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POWER GRID FAILURE

Probe on to find if it was intentional

Says Nasrul Hamid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The national grid failure in the eastern part of the country was not a technical glitch, it was a "man management problem", said State Minister for Power Nasrul Hamid yesterday.

He said that when the problem arose, those who were in charge didn't do what they should have done. The government is trying to identify whether it was intentional or a case of incompetence.

He said stern action would be taken against people who were responsible for the grid failure on October 4.

More than half of the country including Dhaka and Chattogram were without power that day for four to eight hours.

Talking to the media at a programme in Keraniganj, Hamid said the probe report would be filed within the next one or two days. "Then it will be clear who were responsible for the incident."

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ANTI-HIJAB PROTESTS

Fury in Iran as cop sex assault video goes viral

AGENCIES

Angry demonstrators took to streets across Iran again yesterday as a video of anti-riot forces sexually assaulting a female protester provoked fury on social media.

Iran has been rocked by protests since Masha Amin's death on September 16, three days after she was arrested by morality police in Tehran for allegedly violating the country's strict dress code for women.

Young women have been at the forefront of the biggest wave of street protests seen in the country for years.

"Guns, tanks, fireworks; the mullahs must get lost," women without hijabs chanted yesterday at a gathering at Tehran's Shariati Technical and Vocational College, in a video widely shared online.

The street violence has led to dozens of deaths, mostly among protesters but also members of the security forces, while hundreds have been arrested.

Numerous videos of the protest have gone viral both inside and outside of Iran since Amin's death. The latest video, which happened in Tehran's Argentina Square on Wednesday, showed a group of officers in protective gear and helmets surrounding a woman on a main road, reported BBC.

One of them grabbed her by the neck and led her into a crowd of about two dozen police, many of whom are on motorcycles. While the woman was being forced towards one of the bikes, another officer approaches her from behind and puts his left hand on her bottom.

The woman then crouched on the ground as more officers surrounded her. A female voice behind the camera was heard saying: "They are pulling her hair."

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POCKETING TK 21 LAKH

Charges pressed against Evaly chairman, CEO

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Two top bosses of the e-commerce platform Evaly pocketed Tk 21.62 lakh through digital forgery, a police probe in a Digital Security Act case has found.

Sub-inspector Pradip Kumar Das of Criminal Investigation Department submitted the charge sheet in the case to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Dhaka on September 19.

According to the charge sheet, Evaly Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Rassel and his wife Shamima Nasrin, the chairman, enticed customers to sell its products by publishing false information on social media platforms.

Mohammad Alamgir Hossain, a customer from Madhya Badda in the capital, on September 30 last year filed the case with Badda Police Station against the couple and 15-20 unnamed officials of Evaly.

The charge sheet said the complainant paid Tk 28,79 lakh to Evaly through bKash, Nagad, Lankabangla Finance credit card, City Bank Amex credit card and Brac Bank Visa Card for its goods from January 1, 2020 to September 1, 2021.

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Tourists get on a boat in Laldir Char area, the confluence of the Bishkhali, Baleshwar, and Payra rivers in Patharkata upazila of Barguna. Due to the easier access to the southwest from the capital, tourists have been thronging the region. The photo was taken during the last weekend.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

GENOCIDE IN 1971

US Congressmen move give it recognition

Introduce bipartisan resolution

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Two US lawmakers introduced a historic bipartisan resolution at the House of Representatives urging recognition of the genocide committed by the Pakistan Armed Forces against Bangalis in 1971.

They called on Congress to condemn the atrocities and Pakistan to apologise to the people of Bangladesh for its role in the genocide, and prosecute, in accordance with international law, any perpetrators who are still living.

Republican Congressman Steve Chabot, ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, and co-chair of the Bangladesh Caucus, and Democrat Congressman Ro Khanna introduced the resolution on Friday.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque commended the congressmen.

