

Vow to continue

FROM PAGE 16
that there is still time to restore the dying rivers referring to the famous Thames River in Britain which was once polluted, but successfully restored since.

Referring to the prime minister's assurance of restoring all rivers in the country, the environmentalist said, "We want to trust these assurances and work together with you."

Former adviser to a caretaker government Hassan Arif said, "We must all rise together to save the rivers."

The aquatic organisms, which were once abundant in rivers, haors and even in ponds, are almost gone today, Arif said noting the losses we are incurring in losing our rivers.

Professor Emazuddin Ahmed, former vice chancellor of Dhaka University, said building industries are important for development but that can never be at the cost of river pollution or encroachment, because rivers sustain life.

The major portion of drinking water for the city is now extracted from groundwater, he said, adding that if this continues, Dhaka city will sink to a lower level at some point soon. Therefore, there is no alternative to protecting the rivers, he noted.

The educationist lauded The Daily Star-Channel initiative and called on all to rise to the occasion.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said major cities in the world have grown up beside rivers because people water.

"But, if the rivers are contaminated, citizens both rich and poor will suffer for it," he said calling upon all to raise their voices to stop river pollution and encroachment.

PDB plans

FROM PAGE 1
these projects, PDB would take steps to determine technical and financial feasibility, location selection, fuel types and types of contracts for rental, IPP and public-private partnership.

The five large coal-fired plants will be located in Khulna, Chittagong, Meghnaghat-3, Meghnaghat-4 and Maowa. The first two plants could be commissioned by 2013 and the rest in 2015.

The coal could be imported or locally produced. Sources say coal has been chosen as the main alternative source of power, as the other options like imported oil or liquefied natural gas (LNG) are costlier.

On an average, coal-fired power costs US 5-6 cents per kilowatt hour, nuclear power also costs the same, gas 6-7 cents, wind 8 cents and solar 10-15 cents globally.

Besides, PDB could undertake a 125mw coal power project at the cost of \$190 million at Katakhali in Rajshahi. The PDB may also take up three 100MW dual-fuel (having the capacity to use both gas and oil) projects, each costing \$160 million in Faridpur, Hathazari and Dohazari.

On the one-year rental power projects, PDB recommends heavy fuel-fired plants in Thakurgaon of 20MW capacity, Khulna barge-mounted 50MW capacity and Noapara 50MW capacity.

The remaining rental plants would be fired by liquid fuel. They are 50MW Ashuganj, 40MW Bheramara, 40MW Barisal, 50MW Katakhali, 50MW Cox's Bazar and 50MW Shikalbaba.

The government had bitter experience with rental power projects, none of which could launch operation in time and some of which could not launch operation at all.

PDB sources say this negative experience was caused by selection of wrong contractors during the caretaker government.

The upcoming power crisis demands that the government take quick measures to minimise the crisis. If awarded to competent contractors, rental plants can be a very effective solution, though it will be costlier than conventional plants," said an official.

As per the Power System Master Plan (PSMP) update

Another BDR

FROM PAGE 16
where the doctors declared him dead at 3:30pm. His death certificate stated that it was a case of 'Cardio-respiratory failure due to acute myocardial infarction (MI) and hypertension'.

Belal Hossain had been suffering from hypertension for last 10-12 years, said the press release.

His body will be sent to his village home, the press release said.

He also noted that the extent of the crisis might not be very apparent today.

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Passers-by and park goers also joined the programme.

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Solar power

FROM PAGE 1
A high official of the central bank said the bank would refinance different financial institutions and banks from this fund. This would help face power and gas deficiency by using environment-friendly technology, and would also help maintain public health.

The BB would provide funds to banks and financial institutions at five percent interest (bank rate) so that they can provide loans on soft terms. In giving loans to customers, banks would charge below 10 per cent interest, said the official.

A top official of the central bank noted that lack of institutional financing for renewable energy sectors like solar energy and biogas is impeding effective growth and use of environment-friendly technology in these sectors.

They would prefer to see investment in solar panels particularly in char areas and remote areas still without power supply, he said.

2006, the power demand in December this year should be 6,066MW, while the installed capacity should be 7,313MW.

But the power projects under implementation would add 811MW by December, leaving a power crisis of 1,467MW.

Presently the official capacity of PDB is around 5,000MW, while it can practically generate less than 4,000MW.

The PSMP update also says the demand will shoot up to 8,364MW in 2013, while the installed capacity should be 9,979MW.

Presently the government has taken up various power projects which will bring 3,200MW power by 2014. The flaw in this plan is that these projects are not enough. We project that there will still be a power crisis of 2,000MW. This is why we are preparing a proposal," said a top PDB source.

The parliamentary standing committee on power had earlier reviewed the power projects under implementation and felt that they were not enough to address the country's problems.

The committee asked PDB to work on the plan and send it to the power ministry, sources said.

The standing committee told PDB that it would strongly recommend the new power projects," a PDB official added.

BDR mutiny

FROM PAGE 16
Akond, also the investigating officer (IO) of the case, produced Pintu before the court with a ten-day fresh remand.

In his report, Abdul Kahar mentioned that during the first phase remand he gleaned important information including several names of Pintu's accomplices.

On the other hand, defence lawyers submitted a petition seeking bail and cancellation of the remand prayer. Moving the petition, lawyers argued that their client was inhumanely tortured during the remand.

The Irish were sitting pretty at 61-1 in the 10th over when three wickets fell for 28 runs, including that of Niall O'Brien, who holed out against Shakib Al Hasan.

Kevin O'Brien took charge after his brother's dismissal, lofting Abdur Razzaq and Shakib for sixes, to help Ireland surpass the victory target of seven runs an over.

Defending himself Pintu told the court that during his remand he was handcuffed, blindfolded and hung with an iron bar. An Imam asked his last wishes and hinted more torture in further remand, he said.

After hearing the magistrate granted a three-day fresh remand asking the IO to interrogate the accused with caution.

Pintu was apprehended on June 2, on charges of instigating BDR mutineers and helping them escape unchallenged.

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SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH: 137 for 8 in 20 overs (Mashrafe 33 not out, Tamim 22, Ashraful 14, Mosfiqur 14, Zunaid 13, Rokibul 13; Johnston 2-20)

IRELAND: 138 for 4 in 18.2 overs (N O'Brien 40, K O'Brien 39 not out, Porterfield 23, Mooney 16 not out, Wilson 10; Mashrafe 2-30)

Result: Ireland won by six wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Niall O'Brien.

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