Iraqis turn to private generators

AFP, Baghdad

In electricity-starved Iraq, just about everyone knows his amperes from his watts, and juggling electrical appliances to run them off a generator is by now second-nature.

Power cuts and shortages have gone on for so long that most Iraqis turned to generators to make up for the lack of national grid electricity.

"In Iraq, there isn't a single home without a generator... from business. the most simple abode to the most remote tent," says Abu Karar al-Quraishi, who sells small generators in central Baghdad.

"And in villages, generators are often as important as food" because they run water pumps needed for agriculture.

But the personal generator business is not what it used to be, and while the government trumpets rising power supplies, most people still require plenty of supplementary electricity.

As time has gone on, many city dwellers have switched to private down for half an hour you can be shutting everything down to obstacles to overcome." generator operators who, for a fee, sure the customers will be all over will provide power to a single you complaining." building, or an entire street, when

director, was also present.

Reliance Industries, India's largest private

profit edged up 1.5 percent, matching

estimates, as higher sales offset the impact

of weak margins from refining operations.

The energy giant, controlled by India's

wealthiest man Mukesh Ambani, said net

profit for the second quarter ending

September rose to 54.90 billion rupees

(\$900 million), from 54.09 billion rupees

"Reliance's first half [April-September]

performance reflects the resilience of our

business model in a period of volatility and

Turnover rose 14 percent to 1.65 trillion

Analysts have been concerned in recent

months about Reliance's ability to boost

gas production from its oil blocks off

main oil field KG-D6 fell 41 percent year-

on-year to 1.0 million barrels of crude oil, a

Natural gas production slid 52 percent

Reliance has attributed the fall in pro-

Last month, the government said that it

duction to "geological complexity and

is considering the appointment of global

experts to investigate the decline in

Reliance's gas output, which has been fall-

to 94.6 billion cubic feet (BCF), over levels

Crude oil production from Reliance's

rupees. The earnings met analysts' expecta-

uncertainty," Ambani said in a statement.

tions of a 54.8 billion rupee profit.

from a year earlier.

India's east coast.

a year earlier.

ing for three years.

company statement said.

natural decline in the fields."

the national grid is down.

"From 2006 to 2010, I used to sell 100 to 150 generators a day," says Quraishi. "Since 2011, sales have dropped and I only sell 10 to 15 a week."

"People prefer buying power from private generator operators because they do not need to buy fuel, change the oil, or otherwise maintain their own generators. It's easier to let generator operators handle the problems."

Selling electricity can be good

Abud Sajad, a generator operator near Aqba bin Nafia Square in central Baghdad, operates two 500 Kilovolt (Kv) generators from a shack, and guarantees up to 18 hours of electricity a day to his 150 neighbourhood customers.

"It is a hard job," says the 37year-old, who previously worked as a car painter and taxi driver.

"You must be on hand day and night to keep an eye on the cables and make sure the generator does not overheat.

Three amps and TV is on

LOTTERY FOR ALLOTMENT OF SHARES

General Public, Non Resident Bangladeshi (NRB), Affected Small Investors & Mutual Fund

VENUE: THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS (IEB), RAMNA, DHAKA 1000

DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 03, 2013; TIME: 10 AM

Anita Haque, chairman of Paramount Textile Ltd, attends the initial public offering

India's Reliance Industries

lottery of the company in Ramna, Dhaka recently. Iqbal Enamul Kabir, executive

net profit goes up 1.5pc

firm, on Monday said its quarterly net 21 of Reliance's oil and gas fields.

During the hot summer, prices are fixed by the government which, in exchange, subsidises the

fuel needed to run the generators. In the winter, generator operators pay market rates for fuel, but consumption typically drops as temperatures cool off and Iraqis have less use for their air conditioners.

But even though the government sets prices during the summer, charges vary on the ground.

Sajad charges 12,000 Iraqi dinars (\$10) per ampere per month, with a minimum threeampere contract. Operators in other neighbourhoods, however, charge as little as 7,000 dinars per amp per month.

Three amps, a measure of current, will be enough for a small fridge, a television, a fan and some lights. Ten amps will allow for an air conditioner, and more lights.

