

Benapole port suffers 20-hr loadshedding a day

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole
Power outage for around 20 hours a day is causing serious disturbance to activities in Benapole and port, much to the nuisance of exporters, importers and port officials.
Nearly all the works in country's largest land port are now being conducted with the help of generators.
"It has become very difficult to conduct the activities with a generator. The computer server at the customs office crashes frequently. Several printers went out of order recently," said Dr Abdul Mannan Shikder, commissioner of Benapole Customs House.

Power cuts amidst hot weather makes it difficult to continue work, said Port Director Shyam Kishore Roy.
Businessmen regularly using the land port said theft incidents have increased badly during the night.
About 90 tonnes of the imported Indian goods enter Bangladesh through Benapole port. Yearly product handling of the port is around 14 lakh tonnes, which brings the government about Tk 1,600 crore as revenue annually.
There are 36 sheds, yard and transhipment yard at Benapole port located on about 57 acres of land.
With an average capacity of around 38,000 tonnes, the port often accommo-

dates double the amount.
"We have been urging the authorities to solve electricity problem in the country's most important land port for a long time. Works are being regularly delayed," Mafizur Rahman Sajjan, vice president of Benapole C and F Agents Association, said.
DGM of Sharsha Palli Bidyut Abdul Latif said, "We cannot do much about the power shortage as the power supply is being controlled directly by Dhaka and Jessore offices."
A plan was taken to arrange a separate power line for Benapole during the tenure of last BNP-led four-party alliance government but it did not see implementation.



Aggrieved farmers put logs to barricade Dinajpur-Bogra highway at Ranirbandar village in Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur yesterday demanding smooth supply of power during the peak Irri-boro season. PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Farmers protest erratic power supply, block highway

STAR NATIONAL DESK
Aggrieved farmers blocked highway in Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur district while Bangladesh Krishok League brought out a procession and submitted memorandum to Chapainawabganj deputy commissioner yesterday demanding smooth supply of power during the peak Irri-boro season.
Around 5,000 farmers of Chirirbandar upazila put up barricade on Dinajpur-Bogra highway for two and a half hours yesterday demanding smooth power supply for irrigating their boro fields, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.
Irrigated by serious power outage, the farmers gathered at Ranirbandar village in Chirirbandar upazila.
They brought out a procession and put up barricade on

Dinajpur-Bogra highway in front of Ichhamoti College in the upazila.
Chirirbandar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Anarkoli Mahbab and police station Officer-in-Charge Md Belayet Hossain went to the spot with police force and persuaded the agitating farmers to withdraw the road blockade by assuring the farmers of increased power supply at 12.30pm.
During the programme, a Focus Bangla photographer was injured as a Dinajpur-bound bus hit him.
Our Chapainawabganj Correspondent adds: Bangladesh Krishok League, an associate organisation of ruling Awami League, yesterday brought out a procession and submitted memorandum to Chapainawabganj DC demanding regular power supply for irrigating their Irri-boro lands in Barind region.

"Thousands of hectares of boro land in Barind region have dried up, as due to drastic fall of power supply in the district power run tube-wells, both deep and shallow, can lift only a little water," said the memorandum.
"We fear huge losses in the current season as we cannot afford to irrigate lands with diesel run shallow pumps. Everyday power remains off for 16-20 hours. We get power for three to four hours only. But we need 18 to 20 hours power supply to irrigate Irri-boro land in Barind region.
"Our boro plants will dry up within a few days if the situation continues.
Despite the government's earlier declaration that farmers will get electricity from 11:00pm to 6:00am everyday, we did not get it properly.
The farmers urged the government and the local

administration to supply adequate power to save Irri-boro paddy and farmers in Chapainawabganj district.
Earlier the farmers held a rally in front of deputy commissioner's office.
Mushfiqur Rahman Tito, joint convener of district Krishok League, Maraful Islam Azizi, president of Sadar upazila Krishok League, its general secretary Nurul Islam, Jhilim union leader Monirul Islam and Baliadanga union leader Zakir Hossain spoke at the rally.
Earlier on Wednesday, aggrieved locals vandalised Palli Bidyut Samity office at Laxmipasha in Lohagara upazila protesting frequent power outage for long hours, UNB reports from Narail.
The agitators alleged that electricity was available only for 12 minutes in the upazila during last 48 hours.

