

CCC gets back power after bill payment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The power supply to Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) building was restored at around 6:00pm yesterday -- 26 hours after Power Development Board (PDB), Chittagong disconnected the supply line for non-payment of bills.

CCC chief engineer Abul Hasnat confirmed the incident saying the power supply to its main building at Anderkilla was disconnected at around 4:00pm on Monday.

Sources in PDB said they disconnected the power supply line for non-payment of an accumulated bill of Tk 10 lakh.

CCC did not pay any bill in the last four months alongside refraining from clearing the previous dues, they alleged.

The power was restored

after CCC paid a cheque of Tk 4.45 lakh as a part of the bill yesterday, said the sources.

PDB chief engineer Sujit Chakma said, "CCC chief engineer assured us today in a meeting of making payment of the rest including surcharges soon after the new mayor takes his office."

"We usually disconnect power line if outstanding bills are not paid by the June-closing," he said.

"The government organisations usually clear the outstanding or arrear bills by June 20. But, CCC did not pay the dues though we served notices along with bills," he claimed.

Earlier, CCC chief engineer alleged that PDB cut off the power supply without any prior notice which caused immense suffering.

Judicial investigation

FROM PAGE 1
BNPPP placed the demands and explained BNP's stance on its absence from the House proceedings for 21 consecutive sittings.

He blamed the ruling party for their absence from this current budget session of the House.

BNP led opposition lawmakers joined the inaugural sitting of the budget session on June 2, but walked out of the House protesting closure of the daily Amar Dosh and arrest of its acting editor Mahmudur Rahman. They did not return to the House till yesterday.

Flanked by a dozen of BNP lawmakers, Farroque said, "We want to return to the parliament. Now the government will have to demonstrate their sincerity to meet our demands."

He said the government itself is not sincere to bring the opposition lawmakers back to parliament. If it is so, it could have accepted at least one of the opposition lawmakers' notices for holding discussion in parliament on the national

issue, he added.

Farroque also demanded release of its party men arrested during the hartal and withdrawal of all cases filed against them.

He said BNP lawmaker Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annee's "fighting for life" as he was seriously injured when bricks hit his chest during the hartal.

"We have met the speaker and he assured us of sending Annee abroad for better treatment," said Farroque.

The opposition chief whip along with some BNP lawmakers met Speaker Abdul Hamid at his office on Monday.

Meanwhile, BNP secretary general Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday also demanded judicial enquiry into the attacks on its party leaders during Sunday's hartal.

He said police investigation in this regard will not be acceptable, as neutral enquiry will not be possible by them.

Delwar was addressing a rally organised by Jatiyatobadi Sechchasebok Dal in front of BNP's Nayapalton office.

'Custodial' death

FROM PAGE 16

The victim's family members alleged that Babul seized two CNG-run auto rickshaws, which Babul took on hire. They also alleged that Sub-Inspector (SI) Altaf Hossain of Ramna Police Station demanded Tk 2 lakh in exchange of returning the auto rickshaws.

They said Babul gave SI Altaf Tk 70,000 in two installments last week. When he refused to give rest of the money, Altaf and his colleagues beat him to death, they alleged.

But police claimed that when running to escape from police custody Babul fell onto the road and received injuries on his head around 11:30pm on Monday. He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died at 12:30am yesterday.

DMCH morgue sources said Babul Kazi died of head injuries.

Police said they went to nab Babul, as there was an allegation that he had stolen the auto rickshaws.

Rab earlier on June 17 recov-

ered three stolen auto rickshaws, including the two, from Moghbazar Gabtoli area and arrested five persons in this connection, said police adding that later a case was filed with the police and SI Altaf Hossain was appointed the investigation officer (IO) of the case.

Police said following confession statement of the arrestees, police was trying to arrest Babul Kazi.

SI Altaf could not be reached yesterday but OC of the police station Shibly Noman told The Daily Star that Altaf Hossain is the IO of the case and he was on night duty on the spot.

He said seeing Babul, Altaf picked him up and was interrogating him. In an attempt to escape the police, Babul started running and got hurt. Later, he succumbed to his injuries at DMCH, claimed the OC.

OC Shibly also said a three-member enquiry committee, headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner of DMP Ramna division Nurul Islam, has been formed to probe the incident.

