

BOALKHALI, PATIYA
People suffer
for power
outage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Residents of Boalkhali and Patiya upazilas in Chattogram suffered a lot due to prolonged power outages following technical glitch in the supply line of Palli Bidyut yesterday.

Farzana Akter from Boalkhali said power went out at around 6:00am and came around 11:30am; later, it went out again around noon and didn't come till 6:00pm.

"We are suffering in the sweltering heat," she said, adding, "We cannot recharge our mobile phone sets and cannot communicate with others over phone for emergency purposes."

Mizanur Rahman, deputy general manager of Chattogram Palli Bidyut Samity-1, said as the technical glitch occurred in the breaker of supply grid, power outage started in those areas.

"A total of 72,000 clients are there in the zone under Palli Bidyut," he added.

Three children
drown in
ponds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Three children drowned in ponds in Jamalpur yesterday afternoon.

The incident took place at Kalkihara and Malirchor villages in Bokshiganj upazila, police quoted locals as saying.

At Kalkihara, Shoeb Hassan, 6, son of Gofur Badsha; and Robiul Miah, 8, son of Ayob Mia, drowned while they were bathing in a pond near their houses around 5:00pm, said Abdul Ahad Khan, officer-in-charge of Bokshiganj Police Station.

Meanwhile, Safa Aktar, 4, daughter of Raju Miah from Malirchor village, drowned in a pond, said the OC. The bodies were handed over to the families.



This roll of cable was burnt during the violence on July 18. DPDC was installing underground wires in Basila area of Mohammadpur, when miscreants set it on fire. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

NATIONWIDE CURFEW

7,500 tourists stuck
in Cox's Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 7,500 tourists have been trapped in Cox's Bazar amid the ongoing nationwide curfew.

Being anxious to return home, they are collecting curfew passes from deputy commissioner's office, so that they can have a safe passage.

They are also facing massive financial troubles due to the online banking system not working because of the nationwide internet shutdown.

Mohammad Yousuf, a tourist from Dhaka's Elephant Road, said he and his friend came to Cox's Bazar on July 17 for two days.

However, due to the curfew, they got trapped here, and they were already out of cash as they could not withdraw any money through mobile banking services, he said.

"We had to get our meals and stay at the hotel on credit. Later, we managed to pay our bills after we could withdraw some money



Tourists gathering at Cox's Bazar DC office for curfew passes and bus tickets yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

from a distant ATM booth. Since we have been staying at the hotel due to an unfortunate circumstance, it would be nice if the hotel gave us a discount, but they didn't give any," said Yousuf.

Another tourist Morium said she came on a two-night trip with 50 of her colleagues four days ago, but still they have not been

able to leave Cox's Bazar due to curfew.

The extended stay is hurting them financially, she added.

Masud Rana, an executive magistrate, said the district administration is arranging buses with regular fare for the trapped tourists to leave Cox's Bazar.

"Around 50 buses will leave

Cox's Bazar tomorrow [today] morning with the trapped tourists," he added.

Around 4,000 curfew passes were issued to the tourists on Sunday and many others were being issued passes yesterday, Masud Rana told The Daily Star in the evening.

According to the District Tourist Police, around 7,500 tourists are trapped in the Cox's Bazar, he added.

Meanwhile, tourists complained that they are having to pay higher fares for both buses and airlines.

Sirajul Islam, a tourist from Narayanganj's Araihaazar, said the same sleeper coach that carried them to Cox's Bazar for Tk 1,100 per seat, is now asking Tk 2,500 for the return ticket.

Iftekharmahmud, a businessman from Dhanmondi, said airline companies are asking Tk 8,000 to Tk 11,000 for return tickets, while the fare was Tk 5,500 when he was getting tickets to come to Cox's Bazar.

'Reducing quota
for indigenous
people not logical'
Says Adivasi Quota
Sangrakkhan Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reducing the quota for people from indigenous communities in government jobs from five percent to one percent is not logical, said Alik Mree, convenor of the Adivasi Quota Sangrakkhan Parishad.

"Now it would be impossible for indigenous community members to attain higher growth through sustainable and inclusive development as pledged in the SDGs," he said in a text message.

Besides, the pledge to change the quality of living standard by reducing poverty and inequality among the marginalised communities will be also not viable, he also said.

The quota reduction will keep the indigenous communities lagging behind, which will in turn impede the building of "Smart Bangladesh" and attaining the SDGs, he remarked.

Mree urged the Supreme Court and the government to restore the five percent quota for indigenous communities in government jobs.

Pahari Chhatra Parishad in a statement yesterday demanded that the government restore the five percent quota for indigenous communities.

Surrender or
face stern action
IGP warns convicts who
fled Narsingdi jail; 64 out
of 826 arrested so far

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun yesterday said police will take stern action against the convicts who fled from Narsingdi District Jail on July 19 unless they surrender immediately.

"We urge all the convicts, who have fled, to surrender. Otherwise, we will take stern action against them," he said.

Police have so far arrested 64 out of the total 826 convicts who fled from the jail, and recovered 21 of the 85 arms that were looted on the same day, the IGP said while briefing reporters in front of the Narsingdi jail premises yesterday.

The IGP also announced a reward of Tk 50,000 to anyone who will provide information or help to recover the looted arms.

Narsingdi Deputy Commissioner Badiul Alam and Superintendent of Police Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman were present among other senior officials at the briefing.

Contacted, Tanvir Hasan, officer-in-charge of Narsingdi Sadar Police Station, yesterday said few convicts have already surrendered to them. He, however, did not mention the number of convicts who surrendered.

On July 19, a total of 826 convicts fled from the jail, while 85 arms and 9,000 bullets were looted.

