

CARS THAT MAKE SENSE

DESA's unrealised amount stands at Tk 481 cr

By Sharier Khan

DESA, formerly the Dhaka As the pile of unpaid bills keeps mounting, the woes of Electric Supply. Tk 32 crore. the Dhaka Electric Supply Different autonomous bodies including the Dhaka City Authority (DESA), which sells Corporation owe another Tk electricity to consumers in the capital and its suburbs, are ag-108 crore while private consumers have accumulated argravating.

Unrealised dues to the rears of Tk 341 crore. The biggest single defaulter staggering extent of Tk 481 is the Adamjee Jute Mills. crore have not only multiplied the state-owned distribution whose bill amounts to between Tk 37 and 38 crore, well company's losses but also eaten placed sources in the DESA into the vitals of the Power told The Daily Star. Development Board (PDB) which generates the electric-

According to latest PDB es-

In addition to the outstand-

timates, since its incorpora-

tion on October 31, 1991,

DESA owes PDB around Tk

ing debts of consumers in the

capital and in Tongi and

Narayanganj, different gov-

ernment organisations - in-

cluding ministries and organi-

ABU DHABI, Apr 21: Key

ministers from six Gulf Arab oil

states will meet next month to

try to forge a new economic

relationship with Japan and

other industrial giants to ac-

quire technology and promote

non-oil exports, officials said

The ministers of foreign af-

fairs, oil, economy and finance

from the six-nation Gulf Coop-

eration Council (GCC) will hold

a rare meeting in Riyadh in

late May which will also dis-

cuss the latest plunge in the

US dollar that has combined

with low crude prices to ag-

"It is the first meeting by

such ministers in several years.

It will focus on our relations

with Japan, the United States,

the European Union and other

gravate their economic woes.

yesterday, reports AFP.

400 crore.

The DESA has over 4.75 lakh consumers in the capital, Tongi, Narayanganj and adjacent areas, the majority being private subscribers.

With very little hope of any immediate realisation of the dues, officials in the DESA don't see how the organisation can be made profitable in the near future.

As if the ever-increasing size of unrealised bills were sations like the WASA - owe not enough, senior officials re- to around Tk 45 to 50 crore. be made accordingly and DESA the source opined.

questing anonymity, confided to this correspondent that a section of unscrupulous meter readers and ledger writers having strong political connection under the shelter of the Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) were involved in large scale pilferage and theft-causing DESA incur a huge system

The PDB sells the DESA electricity worth around Tk 50 crore per mouth on average at a rate of Tk 1.85 per kilowatt. The DESA, keeping its profit margin, sells the same to the consumers at various rates according to the amount of

loss level of over 30 per cent.

DESA should be a profitmaking organisation, a well placed source said, but because of its huge system loss, it only prepares bills for the 70 per cent of the actual electricity consumption - which amounts

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan addressing the participants of three courses at

Gulf states to meet in Riyadh in May to

forge economic ties with world groups

for new relations and negotia-

Al-Bayan said the GCC sec-

retariat had sent letters to

member states asking them to

present their views about such

a relationship and what they

can offer foreign partners in

return for more economic

GCC was about to open more

rounds of economic negotia

tions with industrial countries

and had received requests for

trade talks from China, Russia.

Turkey and the ASEAN group.

cept about the political and

economic objectives of the

GCC's dialogue with other

countries," the letter said.

"This requires a joint con-

GCC states — Saudi Arabia.

Date: 12/4/95

Bahrain, Oman. Qatar, Kuwait

It said the letter noted the

tions with those groups.

concessions

the certificate awarding ceremony held at Bangladesh Airline Training Centre in the city on Thursday.

or equivalent to the amount we owe to the PDB. Then again, all consumers do not pay their bills in time. In that way they pay us between Tk 40 and 45 crore, leaving us a shortfall of Tk five crore per month."

"In addition, the overhead or establishment cost of DESA is no less than five to seven crore per month. So the dues are piling up by Tk 12 crore monthly," the source pointed out adding the DESA would incur a loss of Tk 146 crore in the fiscal of 1994-95.

The unscrupulous meter readers collaborate with some consumers to escape their original billing and pay a lump sum amount in exchange of

"The DESA prepares the bill according to the meter reading as reported by a meter reader. Now if a meter reader makes false report, the bill will DESA out of the abyss of loss,

would incur the loss," the source clarified.

"The authorities are quite aware of the mischiefs of such meter readers. There are instances when the authorities decided to transfer such culprits, but the CBA, which is dominated by the ruling political party, created severe pressure on the administration and such decisions had to be withdrawn," he said.