Rare rental record

FROM PAGE 16

initialised contract for another diesel-fired 100 MW plant. All diesel-based plants are supposed to be commissioned within four months of signing final agreement and sell power on a three-year contract.

Aggreko signed the final contract on May 20. But by that time, the company took all initiatives to mobilise plant equipment and start the projects as quickly as possible in response to a request from the government.

"Now they have mobilised equipment both at Ghorashal and Khulna sites and started partial operation at both the sites to generate 100 MW power from today or tomorrow," said a PDB source. "This means Aggreko will set an example of launching a power plant within 40 days of signing contracts."

The British company would begin generation of the remaining 100 MW in early August.

the delay of other contractors in signing final deals, a top PDB official told The Daily Star that the government would not wait for these companies for long. The contractors would be given a deadline to sign the contracts or face cancellation of those.

The power ministry today sits with all rental power companies which are either implementing projects or have initialised deals with the government. The meeting will review progress of the projects and also put pressure on the slow moving contractors.

The other companies which have initialised contracts include Desh Energy (100 MW), Northern Power Solution Ltd (50 MW), Bangladesh Diesel Plant Ltd & Primordial Energy Ltd & Aggretech AG, Germany (50MW), APR Energy Ltd (40 MW), IEL Consortium (100 MW), Sinha Power Company (50 MW), Dutch-Bangla Power Ltd (100 MW) and BanglaTech (100 MW).

Expressing frustration over

Ershad renews alliance loyalty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad in parliament yesterday expressed his unflinching loyalty to the Awami League-led grand alliance.

Participating in a discussion on the proposed budget for the next fiscal year, the former president said Jatiya Party is and will be with the grand alliance.

"Please do not disbelieve me. I will be the first person to be hanged if the grand alliance fails [sic]," said Ershad, who is considered as an unpredictable character in politics although his party plays a significant role in the alliance.

"Bangladesh will again sink into darkness if the grand alliance fails [to perform]," he added.

Big challenge is waiting, said Ershad, adding that the current government would fall if it failed to realise its electoral pledges.

For the last few months, Ershad and his party deputies had been expressing frustration over their relation with Awami League saying the AL-led alliance ran the country without consulting with its partners.

Ershad's yesterday's speech was greatly appreciated by the treasury bench and they welcomed it thumping on desks.

The Jatiya Party chief lauded a number of ministers including Matia Chowdhury, Abdur Razzaque, Syed Abul Hossain and Faruk Khan for their performance.

He, however, expressed dissatisfaction over poor implementation of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) in the current fiscal year.

He said political failure is responsible for the poor implementation rather than bureaucracy.

Earlier this week, Rashed Khan Menon of Bangladesh Workers Party and Hasanul Haque Inu of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal criticised the grand alliance in the parliament for not consulting with them on important national issues.

Another Nimtoli victim dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another victim of the Nimtoli blaze succumbed to her injuries at the capital's Combined Military Hospital (CMH) yesterday.

With this, the death toll from the fire rose to 122.

The deceased, Lipi Ara Begum, 30, had suffered burns over 40 percent of her body. She died at 4:00pm, said Major Reza, a doctor at CMH.

No more details could be known immediately.

Chy Alam picked up by Rab

Claims Khoka, demands his release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka yesterday demanded DCC ward councillor and BNP central leader Chowdhury Alam be immediately released or produced before a court.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, he claimed that plain-clothes members of Rapid Action Battalion arrested Alam also president of BNP Ramna unit at the city's Farmgate area on June 25.

Walid Hossain, additional police commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, however, rejected the claim, declaring that law enforcement agencies did not arrest Alam.

Khoka urged the authorities to produce Alam before the court without further delay, as his family members remain worried being unable to trace his whereabouts.

The mayor alleged that Rab members apprehended Alam by halting his car at Farmgate around 9:00pm on June 25, two days prior to the June 27 hartal.

A general diary has been filed with the Gulshan Police Station.

The mayor urged the prime minister and home minister to take necessary measures to track down Alam or produce him before the court if he has been detained.

"He may be brought under trial if he committed a crime but he cannot just disappear without an explanation," he added.