Meanwhile, two separate committees have been formed to investigate the incident.

Restore internet, withdraw

FROM PAGE 3

them, urging the authorities to publish identities of the murdered and injured ones.

The platform said the government has to withdraw "false and fabricated" cases against student protesters and other innocent people.

Besides, safety of all student coordinators has to be ensured, it added.

It said those who were injured should be provided with adequate treatment.

The platform condemned atrocities allegedly committed by police and other law enforcement agency members and demanded that the power of those who gave the orders should be curtailed and that they should be brought under an accountability framework.

It said before resuming classes across the country, an education-friendly environment has to be ensured.

It said a "delayed" but recent verdict from the country's apex court came as a positive development in regards to fulfilling demands of the students, however, their eight-point demand was still awaiting implementation.

Meanwhile, Gonoforum, in a statement, demanded prosecution of those who killed protesting students, a cease to the ongoing mass arrests and harassment, release of all political prisoners and re-opening of all educational institutions.

Social Resistance Committee, a platform of 66 women, human rights and development organisations, expressed deep concern over the latest verdict of the Appellate Division that eliminated the female quota.

"The SDG-5 clearly mentions equality of men and women and female quota is necessary to achieve that goal," said Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Fauzia Moslem, on behalf of

the platform, in a statement.

Meanwhile, 25 female rights activists and teachers termed the Supreme Court's verdict on quota system "confusing, illogical and a farce", and demanded its withdrawal.

In a joint statement, they said the SC verdict was "a trap to confuse the ongoing just protests against the fascist government".

"The government has tried to blackout the information of killing at least 174 general people with internet shutdown and by imposing curfew," reads the statement sent through a text message.

Signatories of the statement include: Bangladesh Nari Mukti Kendra president Sima Dutta; rights activist Rehnuma Ahmed; Dhaka University teacher Samina Lutfa Nitra; Bangladesh Hill Women Federation president Niti Chakma; artist Sayan; and teacher Monira Sharmin.

Internet

FROM PAGE 7

The CPA is also trying to adopt manual documentations as a part of its efforts to keep the port running, he said.

Transport of import and export-laden containers between the port and the private ICDs, however, improved a bit yesterday morning.

Four vessels departed from the port yesterday and they took almost all of the containers for which bookings had been placed on them.

Far East Group, a Gazipur-based garment factory, imported three containers of cotton and chemicals from China and India which were unloaded from a ship on July 17.

The assessment and payment of duties against these consignments were completed by July 19 but they could not be delivered until yesterday, said Kamruzzaman Sagar, proprietor of ABS Corporation, the clearing and forwarding agent.

Because of the internet blackout, the three containers could neither be traced nor be run through a final verification by customs in the last three days, he said, adding that it was difficult to carry out these activities manually.

PRAYER
TIMING
JULY 23

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-15	12-45	5-00	6-54	8-15
JAMAAT 4-50	1-15	5-15	6-58	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Stranded, they continue

FROM PAGE 3

yesterday claimed the situation at Ashkona Hajj Camp and the rest house is not good at all.

Besides, the roads that lead to the two places are unable to be used as those are under repair, they said.

While visiting Dhaka airport yesterday afternoon, hundreds of exhausted migrant workers were found waiting for 8-12 hours for their flights.

Shariful Hasan, associate director of BRAC Migration Programme, said many migrant workers, both

outbound and returnees, were affected due to the curfew and internet shutdown.

"There was fear and uncertainty among the migrants to catch their flights on time amid the situation. As a result, many reached the capital from different districts a day before and later found it difficult to spend the night," Shariful said.

BRAC has provided support to many migrants in distress, he said.

Hamidur Rahman, director general of Wage

Earners' Welfare Board, said currently they provide accommodation facilities to both outbound and returnee migrants at the Bangabandhu Wage Earners' Centre at Khilkhet, where 50 people can reside at a time.

If required, migrants can use the facility as a short-time shelter, he said, adding that they also have ambulance service at the airport. Meanwhile, sources at HSIA said at least 12 international flights were cancelled and many others delayed in the last four days.

The People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Board of Revenue

Bangladesh Regional Connectivity project 1:

National Single Window Implementation and Strengthening Customs Modernization

IDEB Bhaban (10th floor), 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka

Memo no. 1(192) Active items/ Hardware /NSW/2024/2142.

Date: 22.07.24

Subject: Addendum to bidding document for supply and Installation of Hardware and Infrastructure (network, communication, cabling etc.) and standard software for NSW solution; other network, communication equipment, structure, Hardware and cabling: Server & Storage and Network & Security components for NSW Server Room & DR. Bangladesh Regional Connectivity project 1: Request for Bids (RFB) No. NBR-GD2A.1.

Addendum No. 2

This is for the information of all Bidders concerned that the following amendments have been mad for the procurement mentioned in the subject above;

Ref	Existing Entry	Amended entry
SI No. of 6, SPN ITP-23.1& 26.1	The deadline for Bid Submission is: Date: July 23,2024, Time :14.00 hours.	The deadline for Bid Submission is: Date: August 13,2024, Time :14.00 hours.
	Date & Time for Bid Opening July 23,2024, Time: 14:30 hours	Date & Time for Bid Opening August 13, 2024, Time :14:30 hours

All the terms and conditions of bidding Documents (RFB) NBR-GD2A. 1 shall remain unchanged. This Addendum No. 2 shall be considered an integral part of the Bidding Documents and shall be binding on all Bidders who have obtained or will obtain the Bidding Documents from the Purchaser.

(Abul Bashar Md Shafiqur Rahman)
Project Director
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GD-64