

90pc electricity coverage by 2018

Plans Rural Electrification Board

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (REB) has targeted 2018 as the year to bring 90 percent people under its electricity coverage to supplement the government's ongoing development process.

The REB brought 1,56,25,000 consumers under its power supply network and provided new connections to 1,59,000 till June this year through its 78 Palli Bidyut Samity across the country over the last 38 years of its service, according to REB sources.

"The government is pledge-bound to make 'Digital Bangladesh' by ensuring access to power for all by 2021," Sate Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid told the news agency yesterday.

He said the government has undertaken projects to construct transmission lines, enhance its capabilities, reduce hassle and bring more rural people under the coverage. "Currently 76 percent people are enjoying electricity..." he said. He said the government has a plan to increase power generation capacity to 24,000 megawatt in 2021 and 40,000MW in 2030.

Director General of Power Cell Engineer Mohammad Hossain said the power generation capacity is now over 14,500MW including captive power.

The REB sources said the government is planning to expand rural electrification coverage providing some 25 lakh new connections in the rural areas.



A bulldozer under the authority of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, following a Supreme Court order, demolishes an illegal structure erected near the Dhaleshwari-1 bridge on Dhaka-Mawa Highway of South Keraniganj yesterday afternoon. The 5,000 sq ft three-storey building belonged to Deen Furniture.

PHOTO: FARHANA MIRZA

SC okays removal of factory from Dhaleshwari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that asked the government to remove Deen Furniture's factory from Dhaleshwari river area in Keraniganj.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha dismissed an appeal filed by Deen Furniture's owner Shamsul Haque challenging the HC order.

Following a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, the HC on May 25 asked the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority chairman to take steps to remove the factory built within the territory of the Dhaleshwari river area at Char Golgolia in Keraniganj in 30 days.

The petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that the factory was built within the territory in violation of environment protection law, water bodies law and relevant provision of the constitution.

The BIWTA has to take steps to remove the factory from the river area following the SC order, he added.

MUHURI IRRIGATION PROJECT

Farmers to get prepaid cards for irrigation

UNB, Dhaka

The government has launched a project to introduce prepaid metre system in Muhuri Irrigation Project, one of the country's important projects in Feni, to help farmers get water for irrigation using cards.

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has started the work under the Irrigation Management Improvement Project (IMIP) with financial support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), BWDB executive engineer (Feni O&M Division) Md Kohinor Alam told the news agency during its recent visit to the Muhuri project.

The Tk 457 crore IMIP will install

around 800 metres of water pumps in the project area and farmers will be able to use prepaid cards to get water for irrigation during the dry season, which will cut their irrigation cost, he said.

Muhuri Irrigation Project, launched in 1977-78 and completed in 1985-86, depends on the waters of Feni, Muhuri and Milunia rivers.

Md Jahir Uddin, sub-divisional engineer of BWDB, said the IMIP will rehabilitate water infrastructures of the project for 60,258 hectares of the areas.

He said the rehabilitation of water infrastructure will ensure sustainable operation and management of the project.

BWDB extension overseer Humayun Kabir said the prepaid system will help farmers cut expenses

in irrigation significantly. "Now farmers spend Tk 4,000 to Tk 4,500 for water supply on one acre of land. If the prepaid metre system is introduced, the cost will be Tk 2,000 to Tk 2,500 per acre," he added.

About 427 canals will be re-excavated to bring 17,000 hectares of land under irrigation of the prepaid metre system, Kabir said, adding that the new scheme will benefit about 8,000 families in the region.

The IMIP for the Muhuri Irrigation Project is expected to be concluded by 2019. BWDB officials said about 2,000 hectares of arable land will be brought under the prepaid irrigation scheme by next year through installing 81 pumps with prepaid metres.



Inaugurated a couple of months ago by the mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation, this plaque now lies in ruin, making it nearly impossible for passers-by to know that this road heading towards Shahjahanpur from the Malibagh rail crossing in the capital was named after Bir Uttam Shaheed Khwaja Nizamuddin Bhuyan, who embraced martyrdom at Atgram Road in Kanaighat thana of Sylhet on September 4 during the 1971 Liberation War. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

JP MP HANNAN, SON, 6 AIDES IN MYMENSINGH

Tribunal seeks charges, if any

Prosecution says they were involved in five incidents of crime including killing, torture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday directed the prosecution to submit on September 20 the formal charges, if there were any, in a case against Jatiya Party lawmaker MA Hannan, his son and six others over crimes they allegedly committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

Moreover, the prosecution completed placing closing arguments on factual aspects in a case against nine Jessore men, including former Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP lawmaker Shakhawat Hossain, who are facing five charges of similar crimes.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque fixed the date after prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon sought two months to prepare and submit the formal charges.

Chief Prosecutor Office received the probe report and other documents on Monday, said Sultan.

The accused are Hannan, 80, lawmaker from Trishal (Mymensingh-7) and also a presidium member of Jatiya Party; his son Rafique Sajjad, 62; Khandakar Golam Sabbir Ahmed, 69, Mizanur Rahman Mintu, 63, Hormuj Ali, 73, Mohammad Abdus Sattar, 64, Mohammad Fakruzzaman, 61, and Khandakar Golam Rabbani, 63.

Sattar, Fakruzzaman and Rabbani are fugitives while the rest behind bars.

