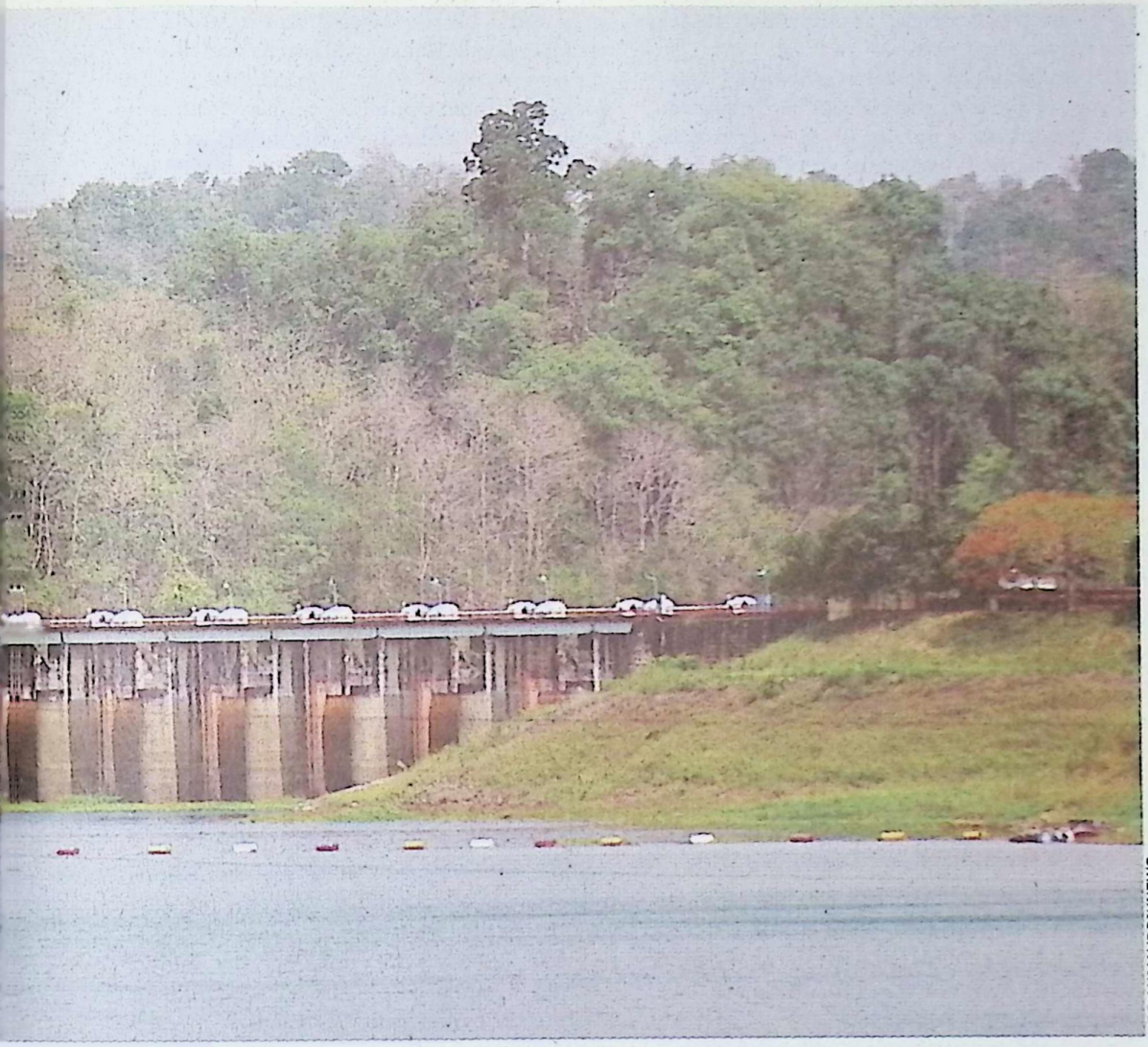


RSC ANJAN/DRIKNEWS

Could you explain the background to the current power crisis?

The cumulative failure of various governments, and their policies and their implementation abilities, in the energy sector as a whole, and in the power in particular, [have led to the current crisis].

If you see from 2001 till date there has not been a single large power project that has been implemented, either by the private sector because of the non-allowance of government to set it up, or by the public sector itself because of their incapacity.

Are there any short-term solutions to our power problems?

We must have a short-term view, mid-term view, and long-term view. The challenge is where do you focus more? In my opinion, the government and people of Bangladesh should focus on the long-term vision, because the demand supply gap is so high -- it is about 2,000 megawatts. Thus it cannot be resolved with short-term solutions.

Short-term relief can be given as a process of resolving this crisis. The government must implement combine cycle base load power plants, which are large in nature, perhaps 500, 600 or 350 megawatts and above.

If they are able to start implementing these and say that they will be completed in 2012/13/14, then they will also need to have some rental power projects, which are short-term in nature to see through the time till the larger projects are done.

What role do you think the private sector has to play in power generation in Bangladesh?

In the modern economic concept of free market economy, the entire economy is supposed to be led by the private sector. Power or energy or infrastructure is only part of those, so certainly