

Plea to make
DESA more
dynamic

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the officers association of the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) yesterday urged the Adviser in charge of the Power and Energy Ministry, Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, to take steps to make the organisation more dynamic.

According to a press release of the Karmakarta Kalyan Samity of DESA, leaders of the association met the Adviser Thursday afternoon.

The association also sought punishment to those who attacked the DESA Mirpur Circle officials on Saturday last.

Following this meeting, the Karmakarta Kalyan Samity decided to suspend all its agitational programmes, the press release said.

At a later meeting of the Samity presided over by Superintendent Engineer Mansur Rahman, the organisation resolved that all officials would take drastic measure against unruly activities of the employees from now on.

It further resolved that the samity had previously withdrawn its work abstention programme considering the SSC examination and therefore all responsibilities of load shedding should be shouldered by the Power Development Board, not DESA.

The meeting also demanded release of the investigation report on the Mirpur incident in which Mirpur Circle Superintendent Engineer SR Akhter and Assistant Director Rahima Sultana were assaulted.

The meeting was participated among others by Engr Mohammad. Ibal, Engr Ibrahim. Mia, Engr A Sobhan, Engr Ataul Masud and others.

Strike averted on
pay hike accord
in Germany

BONN, Germany, Apr 12: Threatened strikes in the construction industry were averted Thursday with an agreement on a 1.85 per cent wage hike nationwide, reports AP.

Management and union representatives agreed to make the increase retroactive to April 1 in western Germany, and to put it into effect Sept 1 in eastern Germany.

Terrorism hinders functioning
of TVTA body

Star Report

A ten-member Transport Vehicle Terminal Authority (TVTA) to oversee the affairs of the bus terminals in the city formed three years ago virtually becomes ineffective due to the increasing terrorism in the terminals, said sources.

More than half the total strength of ticket counters at various terminals in the city are functioning without any approval of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), sources added.

DCC sources further revealed that from the three bus terminals in the city, DCC gets only Taka 40 lakh. The amount, according to sources, is generated from the parking facilities it provides in the

terminals. However, various groups of trade union in different forms collect tolls from these terminals which, according to unofficial sources, run into crores of Taka as toll money from every bus terminal in the city.

DCC officials posted at terminals complained of their helplessness under pressure from various extortionist groups, besides lack of support from the law enforcing agencies.

Sources disclosed that the Home Secretary held a meeting with the representatives of the TVTA on Tuesday to take stock of the deteriorating law and order in the terminals. The TVTA was formed with

representatives from DCC, DC, Police, Road Transport Authority, Dhaka Bar Association, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Transport Owners and Workers unions in 1993.

Talking to The Daily Star, Farhad Rahman, General Manager (Transport) of the Dhaka City Corporation said that the Home Secretary has been apprised of the drastic measures to be taken to restore normalcy at the city bus terminals.

According to him, it was recommended to curb all sorts of activities leading to toll collection in the name of various organisations of transport owners and workers.

Dragonair raises
HK \$ 660, 000 for
project ORBIS

Dragonair has raised almost 660,000 Hong Kong dollars for the charity project ORBIS which will go toward helping the ORBIS team continue its sight saving work, says a press release.

Dragonair launched the fundraising appeal — "Change For Vision" — on its Beijing, Shanghai and Xiamen flights in September last year. During the four month appeal, passengers were invited to place their spare change of any currency into specially designed envelopes carrying the message "Make your spare change count" in English and Chinese.

Philip Chen, Chief Operating Officer of Dragonair says: "We consider ORBIS to be an extremely worthwhile charity and are delighted that our pas-

sengers have raised such a considerable sum. Last November, whilst the ORBIS DC-10 aircraft was operating in Dalian and visiting in Hong Kong, many Dragonair staff were invited to visit the aircraft and learn about ORBIS work. It was very rewarding for staff to see how the raised money would be used."

David Taylor-Smith, Director of ORBIS Hong Kong says: "The support shown by Dragonair is of enormous significance to ORBIS. The staff of Dragonair put enthusiasm, commitment and time into making the campaign so successful and as a result of their efforts, many blind people in China and other parts of the world will benefit."



Canadian Assistant Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade Leonard J. Edward called on Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman at his office on Thursday. — PID photo

Proper steps suggested to save
Usmania Glass Sheet Factory

By Staff Correspondent

A four-crore taka worth of glass sheet produced by the state-owned Usmania Glass Sheet Factory has been stockpiled at its factory godown in Chittagong and cannot be sold due to lack of price competitiveness in the market.

If proper steps are not taken immediately, the factory may become sick soon, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) sources said.

The sources said the duty on imported glass has declined by 50 per cent since 1992. Besides, Preshipment Inspection (PSI) agents are not quoting the actual international price of glass, they quote a lower price, alleged an official of the BCIC.

