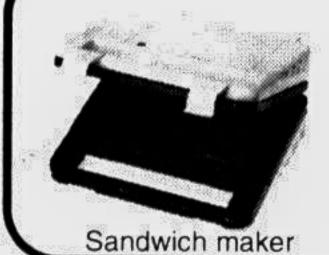
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"Should we understand that

there has been a secret deal be-

tween the two parties on the is-sue of corruption? Or is the AL

playing with the corruption by

BNP?", he said resulting in

laughter by the AL and BNP

* * * *

sitting, the House lacked quo-

rum. As pointed out by a BNP

MP, the Chair ordered head-

then started returning to the

House promptly while several

BNP MPs were seen going out in

the same manner. One of them

was seen pushing his party col-

leagues sitting beside him to go

However, the House had quo-

No arrest

From Page 1

police control room where the

still-unidentified person al-

legedly took Maria and raped

licemen of the district police

used to engage in round-the

clock duties at the control room

equipped with wireless sets and

although they were yet to find

out the person involved in the

rape but the investigators were

not ruling out the possibility of

involvement of police person-

Dhaka range was heading an

investigation with four other

officials from the Special

Branch, CID, Dhaka Metropoli-

Discussion

From Page 1

'nothing but a round-up of gov-

ernment activities'. He strongly

criticised it because it "failed to

project the country's objective

situation that includes deterio-

rating law and order, increas-

ing corruption rise in the num-

ber of landless people and so

Sheikh Hasina for her "inac-

tion" regarding alleged corrup-

tion by former BNP ministers,

the JP legislator said: "I do not

know whether the AL and BNP

have reached any secret entente

to plunder national wealth." He

also alleged that the BNP gov-

ernment was more fascist than

observation about rule of law, Chowdhury said: "He should

know that there can be no rule

of law keeping the Special Pow-

Penal Code".

silent famine.

ers Act and Section 54 of the

Speaking next, Sarwar Ja-mal Nizam of BNP claimed that

the country was experiencing a

are going up. He alleged that the govern-

ment has concluded three

agreements to protect the inter-

est of India. Criticising the CHT

agreement, he said, "It is not

Nizam said prices of essentials like rice, lintel and onion

Referring to the President's

Criticising Prime Minister

tan Police and district police.

An additional DIG of the

nel in the rape incident.

A senior police official said

A police official said six po-

out and they did not together.

rum with a number of ruling

party members coming back.

At the fag end of yesterday's

The AL members outside



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PHILIPS

Vision-2000 launched

Steps taken to improve healthcare services: PM

Reaffirming her govern-

ment's commitment to protect

women's and children's rights,

Hasina said, "As a step for em-

powering the women, it is we,

who, for the first time, made

provision for direct election of

women members to the Union

Besides, she said, the gov-ernment has formulated a def-

inite policy for protecting the

Hasina said a huge popula-

tion, mostly women, suffers

from malnutrition due to the

country's limited health care

economic subservience of

women contributes to the dis-

parity against women and their

time, announced the National

Women Development Policy

last year for the development of

the neglected womenfolk by

overcoming their deplorable

plementation of the policy, an

action programme has been

taken up and included in the

5th Five Year Plan, she said

calling upon NGOs, voluntary

organisations and the affluent

people to come forward in aid of

the government to implement

ayatullah said the global Vi-

sion-2000 is presently opera-

tional in 28 countries for pro-

moting quality of care, partici-

pation of beneficiaries and

IPPF president Dr Attiya In-

the action programme.

team building.

For proper and speedy im-

condition, she said.

The government, for the first

deplorable social condition.

The Prime Minister said

and sanitation facilities.

rights of the children.

Parishad."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government attaches top priority to removing hunger, poverty and illiteracy and has taken a massive, integrated programme to turn the huge population into valuable human resources, reports UNB.

"The government has taken up an integrated programme for the expansion of public health services, including maternal and child health," she said launching a Vision-2000 funded project on reproductive health at a function at Hotel Sheraton

Vision-2000, a programme of International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), is funding the "Community Ownership of Reproductive Health Initiatives Project" in Bangladesh for promoting quality of healthcare and reproductive

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf, State Minister for Health Prof M Amanullah, IPPF President Dr Attiya Inayatullah, Director of Vision-2000 Fund Josephine Mayo, FPAB secretary general Prof Syeda Firoza Begum, FPAB director general Dr Ahmed Neaz and Advocate Enayet Ali also addressed the function.

Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) president Dr Neelima Ibrahim presided.

The Prime Minister said effective measures have been taken for enhancing the skill of health management system as well as improving the quality of health services.

ওয়াসা

Forgery adopted to allot US quota, JS told

Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed yesterday admitted that the quota allotted to garment factories in collaboration with the Export Promotion Bureau exported US quota category 634 and 647/548 garments adopting forgery in 1997, reports UNB.

In reply to Kamal Ahmed Majumder (AL), the minister said following the quota administration rule of 1991, visa for 5,69,349.24 dozens of garments of 634 quota category have been issued in favour of 147 garments factories through over programming against 5,52,364 available quota.

He said to ensure 100 per cent export as per rule there is a system of over programming of 120 per cent.

Tofael said during 1997 quota year US 647/548 quota category visa have been issued for exporting 16,68,297.70 dozens of garments in favour of 298 factories.

Diesel crisis

From Page 1

this diesel later this month. The government is now thinking about prioritising private diesel companies over nationalised companies. The sources said that the tender clauses for import of diesel will be modified in a manner so that only private companies could participate in the future.

"This would mean that com panies like PAT, which had been much more dependable. would no longer be in the scenario in the future," said a source.

Sangsad tidbits Rabbi blamed the ruling Awa

government."

counting.

telephones.

statement' Food and Agriculture Minister Matiya Choudhury, speaking for Talukdar, noted the error in the list was due to carelessness. "Sylhet Division is very much there . . . It's our leader prime minister Sheikh Hasina who led the movement for creation of the division. . . ", she said. "Sylhet is still above our heads", Matia said, indicating at its location in the upper part of the country's map and also at the Speaker's chair.

Akhtaruzzaman of BNP sought the floor to speak on a point of order when deliberation on the issue concerned was

closed. The Speaker tamed the BNP MP by saying : You did not ask for the floor at the right time. . I'll look for you tomorrow and I'll let you speak provided you come within my sight.

Disappointed at the rejection of 150 notices he deposited since BNP returned to parliament on Sunday, BNP lawmaker Mashiur Rahman thanked the Speaker for maintaining neutrality in the past few days in conducting the session and urged the chair to act similarly in selecting notices.

I don't need thanks now because I had been neutral all the time - was the prompt reply from the Speaker.

You're now not only neutral but also speak the truth, Mashiur said referring to the Speaker's statement contradicting the commerce minister's on prices of onion and salt the day before.

The prices have fallen further, concluded the Speaker.

Taking part in discussion on the President's address, Jatiya Party lawmaker Dr TAIM Fazle

Muktijoddha

From Page 1

perennial foes, Abahani and Mohammedan, shared the coveted title between them for almost two decades since 1979 when BJIC has last won the tro-

Ace marksman Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib scored both the goals for Muktijoddha, once in each half, to orchestrate a unique mid-pitch celebration at the flood-lit Mirpur Stadium.

Nakib, one of a dozen rebellious players who ditched Mohammedan and Abahani to join Muktijoddha in a sensational players' transfer way back in 1994, shot his side into the lead in the seventh minute, much to the implausible horror of Mohammedan who stepped into the match needing a draw to regain the title for the second consecutive year.

Nakib added salt to Mohammedan's wounds when, at the stroke of the final whistle. the volleyed home a right-side floater from Hasan-al Mamun. Muktijoddha's joy knew no bounds. (Details on Page 11)

Khaleda

From Page 1

ing was addressed among others by Comilla North Convenor Redwan Ahmed, Abul Kashem, Shah Mohammad Selim, Advocate Abdus Sattar and Advocate Ali Akkas.

