

# High-pressure sodium lamps now light city streets

HELEUL ALAM

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and Roads and Highways Department have replaced the existing low-pressure sodium lights with high-pressure ones in a bid to enhance the visibility of the traffic at night.

DCC has installed around 1400 high-pressure lights from Banani level crossing to Bangabhaban via Mohakhali, Prime Minister's Office, Sonargaon and Shahbagh while Roads and Highways Department has installed another 500 from Banani level crossing to Airport Road, said Zafar Ahmed, executive engineer of DCC.

He added that DCC found it difficult to replace the low-pressure lights that went out of order since they were not available in the international market.

The project cost DCC around Tk 1.5-2 crore, he said. "We are looking forward to a satisfactory outcome," he said, adding that Rajshahi City Corporation was the first to introduce the high-pressure lights.

However, these high-

pressure lights consume more electricity.

Around 24,000 sodium lights are being used in the city streets now, he said.

Meanwhile, DCC is also planning to replace the fluorescent tube-lights on the streets with energy saving lights in a bid to save electricity.

"We are now installing energy saving lights in the indoor and around 300 to 400 bulbs are being installed every month as part of the project," said Zafar.

He said they will install around 10000 energy saving bulbs in Uttara within two or three months.

"We will install energy saving lights in the whole city based on the result of the pilot project in Uttara," he also said.

By using energy saving lights in the whole city, 4KW of electricity can be saved, which is half of the need for the streetlights, he added.

However, there is a risk of using the lights since they are easier to steal, said Zafar.

Around 80,000 tube lights are being used in the city streets while another 20,000