Some Ledger Keepers produce false and exorbitant bills to consumers and blackmail them with a threat to disconnect the line and earn extra money, he added.

As per the government's power sector reform policy, the DESA would be corporatized in the future. But till then, the government should appoint experienced and committed executives to bring

forex ends

The 18-day training course International Trade and Foreign Exchange concluded Thursday at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management, says a press release.

A total of 33 officers from different banks and financial institutions participated in the

The BIBM arranged this course with a view to familiarising the participants with different foreign exchange market operations, exchange rates determination, managing loreign exchange risks and position and operation of different foreign currency accounts.

Indian traders invited to invest in Nicaragua

NEW DELHI. Apr 21: Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Erneste Leal Sanchez invited Indian businessmen yesterday to invest in his country, saying it had access to 'mega markets' through a series of multilateral

of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry that Nicaragua offered great scope in investment in sectors such as telecommunications, energy, transportation, mining and deep sea fishing.

The minister said Managua foreign investors as part of a newly-launched privatisation policy which had helped bring in foreign direct investment of some 150 million dollars a

BIBM course on

A H M Nurul Islam Choudhuri. Director General of BIBM, presided over the concluding session and gave away the certificates to the participants.

course.

trade pacts, says AFP. Sanchez told the Federation

offered attractive benefits to sorb large industrial projects. vear.

IBM profit rises in 3 months

NEW YORK, Apr 21: IBM reported a 1.29 billion dollars profit in the first quarter, nearly four times its earnings in the same period a year ago and sharply above Wall Street expectations, reports AP.

The world's largest computer company, which gets about two-thirds of its revenue outside of the United States, benefited somewhat from the dollar's decline against some other major currencies during the period.

Nonetheless, nearly every business unit reported a stronger performance, including the personal computer operation vexed by restructuring last year. And chief executive officer Louis V Gerstner Jr gave the most upbeat assessment of the company in the two years that he has led it.

"We had a strong quarter." Gerstner said in a statement. He said IBM's massive job and other cost reductions and strategic priorities are taking effect

He added, "But now our revenue growth indicates that our technology and marketing strategies are taking hold and beginning to produce funda mental gains."

The company earned 2.12 dollars per share in the three months that ended March 31 exceeding analysts' forecasts of 1.60 dollars. A year ago, IBM earned 336 million dollars. or 54 cents per share, excluding a government systems subsidiary that it sold during that

Revenue was 15.74 billion dollars, up nearly 18 per cent from 13.37 billion dollars in the year-ago period.

Economy on way to self-reliance'

COMILLA. Apr 21 (BSS) Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain has said the BNP government had rejuvenated country's economy which was badly shattered by the previous autocratic government and it was now in the process of self-reliance.

"Presently the country is able to contribute over 40 per cent from its own resources to its annual development programme while it was not possible to contribute even one per cent during the previous government". Dr Mosharraf Hossain said this while visiting the progress of some on-going development projects at Daudkandi in Comilla vester-

Outlining some economic achievements of the present government the energy minister said, "we are implementing development programmes involving over Taka 11 thousand and 5 hundred crore during the current fiscal year while the total budgetary allocation during the tenure of the previous government was below to the tune of Taka 5 thousand and 5 hundred crore".

Dr Mosharraf Hossain referred to Barapukuria coal mine. Madhayapara hard rock and Jamuna multi-purpose bridge as remarkable success of the government and said once these were only dreams but now very much reality. "Commissioning of these projects will definitely make a breakthrough in our economy" he expressed the optimism.

The Energy Minister underlined the need for maintaining peace and discipline in the country and said "otherwise, all development efforts will seriously be hampered". He urged the people to foil any

move designed to hamper social peace, progress and

stability. The projects which have been visited by the minister are Gouripur-Homna-Karikandi road. Gouripur-Homna-Yusufpur road, Gouripur-Homna-Majidpur road and a bridge on

way to Karikandi-Majidpur. He

also inaugurated Shahpur bri-

dge in Majidpur union.

Pak trade body visits BJA

A six-member trade delegation from the Pakistan Jute Mills Association (PJMA) headed by its Chairman Ahsan M Saleem visited Bangladesh Jute Association (BJA) and met the members of the executive committee of BJA on Thursday, reports BSS.

Prof Md Razaul Karim MP led the BJA side, a press release said.

The PJMA delegates requested the BJA to discourage jute goods exports to Pakistan and to increase the raw jute export there, since they are the consumer of one million bales of raw jute.

Prof Razaul Karim assured the PJMA delegates that he would make allout efforts so that the exporters of raw jute of Bangladesh would extend all sorts of cooperation to the importers of the raw jute in Pakistan.