The quotation of lower price by the PSI agents is depriving the government of its revenue and allegedly avoid duties, the official added.

This is harming the indigenous glass industries as they cannot compete with the imported sheets, said another official of the BCIC.

He said Usmania's production capacity has increased by 85 lakh square feet from 140 lakh to 225 square feet recently after completion of

"Balancing, Modernisation, Rehabilitation and Expansion (BMRE) with the financial help of Belgium government".

"Unless the earlier tariff system based on predetermined tariff value fixed by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) is reestablished, the local industries will be affected and the government will lose revenues," the official pointed

out. Usmania is left with 30 lakh square feet of unsold glass sheet that valued four crore taka in its godown. BCIC sources said.

BCIC officials demanded revision of the PSI system and reintroduction of the previous predetermined tariff value system to save Usmania from becoming sick industry.



A delegation of the Board of Directors of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry led by its President Ali Hossain (3rd from left) called on the Adviser for Industries, Commerce, Jute and Textiles of the caretaker government Segufta Bakht Chowdhury (4th from right) at his office on Thursday.

DCCI team
meets Segufta

A delegation of the Board of Directors of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) led by its President, Ali Hossain, made a courtesy call on Segufta Bakht Chowdhury, Adviser for Ministry of Industries, Commerce, Jute and Textiles, his Secretariat office, on Thursday, says a press release.

The delegation comprised DCCI Senior Vice-President, Fazle R M Hasan, Vice-President Absar Karim Chowdhury, Directors Benajir Ahmed Farhad, Mahmud, A S M Quasem, A Z M Nazimuddin, Syed Jamaluddin Haider, M A Momen, Syed Zohirul Hoq, Syed Toufique Ali, Arshad Ali, Alhaj Nazir Hossain, Geasuddin Ahmed and Manzur Hossain.

The DCCI President emphasised the role of the Private Sector to boost trade, commerce and industry in the country and exchanged views with the Adviser in this regard.

The President and members of the delegation also discussed various issues avert ing injurious steps in the interest of economic development, improve law and order situation, continuity of policies already adopted and under implementation, precautionary steps to face imminent food crisis, crash programmes to boost export, resolving problems of bank loans, port congestion removal, etc.

The delegation handed over a Memorandum to the Adviser on these issues.

The Adviser for Industries, Commerce, Jute and Textiles Segufta Bakht Chowdhury, welcoming the DCCI delegation, expressed his cordial tanks for the DCCI President and the Director for their useful dialogue. The Adviser also said that there is always a scope for improvement of the situation.

He spoke of the need for individual initiative of all concerned to overcome the problems.

Tk 22 lakh realised
from Pourashava
area of Noakhali

NOAKHALI, Apr 12: A total of Taka 22 lakh was realised from Noakhali Pourashava area as holding tax during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Officials expected that outstanding tax about Taka 25.73 lakh will be realised from the pourashava by June this year. Meanwhile, a good number of development projects, including construction and reconstruction of roads, bridges and culverts, were undertaken during the current fiscal.

The works on the projects are expected to be completed by June.

'Curry and rice, very very nice'

This past week on Good Friday, the Easter holiday — the tables at Modhuban Tandoori at London's Premebridge Road were all filled for dinner, reports UNB.

The mostly English customers at this so-called Indian (but actually Bangladeshi) restaurant included lone diners, couples, families with children and even groups of friends.

"We are eating out on the Good Friday," chuckled Christopher Stanley, a computer technician from the City, London's financial and business hub.

The Englishman had a sense of humour as he muttered jokingly pointing to a sticker on the cupboard at the restaurant's bar: 'Curry and Rice, very very nice.'

Chris must be joking. But we really love your curry... hot, spicy and tasty. We visit these 'buli' restaurants a lot, at least once or twice a month," said Rebecca, her wife.

At first glance, the Indian restaurants appear very popular. At most streets or each area in London, one would inevitably come across at least one or two of them.

It is as if they have become a second national dish in Britain. It is said that these Bangladeshi curry houses today have become a peculiarly British institution while Chinese, French and Italian cuisine are available worldwide.

The Bangladeshi cuisine is even appreciated by many upper class Britons. A few years back, a parliamentary Curry Club was launched at the House of Commons. Its members include some 70 MPs and a number of ministers like Kenneth Clarke and Virginia Bottomley.

Bangladeshi Caterers Association (BCA), the London-based forum of the restaurant owners, claim that there are as many as 10,000 restaurants owned and run by people of Bangladeshi origin.

Together, they employ as many as 70,000 people; not to speak of their dependents who could be more than half of the total about 300,000 Non-Resident Bangladeshis (NRB) living in Britain.