When customers exceed their allotment, power automatically shuts off.

That means they must learn to juggle appliances -- turning off the "And if the generator shuts television to use a microwave, or ensure there is enough power to run a small air-conditioner in the summer heat.

From inside his shack where a generator thunders away, Sajad keeps a close eye on the meters.

A maze of cables, which could easily prove a fire hazard, sprouts from the shack into a spidery web which runs off to nearby houses.

Sometimes the jumble of cables outside allows a thief to "hook on" undetected to a wire to steal a few amps here and there. Others just steal the wires themselves.

'I couldn't live without my generator'

Officials have poured in billions of dollars since the 2003 USled invasion to solve the power problem, caused by decades of war and sanctions which led to a reliance on obsolete technology.

And while things are slowly getting better, few actually believe by late next year, says Mudaris. government promises that Iraq will produce more electricity than it consumes by year-end.

Such a date is "unrealistic" according to Suzan al-Saad, a member of Iraq's parliamentary oil and energy committee.

"There are still many technical

Saad pointed in particular to a decision to build gas-powered power plants, despite the lack of

domestically-extracted gas.

While Iraq sits on a sea of oil, it produces hardly any gas and the little that is extracted, as a byproduct of crude, is "flared off" rather than captured.

The widespread corruption plaguing Iraq is also said to have hampered electricity provision.

According to electricity ministry spokesman Musab al-Mudaris, the national grid now provides 14 hours of electricity per day in Baghdad, and up to 20 hours per day elsewhere in the country.

Many Iraqis would dispute those figures.

Production currently stands at 11,000 megawatts (MW), and is estimated to increase to 13,000 MW by year-end and 20,000 MW

Peak summer demand is pegged at 16,000 MW, and Mudaris says the ministry hopes to meet that demand next year.

But Iraqis aren't letting go of their generators just yet.

"I couldn't live without my generator," said Maria Hawil, a 58-year-old Baghdad housewife who has been using the same one for six years.

"It goes wherever I go."

Noyer, a former vice president of the

European Central Bank who sits on the

ECB's policy-making body, said: "If we were

to have ... an accident over the American

debt it would be, as the IMF has said, a

generate "extremely violent and profound"

Noyer said that such an event would

An EU official speaking last week had

warned too about the possible huge impact

of a US debt default, saying there was very

little that could be done to prepare for such

first ever sovereign debt default on Thursday

if no accord is found in Washington.

The United States faces the prospect of a

thunderbolt for the financial markets."

turbulence around the world.

an eventuality.

SUPERCRETE SUPERTIP MOMENTS 2013



Giorgio Guglielmino, Italian ambassador, attends the Bangladesh launch of MSC Cruises at a function at the Westin hotel in Dhaka on Friday. Md Rajibul Islam, deputy managing director of Marco Shipping Company (Bd) Ltd, MSC Cruises' agent in Bangladesh, was also present at the programme.

All garment workers have been paid, BGMEA says

FROM PAGE B1

"Liberty Fashion is facing a crisis due to lack of orders from international retailers. Still, the owner of the factory will pay the salaries and bonuses."

British retailer Tesco recently cancelled an order worth \$2 crore with the Savar-based factory after its surveyor team found problems with the building's beams, slabs and columns, said Abdus Salam Murshedy, former president of BGMEA.

The owner is trying to recuperate the losses, Murshedy said.

The owner of Tuba Group, too, has been facing difficulties in clearing its payroll. "But he sold off the machineries from one of his factories to clear the dues," Kochi added.

Govt borrowing from banks skyrockets

FROM PAGE B1

The finance ministry official said the National Savings Directorate also ran huge publicity campaigns to make savings instruments attractive to public, which actually resulted in a rise in sales and bucked the trend of cashing-in.

While the government's high-cost domestic borrowing went up, its low-cost foreign borrowing dropped. The net foreign borrowing by the government in July

declined be Tk 325 crore, which increased by Tk 1,282 crore during the same period in fiscal 2012-13. The government's revenue income, however,

increased during the period. The revenue income growth was 21 percent in July against 11 percent in July last year. In the first two months of the fiscal year, the annual

development programme (ADP) expenditure declined 10 percent year-on-year to Tk 4,081 crore.

