

# Meghnaghat Power Station resumes commercial operation

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Meghnaghat Power Station, owned by Malaysia-based Pendekar Energy Ltd, resumed commercial operation recently. The plant was closed in April last year due to damages to its steam turbine.

The 450MW power station in Narayanganj has started supplying 273.6MW of power to the national grid with the beginning of the operation of the simple cycle mode.

"We are very happy to have been able to bring up to 60.8 percent of the plant's original capacity in less than 10 months after the incident," said Nazri Bin Shahrudin, director of Meghnaghat Power Ltd, in a statement.

Based on initial estimates, the company expected the restoration work to take up to 20 months. The company installed two bypass stacks to enable the plant to operate on a simple cycle mode while the restoration work on the steam turbine continues.

The first unit of the gas turbine became operational on February 27 this year and the second unit two weeks later. The plant is expected to resume full operations by the first quarter of 2016, according to the statement.

Meghnaghat Power is a subsidiary of Pendekar Energy, which owns the Meghnaghat, Haripur Power Plant and NEPC Barge Mounted Power Plant with a total generating capacity of 920MW.

# Indian minister to push for raising sugar import duty

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's food minister said he would propose raising the import duty on sugar to 40 percent from 25 percent as a preventive measure to protect farmers, though the country has amassed massive stocks through bumper local harvests.

Ram Vilas Paswan told reporters on Wednesday he would write to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley pressing the demand.

Output in India, the world's biggest producer behind Brazil, is estimated to rise to 26.5 million tonnes in 2014/15 from 24.4 million in the previous year.

The country imports very little but surplus production over the past few years has depressed prices, hitting mills' ability to pay dues to sugarcane farmers.

# BBF seminar on marketing begins Saturday

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The fifth edition of Bangladesh Brand Forum's marketing seminar with the theme of "Rethinking Marketing" will be held at Radisson hotel in Dhaka on Saturday.

One of the flagship initiatives of Brand Forum, the daylong seminar will share best practices and thoughts from around the world with local business leaders and the marketing fraternity, the organisation said in a statement yesterday.

The first session of the seminar will be conducted by Prof Dan Formosa, jury president for product design at Cannes Lions. His topic for the seminar is reinventing brands--delivering meaningful promises, according to the statement.

The next session will be taken by Sunil Alagh, founder and chairman of SKA Advisors, a business advisory and consultancy service provider with an emphasis on marketing and brand management strategies.

Along with the seminar, a session for university students will also be held at GP House. Around 250 students from 25 universities have been selected through a campaign on engaging men in women empowerment.

American International University-Bangladesh is the title sponsor of the seminar and The Daily Star is the strategic partner.



Abu Taher, president of Bangladesh Ship Breakers Association, and Dharmesh Jani, chairman of Creative Consultants, attend a programme in Chittagong recently to sign a deal to train local ship-breakers on waste management.

# Ship-breakers to get training on waste management

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Local ship-breakers will receive training under a project to learn how to deal with hazardous waste and oil pollution in the best possible way.

The Netherlands embassy in Dhaka will finance the project that aims to develop a more environment-friendly

and superior ship-breaking sector in the country.

Workers at different ship-breaking yards in Sitakunda upazila will get the training, for which Abu Taher, president of Bangladesh Ship Breakers Association, and Dharmesh Jani, chairman of Creative Consultants, an Indian firm, signed a deal in Chittagong on Monday.



Md Ridwanul Hoque, head of retail distribution at Midland Bank, and Sharif Sadi, head of sales and marketing at Long Beach Hotel, pose during the signing of a deal at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently. The bank's cardholders will get special privileges from the hotel.

# StanChart top official in town

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Carsten Stoehr, global head for financial markets sales at Standard Chartered Bank, is now visiting Dhaka to meet the bank's important stakeholders and key customers.



