



NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

Scarcity of water, poor condition of roads, irregular power supply and lack of drainage system are plaguing Panchlaish Ward in the port city.

The locality of around one lakh people also lacks other basic civic amenities as well.

Panchlaish, known as No-3 ward of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), on three square kilometres is situated with Jalalabad Ward on the north, West Sholoshahar Ward on the south, Chandgaon Ward on the east and Hathazari road on the west side.

The residents of Shahid Nagar, Bholaganj, Haripur,

Nathpur and North Panchlaish have been lacking electricity, gas and water supply apart from other civic amenities.

Due to scarcity of water the inhabitants are to use water of nearby dirty ponds for household uses that causes various water-born diseases like diarrhoea and jaundice.

Sufferings of around 10,000 residents of Shahid Nagar Siddique Member Road area are beyond description as the road remains under knee-deep water throughout the year.

Locals said their suffering increases in the rainy season for lack of no drainage system to clear the stagnant water.

On the other hand, Wajedia Road that connects several

residential areas of the ward from Oxygen Intersection, remains dilapidated for quite a long period if it rains.

Locals many a times complained to the authorities concerned in this regard but nothing has been done. They are indifferent to the problems and rarely respond to the outcries of the inhabitants.

Rickshawpuller Idris Mian said most of the tenants apart from them (rickshawpullers) are the worst sufferers due to poor condition of road.

"We are bound to charge Tk 10 to Tk 12 to go to ward commissioner's office from Oxygen Intersection for only one kilometre, as we are to spend additional money for maintenance of



A road lying in a most dilapidated and miserable condition at Majpara in Panchlaish Ward, left, and people take bath in polluted water in a pond at Wazedia area, right.

our rickshaws due to the dilapidated road," Idris added.

The residents said they pay taxes regularly to city corporation but get little or nothing in terms of civic amenities.

"Government and elected ward commissioners don't take care of us though we complained on several occasions to the ward commissioner," they added.

Mohammed Ismail Hossain, a resident of Wajedia Road, said they don't get the word commissioner in his office in time of their need. "We hardly saw him in development work for the ward after election in May 2005," he said.

M Morshed Khan, former foreign minister and local law-

maker, is also a rare visitor to the area. Locals said the 'big shot' never mistakes to attend party rallies or gatherings, but little time for common masses or inhabitants of his area.

Ward Commissioner Shafiqul Islam said CCC grants them only Tk 5 lakh in every three months for development, which is not enough to carry out development work.

When asked about the complain on his regular absence in the ward office, Shafiqul said, "I do attend my office twice a week and work for five days from my residence."

theweekthatwas



Local artistes perform at a function in memory of journalist and Tagore song specialist Waheedul Haq at Nabin Mela Academy auditorium on Wednesday. Loko Utsab O Puratani Mela Parishad organised the programme.

'Honest traders won't be harassed'

Commerce Secretary Firoze Ahmed assured leaders of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) that the government in no way wants the honest and innocent businessmen to fall victims of harassment.

He assured them while exchanging views with chamber leaders and members on Thursday.

Earlier, CCCI President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury welcomed the on going drives by the law enforcement agencies against the backdrop of the socio-

economic condition in the country. Firoze said the private sector now controls around 76 per cent of the total business activities.

Praising the role of CCCI, he said proposals placed by the chamber on different occasions were mostly considered as acceptable ones.

The chamber leaders at the meeting identified issues like price hike in international market, devaluation of US dollar, inflation, obstacles to handling operation at Chittagong port and uneven tariff policy as some of the major causes for the price hike of essentials.

CCCI Senior Vice President MA Latif and directors Amirul Hoque and Nurun Newaj Selim also spoke.

Orientation programme held

Speakers at an orientation programme urged the people to extend all out cooperation to turn the Chittagong Maa O Shishu Hospital Medical College a recognised institute at home and abroad.

They were speaking at the orientation programme of the second batch of MBBS course of Chittagong Maa O Shishu Hospital Medical College on Thursday.

Former commerce minister and chairman of the college governing body Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury was

present as chief guest with acting president of the executive committee Dr M Nurun Nabi in the chair.

College executive committee Vice President Syed Md Abu Taher, General Secretary Dr Anjuman Ara Islam and Treasurer SM Morshed Hossain also addressed the programme.

Quality in CTV programmes underscored

Information Secretary Md Didarul Anwar emphasised the need for bringing varieties as well as developing the quality in Chittagong Television (CTV) programmes.

He was addressing a view-exchanging meeting with the officials and staffs of CTV at the centre on Friday.

CTV General Manager Md Faruq Bhuiyan, Manager Md Saifullah and other officials briefed the secretary about the activities of the centre in details.

Didarul urged all to depict the enriched and diverse culture of Chittagong.

Reception to Diabetic Samity members

The newly elected executive committee of Chittagong Diabetic Samity was accorded a reception on Wednesday.

Chaired by the chairman of outdoor department of Diabetic Hospital Dr MA Jafar, the ceremony was held at the conference room of the hospital.

Speakers at the ceremony hoped the members of the new committee would continue its activities for the betterment of the diabetic patients.

