

No relief from loadshedding

Chittagong faces 8 hours of power cut daily

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

The people in Chittagong are experiencing loadshedding of seven to eight hours a day due to disruption in power generation for lack of sufficient gas supply and fall of water level at Kaptai Lake.

Sources in Chittagong PDB said against the total demand of 650MW, three power units, including two rental power plants, generate 240MW to 250MW power in the daytime while three other units operate during the peak hours of night to add 100MW.

The national grid contributes around 150MW in the daytime and 50MW at the nighttime to lessen the loadshedding, said the sources.

The situation has started worsening since May 5 after the Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company (Kafco) has resumed its operation and supply of gas has decreased in the gas fired 420MW capacity Raozan Thermal Power Plant.

The 210MW capacity unit-2 of the Raozan plant now generates 180MW

power on an average due to inadequate gas supply, said Chittagong PDB Chief Engineer (Generation) Abu Taher.

"After resumption of operation at the Kafco we had to stop generation at one of the two 210MW-capacity units and are now generating 180MW with only 40 million cubic feet (mcf) to 45 mcf gas," Taher said, adding that it requires 90mcf to 100mcf to run both the units at a time.

On the other hand, due to fall at water level at Kaptai Lake, three, out of five power units of the Karnaphuli Hydro Power Station, now generate 100MW power only at the nighttime as against their capacity of 130MW, sources said.

The water level at Kaptai Lake was 75msl (mean sea level) on Monday while the plant needs 109msl of water to run all the five units, they said. The water level below 70msl causes shut-down of generation at the plant completely, they added.

However, unit-3 and unit-4, each having capacity of 50MW remained closed since May, 2008 and January this year respectively for rehabilitation

works that contributed much to the loadshedding further worsened by gas crisis, said the sources.

The 55MW-capacity rental plant of Energies Power Corporation at Shikalbaha, on the other bank of the river Karnaphuli, is generating around 50MW power while 24MW-capacity plant of Regent Power 20MW for over 5.20 lakh subscribers of vast areas of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban under Chittagong PDB.

Meanwhile, the 116MW-capacity Shikalbaha Plant is lying idle for around six months due to lack of gas supply, PDB sources said.

Taher said the situation will improve if it rains heavily raising the water level at the Kaptai and unit-3 and unit-4 of the Hydro Plant resume generation.

Benefits from the state-run gas-fired 150MW Peaking Power Plant at the Shikalbaha, which is expected to go into generation next month (June), will depend on availability of gas, he added.



A student studies by candlelight during loadshedding in the port city. The photo was taken on Monday.

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Ctg eye hospital comes to aid of diabetic patients

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex (CEITC) that has been a relief to the eye patients over the last 26 years now comes up with a new project to provide eye-care to diabetic patients who are very much susceptible to different eye diseases, particularly diabetic retinopathy.

The new project titled "Diabetic retinopathy education, training and treatment" has been taken with the cooperation of World Diabetic Foundation (WDF) and Helen Keller International (HKI).

Under the project CEITC would give

treatment to diabetic retinopathy patients, impart proper knowledge to both the patients and their attendances about different aspects of the disease through counselling.

It would also prepare eye-care professionals, including ophthalmologists, with proper training under the project to help gradual expansion of such eye-care service to retinopathy patients, said the sources in CEITC.

Primarily Feni Diabetic Hospital has been included in the project while the other district diabetic hospitals and eye-care centres would be brought under a network and activities of this project, they said.

"We have already launched primary

activities of providing treatment in latest tele medicine system through internet under the project set up in collaboration with international organisations like WDF and HKI in Bangladesh for providing treatment to eye disease resulting from diabetes," said CEITC Managing Trustee Prof Dr Rabiul Husain.

"To help diagnose retinopathy and provide timely treatment under the project patients suffering from diabetes for the last five years in the enlisted hospitals would undergo screening. If any one is found attacked with Diabetic Retinopathy there are arrangements to provide him treatment under the pro-

ject," said Prof Rabiul.

Sources said equipped with latest surgical and other necessary instruments and facilities the hospital, locally known as Pahartali eye hospital, provided treatment to over 31 lakh patients and conducted surgical operation restoring eyesight to 3.25 lakh patients over the last 26 years since 1983.

The hospital at present has strength to conduct 16,000 surgeries and provide eye treatment to three lakh out patients every year, they said.

CEITC conducts surgical operations on some 70 eye-patients in six modern and spacious Operation Theatres (OTs), with over ten patients

being operated upon in each OT daily, said the sources.

The hospital has arrangement to conduct cornea transplantation with the help of an international eye bank. The US-based ORBIS related itself with the service of the hospital providing electronic and other apparatus for the paediatric department and training up manpower for the hospital.

The paediatric department is designed to have inter-link with some high standard US eye centres to get advice and suggestion for the treatment of critical diseases.

Alongside institutional treatments the CEITC also provides treatment and

eye care services through different outreach activities.

