

Power situation worsens in Ctg

Rauzan power plant unit trips because of dirt in gas

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR,
Chittagong

The power situation in Chittagong region worsened again as one of the two units of the Rauzan Thermal Power Plant, the main and regular source of power in this region, tripped due to dirt with the supplied gas early Monday.

"The plant suddenly tripped in the early hours of Monday due to fluctuation of the gas pressure caused by supply of gas mixed with dirt," said Abu Taher, the plant's acting chief engineer. "We kept the power generating machines okay discharging the oily-slush accompanied by the supplied gas manually, but suddenly pressure of the gas fluctuated resulting in technical glitches in the machines," he said.

Since then the engineers are working with the unit and it may take three or four more days to restore the plant operation, Abu Taher said.

Sources in the plant said that they have been experiencing the problem since the plant had been getting around 60 million-cubic-feet gas after the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) was shut down on April 26.

The oily-slush with the gas creates problem in the burner points and creates troubles for the machineries while the engineers have to face tremendous pressure to keep up the generation discharging the condensate (oily-slush) manually.

Sources in the Bakhraabad Gas Systems Limited (BGS) said the dirt with gas might appear for reasons like fluctuation of pressure of gas, blocks in the gas pipeline and lack of knockout drum to drain out the condensate automatically.

It is normal that the gas can accompany condensate, said the sources adding that they had started facing the problem after the gas pipeline under the river Karnaphuli was leaked in September, 2007.

BGSL Deputy General Manager Firoz Alam told The Daily Star that they are trying to clean up the dirt with supplied gas round-the-clock.

"Tender has been floated to set up a separate pipeline replacing the damaged line under the Karnaphuli and process in this regard will begin soon," he added.

Consumers of Chittagong Power Development Board (PDB) experienced a total of 246MW load shedding on Monday because of lack of generation in the unit, sources in the PDB said.

One of the ten power units in Chittagong, one of the two 210-MW capacity units of the Rauzan Thermal Power Plant generated 140MW power yesterday while the both units could generate 220MW to 250MW before one of them was shut down.

Besides, three units out of five of the Kaptai Hydraulic Plant generated 61MW yesterday while national grid added 180MW and private Regent Power Limited 20MW. The total demand in the peak hour stands at around 600MW, said the sources.



Agitating people set fire to the garage of the residence of Haji Monir Hossain, chairman of Sultanganj Union Parishad, after he sprayed bullets on a crowd at Ashrafabad in Kamrangirchar on the outskirts of the capital. (Story on page 1)

Nine killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Nine people were killed in separate road accidents in Mymensingh, Satkhira, Brahmanbaria and Shariatpur yesterday.

Our correspondent in Mymensingh reports: Four people, including a schoolboy, were killed in two separate road accidents in the district yesterday.

The victims were identified as Amirul Islam, 35, Abdul Latif, 45, and Billal Hossain and Shimul, 8.

Police said Amirul and Latif were killed on the spot when a Haluaghat-bound passenger bus hit the motorcycle they were riding on in front of Phulpur Upazila Parishad office on Mymensingh-Haluaghat highway.

Their co-rider Billal Hossain was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) but he succumbed to his injuries soon after his admission.

In another road accident at around 10:00am, a Dhaka-bound private car hit Shimul, a student of class three of Amlitola Primary School, at Shikarika on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

Local people rushed Shimul to MMCH where the on duty doctors declared him dead.

Following the accident, agitated locals blocked the road for about two hours. Later, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Our Satkhira correspondent reports: An old woman and a child were killed in separate road accidents in the district.

The dead were identified as Shamim Hossain, 7, son of Md Haidar Ali of village Purbha Kota in Kalaroa, and Sabiran Begum, 65, wife of Bazlur Rahman of village Chandkati in Tala.

The police said a Jessore-bound bus knocked down Shamim when he was crossing the road at Kota intersection in

Kalaroa. He died on the spot.

In the other accident, Sabiran Begum fell from a Nasiman, a human hauler, and died. The accident took place on Tala-Paigachha road in front of Tala Press Club when she was going to her daughter's house at Zila Nalta.

Our correspondent in Brahmanbaria adds: One person was killed when a bus hit a rickshaw on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Bishwa Road turning point at Malihata under Sadar Upazila in the morning.

According to eyewitnesses and police, a speeding bus of Hanif Paribahan rammed into the rickshaw, killing its passenger, Manu Mia, on the spot.

UNB adds: Two people were killed and another person was injured when a bus rammed into a motorcycle at Chokkar Bari crossing in Bhedorganj upazila in Shariatpur.

The police said a Bhedorganj-bound bus from Mawa hit a motorcycle at about 1:30pm, killing its two

riders on the spot and injuring another.

The dead was identified as Rana, 16, and Sohel, 15. Injured Sumon, 16, was sent to Dhaka in a critical condition.

The police seized the bus but could not arrest its driver.

