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POWER PLANT TROUBLE

Bhola suffers outage for four days

JAYANTA KUMAR BISWAS, Bhola

Around two million people, including 86,000 listed power consumers, in Bhola have been suffering from a blackout for over three days as several generators, installed by Indian company Alstom, went down.

The power outage was caused around 8:45pm on Saturday due to a technical fault in the 34.5 megawatt quick rental power plant of Venture Energy Limited and damages in submarine supply cables to the power grid, said plant officials.

Plant Manager Hafijur Rahaman said an expert team from the foreign company will arrive here tomorrow to repair the generators. He, however, could not confirm how long it would take to restore power to all consumers in the district.

Another key reason for the power failure was not maintaining the collapsed 33 kilovolt (kV) submarine cable. The line was damaged at several points in the Tetulia and Kalabodor rivers.

Officials of West Zone Power Distribution Company (WZPDC) said the maintenance work started on Monday and it would take two or three more days to restore normalcy in power supply.

Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) Director Tapan Kumar Roy, its Manager Shanti Ranjan Kundu and WZPDC Chief Engineer Shariful Islam visited the Power Development Board office in Bhola on Monday. They said partial supply from the power grid would be possible after fixing the submarine cable line.

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A nurse gives injection to a baby in the dim light of hurricane lamps at a Bhola hospital yesterday. Inset, people, angered by the four-day power outage, agitate at the gate of Bhola PDB office.

PHOTO: STAR

Mueen was among Al-Badr abductors

Testifies nephew of martyr Prof Mofazzal H Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Iftekhar Haider Chowdhury, nephew of martyr Prof Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury, yesterday testified that Chowdhury Mueen Uddin along with other Al-Badr men had abducted his uncle during the Liberation War and he never returned.

Iftekhar, who was eight in 1971, told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that Mofazzal himself had identified Mueen, who was his student.

The witness said he along with his parents and other family members were present when Al-Badr men took away the pro-liberation professor on December 14, 1971.

As the 11th prosecution witness in the case against alleged Al-Badr leaders Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan, Iftekhar said his mother Doly Chowdhury had narrated the incident in an interview for a documentary titled "War Crimes File" aired by UK television Channel-4.

He verified the interview of his mother, who died in 2010, when the documentary was played at the courtroom.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam recorded his testimony before adjourning the

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SQ CHY'S TRIAL

Defence gets more time for arguments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday allowed the defence of war crimes accused Salauddin Quader Chowdhury one more hour to complete their argument by today's morning session.

The defence yesterday placed their arguments for the sixth day, though the tribunal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir had earlier fixed four days to that end.

On Monday the tribunal ordered the defence to complete their arguments by

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HOUSING SCHEME FOR LANDLESS POOR

Govt to rehabilitate 50,000 families

Revised tannery relocation project gets nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will build multi-storey buildings in all administrative centres from upazilas to divisional headquarters for rehabilitating landless distressed families.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) at a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday approved revised Ashrayan-2 project increasing the cost by 88 percent to Tk 2,204 crore, according to a statement of the planning ministry. The cost was estimated at Tk 1,169 crore in July 2010.

It also gave the nod to the second revised proposal for relocating the hazardous tanneries from the capital's Hazaribagh to Savar, increasing the project cost by 98 percent to Tk 1078.71 crore.

As many as 50,000 landless families are being rehabilitated under the Ashrayan-2 project. Some 14,000 families have already been rehabilitated in rural areas in the first phase of the project, as per the statement.

Apart from multi-storey buildings, specially designed houses will be built for small ethnic groups.

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Rooftop villa to be demolished within 15 days

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

A man who made his fortune in traditional medicine spent six years building his own private mountain peak and luxury villa atop a high-rise apartment block in China's capital.

Now, authorities are giving him 15 days to tear it down.

The craggy complex of rooms, rocks, trees and bushes looming over the 26-storey building looks like something built into a seaside cliff.

It has become the latest symbol of disregard for the

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Nigerian mosque attack kills 44

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Suspected Islamic militants have killed 44 people praying at a mosque in north-east Nigeria, the latest in a spate of violence blamed on religious extremists in the country.

The killings occurred on Sunday morning at a mosque in Konduga town, 22 miles outside Maiduguri, the capital of Nigeria's Borno state.

A state security service agent and a member of a civilian vigilante group working with the military said they counted the bodies at the mosque after the attack. Usman Musa of the civilian group says four of its vigilantes were also killed when they responded to calls for help.

Along the way from Maiduguri to Konduga, the civilian activists encountered "fierce resistance from heavily armed terrorists", Musa said.

Nigeria has been besieged by an Islamic uprising led by the Boko Haram militant group, which has gone after a range of targets including Christians outside churches, teachers and schoolchildren and moderate Muslim clerics

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3 women 'militants' arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Three women suspected of militancy were arrested from the Patuakhali's Kalikapur area around 4:00pm yesterday.

They were identified as Ruma Khatun, 25 from Meherpur, Sabia Sultana, 23 from Jhenidah and

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PRAYER TIMING August 14		
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr 4-25	5-00	
Zohr 12-45	1-15	
Asr 4-45	5-00	
Maghrib 6-41	6-44	
Esha 8-00	8-30	
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Palestine-Israel peace talks face collapse

AP, Jerusalem

Israel is moving forward with a plan to build nearly 900 new settlement housing units in east Jerusalem, an official said yesterday, in a move that angered Palestinians a day before the sides were to hold Mideast peace talks for the first time in nearly five years.

The Israeli announcement threatened to poison the atmosphere ahead of Wednesday's talks, which come after months of mediation by US Secretary

of State John Kerry. In an initial gesture ahead of the talks, Israel was set to release 26 Palestinian prisoners late Tuesday.

The last round of substantive talks collapsed in late 2008, and negotiations have remained stalled mainly over the issue of Israeli settlement construction on territories claimed by the Palestinians for their future state.

The Palestinians say the settlements, now home to more than

500,000 Israelis, is making it increasingly difficult to carve out their state and that continued Israeli construction is a sign of bad faith.

Hanan Ashrawi, a senior Palestinian official, said Israel's settlement plans are a slap in the face of the Palestinians and Kerry. "It is not just deliberate sabotage of the talks, but really a destruction of the outcome," she said.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL
Do you agree with Ain o Salish Kendra that the arrest of Odhikar Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan would negatively affect the independent work of human rights activists?

Yes

No

78%

22%

TOTAL VOTES: 284

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think that the Overseas Employment and Migrant Workers Bill, 2013 with the provision of tougher punishment will help stop illegal migrations?

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