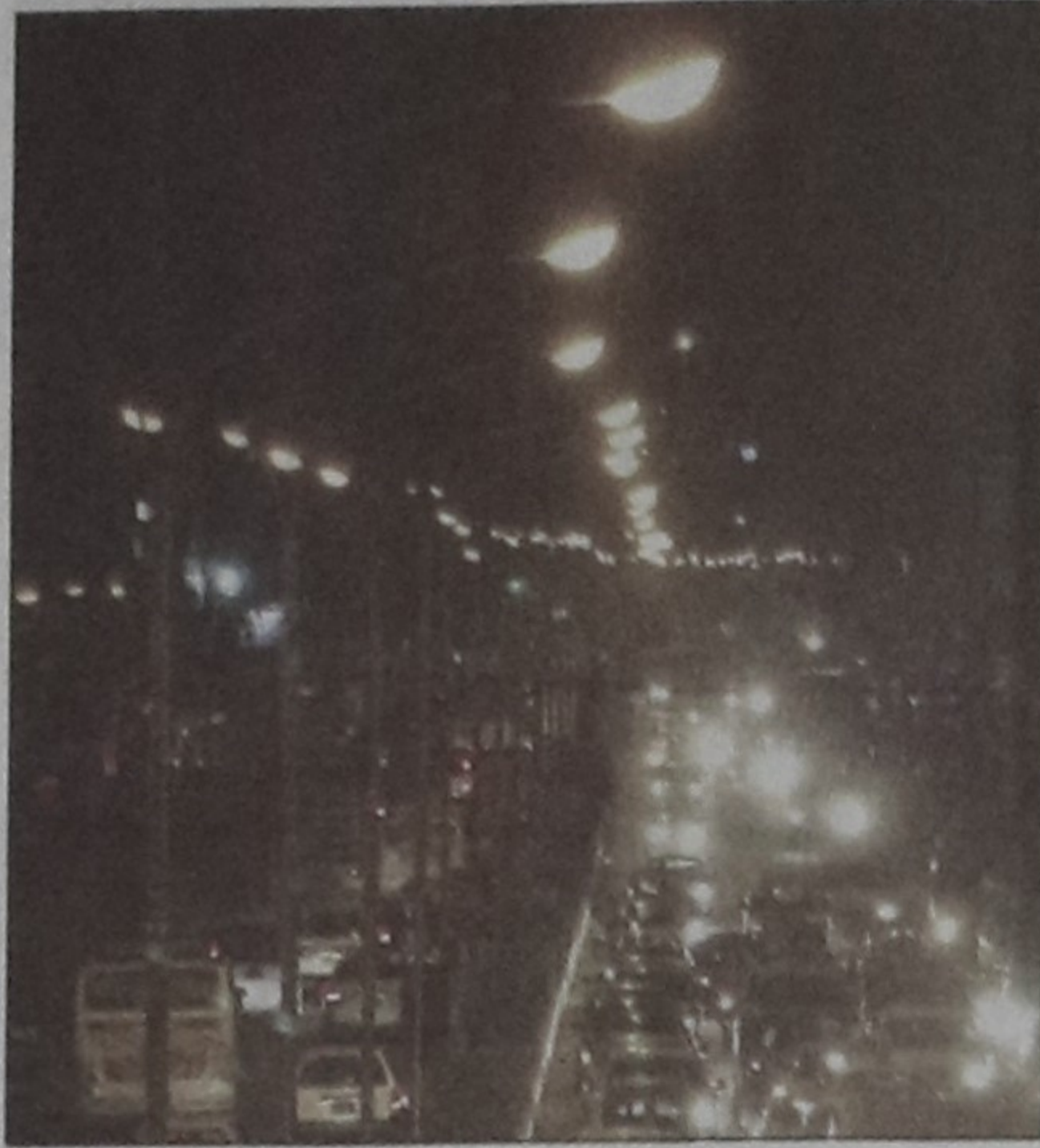


PHOTO: STAR

High-pressure street sodium lights have replaced the low-pressure ones in the city.

are being used in the indoor.

At present the demand for electricity in the peak hour is

approximately 1700MW, but there is a shortfall of supply of over 400MW.

## 'Present true history of liberation war to youths'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque yesterday called upon everyone to present the true history of the liberation war to the young generation with a view to developing them as patriotic citizens and building a prosperous nation.

"Everyone should do his/her duties for the country's development. And, that will be showing respect to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," he said.

The minister was addressing as the chief guest a discussion marking the 34th death anniversary of Bangabandhu organised by Bangladesh Forest Development Corporation (BFDC) Workers-Employers' Union at BFDC auditorium in the city.

Razzaque said those who failed to accept the independence of the country killed Bangabandhu. These anti-liberation forces propagated against Bangabandhu and tried to confuse the nation, a conspiracy that is still on.

## 4 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

At least four people were killed in separate road accidents across the country yesterday and on Thursday night.

UNB adds: A man was killed and 20 others were injured when a bus plunged into a roadside ditch on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Shahidnagar in Daudkandi, Comilla, early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Selim Badsha, 40, of Lohagara upazila in Chittagong.

The police said the Chittagong-bound bus of 'Island Paribahan' skidded off the road at around 3:00am as its driver lost control over the steering.

The injured were rushed to Comilla Medical College Hospital and Daudkandi Upazila Health Complex.

BSS adds: One person was

killed and three others were injured in a collision between a pick-up van and a bus at Tarutia on Dhaka-Tangail Highway yesterday.

The dead was identified as Aziz, 35. Aziz died on the spot when the Sirajganj-bound pick-up van from Narayanganj collided head-on with the Tangail-bound passenger bus coming from Gazipur.

Executive Engineer of Narayanganj Water Development Board Harunur Rashid, 50, Assistant Engineer Bahauddin, 48, and Section Officer Nurul Islam were seriously wounded in the crash.

They were first admitted to Tangail General Hospital and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

In another road accident, a 15-year-old girl and her eight-

year-old brother were killed at Chittagong city gate area on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Thursday night.

They were identified as Panna Akter, a worker of Chumki garments at Pahartali area, and her younger brother Jahid Hossain, daughter and son of late Obidul Haq.