GP relief efforts in cyclone-hit areas

METRO DESK

Grameenphone undertook relief efforts in the cyclone-affected regions in the country, says a press release.

The relief effort started on June 3 at Bagerhat and continued in other districts of Satkhira, Khulna, Patuakhali and Barguna until June 6.

Grameenphone has distributed family packs and ran mobile medical camps in these areas in collaboration with the local administration and its NGO partners.

About 6000 family packs were distributed in Barisal and Khulna divisions with each family pack consisting of 3 kg of rice, 1 kg of dal, 1 kg of salt, 5 liter of water, 3 packets of oral saline and 1 blister of water purification tablets.

Additionally, four medical teams provided basic healthcare services in Sharankhola, Shyamnagar, Ashashoni and Dacope areas during the period.



Grameenphone staffs distribute relief materials among affected people in a cyclone-hit district. GP started relief efforts in Bagerhat, Satkhira, Khulna, Patuakhali and Barguna recently.

BRITISH COUNCIL Open Learning Centre marks 1st anniversary

DU CORRESPONDENT

The first founding anniversary of Open Learning Centre (OLC) of the British Council Resource Centre in the city was celebrated yesterday.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique attended the programme as the chief guest at the BC auditorium and cut a mega cake along with other guests to mark the celebration.

Director of British Council Charles Nuttall and TV Development Producer of BBC Learning English Mike Raggett attended the function as the special guests.

The British Council learning programmes are designed to increase the scope as well as scale of English language learning by making flagship programmes available to an increasing number of students coming from across the country.

Open Learning Centre offers self-access package to young learners who are self-motivated to learn English. It conducts monthly study skills workshop and has set up readers and conversation club for the learners.

Addressing the session, Prof Arefin said English is the medium of communication between people of different languages. It is now either the official or the dominant language for two billion people in at least 75 countries.

"Nowadays 80 percent of internet resources are in English language. It is the universal language on the internet and vehicular language of emails and SMSs," he said, adding, "For today's Facebook generation, teaching English means empowering them to face the challenges of the 21st century boldly, meaningfully and forcefully."



Isabelle Bristow of Kaplan International Colleges announces scholarship awards at a press conference in the city recently.

Kaplan Colleges offer scholarship

METRO DESK

Kaplan International Colleges (KIC), a cluster of colleges in the United Kingdom teaching pathway programmes to some of the UK's top universities, has announced scholarship awards for Bangladeshi students intending to begin their studies in September 2009.

Isabelle Bristow, KIC's International Recruitment Manager for Bangladesh, Russia and Kazakhstan, announced the scholarship at a press conference in the city recently, says a press release.

Infocare International Ltd, a global education consulting firm representing KICs in Bangladesh and offering free admission information and other assistance to Bangladeshi students, organised the press conference.

The KICs are offering scholarships to 15 students -- ten scholarships to students enrolling onto the foundation certificate or diploma programmes in the September 2009 session, and five scholarships to students joining the graduate diploma (pre-masters) programmes.

KICs work in partnership with the universities of Liverpool, Sheffield, Glasgow, Nottingham Trent, Southampton and City University London, and offer pathway programmes to the universities for students who do not qualify for direct entry.

After successfully completing the foundation certificate, diploma (leading onto year 2 or year 3 of an undergraduate degree) or graduate diploma, students can gain entry into their chosen degree courses at one of these top university partners.

20 injured in Fatullah factory clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Naganj

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between the workers and the hired miscreants of an export-oriented sweater garment factory at Fatullah Bholail in Narayanganj yesterday morning.

During the clash, the workers attacked Rahim Aziz Knit Spinning Ltd and ransacked properties, including chairs, tables and computers of knitting machine and circular machine offices.

The factory owners claimed that the clash had caused damages to properties worth Tk 50 lakh.

Police said the incident occurred following misunderstanding between the owners and the workers.

A group of workers stopped working in the morning to realise their demand of overtime work to all workers.

The workers claimed that when their peaceful programme was going on, some 70 to 80 miscreants of the owners attacked them.

At one stage, the agitated workers attacked the factory and ransacked its offices.

Of the injured, Shahin, 20, and Rony, 28, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Russell, 20, Shahinur, 24, Tarikul, 22, and Razzak, 25,

were admitted to Narayanganj Hospital.

The agitated workers also hurled brickbats at two other garment factories in Panchaboti BSCIC industrial area and ransacked them.

Director (administration) of the factory Shahjada Prodhan Babul said the industrial unit incurred a loss of is Tk 50 lakh, adding that it would remain closed for the next three days.

Officer-in-Charge Jibon Kanti Sarker of Fatullah Police Station said attempts would be made to reach an understanding between the owners and workers through a discussion.

Five bombs recovered at Benapole

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police yesterday recovered five powerful bombs from Gazipur village of Benapole in Jessore district.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided a house owned by Alauddin and recovered the bombs wrapped in a polybag, but the miscreants managed to escape.

A case has been filed with Benapole Port Police Station.

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