President of the new committee Dr LA Quadery, vice-president DR Shahana Begum and General Secretary Prof Jahangir Chowdhury also spoke.

Photographer wins int'l award

Wahid Adnan Tamim, a freelance photographer and member of Chittagong Photo Art Institute, won an award in the 67th International Photographic Salon of Japan (Asahi Shimbun) organised by All Japan Association Of Photographic Societies.

Wahid, also a contributor to Photo Bank Gallery, won the prestigious award for his picture titled "Buffer Class Passenger".

Out of 7,877 photographs, 130 were awarded, a press release said.

Of them, 50 were reserved for Japanese photographers and rest 80 for 38 countries.

MFC, Silkline

sign MoU

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between a fast food restaurant Maolana Fried Chicken (MFC) and transport company Silk Line on Tuesday.

MFC Chairman AHM Shueb, Silk Line Managing Director Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir, director Abu Syed, MFC director Md Ilias and MD Sharful Hoque were present at the signing ceremony.

MFC will offer 10 per cent discount on its different food items for the passengers of Silk Line service under the memorandum, sources said.

Consumers hail drives

Consumers' Rights Protection Committee leaders urged the caretaker government to declare the dishonest businessmen, illegal syndicate, hoarders, manufacturers of adulterated and date expired food items as the national enemy.

They were addressing a meeting at the committee office on Saturday with its president Khorshed Alam Sujon in the chair.

They also hailed the on-going drives.

They said people are falling victim to various diseases like cancer, liver cirrhosis, kidney failure and others by taking such rotten and poisonous food items while a section of unscrupulous businessmen made a good amount of profit selling the toxic items.

Committee Secretary General Shahriar Khaled also spoke at the meeting.

KDS Accessories sign deal

KDS Accessories, a unit of the KDS Group, recently signed a contract for conducting a new project styled 'Human Resource Development and Image Mapping'.

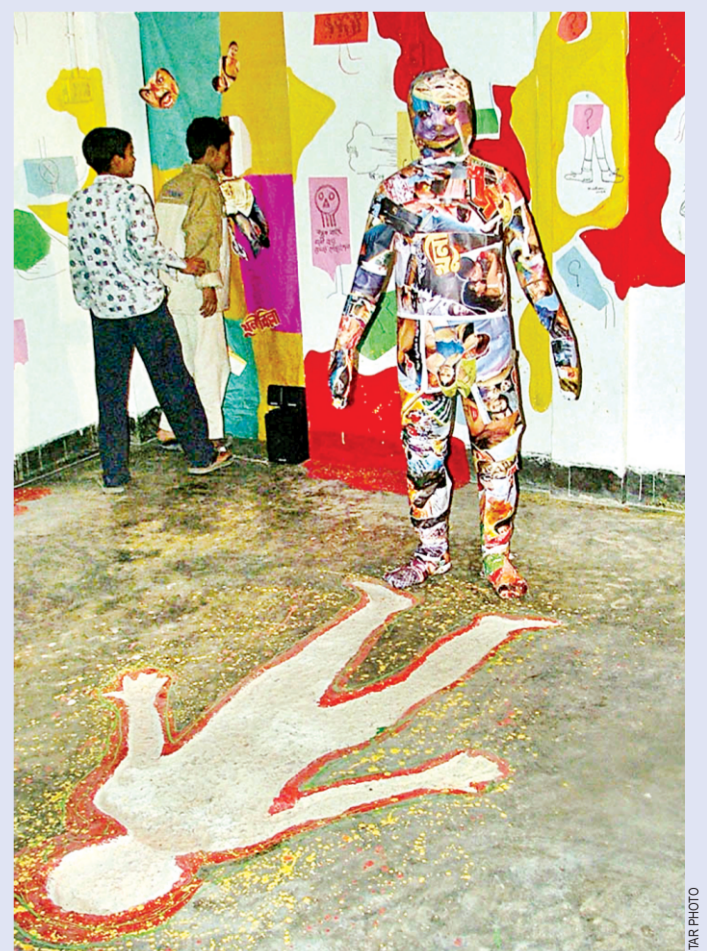
"The project is a part of the company's ongoing goal of recognising human resources as its most valuable

capital and building them properly to propel the organisation to its visions and objectives, and also help establish the brand identity and aggrandise the organisational image," said Shameem Iqbal, managing director and chief executive officer of the company, at a post contract-signing ceremony.

Under the project, management consultant and corporate trainer Chowdhury Abd-Allah Quaseed, also the counter part of the contract, will

evaluate the potential, talent and spirit of the individuals working at KDS Accessories to help make stronger the company, sources said.

Chief Operating Officer Debashis Daspal, Chief Financial Officer Md Shamsul Islam and In-Charge (HR and Admin) Md Saiful Hoque attended the function at the conference room of KDS Accessories.



An exhibition titled "dislocation" was held at an old building that will be replaced by high-rise one at Love Lane area in the port city on Wednesday. Five artists --- Jahed Ali Chowdhury, Tasadduk Hossain Dulu, Shailla Sharmin, Shubhashis Das Rupak, Sabira Shahinur Pallabi and Halima Ahmed --- organised the exhibition portraying sweet memories and nostalgic essence that surround the house.