Hide traders eye a cheerful Eid

FROM PAGE B1

China and Korea are taking plenty of crushed leather, said Mohammad Abu Taher, the newly elected chairman of Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leathergoods and Footwear Exporters' Association.

He said export earnings from the sector will increase as the industry operators are focusing more on making value added products such as shoes.

"We are gradually moving to make high-end products. Shoes will be a big market for us, " he said.

Tanners should relocate their factories to the leather industrial estate in Savar to scale up exports, Taher said.

Sultan of Bengal Leather Complex said the factory relocation will reduce environmental pollution and help the industry attract more foreign buyers who give priority to environmental compliance.

Eurozone industrial

A possible US debt default would have "dra-

matic consequences" for the global econ-

omy, EU Economic Affairs Commissioner

"It is very important that the US overcomes

"Otherwise it could have potentially

His warning followed remarks in a simi-

its fiscal gridlock," Rehn said as he arrived for a

dramatic consequences on the world econ-

omy and on the still nascent recovery in

lar vein by the governor of the French cen-

tral bank, Christian Noyer, in the French

newspaper Le Figaro on Monday.

meeting of eurozone finance ministers.

Olli Rehn warned on Monday.

Industrial production in the eurozone rose by one percent in August, official Eurostat data showed on

nounced in Germany and bailed out Portugal, comes a month after industrial production dropped by one percent.

August sank by 2.1 percent in the eurozone and fell 1.6 percent across the whole 28-member European Union. Across the EU, industrial production inched up by

0.5 percent in August from a month before.

Last week the International Monetary Fund raised its growth outlook for the bloc to a still recessionary minus 0.4 percent and said the bloc was only "crawling out of recession". The European Central Bank meanwhile has expressed doubts that the eurozone, which ended an 18-month recession in the second quarter this year, has definitely turned the corner.

Eighteen winners of Supercrete Supertip Moments, a campaign of Lafarge Surma

Cement Ltd, visited the Lafarge factory at Chhatak, Sunamganj with their families

EU sees US default risk for world economy

recently. The campaign was aired on Radio Foorti earlier this year.

Monday, in a tentative sign the currency bloc's struggling economy is beginning to revive.

And compared to last year, industrial production in

output edges up AFP, Brussels

Europe," he said.

The better-than-expected rise, which was most pro-

S Africa, France sign energy accord, finalise rail deal

least 3,725 megawatts in green

AFP, Pretoria

French President Francois Hollande announced on Monday the signing with South Africa of a \$2-billion pact for a thermal power plant in Africa's largest economy which suffers from energy shortages.

Hollande, on a two-day state visit to Pretoria Hollande, told a joint news conference with President Jacob Zuma that an agreement had been penned

between French energy firm "GDF Suez and South Africa for a thermal power plant to the tune of 1.5 billion euros, and also for a solar plant." He did not give details about

rethink its power generation strategies, as supply remains under pressure owing to growing demand. The continent's wealthiest economy, has now embarked on a

cuts in 2008 forced South Africa to

multi-billion-dollar building spree to set up new power plants that would double electricity supplies over the next two decades.

Heavily reliant for decades on coal, it is now mulling other energy

sources including nuclear power

from 2015 to 2025.

and shale gas. described as "the largest in recent It plans to add more than years" and an example of an "excel-

to \$7.7 a barrel from \$9.5 a year earlier. In 2011, British energy giant BP paid \$7.2 billion to acquire a 30 percent stake in

Reliance hopes that BP's deepwater drilling expertise will give the Indian giant the skills to develop hard-to-exploit reserves and find more oil.

Reliance operates the world's largest oilprocessing complex in Jamnagar, where two adjacent refineries have a combined capacity to process 1.24 million barrels of oil a day.

Reliance has built up a war chest for acquisitions, with cash reserves of 905.40 billion rupees (\$14.5 billion) as of the September-end quarter. The energy behemoth has been scouting

for acquisitions and looking to diversify its revenue sources by expanding into financial services, retailing, hotels and communications.