BTV was biased in telecasting Rabbi blamed the ruling Awami League for "not trying to corrupt persons in the previous BNP JS debate: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition BNP yesterday accused the government of violating certain aspects of the recently signed two-point agreement between the party and the ruling Awami League.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury alleged in the Jatiya Sangsad that the state-run Bangladesh Television was biased against the BNP while telecasting Tuesday's debate on the Shahid Minar incident. "According to a clause of the agreement, the BTV is supposed to telecast a debate neutrally. But it had politically edited the Opposition statements, while the ruling party statements were aired unedi-

Information Minister Abu Sayeed, however, told the House that the Opposition claim of its statements being edited was not true. "The BTV has aired the debate objectively," Sayeed claimed amidst protests by the BNP members.

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury said he would look into the dispute together with the Chief Whip of the Parliament and Chief Whip of the Opposition. 'We would see the cassette together and I will give my decision about it in the House."

Road transit From Page 1

trade relations with India, the balance of trade went against Bangladesh.

He said during the BNP regime, the tariff and non-tariff barriers and quantitative restrictions were drastically withdrawn unilaterally and India took the advantage of the decisions.

The minister, however, said that India also lifted quantitative restrictions from 500 Bangladeshi items after Awami League government came to power, for which the export volume to India has increased

We are outraged From Page 1

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14 year-old girl was raped by the father of a friend she went to visit. The plight of the young garment worker remain precarious as ever. A most insidious aspect of

the recent rise of rape cases is the involvement of the law-enforcement agencies in such incidents. The much-talked-about case of Sheema who was raped while in police custody and was later allowed to die through criminal neglect while in socalled "safe custody" has literally gone unpunished due to flaws in the process of how the case was prosecuted. The earlier case of Yasmeen also saw how attempts were made to cover up the issue which failed only because of the outraged public of Dinajpur and due to some determined work of some women's organisations.

Nothing that have been done so far has done anything to reduce either the cases of violence against women, or the instances of rape.

What we need now is a "collective scream" that we will not allow this to continue for one instant more. Every branch of our society, every profession in the country and every political party with the paper its name is written on, must come together to give shape to our collective outrage.

This is one issue which must unite us all. Convenient political posturing will be immoral on this issue. Only yesterday we saw the Parliament express its outrage at the desecration of the Central Shaheed Minar. While that resolution would have carried for greater weight if the political aim of it was not so blatant. A similar resolution, but with far greater unanimity. should now come out from House. We appeal to both sides, do not try and use this politically to hit out at each other.

On the contrary, use the widespread anger in the public concerning this incident to undertake drastic reforms of the police, of the lower level judiciary and of the legal framework that is preventing us from

eliminating this evil. We appeal to the Prime Min-

ister and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament to head a rational movement to eliminate violence against women, and especially of massive instances of rape. We appeal to all political parties to take a collective stand on this issue. Finally we appeal to all women's bodies to invite and put collective pressure on all concerned to act immediately on this issue. Violence against women knows no political ideology or boundary.

If we have any pride left, as a people, as a culture, as a part of the present day civilization then let none of us remain silent. However isolated this case may be, let us bury it under an outburst of revulsion and rage so that we are able to eliminate all crimes of this nature. Please do not wait for another six-year-old to fall a victim to our failures before acting. If we cannot protect our children, then no other achievement matters.

Vajpayee

From Page 1

ported Vajpayee's bid to form the next government but would not join it. "I've got certain compelling reasons for not participating in the government. I can't divulge them now," she said Monday. There was no indication she

was backing away from her pledge to vote for Vajpayee in the critical confidence vote in Parliament that would confirm his government in power. The vote could come as early as next

The four parties together control 24 seats in 545-member Lok Sabha, the powerful lower house of Parliament, and their support is necessary for Vajpayee to win a confidence vote in Parliament.

The BJP has been bargaining for a week with other parties to ensure a majority in the 545seat legislature after an inconclusive election.