The tribunal's investigation agency on Monday said Hannan, his son and six of his associates had direct links with three torture camps set up in Mymensingh and were involved in at

least five incidents of crimes.

The charges are over the abduction, torture and killing of sculptor Abdur Rashid of Purohitpara in Mymensingh on April 23 and 24; killing of Jatish Chandra Chakraborty Sentu of Bolar Hindupara in Trishal on August 2, injuring two others and torching of houses of Hindus; abduction, torture and killing of Abdur Rahman of Boiral Munshipara in Trishal between August 7 and 9; abduction, torture and killing of Khandakar Abdul Ali Ratan of Jail Road area in Mymensingh between November 17 and December 7; and abduction and torture of Abed Hossain Khan of Natun Bazar in Mymensingh and KM Khalid Babu, a former

AL lawmaker from the district.

JESSORE CASE

Prosecutor Rezia Sultana Chaman placed arguments on five charges citing testimonies of prosecution witnesses and documentary evidence and claimed that they were able to prove all the charges. Earlier, prosecutor Zead Al Malum placed a brief submission.

Defence counsel Abdus Sattar Palwan afterwards started placing his arguments before the tribunal adjourned proceedings until today.

All accused are from Keshobpur upazila in Jessore.

Shakhawat, now involved in Jatiya Party's politics, and Billal Hossain Biswas are in jail and Lutfar Morol died of old age complications on May 6.

The rest, Ibrahim Hossain, Sheikh Md Mujibur Rahman, Kazi Ohidul Islam, Aziz Sardar, Aziz Sardar, Lutfar Morol, and Abdul Khaleq Morol, are on the run.

Closing arguments placed against 9 Jessore suspects

Appeal for help

CITY DESK



Zobayer Hossain Munna, 22, a student at the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at North South University, has been diagnosed with Acute Myeloblastic Leukaemia (a type of blood cancer).

According to his doctors, Munna needs to be sent abroad for an emergency bone marrow transplantation surgery, which will cost him more than Tk 40 lakh, said a press release.

It is not possible for his family to bear the entire expense of the treatment procedure since his father is a school teacher. A lot of money is already being spent on the primary course of treatment and the economic situation of his family is deteriorating fast.

So, his family members and friends have requested everyone to lend their generous hands to help save his life.

Donations can be sent to: bank account no 15434004821, Bank Asia, Mohammed Sohorab Hossain, Phone: 01813880149.

Babar freed

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attend his mother's namaj-e-janaza at a mosque in the capital's Gulshan area.

He will be taken back to the jail after six hours, added the jail superintendent.

Sources said Babar's mother died on Monday night at a city hospital.

On January 30, 2014, the Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1 sentenced 14 persons, including Babar, to death on charges of their involvement in the smuggling of 10 truckloads of arms into Bangladesh, which was intercepted on April 2, 2004, from the jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Limited.

Dayaganj in

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safely. Another Gendaria resident, Nazmul Islam, said the possibility of accidents increased at night when a good number of trucks driven recklessly crossed the intersection.

Shafiqul Islam, owner of Medicine Centre of Ibn Sina at Dayaganj, said a pedestrian crossing would be more suitable as people were reluctant to use foot-bridges.

Traffic police constable Sahadat said he had to handle a huge volume of traffic during the rush hour.

As many jaywalk to cross the road stopping the vehicular movement, the traffic jam lingers, he said.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon said there was a plan to construct nine foot-bridges in DSCC area.

"We will conduct a feasibility study at the intersection to know about the suitability of a foot-bridge there. If we get positive results, we will set up one there," he said.

Authorities to monitor

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Fridays, the authorities would involve general people, social and political workers and the staff of Islamic Foundation," Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu, also president of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order, told the news agency.

The minister said the law-enforcement agencies would also remain on duty to ensure security and check any untoward incidents during the Jumma prayers while members of the detective branch would be a part of the coordinated monitoring efforts.

The minister requested the imams (prayer leaders) to deliver lectures in line with the Islamic ideology that denounces terrorism and extremism.

Islamic Foundation Bangladesh Director General Sameem Mohammad Afzal told the news agency that the Foundation, with its 70,000 staff and cooperation from general people and the law-enforcement agencies, would be able to monitor the speeches and khutbahs.

The government has already opened a monitoring cell to receive complaints and take necessary actions to check the activities that are considered provocative.

Society has to fight

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The organisations will jointly form a human chain today in front of the Jatiya Press Club at 11:00am, to create public awareness.

Besides, they will undertake a three-month programme from July 19 to raise awareness and hold views-exchange meeting and other programmes at different district headquarters.

Over a dozen of senior leaders of the organisations were present.

Illegal orgs

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cabinet committee on law and order held at Secretariat in this regard to ensure foolproof security for the lone diplomatic enclave against the backdrop of the recent militant attacks.

"But the decision is yet to reach DNCC as an order. Steps would be taken after the order comes. But DNCC has started its activities in this regard," he said.

The cabinet in a meeting on April 4 took a decision to shift all sorts of illegal structures and commercial institutions in the city's residential area within six months.

If the institutions are not shifted within the period, their supply lines of gas, power and water will be cut off and trade license would be canceled, he said.



With no visible harness securing him, a man takes a nap during a risky ride on top of iron rods stacked on the back of a moving pickup van near Old Airport in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS