



# Ctg looks for alternative energy

PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

There is hardly any initiative for introducing solar power as alternative to electricity to meet the severe power crisis in the port city.

Chief Engineer (Generation) of the Chittagong Power Development Board (PDB), Shibu Kumar, Chowdhury said during the peak season the daily demand for electricity in Chittagong is around 600MW against the generation of 350MW.

Researchers believe that introduction of solar energy could greatly solve the problem on the long run. Availability of sunny days during the year could be immensely helpful if it is properly tapped through solar panels.

But for lack of proper planning and guidelines by the authorities concerned is keeping the highly potential alternative energy at bay.

With hills, mountains, rivers and islands, Chittagong possesses a unique diversity in the country. Experts believe that solar panels for electricity, especially in households could be set up at every nook and corner in Chittagong division.

The government declared an allocation of Tk 3500 in 2009 as incentive for installing solar systems in rural areas only. To further encourage the alternative power, it also made the solar panel a tax-free product.

"The incentive should also expand to the urban areas as electricity is consumed in much greater volume in the urban households," said

Afsar Kamal, managing director of Grameen Shakti, one of the largest solar power providers in the country.

The Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) in its building code has made it mandatory for new buildings to install solar panels. The government has directed all public and autonomous offices and its residential complexes to install solar panels.

The reflection of the government initiative is almost non-existent in the urban areas of Chittagong. Of the public offices, only Chittagong Zila Parishad has installed solar panels with a capacity of 85 watts for their internal use. They are now working to install a new panel with a capacity of 540 watts on the same premises.

Zila Parishad has also planned to expand the service to the rural people of Chittagong district. In the first phase it has planned to pick two remote areas of Raozan and Rangunia for the project in the first phase. Twenty-eight and 17 religious institutions will be brought under solar energy project in first phase.

Zila Parishad Deputy Secretary Syeda Sarwar Jahan said they are working in two places where there is little scope in the foreseeable future for installing normal electricity.

Five other private organisations are working in Chittagong division but none is taking any initiative to encourage city dwellers to opt for the alternative energy.

They are Grameen Shakti, Padakhep Manabik

Unnayan Kendra, Mukti Cox's Bazar, Purabi and Integrated Development Foundation (IDF).

Officials said the government does not have any programme to promote solar energy in the urban areas where alternative energy is the urgent need of the time.

Afsar Kamal told The Daily Star that the government should wave taxes from all the materials used in the entire procedure of solar power.

Purabi has installed the largest solar panel at Sandwip upazila with a micro grid solar panel of 100 watts, providing electricity to 400 families.

Mohammed Yunus Mia, a resident of Sandwip Sadar, said solar home system is changing the life of his locality. To make the programme successful in the rural areas it is important to reduce the prices, he added.

The service providers said all parts of solar panels are importing from foreign countries which is making the prices high. Nowadays some private organisations are showing interest to establish an industry for manufacturing solar panels which might bring the prices down.