Alam's family members and a few DCC councillors were also present at the press conference.

Earlier on June 25 UNB released a news item quoting BNP leader Emran Saleh Prince who said Chowdhury Alam was arrested from Naya Palton at 9:30pm while leaving the party's central office.

Jamaat trio held

FROM PAGE 1

demanding immediate release of the detainees.

Meanwhile, ruling Awami League's Joint General Secretary Mahabubul Haque Hanif said the Jamaat leaders were arrested on specific allegations, and there was no political motive behind the move.

A team of Detective Branch (DB) police picked up Jamaat Ameer Nizami from in front of the National Press Club in the capital around 5:00pm, when he went there to participate in a discussion organised by the National Doctors' Forum.

About an hour earlier, a team of Ashulia police arrested Jamaat secretary general also former social welfare minister, Mojahid, from Savar. A top DB official said Mojahid was arrested as he was fleeing the town, but a Jamaat media release claimed that he was going to Faridpur. He was taken to Ashulia police station in the immediate aftermath of the arrest.

Another DB team picked up Jamaat Nayebe Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayeede from his Shaheed Bagh residence in the capital around 5:30pm.

All three were finally taken to DB's Minto Road office in the capital between 5:30pm and 7:30pm. DB sources said the arrestees would be kept in that office until they were produced before a court.

"The detective branch and Ashulia police arrested the three Jamaat leaders, executing the arrest warrants issued by a Dhaka court," DB Deputy Commissioner Monirul Islam told The Daily Star in the evening.

On March 21, Syed Rejaul Haque Chandpuri, secretary general of Bangladesh Tarikat Federation, filed a case with a metropolitan magistrate's court in Dhaka against the four Jamaat, and one Shibir leaders, accusing them of hurting religious sentiment of the Muslims.

The case stated that Dhaka City Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Rafiqul Islam Khan, at a discussion in the city on March 17, put Nizami at a par with Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), which hurt the Muslims' religious sentiment.

Nizami had also been arrested on May 18, 2008 in connection with the Gatco graft case following an arrest warrant. Mojahid is also accused in the case.

Both of them are also accused in the Barapukuria coal mine graft case, but they were granted bail in the case, all proceedings of which have been stayed by an HC order.

The two are also accused in two murder cases, filed with Keraniganj and Pallabi police stations, in connection with killing of freedom fighters and general public during the coun-

Khoka

FROM PAGE 16

around 8:20pm.

"The ACC official mentioned in the case statement that the mayor, also a vice-president of BNP, recruited a huge number of officials and employees through illegal ways from October 18, 2006 to November 20, 2006. Due to the illegal and fake recruitment, the DCC has to incur a huge financial loss with paying the recruited persons", the OC said.

According to Shahbagh police, the case was filed under section 5/2 of the Anti Corruption Act 1947 and section 109 of the Penal Code.

No registration

FROM PAGE 1

preservation and removal) Rules, 2008.

Rajuk Chairman Engineer Md Nurul Huda told BSS that registration of private land developers have been made mandatory to provide planned building construction services to the city dwellers by implementing the country's existing building code.

Real estate companies and other private land developers, who are still out of Rajuk enlistment, he said, would not get any approval from now on for making plots and constructing apartments in the metropolitan area.

Nurul Huda said, "We have already published cautionary notices for prospective buyers of plots and apartments and asked them to confirm first whether the real estate companies have Rajuk registration."

The Rajuk chairman said, "We want to bring all land developers under the laws but those who will not abide by the rules and resolution of the capital development authority to get any information about the approval of plots and apartments before buying them from private land developers and real estate and housing companies."

try's liberation war in 1971. The cases were filed in 2007 and 2008.

Our staff correspondent reported from Chittagong that police were put on high alert there to avert any possible untoward incident in the port city following the arrests yesterday.

Police dispersed a march of Jamaat-Shibir activists at Bakolia in the evening, and arrested three marchers.

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) yesterday evening issued a red alert to maintain law and order in the north-western city after the arrests, reported our Rajshahi staff correspondent.

RMP Commissioner M Nawsher Ali said the alert was issued to avert any untoward incident.

In Rangpur town, police dispersed a Jamaat-Shibir march, and arrested one Jamaat and one Shibir activists.

