

Power situation worsens ahead of Ramadan

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

The people here fear huge power crisis during Ramadan as the situation has deteriorated recently as five, out of ten power generating units, remained closed for long due to shortage of gas supply and other technical glitches.

Power Development Board (PDB) officials, however, said they have taken initiatives, including awareness programme among its consumers, to ensure limited use of electricity and avoid misuse to improve the situation during the holy month.

Sources in PDB Chittagong said against a peak demand of 550 megawatts (MW) the functioning power units are now able to generate only up to 200MW.

Dwellers in different areas in the city have been suffering a lot while activities at industrial and commercial units have been disrupted due to frequent power outage that increased both at peak and off-peak hours.

Meher Nigar, a housewife at Hazipara of Agrabad, said they could hardly be able to use power for 40 minutes without interruption.

Electronic equipment used for household chores and industrial purpose have been damaged due to the outage.

The port city has experienced around 200MW of loadshedding during peak hours on August 24. According to the sources only five power-generation units, out of ten, are now functioning at three power stations in Chittagong region.

One of the two 28MW units at Shikabaha Barge Mounted Plant became out of order four years ago while another was forced to suspend generation in January this year for non-availability of sufficient gas supply, sources at the PDB South Zone said.

Karnaphuli Hydroelectric Project at Kaptai, with its four units out of five functioning, is now generating up to 100MW to 112MW a day against the capacity of 230MW.

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One of the two 210MW units at Raozan Power Plant, remained closed for last eight months due to lack of sufficient gas supply.

Sources at the plant said it is possible to generate at least 360MW of electricity from these two units if supply of required gas is ensured.

But inadequate supply of gas has kept the plant limited generating only to 90MW for the last couple of months.

Sources said the plant is now being provided with only 22 million cubic feet (Mcf) gas against the demand of 90 Mcf.

The lone unit of Shikabaha Plant with the capacity of 60MW remained closed since first week of April this year as required gas could not be supplied.

Meanwhile, government has taken an initiative to manage 10 Mcf gas from Bangura Gas Field during Ramadan for the gas-run power plants in Chittagong to increase the generation here, the PDB sources said.

PDB officials said the decision is still under process and they are yet to get any decision from the government regarding the gas supply until filing of this report on Tuesday evening.

PDB Distribution Zone (South) Chief Engineer Jyotish Chandra Biswas said over 40MW more power can be generated if the supply of 10mcf gas is ensured.

He said they have requested the industrial and commercial units to keep their use of power limited during the peak hours from 5:00pm to 10:00pm that will help PDB to provide more power to residential users during iftar and tarabi.

He said they have arranged a view exchange meeting with BGMEA leaders and will arrange such meetings with others like BKMEA, owners of hotel and restaurants, small and cottage industries, shoe industries and heavy industries as part of the awareness campaign within two or three days.



STAR PHOTO

Scarcity of pure drinking water is the main problem in hill tracts. People of these areas collect drinking water from distant natural waterfall. Recently, Caritas, a development organisation, set up two water purifying and distribution plants at Jhiri Para and Kreodong Para under Ruma upazila in Bandarban district to mitigate the problem. After collecting water from the waterfall through pipe and three-layer purifying process, these are being supplied to the inhabitants of the area. The picture was taken from Kreodong Para on Saturday.



ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIDKER

Students of Bangladesh Women Association School near Wasa Intersection cross a busy road risking their lives everyday due to lack of a foot over-bridge.

LACK OF FOOT OVERBRIDGE IN PORT CITY

Pedestrians run risk of accidents

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

Delay in constructing the much needed foot overbridge at the busy road intersections and thoroughfares forces the pedestrians, including women and children, to cross the roads risk-lives in the port city.

Crossing busy road intersections and main thoroughfares during peak hours, pedestrians run the risk of falling prey to road accidents when serious gridlocks hamper movement along the main thoroughfares of the city.

Three foot overbridges in Darul Fazal Market, Reazuddin Bazar and Fakirhat areas are lying in a miserable state for around two decades.

Two other foot overbridges were constructed in front of

Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) by CEPZ authorities last year.

The old three ones are hardly used by the pedestrians. They have become unusable for lack of maintenance by the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC). The floating people have occupied the bridges.

Saifuddin Kader, a student of Southern University, said it is tough to cross the GEC intersection during the peak hours.

He said reckless driving by unskilled drivers, very often defying signals and traffic rules, causes us run the risk of accident while crossing the intersections.

Rehena Akter, an NGO official of Colonel Hat area, echoed Saif, saying the Port Connecting Road is busier than any other roads as

heavy vehicles to and from Chittagong Port ply along it round the clock.

"An overbridge is badly needed in front of the Colonel Hat Bazar as children and women waiting helplessly to cross the roads is a common sight here," she said.

Sources said CCC has taken initiative to construct eight more bridges with the financial help of private firms to ease gridlock, help smooth vehicular and public movement and enhance beauty of the city.

The authorities floated tenders and gave newspaper advertisements twice last year in this regard. The interested firms have been offered to use the foot overbridges for advertisement purposes without paying any board-

ing tax to CCC for 20 years.

Initially the tenders failed to draw attention. Later, two advertisement firms, Ad Valley and Sign Pro, responded to the CCC invitation and expressed keen to set-up the eight overbridges at important intersections of the city.

They selected intersections at Badamtali of Agrabad, Dewanhat, Tigerpass, roads in front of Bangladesh Woman Association School and College near Wasa intersection, GEC intersection, Muradpur intersection, Bohoddarhat intersection and in front of Colonel Hat Bazar.

Ad Valley proprietor Mohiuddin Bachchu told The Daily Star that they had sent estimate and design of foot overbridges for CCC approval. CCC Revenue Officer (RO)

Mohammad Shamsul Haque said the delay was due to lack of willingness among the private firms. Despite floating the tender twice last year, a very few firms collected schedules just not to submit them.

He said they have contacted some companies like mobile phone operators, banks and multinational companies. Only two companies expressed their interest and sent design estimate to them, he added.

CCC Acting Chief Engineer Nizam Uddin Chowdhury said Unilever Bangladesh Limited has shown interest to construct one of the eight overbridges.

"We are scrutinising the matters related to it and hope the construction will start soon," he added.

the week that was

Girl Guides convocation held

The 12th convocation of Bangladesh Girl Guides Association, Chittagong region was held at Dr Khastagir Government Girls High School here on Thursday with a call for intensifying humanitarian and social activities.

Addressing the convocation as the chief guest Chittagong Education Board Chairman Dr Mohammad Yusuf lauded the girls guide activities in this region and assured them of all out support in this regard.

Bangladesh Girls Guide Association National Commissioner Phul Rani

Sarkar and Dr Khastagir School Head Mistress Hasmat Jahan were special guests at the convocation chaired by the association regional commissioner Rahenara.

The speakers underscored the need for female students' involvement in girls guide and guiding activities.

A total of 95 girls guides including commissioners, guiders, ranger guiders and rangers participated in the convocation.

Tribute paid to journo Nazir

Speakers at a memorial meeting paid

rich tribute to veteran journalist Nazir Ahmed and called upon the journalists to help establish human rights and rule of law through reports following him.

They recalled the outstanding contribution late journalist made to the society and nation during his four decades of service in journalism since 1961.

Nazir, who had been serving as the Bureau Chief of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Chittagong Office for over three decades, fought for the rights as well as housing facilities of journalists, they said.

Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury, Chairman of Labour Appeal Tribunal, was the chief guest at the memorial meeting organised by Chittagong

Metropolitan Union of Journalists (CMUJ) at Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) auditorium.

It is the media that has to take up all responsibility of forming public opinion against any practice of mischief and irregularities, said Justice Amirul in his speech.

He called upon the journalist community to reveal the truth and help fight all sorts of injustice and corruption through their dedicated and sincere service and courageous reports.

International Islamic University Chittagong Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Md Mahub Ullah, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalist (BFUJ) former president Gas Kamal Chowdhury, BFUJ President Mozammel Haque,

Secretary General Ruhul Amin Gazi, National Press Club General Secretary Kamal Uddin Sabuj, BFUJ former secretary general MA Aziz, and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) former president Elahi Newaj Khan were special guests at the meeting with memorial meeting committee convenor Iskander Ali Chowdhury in the chair.

'Police Ordinance 2007 not acceptable'

Participants at a workshop here on Saturday stressed introducing laws with instructions regarding use of information technology to bring in dynamism in the activities of police.

Living in the golden age of modern and IT inventions, the Police Ordinance 2007 is not acceptable as it does not include any instruction regarding use of IT, they said.

They emphasised introducing an updated police ordinance after thorough observation of scenarios of five to ten years.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) organised the workshop on the Police Ordinance 2007 at a local hotel.

Elderly lawyer Emdadul Islam presided over the workshop moderated by Blast Coordinator Soma Islam.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Shahidul Haque replied to different queries regarding the reforms and recommendations of Police Ordinance 2007.

Advocate Rana Dasgupta put up recommendations regarding reforms in the draft Police Ordinance 2007.

Apart from lawyers a good number of professionals from different areas of this region attended the workshop held under the overall supervision of Blast Chittagong Coordinator Advocate Rezaul Karim.



STAR PHOTO

Visitors look at a photo at a photography exhibition organised by School of Fine Arts at Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) gallery on Thursday.

Workshop on research dev ends

A two-day workshop on "Annual Research Development and Programme" organised by Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI) concluded in the port city on Thursday.

The BFRI Chief Research Officer (Forest Resources Management) Dr Mohammad Khairul Alam chaired the workshop while the institute director Dr Ashraf Haque addressed it.

Different aspects of annual research development of 2007-2008 and annual research programme of 2008-2009 fiscal years under 17 research divisions of BFRI were presented in the workshop held in four

sessions. Dr Ashraf Haque said as a national research institution responsibility of its researchers is imperative.

BFRI International Project Coordinator Abdul Latif, Forest Resources Division Chief Research Officer AKM Wajullah and concerned officials also spoke at the workshop.

Proper time Management stressed

Speakers at a workshop emphasised the need for proper time management in every sector to achieve the goal.

"We rarely apply time management in our daily work and personal life as well. Everyone can be benefited from

application of time management," they observed.

They were addressing the training workshop on "Time Management" organised by Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Chittagong Centre at its seminar room on Monday.

The IEB Chittagong Centre Chairman Engineer Ali Ashraf was the chief guest in the workshop while Chittagong University (CU) Management Studies Department Chairman Prof Dr Mohammad Abu Taher was present as the resource person.

Prof Taher explained elaborately the meaning and concept of time management, old manager and new managers.

A total of 18 engineers took part in the workshop conducted by the IEB Secretary Engineer Mohammad Abul Kashem.



STAR PHOTO

Artists of Orishi and Tagore Dance Movement perform dance, marking the death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore at Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) auditorium on Sunday. Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad organised the event.