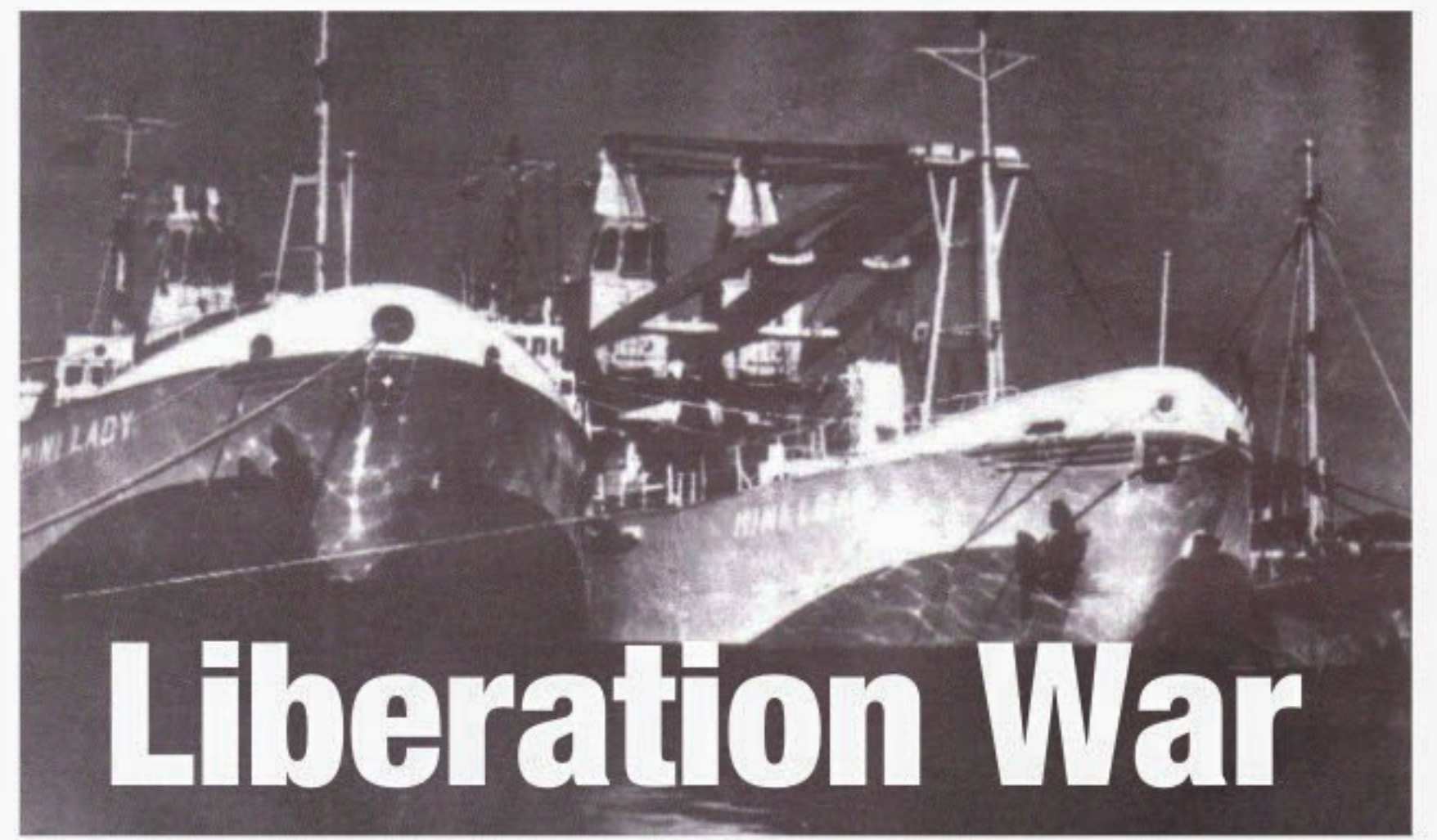
"Government must formulate a rule to keep provisions for solar system in every home parallel to normal electric service," said an official of a service provider.

There are different rates of solar panels in the market. The rates depend on capacity of the panels determined by their watts. Solar panels with power ranging from 10 to 130 watts could cost between Tk 8800 and 65400.



STAR PHOTO

The photograph shows a solar panel installed on the rooftop of Chittagong Zila Parishad building.



# Liberation War Chittagong Port

*Sector Commander Major Rafique directed the first naval commando operation called 'Operation Jackpot' on the ships anchored in Chittagong port during the War of Liberation*

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY

The operation of August 16 in 1971 by the naval commandos in Chittagong port against the Pakistani occupation forces exposed to the world that a guerrilla warfare is going on in the then East Pakistan for the liberation of Bangladesh.

Sector Commander Major Rafique directed the first naval commando operation called 'Operation Jackpot' on the ships anchored in Chittagong port on that day.

W Chowdhury, Dr Shah Alam and Majharulla of three groups of 60 naval commandos led the operation," the operation Sub-Commander Faruk-E-Azam Bir Pratik (BP) told The Daily Star.

Naval Commando was organised as a separate fighting force during the War of Liberation although the Indian forces were generally in command.

Sector commanders were in charge during the operations. Sector Commander Major Rafique conducted the naval commando operations in Chittagong.

Local youths organised the local people for liberation war and formed the naval commandos. Nearly 550 naval commandos, majority of them from Chittagong, were active at different parts in Chittagong.

The youths eager to fight for liberation joined the naval fighters unit. Many of them received training from the freedom fighters (FF). Good swimming skill was a strict precondition to qualify for the naval fighting force.

Their training took place at camps known as Commando Camp at Ambagan in Palashi, India set up on May 26 in 1971. It was known among the commandos as the C-2P.

The main task of the Naval Commando was to destroy ships, barges and other vessels of the occupational forces in the Bay of Bengal and the river Karnaphuli.

At the end of the operation the naval

commander went back to their main outpost.

The trainers at the training camp was Captain Chumunat (Samont) and Lt Col Martis. There were only eight Bangalee trainers in the camp who fled from a submarine Mangno in France.

The commandos, with the help of locals of Port area, launched an attack on the enemy. To set Limpet mines that were brought from India, on the targeted ships was a difficult and lengthy process.

The freedom fighters (FF) began their rehearsal of war and parade in the port area on March 1. Samsuddin, a local leader of then East Bengal Chhatra Union, conducted the rehearsal.