The PJMA chief invited the exporters of raw jute of Bangladesh through the chief of BJA to visit Pakistan and exchange views for mutual inter-

Among others Sheikh Abdul Mannan, Rezaul Karim, Arzoo Rahman Bhuiya, Hooshang Ghulami, Mazhar Valjee, Hanif Bawany were present.

Egypt passes \$21b budget 20 per cent of Egypt's foreign

CAIRO, Apr 21: Egypt's parliament has passed a national budget for the fiscal year 1995-96 totalling amounting to 71.4 billion Egyptian pounds (21 billion dollars), with a deficit of 5.3 billion pounds (1.5 billion dollars), says AFP.

The budget predicted revenues amounting to 66.2 billion pounds (19.5-billion dollars) and provided for financing from loans and credit facilities to reduce the net deficit to 406 million pounds (119 million dollars), the government Daily Al-Gumhuriya reported yesterday.

Another government Daily Al-Akhbar said the budget passed Wednesday night projects economic growth of 5.4 per cent. It predicted 41.9 billion pounds (12 billion dollars) in income from taxes and customs, an increase of 13 per cent over the 1994-95 fiscal

Foreign loans would contribute 0.8 per cent of government income "to finance productivity projects only," it

The budget earmarks 22.8 billion pounds (6.7 billion dollars) to pay interest on Egypt's domestic and foreign debt and 20 billion pounds (5.8 billion dollars) to cover a 10-per cent raise in the minimum wage, Al-Akhbar said.

It said government subsi dies would take up 4.06 billion pounds (1.19 billion dollars). Another government daily,

Al-Ahram, added that out of 41 billion pounds (12 billion dollars) of government investments, 53 per cent would go to the private sector.

Prime Minister Atef Sedki said inflation had fallen to eight per cent, compared to 28 per cent in 1988. Al-Akhbar reported.

"Removal of the remaining

debt is certain and will occur when we reach an agreement with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund," Sedki added.

"The budget aims at having the private sector bear most investment. That sector is up to the responsibility and whoever doubts that might as well doubt the sunrise," he said.

The head of the opposition Nasserist Party. Diaeddin Daud, called on the government to "clarify policies on the redistribution of wealth since the vast majority of Egyptians suffer from poverty and declining status of living," Al-Ahram

The leftist leader noted economic growth was set to reach only 2.5 per cent and the unemployment was 17 per cent according to World Bank estimates.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer

world groupings. We feel it is

anism for such a relationship

that will benefit all of us," an

official from the GCC secre-

tariat told AFP by telephone

from the Riyadh headquarters.

the continuous decline in the

US dollar, its impact on our

economies and measures to

anonymity, confirmed a report

by the United Arab Emirates

(UAE) Daily Al-Bayan that the

meeting would be held just be-

fore talks between the GCC

ministers and EU foreign min-

secretaries will meet around

May 23 to prepare guidelines

The GCC ministers' under-

counter such effects.

"The talks will also cover

The official, who requested

time that we draw up a mech-

Facilities Department, Moulvibazar Zone, Moulvibazar.

isters on May 29.

Tender Notice No. 12/Fd/IDB/LOAN/MAD/MBZ/94-95

Re-Tender Notice

(2nd Call)

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the enlisted A-1 & A-2 contractors of Facilities Department for the reconstruction of Madrashas in 2(two) groups under the project "Reconstruction/Extension of Madrasha under the loan Assistance of Islamic Development Bank (IDB)" each group of work consist 1(one) Madrasha. All other related information may be seen in the tender documents.

Tender documents may be obtained from the Zonal office, Moulvibazar up to 29-4-95 on all working days during the office hours on cash payment of Tk. 400/=(Four hundred) only (Non-refundable) for each set of tender documents. Tender will be received by Zonal office, Moulvibazar on 30-4-95 up to 12.00 Noon & will be opened on the same day at 12-30 PM.

Before purchasing the tender documents the owner/Authorised representative of the firm will have to apply to concern officer in the printed pad stating the group number as mentioned in the tender documents. Time allowed for completion of work is 6 (Six) months.

The original enlistment book will have to be produced at the time of purchasing the tender documents. Each tender must accompany a Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh for amount of Tk. 2.50% (two & half percent) of the quoted amount in favour of the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Moulvibazar Zone, Moulvibazar.

