

RAOZAN-SHIKALBAHA POWER PLANTS

Gas crisis stops power generation



Shikalbaha Power Station.

PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

The power generation in Raozan Power Station (Tap Bidyut Kendra) and Shikalbaha Peaking Power Plant remained suspended for the last two months due to a shortage of gas.

Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KGDC) was unable to supply gas to these major power plants as the government recently has decided to run the Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Limited (CUFL) through the gas allotted for the plants.

The KGDC stopped supplying gas to these power plants in early November. The decision to stop supplying gas was taken as the demand for electricity is less in December and January than the other months of the year, officials at the two power plants said.

They said it will be very difficult for the Power Development Board (PDB) to meet the demand for electricity in the upcoming summer season.

Bimal Kumar Howlader, chief engineer of Raozan Power Station, said it has two units which are capable of generating 210 and 180 MW of electricity daily which are now shut for a shortage of gas. He said 90 million cubic feet (mcf) of gas is needed daily to run the two units together. But the government passed an order to supply them 45 mcf only which was also stopped in early November.

Bhuban Bijoy Dutta, manager of Shikalbaha Peaking Power Plant, said their two units also cannot generate electricity due to the gas crisis. It has two power units capable of generating 60 and 150 MW of electricity respectively.

He said to run the units they need about 50 mcf of gas. But the supply remained suspended for the last two months. The station is ready to generate electricity in full swing if gas is available, he said.

Bhuban said the government is thinking of setting up dual fuel system where the two units would also run on oil during gas crisis. Besides, the government has a plan to set up another unit in the plant which will run on oil, he said.

He said they have information that the KGDC will postpone the supply to CUFL in March to start gas supply to Raozan and Shikalbaha power stations.

Md Maniruzzaman, public relations officer of PDB Chittagong, told The Daily Star that electricity was now being supplied from Kaptai Hydroelectric Power Plant, three private power stations and the national grid to Chittagong zone including Chittagong metro, Faujderhat, Patiya, Cox's Bazar and three hill tracks districts.

The total demand for Chittagong during the peak hour is about 450-500 MW, when Kaptai is supplying 174MW, three private power stations 60MW and national grid 200 MW electricity daily.

He said if the two power stations can work properly it will be possible to avoid loadshedding and the two power stations will be able to supply electricity to the national grid.

theweekthatwas

Monowara elected Saarc chamber director

President of Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Monowara Hakim Ali was elected director of the Saarc Chamber of Commerce Industry, says a press release.

Monowara, vice chairman of Intraco Group, has been working to improve the condition of women entrepreneurs since 1999. She along with other women entrepreneurs established the Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the port city.

She was elected first woman director of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) in 2010, says a press release.

Thematic debate begins at CU

A month-long Thematic Debate Workshop and Debate Championship began at Chittagong University (CU) on January 21.

Bangladesh School of Debate (BSD), CU chapter organised the event at the Department of Marketing. More than 180 students have been selected from different disciplines for the event, says a press release. Prof Toiab Chowdhury inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest while BSD directors Fuad Hasan and A M Nasiruddin were present as the special guests.

Prof Shabuddin Nipu chaired the inaugural session. Prabir Barua Chowdhury Shiplu and Payal Barua also spoke at the programme.

Final of ideation contest Jan 28

East Delta University (EDU), International Islamic University of Chittagong (IIUC), Premier University, Silver Bells School, Presidency School and Ideal School have qualified in the final round of their respective groups of the "The Daily Star-Dristi Brain Storming Business Ideation Competition" on Monday on the EDU campus, says a press release.

Dristi Chittagong launched the programme on January 18 where about 30 teams of different

universities and schools participated in the competition.

The final round will be held on January 28 at Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) where theatre and media personality Aly Zaker will be the chief adjudicator. The Daily Star and Dristi Chittagong have been organising the competition jointly for the last two years.

Programme in honour of blood donors

Sandhani Chittagong Medical College (CMC) unit organised a programme in honour of the blood donors at Shah Alam Beer Uttam Auditorium on the CMC campus.

CMC Principal Prof Dr Selim Mohammad Jahangir was present as the chief guest at the programme and distributed citations among the blood donors.

Bangladesh Marine Academy was awarded as the highest blood donating institution while AAK Noman Abbasi got the award of the highest blood donor. Noman donated blood for 80 times so far.

Brig General Dr Fasiur Rahman, Dr Md Mujibul Hoque Khan, Prof Dr Tahmina Banu, Dr Md Nur Hossain Bhuiyan, Dr Raihan Banu and Dr Mamtaj Begum were also present at the programme.