According to BCA, 95 per cent of these so-called Indian curry houses are owned, staffed and managed by the NRBs with a total annual

turnover of 1.5 (one point five) billion pound sterling.

A stunning figure indeed! This huge industry worth 1.5 billion pound sterling, as reckoned by the British press, employs more people than Britain's steel, coal shipbuilding sectors combined.

The curry houses cater a wide variety of South Asian dishes like rice and pilau, nuns and all kinds of Indian bread, dal gosh, sabji gosh, alu sabji, alu gobi, fish curry, prawn curry and dal tarka dal. 'Buli', a hot spicy dish of meat and vegetables from Afghanistan, has recently become a popular delicacy.

"It may apparently look flourishing, but the business is not very good these days," says Ashraf Uddin, the proprietor of Modhuban Tandoori. "Too many curry houses, too much competition... we don't have so much of diners always."

Like most Bangladeshi restaurant owners, Ashraf came from Sylhet in the early 1970s and worked his way up to be a 'gurnor', as the employer is called by the hotel staff. He has slowly made his fortune.

Conversation with a number of restaurant owners revealed that although the business appeared flourishing, the future of the industry was not that rosy.

With too much of competition and not enough diners, the heyday of the curry houses may be numbered, warned one restaurant owner in Birmingham.

In the new millennium that is approaching fast, the industry will need to bring in new skills and technology. It will require higher investment and modern management as well.

Besides, there will be a time one day when the second generation of NRBs who have gone to the British schools and universities will not like to join the family business of running the restaurants. Asked one gurnor: Who would be a waiter then?

That sounded to be a pertinent question. With tightened immigration rules, it could prove difficult for the restaurant owners to bring in fresh manpower from the remote villages of Sylhet to run the business.



T Teruya, Deputy Resident Representative JICA Bangladesh, handed over the office equipment to Md Azizul Haq, Senior Vice-President of the Association on Thursday. Md Ejaruddin, General Secretary and other members of the Association were also present.

28 lakh hectares of land brought
under aus, aman cultivation

About 28 lakh hectares of land have been brought under aus and aman cultivation in the current season, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the production target has been fixed at 37.75 lakh metric tons.

According to Agriculture Extension Department sources, aus will be cultivated in 18 lakh hectares of land which included high yielding (Hys) — 7 lakh hectares and local varieties — 11 lakh hectares.

The production target for per hectare high yielding aus has been fixed at 2.25 tons while one ton per hectare for local varieties. The production target for aus has been fixed at 26.75 metric tons.

On the other hand, broad-cast aman will be cultivated in 10 lakh hectares of land. It included high yielding — 8.82 lakh hectares and local varieties — 1.17 lakh hectares.

The production target for aman has been fixed at 11 lakh tons on the estimation of per hectare yield at 1.10 tons.

Country's 64 districts have been divided into nine agri zones to make the cultivation

programme a success. The zones are: Barisal, Jessore, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Comilla, Chittagong and Rangamati.

Officials said the concerned department has taken all necessary measures to achieve the production target. Arrangements have also been made for training programmes to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation.

The department will also supply agri-inputs including high yielding seeds, fertilizer and insecticides — among the peasants at fair prices.

In other development, Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks will disburse requisite loan among the farmers.

The Barisal zone includes 11 districts — Jhalakati, Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Pirojpur, Gopalganj, Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Rajbari.

The production target for the region has been fixed at 8.03 lakh tons. Aus will be cultivated in 3.77 hectares of land in the zone while aman in 3.02 lakh hectares.

Production target for

Jessore zone has been fixed at 3.75 lakh tons while the cultivation included aus in 1.85 lakh hectares and aman in 1.34 lakh hectares.

The districts under the region are: Bagerhat, Satkhira, Khulna, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Kustia, Jhenidah, Magura, Narail and Jessore.

In Rajshahi region, aus will be cultivated in 1.87 lakh hectares and aman in 1.35 lakh hectares. The production target for the zone has been fixed at 4.18 lakh tons.

Rajshahi zone's districts included Sirajganj, Pabna, Joypurhat, Bogra, C'nawabganj, Natore, Naogaon and Rajshahi.

Rangpur zone has been formed with eight districts — Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha and Rangpur.

The production target for the region has been fixed at 5.10 lakh tons while the cultivation target included aus in 2.78 lakh hectares and aman in 4.04 lakh hectares.

In Dhaka region aus will be cultivated in 1.15 lakh hectares and aman in 1.77 lakh hectares in its seven districts. The production target of the zone has been fixed at 3.31 lakh tons.

The seven districts of Dhaka agri zone are: Tangail, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Gazipur, Narsingdi, Narayanganj and Dhaka.

The districts under Mymensingh region included Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrokona and Kishoreganj. The production target of the zone has been fixed at 4 lakh tons while the cultivation target includes aus in 2.34 lakh hectares and aman in 11,350 hectares.

