

CHITTAGONG REELS UNDER ACUTE POWER CRISIS

No respite from load shedding even in off-peak winter

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR,
Chittagong

People in port city Chittagong are reeling under acute power crisis with around 250MW load shedding in the peak hours, even in this off-peak winter season.

The crisis persists as both the units of 420 MW Rauzan

Thermal Power Plant halted power generation and three units of Shikalbaha Power Plant sees erratic power generation due to shortage of gas supply.

After restoration of gas supply and resumption of production at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited, two 210 MW-capacity units of the

Rauzan Thermal Power Plant shut down on October 19 and November 9 due to lack of gas supply.

Technical glitches and shortage of gas supply often forces the 116 MW-capacity Shikalbaha Power Plant on the other bank of River Karnaphuli to shut down, PDB sources said.

Now, among the 11 power plants of total 790 MW-capacity the four units of Kaptai Hydroelectric Power Plant generate on an average 192 MW. Shikalbaha 40MW and the rental Regent Power Limited 20MW in the peak hours of night while the national grid contributes 120MW to 130MW.

However, the contribution of national grid fluctuates depending on generation in Chittagong plants pushing the load-shedding up to around 250MW against the total demand of 600MW.

The load shedding causes immense sufferings to over 5,22,800 consumers of Chittagong PDB that covers vast areas of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban.

"PDB requires around 115 mcf (million cubic feet) gas supply to keep the gas-fired Rauzan and Shikalbaha plants functional. But, we are now getting only 10mcf to 11mcf. The situation will worsen further in the upcoming Boro season in the next month," Chittagong PDB Chief Engineer (Generation) Abu Taher said.

When contacted, Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited Deputy General Manager Firoz Alam said due to decrease in gas supply from the off-shore gas field of Sangu they are not able to supply required gas at the power plants.

"Against the demand of total 315mcf we are now getting 210mcf from Sangu and Gas Transmission Company Limited and it forces us to decrease supply to the power plants," he said.

Expressing deep concern over the power situation, MA Salam, senior vice president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries, said, "We are suffering huge financial losses as production is being hampered seriously at different industrial units."

He urged for measures to ensure sufficient gas supply in Chittagong to enable the power plants to go into full production.



PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

A road in Wasa area of Chittagong city turns dangerously dark save the beams from headlights of vehicles as street lights were turned off during load-shedding at 9:30pm on Tuesday, inset, suspension of power supply compels two students to study in dim candle-light at a city house.



PHOTO: STAR

Displaced by cyclone Aila in May this year, members of a family comprising two mentally challenged siblings and their elderly mother find the ongoing cold wave a source of added sufferings. The photo was taken in front of their makeshift shelter at Kamarkhola village in Dakope upazila of Khulna district yesterday.

Bitter cold kills 13 in Aila-hit Dakope

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

Biting cold and cold-related diseases have claimed the lives of 13 people in Dakope upazila of Khulna district in last one week as the area, worst hit by cyclone Aila, sees serious crisis of food, proper shelter, drinking water, medicines and warm clothes.

Affected with cold-related diseases including pneumonia and bronchitis, 24 infants and four elderly people are now undergoing treatment at Dakope Upazila Health Complex while many more are suffering.

Condition of 13 people including nine children is critical, said Dr Akbar Hossain, medical officer of the health complex.

Cold wave has also claimed two more lives at Batiaghata and Dumuria upazilas of Khulna district.

Over two and a half lakh Aila-affected homeless people, mostly in Kamarkhali, Sutarkhali and Tildanga unions of Dakope upazila, have been fighting against biting cold in make-

shift camps.

As they are yet to be provided with sufficient food, safe drinking water, medicines and warm clothes, cold-related and water-borne diseases have broken out in epidemic form, said Medical Officer Akbar Hossain.

Samresh Roy, chairman of Kamarkhola union of Dakope upazila, told this correspondent on Tuesday said that biting cold and cold-related diseases claimed 13 lives at Kamarkhola, Sutarkhali and Tildanga unions in last one week.

They are Banomali Sarder, 75, Sonaimati Sarder, 83, Manoranjan Mandol, 78, Abir Gazi, 67, Profulla Sarder, 72, Manik Mandol, 77, Nazem Gazi, 80, Kiron Chandra Shil, 70, of Kamarkhola union and Bimola Sana, 78, Mahabbat Ali, 75, Amela Begum, 81, Bhanu Bibi, 91, of Sutarkhali union and Abdul Gani Gazi, 74, of Tildanga union.

Proper treatment cannot be given to homeless men and women suffering from cold-related diseases as the

upazila health complex has not sufficient medicines, the medical officer said.

The situation is gradually taking an alarming turn as severe cold wave continues, said Dakope Upazila Nirbahi Officer Kazi Atur Rahman.

Both UNO Kazi Atur Rahman and Upazila Chairman Sheikh Abul Hossain said that no positive response had so far been received despite frequent reminders to the Ministry of Relief, Disaster Management and Food for arranging warm clothes and blankets for homeless Aila-affected people.

"Even we are not getting any positive response from NGOs to save the homeless Aila-hit people from sweeping cold wave and cold-related diseases," the upazila chairman said.