To help further expansion and ensure quality eye treatment, the hospital introduced different post-graduate courses recognised both at home and abroad. It is also approved for conducting FCPS courses and providing certificates for Diploma in Community Ophthalmology (DCO) and four-year BSC (graduate) Optometry Course under Chittagong University, said the sources.

Besides, it has been running different training courses to help develop workforces and eye-care professionals, said the sources.

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Students of Frobel Play School perform at the graduation ceremony of the school at Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) auditorium on Friday.

Graduation ceremony held

The graduation ceremony 2010 of Frobel Play School was held on Friday amid enthusiasm.

Bangladesh Steel Re-rolling Mills (BSRM) Director Hossain Taher Ali was the chief guest at the ceremony held at Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC).

Principal Huwra Zohair made the address of welcome at the programme. Twenty-two students of KG-2 of the school received certificates.

Later, a colourful cultural programme was held participated by the students of the Frobel School and Borhani BSRM School.

'Make ACC more stronger to fight graft'

Speakers underscored the need for making the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) independent and neutral in true sense so that the organisation can work as an assisting force of the government in combating corruption.

They said the cabinet's approval to amend the anti-corruption law 2004 would make the anti-graft body ineffective and powerless only to further spread corruption in the administration.

They were speaking at a rally following a human chain formed in front of Chittagong Press Club on Tuesday.

Shachetan Nagorik Committee (Shanak), an organisation of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Yes Group, a non-government organisation, jointly organised the human chain.

Activists of different organisations and professionals from different sectors participated in the human chain.

Shanak Chittagong Convener Advocate Akhter Kabir Chowdhury, Sujon Chittagong Convener Prof Sikander Khan, Shanak member Shahriar Khaled and Yes Group coordinator Pias spoke among others.

Robi Debate Championship ends

Sider International School and North South University (NSU) became champions at school

and college levels in the final rounds of Robi Debate Championship.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen was the chief guest at the prize giving ceremony held at the Theatre Institute Chittagong on Saturday.

Drishy, a cultural and educational organisation, organised the competition in association with mobile phone operator Robi.

Robi Head of Communications and Media Regional Manager Didarul Ala was the special guest at the ceremony with Sunshine Grammar School Principal and Drishy adviser Safia Gazi Rahman in the chair.

The minister said students would be able to achieve logical views through participating in the debate competitions.

"It is essential to help our children to be more logical since a logical person doesn't need to involve in violent activities," he said.

The competition featured 10th Inter-school English Debate, First Children Debate (English) and 4th Inter-university National English Debates where students from 12 English medium schools of Chittagong and 10 public and private universities across the country took part.

Call to ease traffic congestion

State Minister for Environment and Forests Hasan Mahmud urged the CMP traffic department to function with more responsibility to prevent increasing traffic jam in Chittagong.

He underscored the need for long-term plans along side raising the public awareness to solve the problem before the situation deteriorates further.

He was addressing as the chief guest a roundtable titled "Commercial capital Chittagong: Gridlock and solution" held on the second day of the three-day founding anniversary celebration of Institution of Engineers

Bangladesh (IEB) on Saturday at IEB Chittagong auditorium.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakha (Rajuk) Chairman Nurul Huda was the special guest at the roundtable moderated by IEB Chittagong Chairman Delwar Hossain Majumder.

Engineer Subhash Barua presented the keynote paper at the seminar while IEB Chittagong Honourary Secretary Sadek Mohammad Chowdhury made the address of welcome.

Speakers made several recommendations including setting up of three bus terminals in Oxygen, Karnaphuli Bridge and Citygate areas

and a truck terminal and introducing school buses in every school for carrying students to reduce the gridlock at different city points.

Executive Vice President of Forum for Planned Chittagong (FPC) ABMA Baset, former chief engineer of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Sultan Mahmud, town planner and former IEB Chittagong Chairman M Ali Ashraf, Prof Dr Swapan Kumar Palit of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet), Deputy Commissioner of CMP Traffic Department Faruk Ahmed, FPC member Architect Zarina Hossain took part in the discussion.

'Take effective steps to stop hill cutting'

Speakers urged the government to take effective steps to stop hill cutting in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.

They said due to indifferent attitude of the administration and lack of proper steps by the law enforcement agencies, a section of people are engaged in razing hills posing a threat to environment.

They were addressing a rally following a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club

(CPC) on Sunday.

Environmental organisations Jono Udyog, People's Voice and Nagorik Moitree jointly organised the human chain participated by a number of activists of different non-government organisations.

Speakers said miscreants are cutting hills in different areas of the port city, including Salimpur, Islampur and South Khulshi and Marine Drive Road in Cox's Bazar.

People's Voice chief adviser Prof Md Idris Ali presided over the rally where Jono Udyog coordinator Sharif Chouhan, Ferdous Ahmed of Nagorik Moitree, Chittagong Environment Journalist Forum General Secretary Aliur Rahman, Jubo Red Crescent Chittagong College unit chief Swapan Uddin Mahmud and former president of Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri Kaiser Alam spoke among others.



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Three environmental organisations - Jono Udyog, People's Voice and Nagorik Moitree-form a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club on Sunday demanding steps a stop illegal hill cutting in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.