



"Asean is at a crossroad. Crisis after crisis is testing our strength as a community. And failure to address them would risk jeopardising our relevance." Indonesia's coordinating minister for politics, legal and security Mahfud MD



DHAKA WEDNESDAY MAY 10, 2023

PLUS MAGAZINE ON OXFAM'S 50 YEARS IN BANGLADESH

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIII No. 111

BAISHAKH 27, 1430 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SHAWWAL 19, 1444 HURI

16 PAGES : Tk 15.00

A third of power capacity unutilised

Fuel crisis and maintenance work to blame

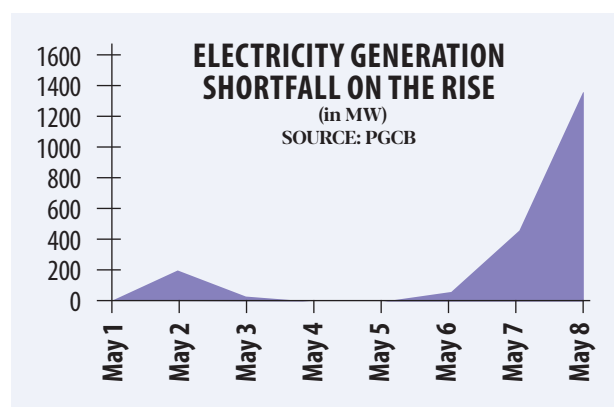
ASIFUR RAHMAN

About one-third of the country's total power generation capacity remains unutilised when people across the country are enduring mild and moderate heatwaves.

For instance, on May 8, 7,139MW of electricity generation capacity was not used thanks to the fuel crisis and maintenance-related down time, shows data from the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh.

About 3,653MW capacity was not utilised for fuel crisis and another 3,486MW for maintenance-related issues.

During heatwaves, people consume more power by using ACs and fans and the load-shedding is leaving them exposed to the sweltering heat.



"We have some fuel-related problems, which we are trying to solve with Petrobangla and BPC [Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation]," said SM Wazed Ali Sarder, member (generation) of the Bangladesh Power Development Board.

Electricity production will be ramped up soon, he said. "Coal for Rampal power plant has arrived – the plant will resume operation soon. There were some interruptions, but all will be okay. We have passed the crisis moment of Boro season and Ramadan," he added.

Petrobangla is supplying about 2,700 to 2,800 million SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Though there are designated shipbreaking yards in Chattogram's Sitakunda and Mirsarai, ships are being broken illegally on the banks of the Karnaphuli in Bakalia. Workers said they had the permission to do so from the Port Authority and High Court, but claimed they didn't know that approvals of other ministries and departments were also required. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Depression may turn into cyclone today

Says Met office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The well-marked low over the Bay of Bengal gathered strength and intensified into a depression last night and it could turn into a cyclone by today, the Met office said.

"The depression may turn into a cyclonic storm tomorrow [Wednesday] or the day after," said Bazlur

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

HC slams health ministry over graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Except for a few honest individuals, the health sector is full of corrupt people from the top to bottom levels, said the High Court yesterday.

"The doctors are making profit in connivance with the pharmaceutical companies," the HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice Mohammad Showkat Ali Chowdhury said during the hearing on a writ

petition.

"Everything must have a limit. The health ministry is always ready to make purchases. Only Allah knows what remains left in those boxes. You are stealing 17 crore people's money.

"From how many people will you seek pardon? You would not have been able to steal if you believed in afterlife," the HC bench told the lawyers for the health ministry and the inspector general

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Imran arrested, protests erupt

His supporters clash with police, lay siege to gate of army HQ; one killed

AGENCIES

Protests erupted across Pakistan yesterday after former prime minister Imran Khan was arrested during a court appearance in the capital for one of dozens of cases pending since he was ousted last year.

His arrest follows months of political crisis and came hours after the powerful military rebuked the former international cricketer for alleging that a senior officer had been involved in a plot to kill him.

Some protesters took out their wrath on the military, storming the residence of the corps commander in Lahore and laying siege to a gate of the army's general headquarters in the garrison city of Rawalpindi.

Police fired tear gas and water cannon to disperse

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



An exponent of economic rationale for independence

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Renowned economist Prof Nurul Islam, a leading architect of the economic rationale for independence of Bangladesh, is no more.

He was 94.

He breathed his last in Washington DC around

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



PROF NURUL ISLAM (1929-2023)



GERMANY-BASED MULTINATIONAL COMPANY CHT BANGLADESH PVT. LTD. STARTS ITS JOURNEY AT MEGHNA INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIC ZONE (MIEZ)

CHT Bangladesh Pvt. Ltd., a subsidiary of CHT Germany GmbH which is a globally active group of companies with a focus on specialty chemicals, inaugurates its factory at Meghna Industrial Economic Zone (MIEZ), Sonargaon, Narayanganj on Tuesday, May 09, 2023. Honorable Minister, Ministry of Industries, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Mr. Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, MP, was present in the inauguration ceremony as chief guest. Honorable Executive Member (Additional Secretary), Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), Mr. Md. Ali Ahsan, and Honorable Director, Meghna Group of Industries (MGI), Ms. Tanjima Binthe Mostafa were present as special guests in the ceremony. CEO/Chairman of the Management Board of CHT Group Dr. Frank Naumann was present as guest of honor. CFO of CHT Group Mr. Axel Bretling, CTO of CHT Group Dr. Bernhard Hettich and Mr. Benoit Moutault, Managing Director (CHT Switzerland AG)/Group Vice President Textile were also present in this event.

