

# 2000 more villages to be electrified this fiscal

ZAKIGANJ, Dec 26: Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain has said over two thousand new villages will be provided with power during the current financial year under rural electrification programme now being implemented throughout the country by constructing about 7,300 kilometres of distribution lines, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the rural electrification network in village Atgram, under Zakiganj thana in Sylhet district on Sunday, the energy minister said of the 14,051 villages electrified during the last 14 years, more than eight thousand villages receive electricity during the last three and a half years.

About 1400 villages got electric power last year through the construction of 7200 kilometres of distribution lines, Dr. Hossain said.

Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Mohammad Faizur Razzaque, Member of the Rural Electrification Board (REB) M A Wadud and central leader of

BNP Harish Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.

The REB is supervising the rural electrification programme and the first village was electrified under the programme in June 1980.

Underlining the importance of rural electrification network, the energy minister said late President Ziaur Rahman established the REB in 1977 with a view to supplying electricity to the rural masses to bring momentum to the village life. The programme got momentum during the tenure of the present government, he said.

He further said, out of the 56,000 kilometres of distribution lines so far constructed under REB, over 25,000 kilometres of line were done during the tenure of the present government.

Sylhet Palli Biddu Samity under REB has brought Atgram under electrification network by constructing 230 kilometres of distribution power lines.

Sylhet Palli Biddu Samity has so far electrified 695 villages of Sylhet by constructing about 17,000 distribution lines covering six thanas of the district, Sylhet Sadar, Bishnubazar, Golapganj, Biswanath, Balaganj and Zakiganj.

Earlier, the energy minister and the energy secretary visited Bishnubazar gas fields and the proposed site of the headquarters of Jalalabad Gas System Transmission and Distribution Company Limited (JGSTDCL) at Sylhet.

The government has allocated Taka 100 crore for the first time from its own resources during the last fiscal year to streamline the rural

electrification network. It has increased the amount to Taka 200 crore during the current fiscal year, he said adding, rural electrification programme will further be accelerated in future.

The energy secretary emphasised on ensuring optimum use of electricity and payment of electricity bills in time to help expand the electricity network in the country.

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## 5th Asia Expo begins in Hamburg March 29

The fifth Asia Expo will present consumer goods from Asian countries from March 29 to April 1 next year, says a press release issued by German embassy here.

With a comprehensive spectrum ranging from fancy goods, toys, jewellery, watches and clocks to interior design, domestic appliances, sports and leisure goods, this Asian consumer-goods fair is directed to specialist retailers, agents, commercial representatives, importers, department stores, wholesalers and retail chains.

The success of the four previous Asia Expos staged at Hamburg Exhibition Centre are clear proof of the economic significance of the growing trade between Asia and Europe.

The Asia happy Hall presents the Asian way of life in Hamburg. At this event culinary attractions, travel, culture and a colourful range of Asian products will familiarise visitors with Far Eastern customs and traditions. Companies associated with this part of the world will inform visitors about themselves and their country, presenting their products to an interested audience in a colourful display.

An interchange of information between service enterprises, institutions with close ties to the Asian economic region and visitors particularly interested in Asia is the aim of the Asia Borse, the third part of Asia Expo '95.

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Kong and several from Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand have branches in Hamburg. Taiwan has the second largest representation in the city with 55 firms.

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