Belgium-based International Crimes Strategy Forum's board member Ahmed Ziauddin termed the resolution historic and said it will have practical consequences globally as the US has its own law defining its role once any such resolution is passed.

Congressman Steve Chabot said millions of people were killed [in 1971] in what is now Bangladesh and many of them were Hindu.



Steve Chabot

"And it was, in my opinion, a genocide just like other genocides – like the Holocaust happened. And there were others that have occurred, and this was one that, thus far, hasn't really been declared by definition. And we are working on this now," he said in a statement issued by the Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM).

"The Bangladesh Genocide of 1971 must not be forgotten... We must not let the years erase the memory of the millions who were massacred. Recognizing the genocide strengthens the historical record, educates our fellow Americans, and lets would-be perpetrators know such crimes will not be tolerated or forgotten," said Chabot.

The resolution described how the West Pakistani elites deprived the Bangalis of economic, social, and political rights, treating them as a lesser people.

It also mentioned General Yahya Khan's order to the top military brass to kill the Bangalis on March 25, 1971.

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It sought that the US reaffirms its commitment to promote peace, stability and intercommunal harmony in the Indo-Pacific region, and the right of all people

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Illegally parked CNG-run three-wheelers keep half of Mohammadpur's Gaznabi Road occupied, causing severe traffic jams in the area. Late Dhaka north city corporation mayor Anisul Huq took initiatives to free the road. However, the incumbent authorities seem to be least bothered about the issue. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Recruit more manpower

President Hamid urges sultan of Brunei



STAR REPORT

President Abdul Hamid yesterday called upon the Brunei government to recruit more manpower from Bangladesh for the greater interest of the two friendly countries.

The president came up with the call when visiting Brunei Darussalam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah paid a courtesy call on him at the Bangabhaban yesterday evening.

Noting that there was an investment-friendly environment in Bangladesh, President Hamid also urged the business community of Brunei to come

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Dogs can smell stress: study

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Better known for their drug and explosive detecting skills, new research now suggests dogs can smell stress from human sweat and breath.

According to scientists, the skill could be useful when training service dogs and therapy dogs.

Researchers collected samples of sweat and breath from 36 people before and after they undertook a difficult math problem. Each of them reported their stress levels before and after the task, and researchers only used samples where the person's blood pressure and heart rate had increased.

When presented with samples, all four dogs – Treo, Fingal, Soot and Winnie – were able to correctly identify the stress specimens.

Clara Wilson, a PhD student in the School of Psychology at Queen's University Belfast, said: "The findings show that we, as humans, produce different smells through our sweat and breath when we are stressed and dogs can tell this apart from our smell when relaxed – even if it is someone they do not know."

"The research highlights that dogs do not need visual or audio cues to pick up on human stress."

"This is the first study of its kind and it provides evidence that dogs can smell stress from breath

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4 killed as bus crushes van

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Four people died when a rickshaw-van was crushed between two buses on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Gazipur yesterday.

Borhan Uddin, 40, resident of Mymensingh's Phulpur upazila and the driver of the van; fish traders Yunus Ali, 35, of Mymensingh's Haluaghata upazila, and Hazrat Ali, 35, of Sherpur Sadar upazila, were heading towards Gazipur's Salna area from Chandona wholesale fish market around 8:00am yesterday.

They were behind a stopped Balaka Paribahan bus at Gazipur's Telipara area near Chandona intersection when the van was rear-ended by a bus of Bashumoti Paribahan. The van was crushed and pinned against the parked bus.

The three and pedestrian Sohrab Hossain, 32, of Gazipur's Basan area, died on the spot, said Malek Khasru Khan, officer-in-charge of Basan Police Station.

The police recovered the bodies and sent them to Gazipur Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

"We have seized the Bashumoti Paribahan bus but the driver and his helper managed to flee," said Alamgir Hossain Shimul, deputy commissioner (traffic division) of Gazipur Metropolitan Police.