Carsten Stoehr

After a 17-year stint at Credit Suisse, Stoehr joined StanChart in April 2012, the bank said in a statement yesterday.

He was responsible for origination and execution of international debt transactions in Asia and had covered debt capital markets origination for emerging Europe, the Middle East and Africa while he was based in London.

Sandeep Bahl, head of financial market sales for South Asia, is accompanying Stoehr.



M Nazeem A Choudhury, head of consumer banking at Eastern Bank, and Sheikh Sumaiya Rahman, managing director of Moka Café and Bistro, pose during the signing of an agreement recently. The bank's cardholders will enjoy "Buy 1 Get 1 Free" dinners on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and free coffee every day from 12pm to 7pm at Moka.

# Garment exporters going green to grab more orders

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The factory owners, especially those who are expanding their operations, are going for green buildings, mainly to bag more work orders from international retailers.

The benefits of green buildings are quite long, including reduction of energy consumption by more than 24 percent and water consumption by 50 percent.

Since Bangladeshi garment makers are going for high-end garment production, green initiatives will help a lot in building their confidence, as LEED certification indicates practice of good compliance and environmentally safe procedures, Azim said.

The other direct benefits of green buildings include enhancement of image of the factory, protection of health and safety and higher productivity by the workers in a good environment.

In Bangladesh, green building initiatives are mainly undertaken for marketing reasons, as having such structures increases the confidence of retailers, said David Hasanat, managing director of Viyellatex Group that has operations in two gold LEED certified buildings.

"The retailers do not ask so many queries if they see that the goods were made in a factory housed in a green building," he said, adding that the company could reduce electricity and water consumption due to the green building

initiative. "I could also maintain the air quality for efficient use of energy and water."

Fazlul Hoque, managing director of Narayanganj-based Plummy Fashions, said he received the platinum LEED certification after scoring 93 from the available 110 points.

The plant will be the first LEED platinum factory in the world in knitwear sub-sector, Hoque said, adding that he will start production in the structure by this month.

There are two LEED platinum factories in Sri Lanka, but they are not in the knitwear business.

The establishment of such high-quality green structure has opened up new avenues for Hoque, as he is currently in talks with Marks & Spencer, Espirit, Li & Fung and Carrefour, some renowned global retailers.

Zillur Rahman, managing director of Ishwardi EPZ-based Vintage Denim Studio, said his factory is also a platinum-rated building in denim sub-sector, after it scored more than 90 points.

"I started the operations of the factory three years ago and now I have been receiving overwhelming responses from retailers in Europe and the US due to the green initiative," said Rahman.

He produces 4.5 lakh pieces of denim products a month, while employing 2,000 workers. "I could save a lot of electricity and water due to the green building."

# GDP growth will not be less than 6.5pc: Kamal

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Also at the press briefing, Kamal presented some BBS updated data on the economy. The production of aus paddy in the current fiscal year was 23.28 lakh tonnes and that of aman 131.90 lakh tonnes. Jute production was 13.61 lakh tonne. In the same period last fiscal year, 23.26 lakh tonnes of aus paddy, 130.23 lakh tonnes of aman and 13.49 lakh tonnes of jute were produced.

Kamal said the data about boro and wheat production is not available yet but it would cross last year's output.

Gas production in the first seven months increased 6.26 percent, in contrast to the 1.53 percent rise registered for the same period last fiscal year, according to data from the BBS. In the first six months, production in large and medium industries went up 9.38 percent and that in small industries 10.66 percent. The increase at this time last fiscal year was 9.23 percent and 3.71 percent respectively.

The other sectors of the economy also registered satisfactory growth, Kamal said. As a result, GDP growth will not go below 6.5 percent in any way.

The planning minister also presented a big projection of the government's development plan for the next fiscal year and said the economy will grow at a much faster rate.

"By next Baishakh (April), the nation will see visible progress on a good number of mega projects, something which never happened before."