ঢাকা ওয়াসা বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পানি ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হোন

আপনার সাশ্রয়কৃত পানিতে আরেকজন উপকৃত হতে পারে

সামনেই আসছে ত্রঙ্ক মৌসুম। এ মৌসুমে পানির চাহিদা বৃদ্ধির সাথে সাথে বিদ্যুৎ বিভ্রাট ও পানির স্তর নীচে নেমে যাওয়ার দক্ষন পানি উৎপাদন হাস পায়। এমনিতেই ঢাকা মহানগরীতে পানি সরবরাহে রয়েছে ঘাটতি। তদুপরি চাহিদা বৃদ্ধি ও উৎপাদন হ্রাস পাওয়ার ফলে ওফ মৌসুমে পানি সংকট হয় তীব্রতর, জনজীবন হয় অসহনীয়। সুতরাং ওফ মৌসুমে পানির সংকট লাঘবে/নিরসনে পানি অপচয় রোধে সচেষ্ট হোন এবং পানি ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হউন। মনে রাখবেন আপনার সাশ্রয়কৃত পানি আরেকজনের প্রয়োজন মেটাতে পারে যেভাবে পানি সাশ্রয় করতে পারেনঃ

গোসলে — গোসলের সময় গা ভেজানোর পর শাওয়ার বন্ধ রাখুন। তারপর সাবান লাগিয়ে বা গা ঘষে শাওয়ার ছাঁড়ন। এতে বেশ কিছু পানি সাশ্রয় করতে পারেন

হাত মুখ ধোয়ায় — হাত মুখ ধোয়ার সময় পানির কল বন্ধ রেখে হাতে মুখে সাবান লাগান বা ঘষুন কিংবা দাঁত ব্রাশ করুন। তারপর পানির কল খুলে ধুয়ে ফেলুন। পানির কলে ক্রটি থাকলৈ তা বদলিয়ে ফেলুন। এতে করে পানির অপচয় রোধ করতে পারেন

বালতি বা জ্রামে পানি জমিয়ে রাখায় — গৃহস্থালি কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য বালতি বা জ্রাম কিংবা অন্য কোন পাত্রে জমিয়ে রাখা পানি ব্যবহার না করলে বাসি হয়ে যায় না। এ পানি ফেলে না দিয়ে হাত মুখ ধোয়া, থালা বাসন ধোয়া কিংবা কাপড় কাচার কাজে ব্যবহার করতে পারেন। এমন কি ফুটিয়ে নিয়ে নিশ্চিন্তে পানও করতে পারেন। এতে করে গৃহাভ্যন্তরে পানি চাহিদা কমাতে পারেন।

কাপড় কাচা কিংবা পালা বাসন ধোয়ায় — কাপড় কাচা বা থালা বাসন ধোয়ার সময় পানির কল খোলা না রেখে বালতি অথবা গামলায় পরিমাণমত পানি নিয়ে কাপড় কাচুন কিংবা থালা বাসন ধুয়ে ফেলুন। এতে কাপড়/থালা বাসন ভাল পরিষ্কার হয় এবং পানি সাশ্রয় করতে পারেন।

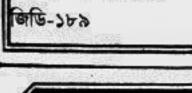
গাড়ি ধোয়া কিংবা বাগান পরিচর্যায় — গাড়ি ধোয়া কিংবা বাগান পরিচর্যায় হোস পাইপ খুলে পানি দিতে গেলে প্রয়োজনের চেয়ে অনেক পানি বেরিয়ে যায়। তার চেয়ে আপনি দু'বালতি পানি দিয়ে আপনার গাড়ি ভালভাবে ধু'তে পারেন। পানি ভর্তি বালতি ব্যবহার করে ভালভাবে বাগানও পরিচর্যা করতে পারেন। এত করে পানির অপচয় কমাতে পারেন।

ছাদের ও ভূ-গর্ভস্থ জলাধার — আপনার অসাবধানতা বা উপেক্ষার কারণে অনেক সময় ছাদের অথবা ভূ-গর্ভস্থ জলাধার উপচিয়ে পানি গড়িয়ে অপচয় হয়। বল কক ব্যবহার করে পানির অপচয় রোধ করতে পারেন। ছাদের জলাধার ভরলে সময়মত মোটর বন্ধ করেও অপচয় রোধ করতে পারেন।

পানি ব্যবহারে আপনার সচেতনতাই রোধ করতে পারে পানি অপচয়, দূর করতে পারে পানি সংকট। তাই আসুন এখন হতে পানি ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হই।

আপনার সেবায়

ঢাকা ওয়াসা



ওয়াসা-জঃতঃ ৫৬/৯৮

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এভ ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ (পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)