The company said revenues for its retail business rose 31 percent to 34.56 billion rupees. It now operates more than 1,550 stores in 136 cities across the country.

Ambani has also announced a foray into the Indian media sector as well as telecom.

In June, Mukesh and younger brother Anil, who fought a very public feud for spoils of their father's business empire, announced a \$2.1-billion deal to share telecom tower infrastructure, cementing a reconciliation between the once-warring siblings.

Reliance Jio Infocomm, the telecom unit of Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries, signed the agreement with Reliance Communications, the flagship firm of the Reliance's gross refining margins Anil Ambani group, to share the latter's (GRMs) for the first quarter fell 19 percent telecom tower equipment.

> the energy deal. But rolling power 50,000 megawatts of electricity to lent partnership" between the two the grid and hope to generate at countries, would create several

> > thousand jobs.

energy, in its bid to lower the Part of agreement is that most of the parts used in the work will over-reliance on coal. Hollande also announced the originate in South Africa. It is the first phase of a much conclusion of a \$5.4-billion deal by

bigger, \$14-billion project to Alstom to overhaul South Africa's passenger rail service, PRASA. revamp South Africa's Metrorail system, including the building of Under the deal, which was first announced in December last year, 7,224 commuter trains for Gauteng province -- including Johannesburg Alstom would build 600 trains and 3,600 wagons over a 10-year period and Pretoria -- Durban, the Western

About 90 percent of the current rolling stock is said to date back to the late 1950s.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

আরকাইভস ও গ্রন্থাগার অধিদপ্তর সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় ৩২, বিচারপতি এস.এম. মোর্শেদ সরণী আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭ website:www.nanl.gov.bd

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বিষয়ভিত্তিক পুস্তক তালিকা আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আরকাইভস ও গ্রন্থাগার অধিদপ্তরাধীন বাংলাদেশ ন্যাশনাল লাইব্রেরির জন্য রেফারেন্স ও গবেষণা কাজে ব্যবহারের নিমিত্তে ২০১৩-১৪ অর্থবছরে দেশী-বিদেশী পুস্তক ক্রয়ের উদ্দেশ্যে নিম্নে উল্লেখিত বিভিন্ন বিষয়ে কেবলমাত্র ২০১৩ সালে দেশে-বিদেশে প্রকাশিত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ (দুষ্প্রাপ্য এবং আউট অব প্রিন্ট হলে, বিশেষ ক্ষেত্রে সংস্করণ হলেও পুস্তক ক্রয়ের নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী বিশেষ বিবেচনায় ক্রয়যোগ্য যা তালিকার সর্বোচ্চ ৫ ভাগ) ইংরেজি ও বাংলা পুস্তকের বিষয়ভিত্তিক তালিকা আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। এ বিজ্ঞপ্তির ফলে প্রাপ্ত তালিকা থেকে সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত কমিটির মাধ্যমে নির্বাচিত ও অনুমোদিত পুস্তকগুলো পৃথক উন্মোক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে আইটেমভিত্তিক ভাবে ক্রয় করা হবেঃ-

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২. প্রকাশক/লেখক/পুস্তক ব্যবসায়ী/পরিবেশক ও আমদানিকারকগণ উল্লিখিত বিষয়ভিত্তিক পুস্তকের তালিকা নিম্নোক্ত ছক অনুযায়ী (MS Word-Table-এ Sutonny MJ ১২ ফন্ট) সিডিসহ ৮ (আট) সেট (A4 সাইজ কাগজে) আগামী ০৭/১১/২০১৩ তারিখের মধ্যে সরাসরি প্রশাসন শাখায় রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্স জমা দিতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, একজন স্বত্বাধিকারী কেবলমাত্র একটি তালিকা দাখিল করতে পারবেন। তবে তালিকায় বইয়ের সংখ্যা সর্বোচ্চ ৩০০ এর মধ্যে সীমাবদ্ধ থাকতে হবে।

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The deal, which Hollande

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