The projects are: Padma bridge, Dhaka Metro Rail, deep-sea port, coal-based power plant, nuclear power plant and LNG terminal. Kamal also said the government has great plans to turn the southern region into an economic hub: an airport will be built in Khulna, Paira deep-sea port will be built, and two more mega power plants will be set up at Rampal and Paira.

Besides, several special economic zones will be built in Khulna and Barisal, where both the local and foreign investors can set up factories. The planning minister also hinted of the size of next fiscal year's annual development programme, saying it would be more than Tk 100,000 crore.

# Stocks return to black

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However, it said in its regular analysis, the confidence remained weak and vulnerable to adverse moves.

With the increased participation, the overall turnover also surged by 14 percent to Tk 469.74 crore with transactions of 10.37 crore shares and mutual fund units.

United Power Generation and Distribution Company topped the turnover leaders' chart with 47.81 shares worth Tk 55.59 crore changing hands, followed by MJL Bangladesh, Western Marine Shipyard, ACL and Ifad Autos.

Gainers outnumbered the losers, as 251 scrips advanced and 37 gained with 15 securities remaining unchanged on the DSE.

Among the major sectors, engineering gained 5.05 percent in market capitalisation, followed by non-bank finan-

cial institutions 4.47 percent, textiles 3.24 percent, fuel and power 2.8 percent, banks 1.57 percent and pharma 0.29 percent.

Conversely, telecom fell 1.1 percent, followed by cement 0.79 percent and food and allied 0.5 percent.

Western Marine Shipyard was the day's best performer, advancing by 9.83 percent, while Phoenix Finance and Investments was the worst loser, slumping by 9.54 percent.

Chittagong stocks also went up yesterday with the bourse's benchmark index, CSCX, increasing 121.38 points to 8,150.25.

Gainers beat the losers, as 178 scrips declined and 44 advanced, with 10 securities remaining unchanged on the Chittagong Stock Exchange.

The port city bourse traded 1.05 crore shares and mutual fund units, generating turnover of Tk 39.06 crore.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Pirojpur  
www.lged.gov.bd

Date: 12.04.2015

**Memo No. LGED/SEN/Piroj/2015/907**

**e-Tender Notice No. 08/2014-15**

e-Tender is invited in national e-GP portal system (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below:

Sl No.	ID, name of the upazila	Description of works	Tender last selling (time & date)	Tender closing (time & date)	Tender opening (time & date)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	20686 Pirojpur Sadar	e-Tender/PEDP-III/PRJ/2014-15/W13.50 Ext & Renovation of Pirojpur DEPO	1.00pm 12.05.2015	11.00am 13.05.2015	12.15pm 13.05.2015
	23666 Bhandaria	IRIDP/PRJ/RW-32 (a) Improvement of Bhitabaria UP Office-Kapalirhat via Kazir Ullah road Ch. 00-650m (ID No: 579804042 (b) Construction of 1 No. 2.0x2.0m Box Culvert at the Ch 620m in the same road	1.00pm 12.05.2015	11.00am 13.05.2015	12.15pm 13.05.2015

This is an online tender, where only e-tenders will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline, hardcopies will be accepted.  
To submit e-tender, registration in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.  
The fees for the e-GP downloading e-tender documents from national e-GP system portal have to deposit online through any registered online banks branches up to 12 May 2015.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

**Md. Rafiqul Hasan**  
Executive Engineer  
LGED, Pirojpur  
0461-62463  
[xen.perojpur@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.perojpur@lged.gov.bd)

GD-1340



Kabir Bin Anwar, project director at Access to Information (A2I) programme, and Dewan Mujibur Rahman, managing director of NRB Commercial Bank, pose after signing a deal in Dhaka recently. Customers of the bank will get agent banking services at A2I's union information centres.



Officials of Omera Petroleum, a subsidiary of MJL Bangladesh, attend the launch of Omera LP gas and Omera Cylinders, in Dhaka recently.