বিশেষ দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তিতাস গ্যাস কাম্পানীর গ্যাস পরিবহণ ও বিতরণ নেটওয়ার্ক ঢাকা মহানগর ও শহরতলীসহ বৃহত্তর ঢাকা জেলা, বৃহত্তর ময়মনসিংহ জেলা ও ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া জেলা পর্যন্ত বিস্তৃত। মাটির নীচে স্থাপিত বিভিন্ন ব্যাসের গ্যাস পাইপ লাইন কোন কারণে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হলে স্বাভাবিকভাবেই গ্যাস প্রবাহ বিঘ্নিত হয় ফলে গ্যাস বিতরণ ও সরবরাহ সমস্যা দেখা দেয়।

গত ৫ই মার্চ '৯৮ রামপুরা টিভি ভবনের পাশে আবাসিক ভবন নির্মাণ কাজের পাইলিং করার সময় ভূ-পৃষ্ঠের ২২ ফুট নীচে স্থাপিত উচ্চচাপসম্পন্ন গ্যাস বিতরণ মেইন লাইন ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হলে ঢাকা শহরের বহুলাংশে গ্যাস সরবরাহ ব্যাহত হয় বা বন্ধ হয়ে যায়। তবে আগুন না লাগার কারণে জানমালের কোন ক্ষতি হয়নি।

দেশের সর্বত্র জনবসতি এলাকা বাড়ছে এবং সড়ক জনপথের বিস্তৃতি ঘটছে। ক্রমবর্ধমান উনুয়নের ধারায় নতুন নতুন শিল্প কারখানা ও প্রতিষ্ঠান গড়ে উঠছে। কোথাও কোন প্রকার স্থাপনা নির্মাণ পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণের পূর্বে সেখানে গ্যাস লাইন আছে কিনা, গ্যাস ভিত্তিক প্রতিষ্ঠান স্থাপনের পূর্বে গ্যাস সংযোগ পাওয়া সম্ভব কিনা ইত্যাদি বিষয়াদি নিশ্চিত হওয়ার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সরকারী/বেসরকারী সংস্থা, প্রতিষ্ঠান ও ব্যক্তিবর্গকে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। অন্যথায় যে কোন দুর্ঘটনা ও ক্ষয়ক্ষতির জন্য কোম্পানী দায়ী থাকবে না।

গ্যাস একটি অপরিহার্য দাহ্য পদার্থ। গ্যাস ব্যবহারের নিয়ম-কানুন মেনে চলুন এবং গ্যাস লাইন রক্ষণাবেক্ষণে সহায়তা করে জানমালের ক্ষতি রোধ করুন।

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ/৯২/৯৭-৯৮ জিডি-১৮৩

কর্তৃপক্ষ

understandable why a citizen should be barred from residing in any particular area of the country."

Authorities unconcerned

From Page 1 diagnostic centres have been set up in residential areas over the years. Scientists and environmentalists warned that these business centres, unless prop-erly shielded, could cause illnesses including cancer, cataract and various respira-

tory complications. Dr ASW Kurny of the BUET's Metallurgical Engineering Department said the process of welding spread toxic gases in the surrounding areas as well as micro particles of lead, zinc, mercury and cadmium.

"The welding electrode has a flux coating and when it burns it produces silica and different oxides as well as ozone," said Dr Kurny warning that in addition to fire hazard people living around a welding workshop could experience chest pain, fatigue and other symptoms.

A BAEC scientist, requesting anonymity, said most diagnostic centres which use different ionising radiation for both diagnosis and treatment purposes do not comply with safety mea-sures. "As a result, innocent people living in and around the premises were regularly exposed to radiation," said the scientist. He said serious lack of com-

petent manpower to operate these sensitive machines were also putting the lives of the patients at stake. "Many of these so called operators do not know how much described the sensitive many of these so called operators do not know how much described the sensitive many described to the sensitive machines were also putting the lives of the patients at stake. "Many of these sensitive machines were also putting the lives of the patients at stake." how much dose is required for a specific purpose and end up giving the wrong doses," he said.

