

21 south-western dists reel under power crisis

All 4 units of Goalpara plant, 2 barge mounted plants in Khulna silent: 294 MW supplied on Friday against need for 652

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Unbearable loadshedding at short intervals has made life miserable in 21 south-western districts, also badly affecting the economy.

All the four power plants of state-owned Goalpara power station are out of order, creating severe power shortage in 10 districts of Khulna division, six of Barisal division and five districts of greater Faridpur.

On Friday, 221 megawatt power was supplied in the 21 districts against the off-peak hour requirement of 374 megawatt, sources here said.

The supply during peak hours was 294 megawatt against a requirement of 652 megawatt, they said.

The 110 megawatt power plant, termed by engineers as a

'cancer' in the chest of Goalpara plant is now beyond any treatment due to its old age.

The 110 megawatt plant installed by Czechoslovakia and put into operation in 1984 became inoperative 24 times in last 14 months as it lost its capacity to generate power steadily due to technical glitches.

The 24 year-old power plant fell silent again Thursday mid-night due to leakages in all its boiler tubes.

Use of saline water from Bhairab river to cool down the heated boiler tubes is the lone cause of its frequent silence, sources said.

Leakages develop in wall tubes of the boiler after being treated with saline water, said Nirmal Chandra Ghosal, chief engineer of Goalpara power

station said. "The plant is of no use as it has lost generation capacity because of outdated machines", he said.

"I can not give you any correct information when this limping plant will go into operation again and then go out of order", he said.

The 60 megawatt unit in Goalpara plant which went into operation on May 25, 1973 remained inoperative since July 5, 2006. The plant made by Germany is still undergoing overhauling and is expected to be operational by December, the chief engineer said.

The Japan-made barge mounted power plant 1 having a capacity to generate 28 MW power, put into operation on June 3, 1980, is also out of order since August 27, 2006 following a fire accident.

Another 28 MW barge mounted power plant-2, put into operation on June 7, 2006, is also silent since December 3 last year due to mechanical fault.

Chief Engineer Nirmal Ghosal said the private-owned Khulna Power Company Limited (KPCL) can not generate more than 60 megawatt electricity.

He said there is no possibility of putting the two barge mounted power plants into operation in near future as spare parts required to repair those are not available in the country now. "None so far responded despite international tender to supply spare parts", he said.

"But I can assure you that a 40 megawatt rental power plant will be going into operation in Khulna from May 28 this year", he told this correspondent.

Shift site for proposed nurse training centre

Manikganj residents demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Residents in the site of proposed Manikganj nurse training centre (NTC) have demanded relocation of the site to an unused land nearby.

The residents, worried over the authorities' notices for land acquisition, have urged intervention of the chief adviser of the caretaker government for changing the decision.

Following the government initiative to build a nurse training institute at a cost Tk 6 crore, the land acquisition committee is acquiring three acres of land beside Manikganj Sadar Hospital at Nowkhanda in Manikganj Municipality, Manikganj Civil Surgeon Dr Jamal Uddin Bhuiyan said.

The residents in the proposed area said the committee wrongly selected the costly residential area where at least one hundred families live in concrete buildings and semi-pucca houses.

Nasrin Akter, a resident of the area, told this correspondent that she bought land and built a four-unit building there by selling all the property at his husband's village home and investing the savings.

Seventy-year-old Abu Yusuf said weeping that his elder son died of a stroke after hearing the same news.

When contacted, acting Chairman of Manikganj Municipality, Sudeb Saha said he had suggested the committee to acquire the unused land, which is only 200 yards away, but the committee did not make any positive response.

27 get PhD, 11 M Phil from RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) has awarded PhD degree to 27 researchers and M Phil degree to 11 others upon completion of their research work, says a press release of RU Public Relations Department on Saturday.

RU Syndicate in their 419th meeting approved the award following recommendation by the Academic Council.

Police restore grabbed homestead in 48 hrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A land grabber demolished a day labourer's house with tractor and planted banana saplings after occupying it. Within 48 hours,



Police officials supervising rebuilding of the house of Ganjer Ali at Kumrobaria village in Jhenidah Sadar upazila.

police cleared the homestead and rebuilt the house yesterday.

The incidents took place at Kumrobaria village in Jhenidah Sadar upazila.

Ganjer Ali had been living in his land for long. His neighbour Umat Ali wanted the land.

On Thursday, in the morning, Umat Ali along with his accomplices beat up Umat Ali and his family members, vandalized their house and looted goods and drove them away.

Ganjer Ali lodged a case with Jhenidah Sadar police station. But the officer-in-charge did nothing more than recording the case.