Sandhani, CMC unit President Noshin Farzana Shama and General Secretary Buddhadeb Sarkar conducted the programme.

Basketball ground inaugurated

Inspector General (IG) of Police Hasan Mahmood inaugurated the Mahabub Ali Memorial Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Basketball Ground on Thursday at Dampara Police line.

CMP made the ground with the assistance of Habib Group at a cost of Tk15 lakh, says a press release.

CMP Commissioner Abul Kasem, Additional Commissioner Shafik Ahmed, Additional DIG of Chittagong range Biswas Afzal Ahmed, Managing Director of Habib Group Yasin Ali and Director of the Diamond Cement Hakim Ali were present on the occasion.

IG said the ground will not only enrich the skill of CMP basketball players but also help the local players develop their skill. He thanked Habib Group for their financial support in making the ground.



The newly elected executive committee members of Chattagram Zila Krira Sangstha (CJKS) pose for photograph at a reception at Chittagong Club in the port city on Sunday. Brothers' Union Chittagong accorded the reception. STAR PHOTO

Book reading contest abuzz with students



STAR PHOTO

Winners of the Book Reading Competition pose with the guests at the prize giving ceremony at a port city hotel on January 20. Chittagong Resource Centre of British Council, Bangladesh organised the competition.

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Nameera Khan was very happy as she has just received the award of the best book reader in Chittagong in a prize giving ceremony of Book Reading Competition organised by Chittagong Resource Centre of British Council, Bangladesh on Friday.

A total of 2,100 students participated in the competition, launched in June 2011, from the Chittagong city and greater Chittagong area.

"I am very happy today," said Ekramul Hoque Khan, father of Nameera, also deputy manager of Meghna Petroleum Ltd, adding that her daughter read all the books given by the British Council.

Ekramul said such a competition will help the students to be habituated with reading world-class classics written for children.

Nameera said she has read six books including The House on the Hill, Anna and the Fighter, The Happy Prince, The Teacher's Secret and other Folk Tales, The Dangerous Journey and Sherlock Homes. She participated in the competition last year when she was a student of class five of Bay View School. She now studies in Cantonment English School in class six.

Nameera was a little bit gloomy despite getting the best reader's award as her new school did not participate in the competition and she did not know whether the school would take part in the next competition, scheduled for June this year.

"I want to participate in the competition this year too," she said, adding that she would request

her principal so that my school participates in the competition.

The prize giving ceremony was buzzing with around 600 guests including students, teachers and guardians.

Pushpita Biswas of KAFCO School and College also got the prize of the best reader. Like Pushpita, Habiba Hossain of Dr Khastagir Govt Girls' High School, Urmi Atandri of Chattagram Ma O Shishu Medical College, Sumaiya Saeha of Ispahani Public School and College, Aira Barua of Sahaj Path Fulki School, Muhit Sakib Mim of CUF School and College got the best award among the students of their respective schools.

Mashudul Alam, resource centre officer of British Council, Bangladesh, said 2,100 students from 19 schools, colleges, medical colleges and universities from the port city and the greater Chittagong participated in the competition.

"Usually we request the principal or head of the educational institutions to take part in the competition", he said, adding that the school is selected for the competition if at least 100 students of an institution are registered with the programme.

The students are provided with five or six books for reading, he said, adding that a test is taken after six months for checking whether they went through these books or not.

He said the students who score above 40 percent of marks are given prizes with certificates and the best scorer gets a laptop computer and this time Nameera has got it.

The British Council has

launched the programme to create an opportunity for the students to learn English through reading a number of world classics written in simple language, said Sarwat Reza, resource centre manager of British Council, Bangladesh.

"10,000 students have registered so far in Dhaka, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar which, we expect, would double this year," she said.

"We will also launch the programme in other divisions of the country to promote the programme among students of the country," she added.

"Basically the concept of book reading programme is of Biswa Sahitya Kendra, Bangladesh and we have taken this concept", she said.

Nahid Khan, manager of British Council Chittagong centre, said a student would have to be member of a library to take part in this competition. The registration fee is Tk 200 for six months, she added.

Shahnaz Shaheed, an assistant teacher of English at Dr Khastagir Govt Girls' High School, said the programme is helpful for the students in learning English. Praising the programme, she also pointed out some weaknesses of the programme.

She said there seems to be a lack of coordination in the process of borrowing and returning books for which the students are in a fix. They are not properly informed about the time for completion of reading these books, she added.

Principal Fazle Alam of Chittagong International School said the programme initiated by the British Council will play a vital role in enhancing the reading habit of students, especially, the school students.