He said to install a simple X-ray machine it must be assured

that the walls are made of concrete slabs with a specific thickness to prevent the ionis-ing radiation from escaping.

BAEC is the government reg-ulatory agency for the imple-mentation of the Radiation Control Ordinance 1997. But sources confirmed that BAEC has no infrastructure to do the

"Since we do not have any infrastructure it has been suggested that the responsibility of monitoring be given to private firms," said a BAEC official, adding that here BAEC could act as a control of quality assurance of these firms. DOE sources said almost all

those hazardous industries and businesses were not even aware that they needed DOE clearance to set up their business. "Most thought that obtaining a trade licence was enough for them to do such a business," said a DOE official, explaining that under the Environment Conservation Rules 1977 it was a must for every workshop and industry to obtain a clearance from the DOE.

For any business to operate in the city a trade licence must be obtained from the DCC's Revenue Department which offers its services from its zonal of-

DCC officials at Nagar Bhaban claimed they only issued trade licences after verifying the environmental report, consulting local people and a clear-ance letter from the local ward commissioner and Fire

Brigade.

But an investigation reveals that a trade licence could be obtained without any such paper. A welding workshop owner at a Mohammadpur residential area said he had obtained the licence within a day. "I had to produce the tenancy agreement of my shop and fill a DCC form, then a little extra cash to obtain my trade licence," he said.

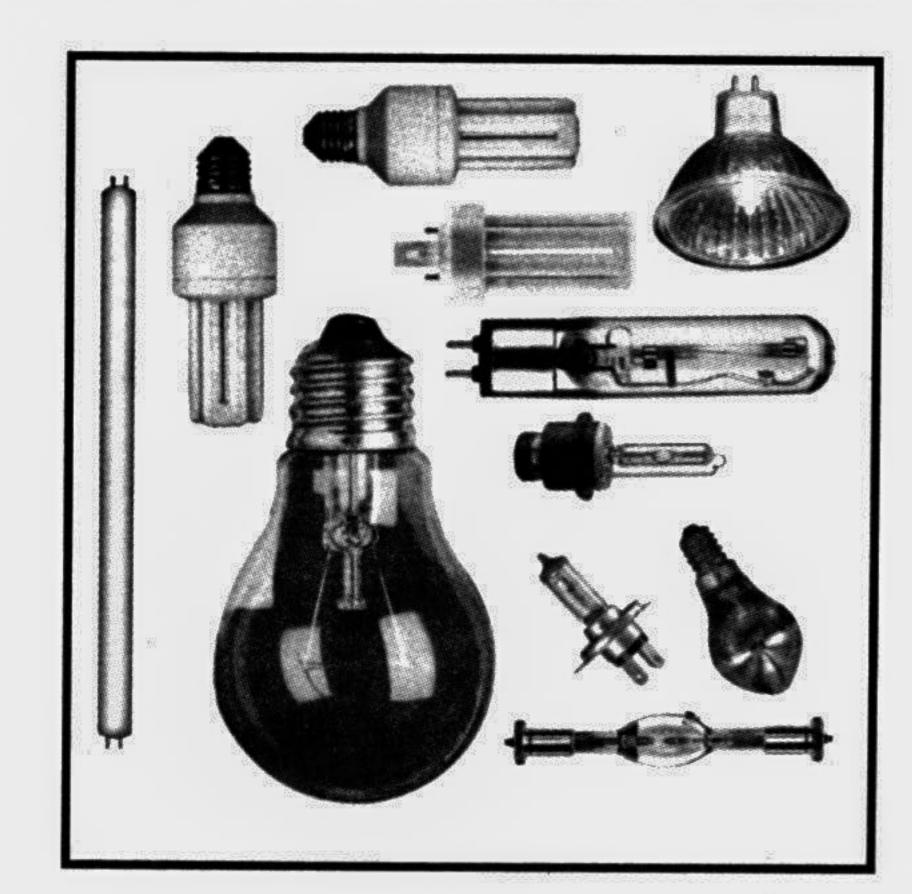
DOE officials said during the city coordination committee meetings they had requested the DCC to only issue trade licences after obtaining a environment report.

"But not a single person ever came to our office asking for a clearance," said a DOE official.

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