Being informed some local journalists reached the spot. They informed Jhenidah Police Superintendent Jahangir Hossain Matabbar.

The SP visited the spot Thursday night. Ordered by the SP, police arrested Umat Ali and another man the same night.

Yesterday morning, Deputy Commissioner Abu Sayed Fakir, SP Jahangir Hossain Matabbar and UNO Abu Shaheen Md Asaduzzaman visited the spot and arranged rebuilding of the house.

The SP also gave Ganjer Ali and his family money and food.

Tk 10 crore seized timber rotting in Khagrachhari

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Seized timber worth about Tk 10 crore, kept under the open sky, is rotting on the premises of various range offices of forest department.

The government authorities want to sell seized timber at Kalurghat in Chittagong for high prices while local wood merchants, who want tender calling at the local level, have filed a case with the

High Court in this regard.

Following introduction of sealed tender system instead of open auction system, timber merchants have lost interest in participation in the bid due to lengthy procedure while small merchants have no chance to participate in the tender or auction, forest department sources said.

Khagrachhari Kath Byabosayee Kalyan Samity sources said the

timber was seized from the traders although they have legal documents.

About Tk 10 crore timber is rotting in the district, said association Secretary General Mohammad Shahaj Uddin.

Some 46,434 cubic feet seized wood worth about 6.55 crore has been kept under the open sky in Jantali range under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachhari district, Deputy Ranger of Chittagong North (Naranchhari range) said.

They will call tender to sell the wood after if they get clearance from the court, he said.

Deputy Ranger of Merung range, Subash Ranjan Gaine said they have about 5,000 cubic feet wood worth about Tk 70 lakh while there are over 7,000 cubic feet wood worth about Tk 1 crore in Hazachhara Range.

Divisional Forest Officer Ali Kabir said the provision for sealed tender was introduced following instruction from the Ministry of Forest and Environment.



Timbers exposed to rain and sun on the premises of Hazachhara range office in Dighinala upazila in Khagrachhari district.

Gunpowder, arms recovered in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel yesterday recovered four firearms and gunpowder after an hour-long exchange of fire with gunrunners in remote Harirampur area in Baghalchhari upazila in Rangamati district.

Acting on a tip off, a team from Marisya zonal camp conducted the raid in the area, about three kilometers from Halimpur BDR camp.

Sensing presence of BDR members, the armed terrorists opened fired on them. The terrorist fled the area after exchange of fire for about an hour, leaving behind four home made guns and gunpowder.

BDR sources said they demolished a structure being built there by the terrorists.

Plan to reduce malaria deaths in CHT by 50pc

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

The government has taken up a plan to reduce deaths from malaria in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and other malaria prone areas by 50 per cent within 2012, Health and Family Planning Secretary AKM Zafar Ullah Khan said at a discussion meeting here yesterday.

Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) Chairman Monindra Lal Tripura chaired the meeting marking observance of World Malaria Day.

Khagrachhari Civil Surgeon Dr. Abu Taher, Police Superintendent Oaimuzzaman, Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Shahadat Hossen and regional army commander Begreder Kamruzzaman Psc also spoke at the meeting.

The meeting, held at the Town Hall, followed a colourful rally in the town to create awareness about malaria and its treatment facilities.

The speakers said government-NGO coordination will be further strengthened to create awareness about the disease and extend more treatment facilities at people's doorsteps. NGOs will further expand their activities in remote areas so that suspected malaria patients can get blood tests quickly and avail treatment facilities.

Deaths from malaria in CHT is gradually coming down, following creation of awareness about the disease and steps by the government and NGOs.

The disease claimed about 77 lives in Khagrachhari district since July last year, which was about 100 in the corresponding period in the previous year, sources said.

Death toll from malaria in CHT in last one year was about 200, down from about 300 three years ago, the sources said.

The government and different NGOs including Brac so far distributed 83,735 Long Lasting Mosquito Nets (LLMN) among the poor.

Pabna medical college in the offing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

With the government initiative to establish a medical college in Pabna, long cherished dream of the people the district now seem to be materialised soon.

The health ministry sent a letter to the district administration last week asking for searching land for the medical college.

"We are glad to hear the news of government steps to establish a medical college in Pabna. We urge early implementation of the plan," said Gopal Sanyal, joint convener of Pabna Sammilito Sangskritik Jote.

Earlier in 1980, Pabna Medical College was established on 300 bighas of land on the premises of Pabna Mental Hospital but academic and other activities of the institution stopped after two years.

The present caretaker government has taken step to establish five medical colleges in Pabna, Noakhali, Jessore, Cox's Bazaar and Rangamati districts.