The then Bengal Liberation Front (BLF) Operation Commander, Raisul Huq Bahar said the Pakistani officers and staffs controlled all important sectors of the Chittagong Port. Pakistani occupational army and their collaborators harassed the Bangalee employees and staffs.

"The Pakistani occupation army and Biharis killed over 100 officers and staffs during the war period," Bahar said.

The commander who grew up in the port area recalling his memory said "With the help of Al Badrs and Razakars, the Pakistani forces killed the men like Chief Engineer Shamsuzzaman, Additional Engineer Nur Hossain, Deputy Conservator of the port Golam Ansari Kazi and Genitor Abdul Aziz Khan."

It was difficult to enter the port residential area for the freedom fighters as the non-Bengalees kept control of the area at that time.

The locals of port area and adjoining Halishahar and Patenga helped spontaneously the naval command and freedom fighters after formation of naval commando.

The naval commandos took shelter at Kakali, residence of Enayet Maola and many other spots such as Shabuj Bagh, Jalal Commissioner's house at Agrabad, controlled by Moulovi Sayed.

## the week that was

### Memorial meet on Bhasani held

Speakers said Maulana Bhasani organised many programmes in his political life against fascism and imperialism all over the country.

He was a leader of the oppressed and mass people, they said, adding that Bangladesh now needs a leader like Bhasani.

They were speaking at a memorial discussion on Maulana Bhasani organised by 'Anti-fascism and Imperialism Committee', Chittagong at Maulana Islamabadi Memorial Hall on Friday.

Advocate Bhulan Bhowmik presided over the discussion while Principal Mohammad Hossain Khan, journalist Ali Haider, labour leader Siddikul Islam and Ahmed Jashim spoke on the occasion.

### Udisi CU executives

The fourth conference of Bangladesh Udisi Artist Group, Chittagong University was held at the Chittagong Studio Theatre auditorium on Friday.

A committee for the next two years was formed at the conference as Ershad Kamal Khan as president and Borhan Mahmood as

secretary.

Presided over by Dr Irshad Kamal Khan the conference was addressed among others by Prafulla Ranjan Sinha, son of martyr Natun Chandra Sinha, Sakhawat Hossain, grandson of Birshreshtha Rahul Amin, Prabir Sardar, vice-president of Udisi Central Council, Sunil Dhar, member of Udisi central council, Zahed Ali Yubraj, vice-president of Udisi Chittagong University unit and Ayaj Mabud, general secretary of Chittagong University unit.

The speakers said the artists of Udisi will have to play a vital role to resolve the continuous political and cultural unrest in the country. They also urged the government to play more active role for war crimes trial.

### Anti-hartal meeting held

Sector Commanders Forum, Chittagong Divisional committee, on Sunday organised a meeting protesting against hartal to save war criminal Salauddin Quader Chowdhury on the premises of Chittagong City Corporation.

Aminul Islam Amin, member of the central committee of Bangladesh Awami League was present as the chief guest at

the meeting. The meeting was addressed by Dr Hasan Mahmood, Kamal Uddin Chowdhury, Kamruddin Ahmed, Mafizur Rahman, Gias Uddin Hiru, Riaz Haider, M.A. Rahim, Nur-E-Alam Siddiqui, Diderul Alam Dider and Nurul Huda Chowdhury.

They greeted the people of Chittagong for rejecting hartal. They said those who are trying to save the alleged war criminals to be identified as the enemy of the nation.



STAR PHOTO

Local people are forced to use the makeshift bamboo bridge to get aboard boats away from the ghat on the River Karnaphuli in Chittagong as the place has silted up.

They claimed that some 15 officials allegedly involved with Jamaat-i-Shibir will have to be withdrawn.

The meeting was presided over by Bedarul Alam Chowdhury, member secretary of Secor Commanders Forum, Chittagong Division.

Later a huge procession was brought out demanding death sentence to Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.



STAR PHOTO

A colourful procession was brought out in the port city to celebrate the Victory Day on December 16.

### CPC festival ends

A two-day long festival of Chittagong Press Club (CPC) concluded in the port city.

Mayor M Manjur Alam were present as the chief guest on the concluding day of the festival while the sponsors of the programme Western Marine Managing Director (MD) Md Shakhayat Hossain, Managing Director (MD) Md Ferdous of

Genesis Holding Technologies Limited were the special guests with CPC President Abu Sufian in the chair.

Mayor said, "CPC is not bound by obligation to CCC. Now the press club members are the owners of the property worth Tk 100 crore."

CPC Secretary Rashed Rauf, Joint Secretary Mohsin Chowdhury and Vice-President Asif Siraj spoke on the occasion.