

National grid likely to get 560MW more power from April

UNB, Dhaka

National grid of the country is likely to get about 560MW of power from April 30 as two base load plants of Summit Group are getting ready for commissioning commercially.

The plants are 335MW combined cycle unit of Summit Meghnaghat Power and 341MW simple cycle unit of Summit Bibiyana II plant.

According to official sources, the Summit Group has informed the state-owned Power Development Board (PDB) that it will be able to commercially commission its Meghnaghat Power Plant's combined cycle unit by April 30 this year.

The simple cycle unit of Meghnaghat plant has been in operation for last few months, producing over 200MW.

A progress report submitted to the Power Division shows that Summit has completed 99 percent of its civil and engineering works till end of January 2015.

PDB's project director for Meghnaghat plant Samir Uddin informed the news agency that initially the commercial operation date (COD) was March 31. But due to problem in gas supply the date has now been rescheduled for April 30, he said.

"Now everything is on to keep the target unchanged and we're hopeful of getting COD as per schedule," he said.

Once the plant's COD is done and it starts running in full swing of capacity, the country will get about 335MW from the Meghnaghat project, said the official.

Besides, the Summit Group's 341MW Bibiyana II Plant's simple cycle unit is getting ready for commercial commissioning by April 30 as well.

As per the progress report, Summit completed 97 percent of its civil construction works and 83 percent of engineering works till end of January. The gas turbine and generator of the plants were set up and the mechanical and electrical works were running.

The 92 percent works of gas pipe line installation has been completed by this time.

PDB's project director for the plant Saiful Islam Khan said Summit had informed the authorities concerned to commission its simple cycle unit by April 30.

Officials said once the simple cycle unit was commercially commissioned, the national grid would receive about 226MW from the project.



Concrete manhole covers protruding on the surface make it extremely difficult for vehicles to ply an already dilapidated Chandan Kotha Road in Jatrabari. Inset, stones and pieces of bricks on the road as Dhaka South City Corporation did not repair it after placing a sewerage line underneath the road six months back. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Dilapidated Jatrabari road keeps vehicles away

DSCC to be blamed as it did not bother about repair after installing sewerage line

HELEMUL ALAM

Taniya Akhtar, a class IV student of Jatrabari Girls High School, walks more than one kilometre every day to commute between her home and school.

However, she walks not because she wants to but because she is forced to as the half a kilometre stretch of road from Khanka Sharif to Boubazar in Jatrabari sees little to no rickshaws.

"The condition of the road between my school and home is so bad that no rickshaws ply on it," she said.

On the slim chance that a rickshaw-puller agrees to carry passengers on the Chandan Kotha Road he does so with a great risk of accidents.

"An old woman was seriously injured last week when the rickshaw she was on overturned," said Muslim Mollah, a peon at the school.

The condition of the road began deteriorating after Dhaka South City Corporation started work to set up a sewerage line underneath the road, he said.

Though DSCC completed the work about six months back, they did not bother about repairing the road, said Mohammad Babul, a staff of Bismillah Biriyanis which is on the road.

Due to the road's terrible state, many people have to suffer to reach Chandan Kotha Community Centre.

Mehedi Hasan, owner of Bismillah Biriyanis, said they have to pay rick-

shaw-pullers double, and sometimes even triple, the fare to bring goods to the restaurant.

He said just about a year back, before the sewerage line was set up, thousands of vehicles, including rickshaws, used the road daily but now the number of vehicles plying the road is almost zero.

According to the rules, the city corporation is supposed to repair the road after completing its work.

Sub-Assistant Engineer of DSCC zone-5 Fariduzzaman said they have finished about 60 percent of the repair work.

The repair work has been delayed due to a shortage of funds, he said and hoped that they would be able to finish the work by the end of March.

Women work unpaid 5 hours more than men

Finds ActionAid-Brac research in North Bengal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although men and women get the same amount of time for rest and sleep, women have to spend six hours for unpaid care work for their families while men do them for an hour only, found a research conducted in North Bengal.

Compared to men, women face more difficulties with allocating their time for unpaid care work and income-generating work, the findings added.

ActionAid Bangladesh and the Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST) of the Brac Institute of Governance and Development conducted the study in 2013-2014 on pattern of time use of women and men.

Cooking, cleaning, washing, and taking care of the family were regarded as unpaid care work in the study that included 224 women and 121 men in Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha.

The unpaid works should be recognised

and equally distributed among males and females, it observed.

