

## Country's southern zone faces severe power crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Twenty-one districts of Khulna and Barisal Divisions including greater Faridpur have been in the grip of severe power crisis since last four months.

The 110-megawatt power plant in Khulna went out of order 13 times during this period due to leakage in boiler tubes.

Besides, another 60-megawatt power plant has been inoperative due to major technical faults since last nine months.

According to reliable source of West Zone Power Distribution Company Limited (WZPCL), the date-expired 457 boiler tubes of 110-MW power plant are no more capable of generating electricity. All of them need to be replaced by new ones.

The plant first went out of order in January this year. Since then it became inoperative 12 more times due to negligence of WZPCL authorities, alleged the sources.

Ctg Govt High School, Ctg Grammar School win quiz competition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Government High School and Chittagong Grammar School (CGS) won the OFA-Purbokone Inter-School Quiz Competition in Bangla and English medium respectively that ended at Chittagong Press Club (CPC) auditorium yesterday.

A total of 28 teams from 21 schools of the city participated in the competition jointly organised by the Chittagong Chapter of Old Faujdarhat Cadet College, and Dainik Purbokone, a leading local Bangla daily.

Chittagong Govt School defeated Chittagong Cantonment Public School (Bangla) in the final round of the competition in Bangla medium while CGS beat Chittagong Cantonment Public School (English) to clinch the title in English Medium.

OFA, Chittagong chapter President OFn Saiful Islam and OFn Dr Irshad Kamal Khan were the questioners at yesterday's finals at CPC auditorium.

Editor of Dainik Purbokone Architect Taslim Uddin, also the immediate past president of OFA, Chittagong chapter, was the chief guest at the prize giving ceremony while CPC President Ali Abbas, General Secretary Ejaj Yousufi and teachers and guardians of different city schools were also present.

OFA, Chittagong chapter General Secretary OFn Dr Mezbah Uddin and OFn Shahjahan conducted the prize giving ceremony sponsored by Meridian Group, Abul Khaer Group, Pizza Hut and Nescafe.

The first, second, third rounds and quarter finals of the competition that kicked off on April 16 were held at the Nasirabad office of OFA, Chittagong chapter.



DU Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz speaks at the inaugural ceremony of The Daily Star 4th Inter Hall English, 7th Inter Hall Bangla Debate and 2nd Inter University Public Speaking Competition 2007 at Teacher-Student Centre yesterday.

### The Daily Star INTER HALL ENGLISH DEBATE OPENS

## 'Debate helps bring positive changes to people's mind'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Debate is a form of art which possesses enormous power to bring positive changes to people's mind, attitude and interaction with others, said speakers at the inaugural ceremony of a debate competition in the city yesterday.

The three-day-long The Daily Star 4th Inter Hall English Debate Championship, the 7th Inter Hall Bangla Debate Competition and 2nd Inter University Public Speaking Competition 2007 were formally inaugurated at the auditorium of the Teachers Students Centre of Dhaka University (DU).

DU Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz was present as chief guest at the inaugural function which was also attended by Pro-Vice-chancellor AFM Yusuf Haider, Moderator of DUDS Prof Atiqur

Rahman and Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam.

"We are still lagging behind due to lack of English knowledge and expertise," said Prof Faiz.

He said the English debate can play an important role in overcoming the barriers in speaking English.

"Debate helps participants to be self-confident and achieve success in life," said Prof Haider.

He said in the present knowledge-based industrial society, English debate should be encouraged like Bangla debate to increase the power of logic.

"If we can take the culture of debate by heart, it is sure that massive changes will take place in our personality gradually," said Mahfuz Anam.

He said, "We all need to think and speak rationally on the basis of right information and debate can play an

important role in this regard."

Organised by Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS), all the competitions begin simultaneously from today.

A total of 16 Bangla and English debating clubs of Dhaka University will participate in the debate competition while 20 public and private universities will take part in the Public Speaking Competition.

The competitions will be held at Munir Chowdhury Conference Room of the Teachers Students Centre (TSC) and DUDS Room from 9:30am to 6:30pm.

The prize distribution ceremony of the competitions will be held at TSC auditorium on Monday at 5:30pm.

## International Dance Day tomorrow

The International Dance Day will be celebrated tomorrow across the country.

Nriyadhaba, a forum of professional dancers, has taken up a special programme on the occasion, says a press release.

The programme will be held at the auditorium of the Society for the Welfare of Intellectually Disabled (SWID) at Eskaton Garden Road in the city at 10:30am.

Intellectually impaired children along with Japanese and Nriyadhaba dancers will perform in the programme.

To mark the occasion, Nriyadhaba has been accorded reception to a dancing personality every year.

This year Shanti Bala Sinha, an eminent Monipuri dance master, will be accorded reception for her special contribution to dance.

## Workshop on violence against women in Khulna today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women (MSP-VAW) (first phase) under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs will hold a workshop at Hotel Royal International in the city today.

AHM Rezaul Kabir NDC, secretary-in-charge of ministry of women affairs, will inaugurate the workshop on 'National forensic DNA profiling activities in Bangladesh' as the chief guest.

Senior Adviser of MSP-VAW Dr Karen Ellen Spannow, Project Director Dr Abul Hossain, Scientific Officer of National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory Md Yunus Ali and Chairperson of Divisional DNA Screening Laboratory Committee of Khulna Md Shahidul Islam will also attend the workshop.

## Strengthening local govt a must for food security

### Say speakers at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Strengthening local government and increasing people's purchasing power are crucial to ensure food security of the marginalised people, participants at a discussion said yesterday.

They also said political parties, social organisations and local bodies as well as the mass media need to work together to eliminate food insecurity from the society.

CARE Bangladesh organised the interactive discussion with the media personnel at city's Cirdap auditorium yesterday.

Syed Badrul Ahsan, editor, current affairs, The Daily Star, said food security together with social accountability must be taken up for focused and detailed deliberation on the part of a cross section of people.

"In recent time, the media has played a remarkably positive role

in acclimatising people to political and social issues. Mass media has the power and potential that can be utilised to propagate food security issue," he said while presenting a keynote paper titled 'Role of the Media in Ensuring Food Security and Social Accountability'.

Badrul Ahsan also said food insecurity of poor people cannot be eradicated even after producing sufficient food if people's purchasing power is not strengthened and food is not distributed properly.

As the nation approaches the general election, food security issue ought to be included as part of the election campaign of the political parties, he suggested.

Speaking at the discussion, Country Director of CARE Bangladesh Steve Wallace said CARE has been working for

addressing the underlying causes of poverty.

"For next five years, CARE has set mission to amplify the voices of the poor and the marginalised in ways that will influence public opinion, development practice and policy at all levels," he said.

KM Harun, chief of programme, RTV, and Pervez Chowdhury, commissioning editor of ETV, also spoke on how the media can play an influential role at grassroots level to ensure poor people's access to khas land and water bodies.

They also appreciated the role of SHOUHARDO (Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities), one of the major programmes of CARE, which is now working in chars, haors and coastal regions of 18 districts.

National Technical Coordinator of SHOUHARDO HK Das moderated the discussion.



Syed Badrul Ahsan, editor, current affairs, The Daily Star, speaks at a discussion on 'Role of media in ensuring food security and social accountability in Bangladesh' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is Mozammel Hossain while on his left is Country Director of CARE Bangladesh Steve Wallace.



A huge tree fell on the road in front of National Security Intelligence (NSI) office in the city during Thursday night's nor'wester. The picture was taken yesterday.