



## Load shedding may spike in summer

### Forex crisis limiting ramping up power generation

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Power generation is not growing in line with the forecasted spike in demand in the coming months centring on warmer temperatures, the fasting month and the irrigation season, leaving people staring at frequent and extended power cuts.

The Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) planned to produce up to 17,300 megawatts of electricity a day against the projected peak summer demand of 17,800MW.

However, achieving the target would depend on the smooth supply of imported fuels like gas, coal and oil, which the government is unable to do for the strain on the dollar stockpile, according to officials involved with the plan, who spoke to The Daily Star on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue.

As of February 14, which is the latest available statistics from the Bangladesh Bank, the foreign currency reserves stood at \$19.9 billion, enough to meet at best three months' import bills.

Already, many areas in Dhaka and elsewhere in Bangladesh are experiencing power cuts of up to 500 megawatts (MW) a day, when the demand is nowhere near the peak.

Since February 15, the PDB has been producing between 9,500MW to 10,500MW in the evening peak hours against the demand of more

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## FOR THE LOVE OF MOTHER LANGUAGE

As the nation observed International Mother Language Day, members of the Bangladesh Scouts collected flowers from the surroundings of the Central Shaheed Minar and designed a large decorative motif in front of the monument yesterday morning. Tributes began pouring in at the venue from Tuesday midnight, while President Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid their respects to the language martyrs by laying down floral wreaths at the Shaheed Minar.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## A carpenter's literary paradise

KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Right in the heart of Jhalakathi lies a library stocked with over 8,000 books of various genres – history, culture, poetry, and more. Every day, scores of readers flock to the literary haven in the small town of East Kathpotti to either sit there and leaf through pages, or borrow their next great read free of cost.

That library is funded and run by Narayan Chandra Mistry, 55, a carpenter by profession.

Like renowned writer Syed Mujtaba Ali had said, "No one becomes bankrupt from buying books", Narayan stands as a testament to the transformative powers of literature.

Back in 1982, Narayan, a promising student, failed to attend his secondary school certificate examination due to his family's financial struggles.

"Unable to sit for the exam, I went to India and trained in carpentry for two years," he said

Returning to his birthplace in Barishal's B a k e r g a n j, Narayan began his carpentry career.

About 35 years ago, he moved to Jhalakathi, where he and his elder brother Harinath Mistry began a carpentry business in Kathpotti, specialising in crafting furniture.

However, having missed out on his own education, Narayan always felt a gnawing in his heart. He thought, perhaps, he could fulfil that desire by helping others educate themselves. And his way

Sandha Rani and other family members provided Narayan with unwavering support.

With the money he earned from carpentry, he expanded his collection.



CHANGE MAKER

to do that? Books, of course.

In 2003, Narayan began distributing books from his own collection among the locals in the evenings after work. He would pedal his bicycle and go door-to-door to deliver books for a four-five days loan.

"I also invited people to my rented house in the Bashpotti area, where I established a small library."

People flocked there to peruse books, while his wife

However, his landlord soon began coming up with objections. "He had a problem with strangers coming into my house as he claimed he had rented out the home to me – not my readers. I had to comply and stop people from coming anymore."

Then in 2017, a local businessperson in Jhalakathi offered to relocate the library to two stalls at the Udbodhan Secondary School in the district, and pledged to cover half the stalls' fair – amounting to Tk 2,000.

However, since last year, the benefactor stopped the funding, leaving Narayan to should the entire Tk 4,000 rent.

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## Myanmar army counterattack may spark fresh Rohingya influx

Fear Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

A possible retaliation by Myanmar forces to regain territories in Rakhine may force more Rohingyas to enter Bangladesh in the coming days, said Rohingya leaders living in Teknaf.

Despite a lull in fighting across the border over the last two days, they feared that fighting in Rakhine may intensify soon.

Since early February, Myanmar troops and the armed group called Arakan Army (AA) have been locked in a fierce battle in Rakhine, causing panic in villages on this side of the border.

Rohingya leaders here, citing information from various sources, said the AA has taken control of most of the

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## Another child dies after general anaesthesia

Two doctors land in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 10-year-old boy died on Tuesday night after he was allegedly administered general anaesthesia during a circumcision procedure at a private hospital in the capital's Malibagh.

The Directorate General of Health Services already sealed off JS Diagnostic & Medical Checkup Centre and Hospital. DGHS officials say that the licence of the diagnostic centre would be cancelled today.

Police arrested two doctors of the hospital over the death of Ahnaf Tahmin Ayham, a class-four student of Motijheel Ideal School and College.

This is the second death in the capital since January 7, when five-year-old Ayaan Ahmed, a nursery student, died during the circumcision procedure at the United Medical College Hospital in Badda.

Besides, 32-year-old Raahib Reza died of a cardiac arrest he suffered during an endoscopy procedure at LabAid Hospital in Dhanmondi on Monday, said the hospital authorities.

Family alleged that Reza was given general anaesthesia without the reports of his tests done at the hospital being checked by the doctor concerned. DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE The family of Ahnaf Tahmin said he was taken to the JS Diagnostic Centre around 8:00pm on Tuesday for circumcision. After being administered general anaesthesia, he did not regain consciousness. An hour later, the hospital authorities declared him dead.

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Zulfia Asaf, wife of M.Asafuddowlah & daughter of Late Professor Nafis Ahmad & Akhtarjahan Begum, passed away on 20th February 2024 at United Hospital. Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Illaihi Raji'un.

She was 77 years of age. She left behind her husband, one brother, four children & nine grandchildren to mourn her death.

A Dua Mahfil will be held on Friday 23rd February baad Asr at the Gulshan Society Mosque, Gulshan

Please pray for the departed soul.

Family of Mrs.Zulfia Asaf