At an event organised by ActionAid Bangladesh, and CGST at the senate bhaban of Dhaka University yesterday, Simeen Mahmud, CGST coordinator and the lead researcher, said if women could reduce the load of unpaid works, they would get the opportunity to increase their income.

UN Women Country Representative Christine Hunter mentioned that Bangladesh's labour law does not even recognise domestic helps as workers and people take advantage of that. The domestic works should be included in the GDP, she added.

Moderated by ActionAid Country Director Farah Kabir, the event was also attended by former senior research fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies Pratima Paul Majumder, and Director General of the Department of Women Affairs Shahin Ahmed Chowdhury.

6,538ha coastal land to be afforested

Anwar Hossain tells JS

BSS, Dhaka

The government has undertaken a plan to bring 6,538 hectares of land and some areas in nine coastal districts under the social afforestation programme during the current fiscal year, Environment and Forest Minister Anwar Hossain told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

Replying to a question from treasury bench member Didarul Alam, he also said the government has undertaken "Climate Resilient Participatory Afforestation and Reforestation Project" financed by Bangladesh Climate Change Resilient Fund to ensure afforestation in the coastal

region. Of the land, 2,624 hectares would be brought under mangrove gardening, 2,305 hectares for buffer zone garden, 135 hectares for enrichment garden, 1,376 hectares for core zone garden, 98 hectares for non-mangrove garden, and the remaining portions for nipa tree garden and strip garden, he said.

Anwar Hossain also said the social afforestation programme would contribute to the national economy, maintaining balance in the ecology, environment, and biodiversity, and reducing risks of natural calamities and desertification.



Students and activists fly colourful kites inscribed with the slogan "Safe City, Fearless Women" in front of the Dhaka University senate building yesterday, marking International Women's Day. The programme hosted by ActionAid Bangladesh signifies the female participation in the open space sporting activity, which is usually considered an area of men.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Members of the Village Defence Party, under the banner of Bangladesh Gram Police Karmachari Union, bring out a procession in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding salaries under the uniform government pay structure as Class IV employees. Currently they get a meagre Tk 1,900 monthly--Tk 1,100 from the state exchequer and Tk 800 from the union parishad. If their demand is met, the minimum payment will be over Tk 8,000.

Rescue abducted

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cross a river with Snigdha and the two gave him (Rabiul) Tk 7,000 so that he did not disclose it.

Although information about Snigdha's abduction is available, police are yet to rescue Snigdha, the counsel added.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman fixed April 12 for passing a further order on this issue.

The HC came up with the order and rule following the writ petition filed by Snigdha's mother Shraboni Dev seeking directives on the government to rescue her daughter.

Home secretary, inspector general of police, commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, deputy commissioner of Sylhet, and officer-in-charge of its Kotwali Police Station and the three accused have been made respondents to the rule.

Only two run Barisal medical

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official time limit in this regard.

Usually, such reports without any chemical test are delivered within one to two weeks from Dhaka Medical College and Chittagong Medical College.

Besides, there is no official post for mortuary assistant, so the task is carried out by people on a contractual basis, he added.

"The body of my uncle Bipul Chakraborty, who was murdered in Wazirpur of Barisal on January 1 this year, was taken to the morgue on that day, but the autopsy report is yet to be released," said Asim Chakraborty, nephew of the deceased.

He said the higher authorities had been informed of the crisis many times, but to no avail.

Dr Bhaskar Saha, principal of the college, said a letter regarding the manpower shortage was sent to the Directorate General of Health Services on January 4 this year, but no response has come yet.

When asked about the reason behind such crisis, Md Ehteshamul Huq Choudhury, director (administration) of DGHS, told The Daily Star that the government-appointed medical officers from BCS cadres were less interested to serve the forensic department considering different legal complexities like attending courts and testifying on the reports. "The same situation is prevailing in other medical colleges except Dhaka and Chittagong."

"The government should take special steps to solve the crisis," he said.

One more points Hasan

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woman go the next day on the condition that she would bring her son, Kamruzzaman, a freedom fighter, back from war. Zahid was released after Kamruzzaman returned home from the border and met the Razakars. Kamruzzaman was also freed later.

Hadis was cross-examined before the

22nd prosecution witness, Suraiya Begum, also testified yesterday but on another charge and was then cross-examined.

The proceeding was adjourned till March 22.

Now absconding, Hasan, the alleged Tarail upazila unit Razakar commander, faces six charges including genocide committed in Kishoreganj in 1971.