5 sued on war crime charges in Galachipa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali
A case was filed with Judicial Magistrate's Court in Galachipa upazila yesterday accusing five people of war crimes in the district.
Abdul Berek Sarder, younger brother of freedom fighter Motalab Sarder who was killed during the liberation war at Bashbunia village, filed the case.
The accused are Abdus Salam Sikder, 65, former UP chairman of Amkhola UP under Galachipa upazila, Alauddin Sikder, 85, also former UP chairman of Auliapur union parishad under Patuakhali Sadar upazila, Nesar Uddin Sikder, 70, Abdur Rob Sikder, 70, and Abdul Mannan Jomaddar, 65. All of them hail from different villages under Galachipa upazila.
According to the case, at about 9am on November 9 in 1971, the aforesaid accused stormed the house of Motalab Sarder, a freedom fighter and caught him.
Later Alauddin Sikder shot him dead with a rifle at the instruction of Abdus Salam Sikder. The accused also set Motalab's house on fire.
PROF HARUN MURDER Teachers' memo to minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
Representatives of the government and private college teachers of Sylhet district yesterday submitted a memorandum to Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid demanding immediate arrest of and punishment to the killers of Prof Harun-ur-Rashid.
Sylhet chapter chief of the BCS (Education) Association Prof Abdul Majid, also vice-principal of Sylhet Government Women's College, Convener of the Private College Teachers Association, Sylhet chapter, Bhaskar Ranjan Chakraborty, and some senior teachers of the government and private colleges submitted the memo to the minister at Sylhet Circuit House in the afternoon.
In the memo, the teachers also demanded financial assistance for the bereaved family. The minister assured the teachers of taking necessary steps in this regard. He said the law enforcers have been asked to arrest the killers as early as possible.
The two-day work abstention by the college teachers of Sylhet district ended yesterday. They will announce their next programme at a press conference tomorrow.
Meanwhile, The Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday granted a four-day remand for JCD cadre Md Jamal, alias Kala Jamal. He was arrested as a suspect in the case at his house at Bonkalapara of the city on Tuesday night and shown arrested the following day, police said.
Associate Professor Harun-ur-Rashid of Sylhet Government Women's College was stabbed to death by a gang of criminals near his rented house in the city Monday afternoon.



People look on as law enforcers recover the charred skull of brick kiln worker Mozammel Haque, a worker of MNB brick kiln in Baliadangi upazila of Thakurgaon district. Mozammel's beheaded body was found on March 14 as four other workers of the same kiln allegedly killed him following instructions of kiln owners. Inset, victim's wife Jyotsna wails at the spot. PHOTO: STAR

Horrific tale of 'sacrifice' at a brick kiln

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon
Police yesterday recovered knife, used for killing a brick field worker, and charred teeth and skull of the victim from a kiln at MNB brick field at Nangtithara village under Baliadangi upazila of Thakurgaon.
Police raided the brick field at around 4:30pm following an order of Thakurgaon Judicial Magistrate's Court where four workers of the brick field, arrested on March 16 on charge of killing co-worker Mozammel Haque, 28, gave their confessional statements. The arrestees are MNB brick field workers Yunus,

Jalil, Alauddin and Kafil Uddin.
The four narrated the horrific tale of the murder before the court. They said as the bricks were not getting proper colour, they and the owners of the MNB brick field, Khalil and Tofayel, made a plan to sacrifice a man to brick kiln following an advice of a foreteller.
As per the plan, the four took Mozammel to Chadni Cinema at Dangi near Baliadanga upazila headquarters in the evening of March 13. After watching a film at the cinema, they started for Lahiri village to have meal at the house of one of their friends.
When they reached

Shahabazpur, Yunus, Jalil, Alauddin and Kafil tied up Mozammel's hands and legs and beheaded him. They then took the head to the brick field and threw it into a kiln.
After recording their statements, Judicial Magistrate Masud Pervez asked police to put out the fire of the brick field on March 20. According to the court order, police brought fire fighters from the district headquarters who put out the blaze on March 21.
Mozammel's beheaded body was found on a crop field on March 14. Being informed, police recovered the body and sent it to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Four outlaws held in Pabna, bombs, arms recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna
Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four operatives of outlawed PBCP (Janajudha) and recovered five bombs and firearms from them at Shimulchara village in Ataikula upazila of Pabna district on Wednesday night.
Acting on a tip, a team of Rab-12 from Pabna camp raided Shimulchara village

on Wednesday evening when the outlawed criminals were holding a secret meeting and preparing to commit crimes.
As the elite force cordoned the outlaws at the house of Md Abdur Mannan of Shimulchara village the criminals tried to escape. Rab men arrested four criminals from the spot while a few others managed to escape, Rab said.
The arrestees are Mostafa Pramanik, 35, Abdul Karim

Sheikh, 28, and Md Mojam Pramanik, 30, of Durgapur village and Md Idris Mollah, 33, of Shimulchara village in Ataikula upazila.
Rab recovered five bombs, two shutter guns and three bullets from them.
The arrestees belong to outlawed PBCP (Janajudha) and they are facing several criminal cases, Rab said.
Rab handed the arrestees to Ataikula Police Station.