Tenders will have to quote itemwise rate with details analysis and this rate will include all types of Taxes and VAT.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender/tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Name of selected Madrasha under IDB loan project: Remarks District Name of Madrasha Thana Group No. No. Hobiganj Baniachang Senior Madrasha 63 Baniachang Moulvibazar Nayabazar Ahamadia Fazil Kulaura Madrasha Md. Jasim Uddin **Executive Engineer** Facilities Department DFP-9538-17/4 Moulvibazar Zone, Moulvibazar. G - 621

Private cpaital-flow to poor states to decline

WASHINGTON, Apr. 21 Private capital flows to developing countries, which took off n 1993, will be down for a second consecutive year in 1995 and has come to a virtual standstill in Latin America, according to a study released yesterday, reports AFP.

and the UAE - have been loc-

ked in negotiations with the

eral years in a bid to acquire

technology essential to en-

deavours to build an industrial

base and lessen reliance on

They also want those coun-

tries to lift customs barriers

for GCC petrochemicals, alu-

minium and other non-oil ex-

ports on the grounds they have

the biggest consumer markets

removed under the GATT deal,

industrial powers have been

reluctant to transfer technol-

ogy to the Gulf, arguing the

region is relatively small to ab-

Although customs could be

in the Middle-East.

free access to Gulf markets,

unpredictable oil earnings.

US, Japan and the EU for sev

Foreign investment in the less developed countries is expected to total 81.9 billion dollars this year, less than half last year, according to the Institute for International Finance, a lobbying group for commercial banks.

The Asia-Pacific region is expected to attract no more than 60 billion dollars in foreign investment, compared to 80.4 billion dollars last year. Central and Eastern Europe are expected to get 10.3 billion dollars, compared to 12.7 billion private investment last

Public financing for those areas will rise spectacularly, up 38 per cent this year compared to a nine per cent increase last year, according to IFI. The reversal reflects aid programmes for Mexico and Russia.

To avert a repeat of debacles like the Mexican crisis last winter, the IFI called on the international community to mobilise and put in place an early warning system.

Such a system would put the emphasis on reducing imbalances and strengthening developing economies while enabling governments, investors and multilateral organisations to anticipate and re-

spond to new crises. The IFI detailed its propos-

als in a letter to world finance ministers participating in the spring meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank next week in Washington.

An early warning system "must incorporate actions by all major participants and revolve around greater transparency and more disciplined approaches to maintaining sound policies."

Islami Bank confce held

A day-long conference of zonal heads and branch managers of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited was held in the city yesterday, says a press, conference.

Mohammad Younus, Vice

Chairman, Board of Directors of the bank, was present as chief guest. Presided over by M Kamaluddin Chowdhury, Executive President of the bank. the inaugural session of the conference was also addressed by M Fariduddin Ahmed, Vice President of the Operations Division of the bank.

Mohammad Younus in his speech said, Islami Bank through its inner ideological strength has been able to create tremendous enthusiasm among the people. He urged the bankers to work for the socio-economic development of the country.

M Kamaluddin Chowdhury in his speech urged the zonal heads and managers of the bank to give leadership in extending the services of the bank to the door-step of the common people.

Southeast Asia's currencies drop against US dollar

SINGAPORE, Apr 21: Currencies of Southeast Asia's bustling economies dropped against the US dollar on some profit-taking in Singapore trading yesterday after chalking up gains on the back of a weaker greenback versus the ven, dealers said, reports AFP.

Among the worst hit was the Malaysian ringgit which Japanese houses unloaded for quick profits after the currency surged to new highs against the greenback recently, they said.

The US dollar ended at 2.4720 Malaysian ringgit from 2.4650 on Wednesday and an eight year low of 2.4580 on

"There was active but choppy trading in the dollarringgit, pushing it at one time

gapore said. The Singapore dollar, which climbed to an all-time record high of 1.3912 against the US dollar a day earlier, also shed some of its gains to

to 2.4750," a dealer with Ban-

que Nationalé de Paris in Sin-

1.3968 yesterday. The Thai baht was also not spared, dropping to 24.51 after it rallied to a 11-yearrecord high of 22.43 against the US currency, which also rose marginally to 2,229

Indonesian rupiah from 2,228

a day earlier.

Dealers said the greenback gained strength on Thursday on substantial buying against the yen and mark by American

"A Swiss account also grabbed a big chunk of dollars in early trading," said a dealer with a foreign bank.

The US dollar rose to 1.3727 marks after opening Thursday in Singapore at 1.3700 and appreciated to 82.25 yen from the opening level of 81.13.

"Generally, the market was buying the dollar against the



Mohammad Younus, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, addressing as chief guest the inaugural session of the conference of the zonal heads and managers of branches of the bank in the city yesterday.