Nightmare

FROM PAGE 1

Begum told this correspondent while weeping.

The government is bearing his medical expenses from Monday, she mentioned.

Faruque had left home with his friends Sumon and Foyzal to look for a job at Mohakhali. On their way back in Foyzal's car, they stopped near Moghbazar level crossing and Foyzal got down to buy something. Suddenly a group of people rushed towards the car, poured petrol on it and set fire. Faruque and Sumon managed to come out of the blazing car with much difficulty.

Sumon is also under treatment at the burn unit with injuries on his hands and neck. He will take about two months to recover, said doctors at the unit.

Meanwhile, the condition of Abul Kashem, another hartal victim admitted to Square Hospital with head injuries, improved a little, doctors said yesterday.

Kashem, superintendent engineer of Public Works Department, was operated upon and kept at Neuro Intensive Care Unit. Doctors withdrew his ventilation support partially after 48 hours.

"He is still unconscious but he can breathe without being entirely supported by ventilator. This means his condition is improving," said Khandaker Abu Talha, consultant of Neurosurgery department at Square Hospital.

Arrest

FROM PAGE 1

station, told reporters they were closing off the office so that none can cause any trouble by bringing out processions or holding rallies.

At the briefing, Maqbul said the case in which the three have been arrested is "trivial". It was filed on the basis of a report that misquoted Rafiqul Islam Khan speaking at a discussion.

Nizami and Mojahid were not even present at the programme, he said adding that some "ill political motive" must be behind their detention.

"Fresh programmes will be announced if the leaders are not released tomorrow [Wednesday]," he said.

ATM Azharul Islam, assistant secretary general of Jamaat, said police could not show any arrest warrant and it was certainly a breach of law.

LAWACHHARA RESERVE FOREST

Logging goes unabated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A gang of illegal loggers yesterday beat up a forest officer and snatched 55 cubic feet of valuable teak from the forest patrol team of Moulvibazar's Lawachhara Reserve Forest.

Range Officer (RO) AKM Azharul Islam of wildlife and nature preservation wing of forest department told The Daily Star that on Saturday night a gang of timber smugglers fled the forest range leaving 55 cubic feet of teak near Bharaura-Khaichhara road of Srimongal, sensing presence of the patrol team.

When the team was loading those timbers into a jeep, the group returned to the spot after gaining strength.

They attacked the forest officials and took away the logs after beating the RO.

Md Abdullah, Officer-in-Charge of Srimongal police station said Md Shajahan Ali, Forest Beat Officer of Lawachhara Reserve Forest, has filed a case against 20 persons including Sadhu Kahar, a well known timber smuggler of the area.

These timbers were being smuggled out of the forest where it is totally prohibited to fell any trees.

The RO said the well-known timber smugglers of the area are Sadhu Kahar, Sontosh Bauri, Sukkur Ali, Kuddus Hazra, and Islam.

He said a total of 51 cases were pending against Sadhu.

Sadarghat

FROM PAGE 16

new system in Sadarghat terminal. It will cut BIWTA's income. But we are more concerned about reducing people's sufferings."

The shipping minister held meetings with BIWTA, workers' bodies, political leaders and businessmen prior to taking the decision.

According to BIWTA rule, the leaseholders are responsible only for handling labourers in the port and loading and unloading goods.

"But leaseholders take out lease on the terminal at a huge amount. They become desperate and charge additional tolls on the passengers forcibly," said BIWTA Chairman Abdul Malek Miah.

He blamed the leaseholders for various offences like snatching, stealing goods from passengers and allowing hawkers in the port.

Beside, leaseholders often default on their dues. In last two fiscal years, the BIWTA got only around two-thirds of Tk 6.5 crore lease payment, said Mahubul Alam, port director of BIWTA.

"Whenever we serve notice cancelling the lease, leaseholders go to the court and get an extension of time. And such cases remain pending for years," he said.

According to the new system, the Passenger Terminal Bhaban will be staffed by some 100 members of different water transport workers' organisations.

Registered with BIWTA, the workers will wear uniform and carry ID cards during working hours.

However, Simpson Ghat, Wiseghat and parking yard will together be leased out. Loading and unloading of commercial goods will be held through these three points of the river port.