AL-BNP CLASH 40 injured, 5 houses attacked in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura
At least 40 people were injured, 14 of them seriously and five houses ransacked during a clash between the supporters of Awami League and BNP at village Kamarpara in Magura Sadar upazila yesterday noon.
Police quoting locals said, a longstanding rivalry over establishing supremacy in the locality had been prevailing between AL leader Rejaul Molla and BNP leader Kuddus Molla.
The clash erupted yesterday following an altercation over a trifling issue between the BNP supporter Shahadat Molla and AL supporter Rafikul Islam.
Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash that

continued for about one hour from 12:10pm. At one stage, the two groups attacked their rivals' houses and ransacked five houses.
On information, Magura Sadar police rushed to the spot to bring the situation under control.
Seriously injured in the clash are Asgar Ali, 32, Kabir Hossain, 28, Touhidur Rahman, 25, Rejaul Islam, 30, Akidul, 26, Nargis Begum, 27, Rakibul Islam, 65, Ahad Ali, 24, Rafikul Islam, 66, Baharul Islam, 26, Arshadul, 23, Belayet Ali, 55, and Lutfur Rahman 65.
They were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital while Moslem Biswas, 45, was sent to Bangabandhu Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

LIMA MURDER IN RAJSHAHI Charges framed against 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
A court here yesterday framed charges against three people in Rajshahi University (RU) student Lima Parvin Mishma murder case.
Judge M Zahidul Islam of Women and Children Repression Prevention Court-2 framed charges against Mishma's husband Anisur Rahman, father-in-law Abdul Malek and mother-in-law Anjara Begum.
Mishma, a student of Management department, was tortured to death at her in-law's house at Jagirpara under Puthia upazila on June 10 last year. The murder sparked protests in the city.
Different organisations staged rallies and formed human chains in the city



Lima Parvin Mishma demanding trial of the killers as Mishma's in-laws attempted to cover up the incident circulating it as a case of suicide, said Public Prosecutor Ismat Ara.
Police later pressed charges against the three for instigating Mishma to commit suicide instead of bringing charges of murder for dowry.

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Challenging the charge sheet, Mishma's father Taslim Uddin submitted a no-confidence petition with the court and demanded judicial probe into the incident on November 15, 2009.
The court then ordered metropolitan magistrate Asaf-ud Dowla to investigate the matter. After investigation, Asaf-ud Dowla submitted a report to the court on January 11 this year revealing that Lima was tortured to death for dowry.
Rajshahi University chapter of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad has employed additional lawyers to conduct the case, said the chapter's general secretary Mahbuba Kanij Keya.

300 shops, houses gutted in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban
At least 300 shops and houses were gutted in a fire at a market in Alikadam upazila early yesterday.
Witnesses said, the fire originated in a shop at about 2:45am and soon engulfed the adjacent establishments, mostly shops.
Two fire fighting units

from Cox's Bazaar and Chokoria, army personnel from Alikadam cantonment, police and local people rushed to the spot and doused the fire at about 6:30 in the morning.
The reason behind the fire could not be known immediately.
The extent of damage caused by the fire was estimated at Tk 5 crore, Alikadam

police said after a preliminary investigation.
Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board Bir Bahadur, who visited the spot, said corrugated iron sheets will be distributed among the victims soon.
In Thanchi upazila, nine dwelling houses were gutted in separate fire incidents at tribal dominated Baganpara and T&T Para yesterday,

according to UNB.
Witnesses said, the fire originated from an oven of a kitchen and engulfed six adjoining houses in Baganpara.
In another fire incident in T&T Para, two more houses were gutted, they added.
In Noakhali, at least 14 business establishments were gutted at Khalifar Hat in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

Witnesses said, the fire originated from a stove of a tea stall at about 1am and soon engulfed the adjoining shops.
On information, fire fighters from Maizdi rushed in and doused the blaze after one hour of frantic efforts with the help of local people.
Victim shop owners claimed that goods worth Tk 1 crore were gutted in the blaze.

২৬ মার্চ মহান স্বাধীনতা ও জাতীয় দিবস

স্বাধীনতা যুদ্ধের বীর সেনানীদের প্রতি আমাদের শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি

সম্মানিত গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক, শুভানুধ্যায়ী ও দেশবাসীকে জানাই স্বাধীনতা দিবসের শুভেচ্ছা

সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
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