

KAPTAI HYDROPOWER PLANT

# Generation drops to less than half

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

The country's lone hydro-power plant in Kaptai with a production capacity of 230 megawatts (MW) of electricity is now generating only 96 MW as only two of its units out of five are currently in operation. The remaining three units are out of order, sources said, adding that unit number four will be activated shortly. The two other units will be restored soon, engineer Ferdous Ali, manager of Kaptai Hydroelectric Power Plant (KHPP) told The Daily Star yesterday. Only units two and five are currently in operation, he added. Two foreign companies--Italian and Japanese are carrying out the repair work worth Tk 388 crore. The government will pay back the total

amount to the companies within the next 40 years, said Ali. Jalal Uddin, project director of KHPP, said the restoration works are going at a snail pace due to frequent changes of companies, which were appointed for repair works. Power production remained standstill for the last fifteen days as unit one also went out of order. Every year power generation in the KHPP comes down to 10-20 MW during dry season due to a drastic fall in the Mean Sea Level (MSL), which needs to remain at least 88 ft. In dry season MSL drops to 68 ft. However, operation resumes in full swing during the monsoon. In spite of having a MSL of 96.45 ft we cannot utilize our capacity to the fullest as three units are currently out of order, said Ferdous Ali. For the last couple of years, mechanical

fault had become a regular phenomenon hampering power production severely. Earlier, in 2008 the government made a contract worth Tk 175 crore with an Italian company for renovating unit three. However, work was halted due to fund constraint of the company. Later, a new contract was made with another Italian company but it failed to complete the job within the stipulated time, which was last June. A couple more months may be needed to activate unit three, sources said. A Japanese company started working on Unit 4 on January 17, 2010. Power generation may resume in the unit shortly. Besides, a contract worth Tk 213 crore was also made with the same company to restore units three and five. They will start working on those as soon as unit four is fully activated.



Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan stages a mock execution of the war criminals in front of the National Eidgah in the city yesterday.



PHOTO: PID

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam administers the oath to the newly elected councillors of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) at the LGRD auditorium in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

# Take lesson from life, thoughts of Sudhangshu Halder

President urges young politicians

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday called upon the country's young politicians to take lesson from the political life and thoughts of late parliamentarian Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder. "Halder was a famous orator and his speeches attracted all... many people would wait with enthusiasm for listening to his speeches," he said at a function marking the unveiling of Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder Memorial Book at Osmani Memorial auditorium in the city. Zillur said as a veteran lawyer Halder was always devoted to the welfare of countrymen. He was a pioneer in serving the humanity. "His qualities like honesty, dutifulness and compassion for the poor were very familiar to the countrymen," he said. Recalling his contribution to education, Zillur said Halder established many schools and colleges. The president said he pleaded in many cases of the poor free of cost. "He extended

his helping hands to many a distressed people." The president expressed his hope that the country's new lawyers would also make their contributions to serving the poor and distressed people taking lesson from Halder's life. "(Sudhangshu Shekhar) Halder was a veteran parliamentarian with versatile talents and also a noted lawyer... a non-communal and secular person," he said. Chief Justice Muhammad Fazlul Karim was present as the special guest at the function with Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury in the chair. Prof Dr Syed Anwar Hossain was the main speaker of the Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder Memorial Book while Halder's wife lawmaker Sadhana Halder gave the address of welcome at

the function. Chief Justice Fazlul Karim in his speech said Halder played an important role during the country's War of Liberation. "Halder was elected member of Bangladesh Bar Council thrice," he said. Recalling his contribution as member of the Press Council, Halder also played a role in ensuring freedom of the press in the country.

# Five killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

At least five people, including a child, were killed in separate road accidents in Chittagong, Munshiganj and Satkhira yesterday. UNB from Chittagong reports: A man and his minor daughter were killed when a speedy bus crushed them at Azimpur in Patiya upazila on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway yesterday. The deceased were identified as Nurul Islam, 32, and Tarina, 7. Local people held the bus even if the driver managed to escape.

Our correspondent from Munshiganj says: At least two people were killed and 35 others injured when a passenger bus rammied into a truck on the Dhaka-Mawa highway in the district early yesterday. The deceased were Jewel, 40, the truck driver and unidentified woman, around 30 years. The injured were taken to local hospitals. The more seriously injured were transferred to different hospitals in Dhaka. Police said a Khulna-bound night coach hit a standing truck at around

4:00am Mawa petrol pump area of Lowhajang upazila of the district. Our correspondent from Satkhira adds: A seven-year-old child was killed in a road accident at Fultala intersection on the Satkhira-Kaliganj road in Debhata upazila yesterday. The child was identified as Sumon, 7, son of Shawkat Ali of Debishahar village of Debhata. A Kaliganj-bound bus hit Sumon, killing him on the spot, while he was crossing the road with his father. Sub-inspector Abdul Bari of Debhata police station confirmed the incident.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan speaks at a reception for golden GPA achievers of SSC and equivalent examinations organised by Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city recently.

# Call to ban Jamaat, Shibir politics

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a roundtable called upon the government to ban the politics of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir to stop the politics of 'communalism and fundamentalism' yesterday. Demanding immediate beginning of the trial of war criminals, they also said time has come to take a final decision to ban the politics of Jamaat-Shibir who are doing politics of murder in the name of democratic rights. Gonotriatic Foundation organised the roundtable on 'Trial of War Criminals and Conspiracy Politics of Opposition Party' at Progoti auditorium in the city. Awami League (AL) presidium member Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun attended the roundtable as the chief guest while former Minister Mohammad Nasim, Publicity and Publications Secretary of Dhaka Metropolitan AL Abdul Haque Shovuz and Organising Secretary of Bangladesh Krishak League MA Karim as the special guests. Convenor of the Foundation Kamal Hossain Mahmud chaired the roundtable. Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun said the government is pledge-bound to trial of the war criminals. He said the countrymen including the young generation are very much vocal on the issue of the war criminals' trial and the government has already initiated the process. The process for the trial of the war criminals is a tough job but the government will complete it within the shortest possible time, he added. He called for national unity to ensure the trial of war criminals, saying there is no major headway in this regard to date. "We must conduct the trial as the people have given us mandate for that," he said. He said the government is approaching the issue very carefully which might make it seem slow. Mohammad Nasim urged the authorities concerned to complete the trial process avoiding any controversy. He said the 1971 war criminals established in business and politics are trying to pressurize the government both nationally and internationally to bar it from holding the trial.

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জিডি-২৯৫১

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