Jahid died on the spot and Panna received serious head injuries when a speeding truck crushed them under its wheels at 11:30pm, police and locals said.

Police said Panna succumbed to her injuries at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital about an hour later.

Their father Obaidul had also died in a road accident few months ago, the police said.

The police seized the truck, but its driver managed to escape.



PHOTO: STAR

Guests hold copies of a book titled 'Dhaka Club Chronicles' by Waqar A Khan at its publication ceremony at Dhaka Club in the city recently. Dhaka Club President Sadat Hossain Salim, Mizanur Rahman (Shelley), Towhid Samad, Azimuddin Ahmed, Hasnat Abdul Hye, Prof Kaiser Mohamed Hamdul Haq and the writer were present at the ceremony.

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## Piracy threatens deep-sea fishing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Rampant abduction and deep-sea piracy have worried fishermen of southern coastal districts who are now busy with catching hilsa in the bay.

Owners of some trawlers said fishermen are afraid of going to the sea as they face frequent abduction by pirates in the bay.

Last week, pirates abducted 60 fishermen and looted 32 fishing trawlers in the bay, they added.

The abducted fishermen later secured release after paying ransom and returned to fish landing ports at Mahipur-Alipur of Patuakhali and Patharghata of Barguna.

Sources said police yesterday arrested 10 suspected pirates from the Bishkhali river in Balabunia area under Baman upazila in Barguna and seized a trawler.

The arrestees were identified as Miraj Hossain, Abdul Jalil Howlader, Shafiqul Islam, Abdul Halim, Ibrahim Khalil, Zafar Matubbar, Abdul Jalil Boyati, Nabin Hossain and Abdul Razzak at Tafalbaria village in Patharghata and Abdus Salam at Southkathi upazila in Pirojpur.

Officer-in-charge of Baman Police Station said a case was filed in this connection and the pirates were sent to the jail the same day.

Patharghata Fish Warehouse Association

President Golam Mostafa Chowdhury said over 100 fishermen are now busy catching hilsa with trawlers in the sea and over 25 fish-loaded trawlers reach Patharghata port daily.

But pirates looted 22 fishing trawlers and abducted 40 fishermen along the Barguna coast of the Bay of Bengal in the dead of night on August 18.

At least 25 fishermen were injured as they came under an attack by the band of pirates in Kochikhali area of the Sundarbans.

On August 11, a total of 20 fishermen were abducted and 13 injured as pirates swooped on them and looted hilsa fish, fishing nets, fuel and cash from 12 trawlers in the deep sea some 50 kilometres south-east of Patharghata.

Some of the fishermen, who were released after abduction, said pirates have introduced 'token' for each trawler. They are allowing the trawlers to the bay which have got tokens after meeting their demands, they said.

When contacted, Nurul Amin, officer-in-charge of Patharghata Police Station, said they are trying their best to arrest the pirates.

Yasin Ali, coastguard officer of Patharghata, told The Daily Star over a cellphone that they launched a drive in the bay against pirates yesterday. He, however, said they are facing problems in conducting a massive drive due to shortage of vessels.



PHOTO: STAR

Thai Ambassador Chalermphol Thanchitt goes round different corners of Agora after inaugurating a month-long fair of Thai fruits and products in the city yesterday.

## Clinker-laden cargo sinks in Chandpur

UNB, Chandpur

A cargo ship, carrying 11,000 tons of clinkers, capsized in the Meghna River at Kaliganj in Haimchar upazila early Thursday.

Ship staff Joyal Abedin said the ship, MV Madina-2, hit hard a floating buoy amid strong current in the river at about 3:30am while heading towards the capital from Chittagong with the cement-making materials.

Hearing screams of the crews, nearby fishermen rushed to the spot and rescued all the 14 ship staff from the nearly sunken vessel. The ship sank shortly after the accident.

The ship could not be salvaged as of 5:30pm yesterday when the report was filed.

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