Amid scorching summer heat, thirsty young crows give piteous looks with gaping mouths on a tree branch on the premises of Satkania Police Station in Chittagong.

ACC CASE FOR HIDING WEALTH Tariqul to be brought to Jessore court today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Detained Former minister BNP leader Tariqul Islam will be produced in Jessore special court today for hearing on charge framing in a case filed for concealing wealth information.

Tariqul will be brought to Jessore from Dhaka Central Jail.

The deputy director of Jessore office of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Manzur Morshed lodged the FIR with Jessore Kotwali Police Station on September 9 last year naming five persons as accused for concealing information about their wealth.

The five accused are former minister Tariqul Islam, his wife Prof Nargis Begum, sons Shantanu Islam Shumit and Aninda Islam Aumit and daughter-in-law Lamia Sharmin.

The former minister submitted wealth statement to the ACC on February 20 last year showing his wealth and property, including movable and immovable, worth Tk 10 crore 55 lakh and 53 thousand.

ACC Deputy Director Mobar Khan found after thorough investigation that the former minister had concealed bank deposit of Tk 2 crore 76 lakh and 85 thousand and property worth Tk 4 crore 76 lakh and 37 thousand, which was also beyond known sources of his income.

His wife, two sons and a daughter-in-law have been absconding since filing of the case. The special court headed by Jessore District and Sessions Judge Asgar Ali has issued an order asking the four accused to appear today.

The joint forces arrested Tariqul Islam from his Jessore residence on February 5 last year.

2004 SYLHET CINEMA BLASTS No progress in probe, exhibits decaying

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) could not unearth the mystery behind bomb blasts at four cinemas in Sylhet city in 2004 while alams (exhibits) of the sensational cases are rotting at Sylhet Kotwali Police Station.

On August 5 night in 2004, blasts at Rangmahal cinema at the city's Bandar Bazaar area left 12-year-old Shahad Ahmed, son of Anwar Hossain hailing from Jaintapur upazila, dead on the spot and 10 others seriously injured. Within minutes, five others were injured in a blast at Monika cinema in the city's Bagbaria area.

Law enforcers recovered a few unexploded bombs from nearby Abokash cinema in the city nearly the same time. A team of bomb experts from the capital, who detonated the live bombs at Sylhet Golf Club field the following day, said the

exploded bombs were of the same nature.

On the same night, the then sub-inspector of Sylhet Kotwali Police Station Mukhesur Rahman filed a case under Explosives Act accusing ten people including Anwar Hossain, who sustained injuries in Rangmahal cinema blast.

Sub Inspector Morshed Parvez of Kotwali PS filed another case in this connection accusing Soleman, Masum Ahmed, Akhtar Hossain and others.

All these people were later taken to the capital for quizzing by the Joint Interrogation Cell, but nothing significant could be gathered from them, sources said.

Then the case was handed over to the CID for investigation but their probe is yet to see any significant development.

No evidence was found to prove the accused people's involvement with the blasts, a CID official recently said.

'Ensure ethnic people's right to land'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The indigenous people of Dinajpur at a workshop yesterday urged the caretaker government to adopt proper policies and implement it strictly to ensure their land security.

They strongly criticised harassment of indigenous people by different state-run organisations including forest department for taking different projects including social forestation and eco-park by evicting the indigenous people.

Dinajpur unit of Jatiya Adibashi Parishad organised the workshop titled "Dispute on indigenous people's land on northern districts and recommendation" in association with ActionAid at Dinajpur Press Club.

Around five hundred indigenous people from different upazilas of the district, who became victims of land dispute and harassment by cases, attended the workshop.

Vow to stop drug peddling

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

It was a unique event at Bahera, a remote village and also a den of drug peddlers in Debhata upazila.

Over 2000 people from all walks of life including local body leaders at meeting there on Thursday vowed to root out drug peddling from the area.

Satkhira Police Superintendent Mirza Abdullah Baki was present there as chief guest.

Kulia Union Parishad (UP) and local journalists jointly organised the meeting at Bahera Bazar. Debhata Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Shohelur Rahman Chowdhury, KBA College Principal Riiazul Islam and Debhata thana officer-in-charge Lokman Hekim were also present.

Three drug peddlers Samsur Rahman, Monsur Ali and Yakub Aliwood at the meeting that they would not take or sell drug.

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Ser No.	Nomenclature	Date of selling		Date of opening	Currency	Tender No.
		From	To			
b.	1. Bag Camp Offrs, Qty: 2,000 Nos.	06-5-08	19-5-08	21-5-08	Local	214/2628/J-1/DGDP/Ord/P-5(B)

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		From	To			
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ISPR/Misc/08/2313
GD-1956

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For Director General