The BIWTA has already taken initiative to finalise the estimated value of leasing these points.

Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 16

an unauthorised housing project, includes agricultural land, a canal, and some other categories of land, according to the information at the planning division of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk).

It however was inadvertently mentioned in the news report that the project is in a flood flow zone.

"The project has no approval," said Md Nurul Huda, chairman of Rajuk, though required under Private Housing Projects Land Development Rules of 2004.

Mahatabur Rahman, when contacted, admitted that they have not got the approval, saying his project got a conditional permission along with four others.

A parliamentary committee in last September asked the housing ministry to scrap five housing projects including Shornali Abason, as those failed to meet required pre-conditions.

The 75-acre Shornali Abason was required to conserve the canal, build a 40 feet service road, raise the land above flood flow level, have adequate land ownership, and obtain all clearance certificates from agencies concerned, said Rajuk officials.

The project stands as scrapped, as it failed to meet the requirements, said Nurul Huda.

JURAIN SUICIDE Driver retracts early statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Driver Al Amin yesterday backtracked on his earlier statement regarding deaths of Farzana Akhter Rita and her two children, investigators say.

Earlier, investigators quoted Al Amin as telling them during interrogation that he bought sedatives, was present during deaths of the three and confirmed Farzana's death by pressing her breath.

Amin in his confessional statement yesterday told a magistrate he was responsible for the sedatives but was not present when the mother and her children died.

Investigation officer (IO) of the case Sheikh Mahbubur Rahman said Amin only confessed that he went to Abdul Gaffar's pharmacy on May 4 and bought 10 strips of sedatives at Tk 1,450.

Mahbubur said during interrogation Amin confessed to being the lone witness to the deaths of the three and pressing the mother's mouth to confirm her death.

During quizzing, Amin made several confusing statements regarding the roles he along with others played but denied all but buying the sedatives, the IO added.

Earlier, Gaffar in his statement, recorded under section 164, also said Al Amin had bought the sedatives from his store.

Both Amin and Gaffar in their confessional statements to the magistrates said Farzana requested the druggist over cellphone after he refused her

driver.

The IO said in the autopsy report no sign of strangulation was found, though Amin initially said he pressed Farzana's mouth to confirm her death.

The investigators say they have now detected the case and are making arrangements for recording the arrestees' statements under section 164.

The interrogators say they have received the autopsy report on Monday which reads, "Death due to respiratory failure from ingestion of Benzo Diazepines".

According to the CID handwriting experts, the suicide notes and the writings on the walls were written by Farzana, Pabon and Payel, say the investigators.

Law enforcers have arrested nine people so far including Al Amin and Gaffar in this connection. Of them, Gaffer was sent to jail, while the rest were remanded for different terms.

The bodies of Farzana, Pabon and Payel were found in their Jurain house on June 11. The very night Farzana's mother Mazeda filed a case with Kadamtoli police against eight people under women and child repression prevention act.

PM visits

FROM PAGE 1

Health Minister A F M Ruhul Haque, Health Adviser to the PM Prof Modasser Ali, State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan, among others, accompanied the Prime Minister.

Adabar boy murder

FROM PAGE 16

the news of Samiul's missing over loudspeaker."

He said Arif gave false information before law enforcers and the media to hide the truth behind the killing and save some others.

Commander Mohammad Sohail, legal and media wing director of Rab, yesterday said it is certain that Arif was involved in the killing but giving wrong information in fear.

"Samiul's mother might have not aided Arif in killing her son," said Sohail.

In earlier statement before the media, Arif said he and Humayra together killed the boy in the early hours on June 20.

The body of Samiul was found in a sack in the morning of June 24. That night father of the child Azam filed a murder case with Adabar Police Station accusing his wife Humayra, Arif and some unknown people.

Maldives

FROM PAGE 16

the office of President Mohamed Nasheed said. It said the president will remain in office.

"The majlis is preventing cabinet ministers from performing their legal obligations," Nasheed, 43, said in a statement. "Majlis members are behaving against the spirit and the letter of the constitution."

Attorney general Husn Suood said it was becoming difficult to govern the archipelago of 330,000 Sunni Muslims.

"Every passing week, there is another attempt by opposition MPs to wrestle more