

Grid failure causes nightlong power cuts in parts of Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parts of Dhaka and Savar saw power outages for around one to four hours due to grid failure early yesterday.

A 230kV circuit breaker burst around 12:45am, forcing the Aminbazar grid to fail, said ABM Badruddoza Khan, spokesperson of Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB).

The surrounding areas of Aminbazar, Savar, Mirpur, Kalyanpur, Agargaon, Mohammadpur, Satmasjid Road, and Dhanmondi faced power disruption as a result, he added.

“We started the restoration process at 1:26am,” the spokesperson said, adding that the connection to the Gono Bhaban was restored first.

“Then, the other connections were restored one by one till 4:30am,” he added.

He said the interruption at the Aminbazar grid lasted for around 45 minutes, but the process of restoring power supply to all areas under the grid was quite long.

People suffered without electricity from midnight till dawn in many areas.

A resident of Dhanmondi said even though it was raining, the power outage made conditions unbearable.

SC reopens tomorrow after vacation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Both the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the Supreme Court will reopen tomorrow after a long 37 days' annual vacation.

The Appellate Division comprising six judges headed by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan, and 52 separate HC benches comprising 82 judges will discharge judicial functions.

Justice M Enayetur Rahim will perform as chamber judge of the apex court to deal with the urgent cases for three days – Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday – every week.

On the reopening day, the attorney general's office and the Supreme Court Bar Association leaders will felicitate the newly appointed CJ Obaidul Hassan.

Today's AL rally deferred to October 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League has deferred today's pre-scheduled rally to October 14, in compliance with an order from the Party President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Considering the suffering of the party's activists and supporters due to heavy rains, Hasina ordered the postponement of today's rally, scheduled to take place at Kawla Civil Aviation ground in Dhaka.

The rally will now be held at the same venue on October 14 at 2:00pm, said a press release, undersigned by William Pralay Samaddar, office secretary of Dhaka (North) AL.



LEANING TOWER OF ELECTRICITY... One side of the Sadarghat-Gabtolli-Beribadh road was being used as a dumping ground for a long time. This electric pole was set up there on a thick layer of waste. However, after the city corporation cleaned the roadside, the pole started to tilt. The live electric wires hanging from the tilted pole may snap anytime and fall on pedestrians, which can cause a fatal disaster. The photo was taken in the Lalbagh area yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Waterlogging WOE S

Persistent rainfall over Thursday night and yesterday morning left city dwellers suffering from the after effects. (Clockwise from left) A rickshaw puller struggles to get through the waterlogged Badda Post Office Road. The downpour in Elephant Road left anyone venturing out completely drenched. In Rampura, a sand laden truck got stuck after hitting a pothole. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN, RASHED SHUMON



BIRTH AND DEATH REG ‘The server is just too slow’

DNCC mayor, LGRD minister slam registrar general for poor service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation mayor, LGRD minister and other government high-ups yesterday expressed frustration towards the registrar general's office over the sluggish birth and death registration server.

They did so while speaking at a programme held at a city hotel marking National Birth and Death Registration Day.

“Clicking with a password for logging into the server yields no results. Provide your [registrar general] phone number, make a newspaper announcement with the phone numbers of 10 personnel of your office and ask people to contact you for issues regarding birth registration. See how many people call,” said DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam.

We get a lot of abuse for their server from service seekers. My patience too has a limit. I'm saying these out of distress. My staff tried to download a certificate right now but failed since the server is too slow.

DNCC MAYOR ATIQUUL ISLAM

“We get a lot of abuse for their server from service seekers. My patience too has a limit. I'm saying these out of distress,” he continued. “My staff tried to download a certificate right now but failed since the server is too slow.”

“The country is progressing. In our country, we cannot afford such a system,” he added.

LGRD Minister Tazul Islam echoed the mayor, saying, “I have no disagreement with Mayor Atiq's statement. Everything in our country is moving forward. But why should birth and death registration be difficult?”

Addressing the registrar general, he added, “You must clearly identify the problems. Today, strong words have been spoken here. When strong words are spoken, it creates an opportunity for problem-solving.”

Mahmudul Hossain Khan, secretary

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DENGUE OUTBREAK

9 more die, 1,800 get hospitalised in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least nine more people died from dengue in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday as the country grapples with a record outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease.

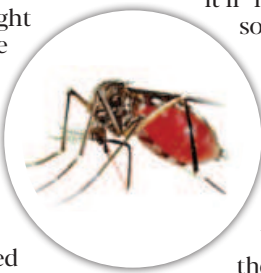
Of the nine deaths, eight were reported outside the capital.

At least 1,800 dengue patients were hospitalised in the 24-hour period, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Dengue has so far claimed at least 1,064 lives this year and nearly 2,18,664 were infected, making this the deadliest year since the first recorded epidemic in 2000.

The daily dengue bulletin from the DGHS relies on data from 57 public and private hospitals in Dhaka, and 81 district and divisional-level hospitals.

However, there are approximately 16,000 more health facilities across



the country providing dengue care, suggesting that the actual number of cases and fatalities may be significantly underreported, said experts.

Besides, the recent rainfall has brought fresh concerns as experts fear it'll help increase the breeding sources of Aedes mosquitoes.

Mushtaq Hussain, a consultant at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control, and Research, recently said, “All our efforts to control the mosquito population have been ineffective. This led to the rise in the number of cases and deaths.”

The extended monsoon is another reason why dengue cases are persisting this year, he added.

According to DGHS data, 8,921 dengue patients were undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country.

A total of 2,08,679 patients have so far been released from hospitals this year.

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