In Comilla region aus will be cultivated in 2.42 lakh hectares while aman in 2.28 lakh hectares. The production target for the region has been fixed at 6.48 lakh tons. The region includes Sunamganj, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Sylhet, Chandpur, Brahmanbaria and Comilla.

The production target for Chittagong region has been fixed at 2.57 lakh tons while cultivation target includes aus in 1.60 lakh hectares and aman — 5,800 hectares. The districts of the region are: Feni, Laxmipur, Noakhali, Cox's Bazar and Chittagong.

Seal hunting ends
as hunters reach
allotted quota

ST. JOHN'S, Canada, Apr 12: The 1996 seal hunting season off the East Coast of Canada was officially closed today after hunters reached the quota of 250,000 set by the Canadian government, the Fisheries and Oceans Ministry announced, reports AFP.

The ministry said in a statement in Newfoundland that while most of the seals killed during the 1996 season were harp seals, hunters killed 16,000 hooded seals, twice the maximum number set by the authorities.

The 1996 season originally had been expected to last one month longer.

"The weather was good, the ice conditions were good and there was an abundance of seals," the ministry said.

Last year Canadian hunters did not complete the quota, killing only 60,000 seals because of bad weather and dangerous conditions on the ice.

Mongla Port Authority
P.O. Mongla Port, Bagerhat
Tender Notice

1. Tender Notice No : 1
2. Name of the work : Supply of Motor Parts.
3. Value of the tender schedule : Tk 60.00 (sixty) (Non-refundable)
4. Earnest money : @ Tk 2% of the total quoted value must be submitted with the tender schedule.
5. Category of the tenderers : Sealed tenders are invited from the bonafide Motor-Parts dealers & suppliers.
6. Name of the offices where tender documents will be available and received through self or authorised representative : Sr. Finance Officer (P), Mongla Port Authority, Mongla, Bagerhat.
7. Last date of tender sale : Up to 20-5-96 during normal office hours.
8. Last date of tender dropping : 21-5-96 up to 12:00 hours.
9. Date and time of opening tender documents : 21-5-96 up to 12:00 hours.
10. Name of the office where the tender documents will be opened : Office of the Sr Finance Officer, Mongla, Bagerhat in presence of the tenderers (if any)
11. Time for completion of the work : Within 25 days from the date of issue of work order.
12. Necessary terms and conditions : Terms and conditions may be seen in the tender schedule.

Mongla Port Authority reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all the tenders either partly or wholly without showing any reason thereof.

DFP-7364-8/4
G-474

Sr. Finance Officer

(RHD) Notice Inviting
Quotation for Lease

Sealed quotations are invited from (RHD) enlisted contractors/interested persons/firm/public limited firm for quotation of tolls for transportation of Men, Transports, Cows, Bafollows, Sheep, Goats etc. by the (RHD) Ferry at Ghagur Ferry ghat for the period up to 30-6-97Eng. from the date of agreement during the year 1996-97.

1. Quotation Notice No : 7(95-96)EE/GRD.
2. Name of the lease : Lease of Ghagur Ferry ghat at Gopalganj-Kotalipara-Paisarharhat road for collection of tolls for transportation of Men, Transport, Cows, Bafollows, Sheep, Goats etc. by the (RHD) Ferry for the period up to 30-6-97E, from the date of agreement as per rate fixed by the government during the year 1996-97.
3. Eligibility of : All the enlisted contractor of (RHD) Department/any persons/firm/public ltd. firm.
4. Name of office : Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Gopalganj/Faridpur/Madaripur/Planning Division Sarak Bhaban, Ramna/Barisal/Sub-Divisional-Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Gopalganj/Bhatiapara/1st. Line Workshop Sub-Division Gopalganj.
5. Name of office to receive quotations : a) Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Barisal Zone, Barisal. b) Superintending Engineer, RHD Road Circle, Faridpur. c) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka. d) Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Gopalganj.
6. Last date & time of selling quotation papers : Up to office hours of 21-4-96E/8-1-1403BS.
7. Last date & time of receiving quotation : Up to 12:30 PM of 22-4-96E/9-1-1403BS.
8. Date, time & place of opening of quotations : At 11:00 AM 25-4-96E/12-1-1403BS.
9. Amount of security money : Security money @10% of the quoted rate will be deposited in C.D/B.D in favour of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Gopalganj, along with the quotation.
10. Cost of quotation documents : On cash payment of Tk 100/=(Taka one hundred) only (Non-refundable).
11. Terms & conditions : As per terms & conditions attached with the quotation documents.

Kazi Najibul Haque
Executive Engineer (C.C.)
(RHD) Road Division, Gopalganj.

DFP-7303-8/4
G-475