The High Court recently ordered the government to arrange winter clothes and blankets for Aila-affected people of Khulna and Satkhira districts by December 31 this year.

C'nawabganj people stage sit-in on highway for gas

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
C'nawabganj

People from all walks of life yesterday held a sit-in on Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi highway at Shah Neyamatullah College intersection demanding installation of pipeline for gas supply to the district.

The vehicular movement was halted for an hour on the highway causing sufferings to the inter-district passengers.

Leaders and workers of different political parties, professional bodies, trade organisations and students took part in the programme arranged by Nagorik Odhikar Adai Committee. The sit-in was followed by a rally.

Mahfuzur Rahman Benju, president of Nagorik Odhikar Adai Committee, its vice president Mostafizur Rahman Mukul, general secretary

Toriquel Islam Siddiqui, former UP chairman of Islampur Makhlesur Rahman, president of district contractors association Khairul Islam spoke at the rally.

The speakers at the rally said, natural gas supply from Rajshahi to Chapainawabganj could be possible by constructing only 44-kilometre pipeline. Gas supply will help set up industries. Sonamasjid land port in the district plays an important role in country's economy. If gas supply is ensured, business community will show interest in setting up more industries, they said.

The speakers urged the government to take steps for gas link without further delay.

They also demanded proper maintenance of Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi rail route, which has been in deplorable condition for long.

The railway authorities cancelled tender for construction work several times. Terming it a conspiracy against the people of Chapainawabganj, they urged the government to immediately introduce inter-city train between Chapainawabganj and Dhaka.

The committee also urged the government to immediately start construction of second Mohananda Bridge and expand the BSIC (Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation) area to set up more industries.

After about an hour of the programme, the deputy commissioner (DC) and superintendent of police (SP) of Chapainawabganj came to the venue and talked to the agitating people. They said they will do their best to place the issue at the Prime Minister's office.

Ex-KCC mayor Tayebur faces corruption case

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) has filed a case against former mayor of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) and BNP leader Sheikh Tayebur Rahman on charges of corruption.

Assistant director of ACC of Khulna-Bagerhat-Satkhira zone Md Aminur Rahman filed the case with Khulna Sadar police station yesterday.

According to the case, the government incurred a loss of Tk 9.74 crore as the former mayor took steps aimed at making himself and some others financially benefited.

The complainant said, by paying wage to illegally appointed workers beyond the government approved posts of 199 workers under master role during the period of July 2002 to October 2007,

the former mayor caused the government to incur loss which is equal to the same amount.

ACC official Md Aminur Rahman told this correspondent last night that Sheikh Tayebur caused the loss of Tk 9.74 crore to the government during the period of July 2002 to October 2007 through illegal appointments of workers and paying them wages.

Aminur further said, as the allegation was proved in primary investigation, permission was sought from the ACC chairman to take legal action against the former mayor.

After the ACC chairman gave permission, the case was filed yesterday under Section 409 of the CrPC and section 5(2) of 1947 Corruption Prevention Act, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Mohila Parishad organises human chain in Mymensingh, left, and Bagerhat town yesterday demanding trial of war criminals. Similar programmes were also held in different districts.

Latin American BALL DANCE PARTY
31st '09
@ PAN PACIFIC SONARGAON
Dhaka
Gate open: 6:30 PM-Midnight

More Info:
Hot Line: 01977 31 12 09
Hello: 02-8111005
Type: R 31 Send to 6969

Ticket:
2,000BDT (Single)
3,500BDT (Couple)

Tickets are available at:
HELVETIA (All Branches)-Baily Road, Labamba-Dhanmondi
Fahim Music (All Branches)-Koriana Restaurant - Gulshan
Guddi & France Food - Bashundhara City, Sonargaon Hotel Lobby

Touching lives is what we do!
Care to join us?

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, a 450-bed super-specialty multi-disciplinary tertiary level hospital, is the first and only hospital in Bangladesh to be accredited by Joint Commission International.

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka is looking for a qualified, experienced and committed person for the following position:

General Manager - Health Care Plan

The Role:
This is a consultative sales role which involves presenting product information to corporate members/interested persons and ensure enrollment accordingly. This requires a compassionate approach to sales as well as previous outside sales experience preferably within the healthcare or health insurance related area.

Job Responsibilities:

- Develop the product idea & formulate product features (like pricing, promotion plan etc)
- Develop Sales/Marketing strategies to achieve and establish sales pipeline
- Develop and maintain key customer relationships
- Market to the corporate and conduct other marketing events to promote the new business unit/product
- Present product information to eligible & interested participants
- Close sales effectively
- Be responsible for business growth targets & team management
- Comply with all regulatory guidelines

Requirements:

Education & Experience:

- MBA/Masters, preferably in Finance/Marketing
- Minimum 8 (eight) years of sales/marketing experience is required
- Sales/Marketing experience and industry knowledge preferably within the healthcare/health insurance industry, will be an added qualification

Age: Not exceeding 45 years

Competitive salary package will be offered to the deserving candidates.

If you feel you are capable enough to take the challenge and have the passion to serve in a hospital set-up, please apply with an updated CV along with passport size color photograph within 7 days of this publication to: **Human Resources Department, Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, Plot 81, Block # E, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka 1229** Or email your CV (along with photograph) to: **recruit@apollodhaka.com**