

2nd 73.8MW rental plant to start power generation in Nov

Plan to set up three more plants of 700MW in Ctg

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

The second 73.8megawatt (MW) rental power plant will start its operation from November to rid the port city of acute power crisis, at least to some extent.

Energis Power Corporation (EPC), a private company, is setting up the plant at a cost of Tk 260 crore with modern technologies from Germany.

Construction work of the furnace oil-fired plant started in January this year on the bank of the river Karnaphuli at Shikalbaha in Patiya upazila.

"Installation of equipment with technical assistance from Hong Kong-based firm Royce Power is nearing an end and the plant will be ready for generation before October 30," EPC Managing Director Jaber Hossain told The Daily Star.

"We hope to go into generation by second week of November," he said.

As per the agreement signed with the government, PDB will get 55MW of power to be generated at the plant while the rest can be supplied to private farms, he said.

"We had contact with PDB to rent power at Tk 8.87 per unit when the price of furnace oil was \$146 per barrel in the international market. However, with the price now hovering around \$72 per barrel, the price of per unit power can be reduced significantly," Jaber said.

The price of power would always be

determined according to the price of furnace oil in the international market, he added.

Meanwhile, construction work of the state-owned 150MW Peaking Power Plant at Shikalbaha is going on in full swing.

Sources at PDB said Tk 534 crore power plant is expected to go into generation by February next year. The project was scheduled to complete in December this year.

On the other hand, government is going to set up three more power plants with a total production capacity of 700MW in Chittagong.

Power Secretary Abul Kalam Azad on October 9 visited the sites for two 100MW plants at Hathazari and at Dohazari. He also visited the proposed site for setting up 500MW coal-fired plant in Parky Sea Beach area under Anwara upazila.

PDB Chief Engineer (Planning and Development) Masum Al Beruni said tenders for the furnace-oil fired power plants at Hathazari and Dohazari have already been floated with December 29, 2009 as the last date of tender submission.

"We hope to start the construction work by January next year after signing an agreement with the winning bidder by December this year," he said.

Masum said the completion period of the projects is June 2011.

Regarding the coal-fired plant of Parky beach area, he said process for



The second 73.8MW rental power plant at Shikalbaha in Chittagong. The photo was taken on Sunday.

appointing consultant for the plant is under process.

Mentionable, due to lack of sufficient gas supply and technical glitches,

out of 11 power plants in Chittagong, only seven, including the 24MW rental one at Barobkunda, are now operational generating on an average

400MW power against the demand of around 600MW in peak hours.

As a result, the consumers of PDB, Chittagong region, including three hill

districts of Rangamati, Khagrachari, Bandarban and Cox's Bazar, have been facing an average loadshedding of 200MW.

Ctg patients get advanced eye care at flying hospital

Two-week skill exchange programme of ORBIS International concludes today

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

The 48-seat classroom was almost full with eye care specialists in a flying hospital with their eyes glued to a

large monitor to watch a cornea transplantation that was going on in the Operation Theatre (OT) two rooms behind them.

Dr Andrew Huang, a professor of

ophthalmology at Washington University of Missouri in the US, was giving running commentary of his every action while conducting the critical surgery. Over the loud

speaker he invited questions and gave answers to queries of those attending the classroom.

This was a scene in the flying eye hospital, run by ORBIS International.

With its advanced eye care techniques, the hospital during its two-week stay here is expected to screen some 300 patients and provide surgical and laser treatments to 75 patients.

A group of journalists witnessed the on-board training and skill exchange activities of the ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital in a DC 10 aircraft that stood still and quiet at Shah Amanat International Airport, Chittagong on Thursday noon.

ORBIS International, an organisation carrying out eye care campaign and skill building activities with a slogan "Saving Sight Worldwide", landed its flagship Flying Eye Hospital (FEH) here on October 4 to conduct a two-week skill exchange programme that concludes today (October 15).

Local eye care medics were seen exchanging skills and getting introduced with the latest technology and modern treatment, both surgical

and medical, through live projection of surgery from the OT with the help of ORBIS International Medical Director Dr Hunter Cherwek.

Some local ophthalmologists and anaesthetists also worked side-by-side with the ORBIS medical team and volunteer teaching faculty to perform surgery, learn new skills and restore sight.

Seventeen-year-old Nasrin Sultana of the port city's Halishahar area and 20-year-old Shakhat Hossain of Feni were waiting at the examining hall before being operated upon to get their eyes properly set and rid themselves of the congenital defect (Brown Syndrome Terachokh) they had been troubled with so far.

Umme Salma, a paramedic from Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex (CEITC), exchanged experiences with members of the skilled ORBIS medical team in the Flying Eye Hospital.

Salma said they also use the same technology and equipment for treatments at CEITC. However, the way the surgeons and other ophthalmologists of ORBIS medical behave with the patient is something really appreciable," she added.

ORBIS International Communication Manager Perry Athanson said, "There are 10 volunteer faculties and six staff nurses from the US, the UK and Canada and a volunteer nurse from Ire Land to support this programme held for the ninth time in Bangladesh and third time in Chittagong after 2002 and 2005.

"Coinciding with the World Sight Day (October 8) the FEH programme in Chittagong emphasised gender equality in ensuring equal access to eye care for women and children, which is the theme of the World Sight Day.

The women and children comprise around two-thirds of around 44 million people suffering from avoidable visual impairment across the globe," Perry said, adding, "Awareness and access to treatment can help these huge number of visually impaired people get back their normal eye sight."

"ORBIS International organises 10 to 12 FEH programmes every year.



ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital at Shah Amanat International Airport, Chittagong. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

the week that was

'Ensure safety of workers at ship-breaking yards'

Labour leaders at a meeting on Friday expressed strong resentment over deaths of workers in ship-breaking yards at Sitakunda.

They blamed the owners of shipyards for not providing the workers with proper safety devices, causing frequent deaths.

Ship-Breaking Workers' Trade Union Forum organised the meeting at a local hotel with Forum Convener and Trade Union Centre (TUC) Chittagong unit President Tapan Datta in the chair.

The meeting was organised to condole the deaths of three workers at Crystal Ship Yard in Sitakunda on Thursday.

Leaders said the poor labourers work in the ship-breaking yards at Sitakunda risking lives and meet tragic deaths or suffer serious injuries.

They urged the owners to ensure safe work environment in the ship-breaking industry to avoid deaths and injuries.

Divisional President of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal Nazim Uddin, Forum Joint Convener and Jatiya Sramik League central leader Safar Ali, labour leaders Nur Mohammad, Anwar Hossain and Rizwanur Rahman Khan spoke at the meeting.

Hawkers' Samity executives

The triennial election of Chittagong Sangbadpara Hawkers' Bahumukhi Samabaya Samity was held at its Cheragi Pahar office on Thursday.

Obaidul Haq Majumder and Delwar Hossain were elected president and general secretary of Samity. A total of 256 voters, out of 288, cast their votes.

Other office-bearers are Vice-President Sunil Chandra Nath and Directors: Abul Basher, Zakir Hossain and Manik Chandra Nath. Election Committee President

Halal Uddin Chowdhury announced the result.

Arrest of 2 war criminals demanded

Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsads, Chittagong south district unit command, at a meeting on Sunday demanded immediate arrest of Sidiqur Ahmad and his son Yunus Ahmad, two accused in a war crime case filed with Satakania police station.

The freedom fighters at the meeting held at Dosta Building office in the city said police were wasting time in taking steps though the court of a senior judicial magistrate on October 7 ordered legal measures against the accused.

They also urged the home minister, DIG, Chittagong region and police super of Chittagong for taking immediate measures to arrest the war criminals.

Freedom fighters Jado Gopal Baishnab, Gouri Shanker

Chowdhury, Subhash Chowdhury, Aminul Islam, Renu Mia Chowdhury, Fazlul Karim, Shahidul Haq Syed, Bharat Chandra Dash, Mozaffar Ahmad, Mostafizur Rahman and Ahad Ali Chowdhury spoke at the meeting with Commander Md Idris in the chair.

Erection of fences on Parky beach roads protested

The local people of Barshat Union under Anwara upazila protested erection of barbed-wire fences on two of the three roads leading to Parky Beach, a tourist spot in South Chittagong.

In a statement on Thursday they said Mansur Ali along with Md Bashir Ahmed and Md Nasir of Dudukumar village of Parky beach area erected barbed-wire fences on two of the three roads.

The fences blocked the way of visitors as well as local people

to go to the Parky Beach, they said.

The villagers further alleged that the same persons also purchased the lands surrounding the remaining one and the main road to Parky beach and conspiring to block it as well.

One Abdul Karim on behalf of the villagers on Sunday also made a complaint to deputy commissioner, Chittagong for taking steps to remove the fences and stop the move for erecting fence on the other road.

The villagers also lodged complaint with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police to take measures after inquiry into the matter.

Call to take steps against smoking

Speakers urged the government to take necessary measures to create awareness among the people against smoking at the public and work places in the country.

They were addressing a view exchange meeting on "Identifying

the requirements and guidelines for smoking-free society" organised by Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), a non-government organisation (NGO), at a local hotel on Thursday.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) ward councillors and medical staffs participated in the meeting.

Speakers at the meeting spoke about the existing law

relating to smoking and its implementation.

YPSA Advocacy Adviser Vinson Okalo briefed about the issue while YPSA Project Coordinator Nasim Banu spoke.



Cultural personality and lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor and anti-British movement veteran Binod Bihari Chowdhury inaugurate the 16th founding anniversary celebrations of Bhodhon Abriti School, by lighting lamps on the Shilpakala Academy premise on Thursday.