Gas, water, electricity 'Stop system loss instead of raising price'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Utility Services Consumers Association (DUSCA) yesterday called upon the government to clreck stealing in the name of system loss of gas, order and electricity instead of raising their prices.

At a press conference organised by the DUSCA at the National Press Club, they urged the government to develop the management skill of different utility services organisations like WASA, DESA and T&T for the greater interest of the consumers.

"Every year the government loses crores of taka because of the theft in gas, power and electricity sectors in the name of system loss and as a result the government has to raise their tariff which ultimately the general people bear' said Abdul Mukit, former chief engineer and president of DUSCA.

Citing the example of Dhaka WASA, engineer Mukit said because of the corruption and unskilled management, its present system loss is above 50 percent and for one percent of system loss the government has to incur a loss

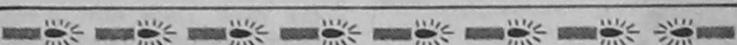
of Tk.2.00 crore. He said work on Sayedabad water plant was scheduled to be completed in 1998.But as the plant is still incomplete, WASA has been sinking more deep tube-wells to supply water to the consumres who have to pay additional tariff

Mukit said if the government could reduce the system loss of all utility services, the consumers would not have to pay extra tariff.

Speaking at the press conference Md. Shahjahan, general secretary of DUSCA demanded of the government to form inquiry committees to investigate the corruptions prevalent in these organisations.

He also urged the authorities concerned to include at least one representative from the consum ers in the governing body of utility services organisations.

DUSCA leaders Professor Md. Amanullah, Dr. Rashid Ahmed, M. Shahid Uddin and Saiduddin Ahmed were among others present on the occasion.



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FURTHER INFORMATION. ALONG WITH FORMS FOR APPLYING FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP, MAY BE COLLECTED FROM THE EDUCATION WING, HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, HOUSE-2, ROAD-142, GULSHAN-1, DHAKA-1212, ON ANY WORKING DAY W.E.F. JANUARY 13, 2002 BETWEEN 11:00 HRS AND 1300 HRS UPON SUBMISSION OF PHOTOCOPY OF THE MARK-SHEET OF THE QUALIFYING EXAM. FROMS CAN ALSO BE COLLECTED FROM AND DEPOSITED WITH THE ASSISTANT HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, CHITTAGONG / RAJSHAHI TILL JANUARY 20, 2002.

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Hiro Mukti Samajik Andolon Committee formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club yesterday demanding release of cultural activist Omar Faruk Hiro.

Exhibition on alternative to polybags after Jan 15

BSS, Dhaka

A two-week long exhibition on be held after January 15.

preparatory meeting on the exhi-Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj chaired the meeting at the minis-

The probable venue of the ex- Handicrafts were present. hibition is the National Parade Square at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, an official press release said.

Sabih Uddin Ahmed, Secretary tive to polythene. of the ministry, and other high officials attended the meeting. Jute Research Institute Dr S M Ilivas, Acting Chairman of BTMC KMD Abul Kalam, Secretary of BJA against polythene.

Sirajul Haque Prodhan, Director of BIMC Major Khairul Alam, M Fazlul Haque Bhuiyan, General alternative to polythene bags will Manager of BTMC Chowdhury AKM Jashim, Director of BGMEA This was decided at the first Lutfur Rahman Matin, Taiyubur Rahman and representatives of bition yesterday. Environment and Moni Jute Goods Handicrafts, Grameen Uddyog, URINIK, Prabartana, Kumudini Trust, Craft Vision, BRAC, ESODO and Heed

> The meeting held discussion on making shopping bags using jute, clothes and paper as alterna-

The minister referred to the bags manufactured and supplied Director General of Bangladesh , by the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation to meef the initial demand in the Dhaka Metropolis

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বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গত ১০/১১/২০০১ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত প্বালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর ১৮তম সাধারন সভায় লভ্যাংশ হিসেবে ঘোষিত প্রতি ৪ (চার) টি সাধারন শেয়ারের জন্য ১ (এক) টি হারে বোনাস শেয়ার ০৯/০১/২০০২ তারিখ থেকে ব্যাংকের প্রধান কার্যালয়, শেয়ার ডিপার্টমেন্ট, ২৬, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০ থেকে নেয়ার জন্য সম্মানিত শেয়ারহোন্ডারগনকে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। তবে উল্লেখ থাকে যে, বোনাস শেয়ার হিসেবে যারা পাঁচ শেয়ারের কম পাবেন তাদের শেয়ারগুলি একত্রিত করে মার্কেট লটে পরিনত করে, স্টক এক্সচেঞ্চ এর মাধ্যমে বিক্রি করে বিক্রিত টাকা Payment Advice-এর মাধ্যমে দেয়ার ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হবে।

তারিখঃ ০৮/০১/২০০২

(এম, রফিকুল ইসলাম)

এখন বাজারে

'সব কিছু তাদের মত হলে আমি দেবতুল্য না হলে নরাধম ... সাংবাদিকতার ক্ষেত্রে এমন দক্ষ, চতুর মিথ্যাচার কেবল গাফ্ফার চৌধুরীকে দিয়ে সম্ভব এ কথা আগে শুনে থাকলেও বিশ্বাস করিনি, এখন বিশ্বাস করি' – বিচারপতি সাহাবুদ্দীন আহমদ

'রাষ্ট্রপতি বাঙালি জনগণের সঙ্গে বেঈমানি করেছেন' – শেখ হাসিনা

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Bus accident Condition of 2 passengers critical

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two of the nine injured persons in Monday's Salipur road accident are fighting for life at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

They were rushed to the DMCH within an hour of the accident in the afternoon. Two are 'still in critical' condition while six others were discharged from different wards yesterday.

Three passengers who sustained head injures were released from neurosurgery ward yesterday after thorough examination while two were released from casualty wards and one woman from ward

An attending doctor said, "We are not yet sure about the condition of the two who sustained head injuries as they are still not out of danger. They need further investigations, he added.

Moulana Anwar Hossain, 50, an Imam of Hemayetpur Mosque at Savar and 34 years old Badal are still in critical condition at ward 30 while Enayetul Bari, a 21 years old cloth trader received multiple injuries.

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ATTENTION

Dr Imran Wali, dermatologist from Kolkata, India will not be practising at Dhanmondi Hospital (Pvt) Ltd, 19/E, Green Road, Dhaka.

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New technology to end hunger

'Take safety measures before allowing GM crops'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs to get its safety Bangladesh, Sarwar Ahmed. regulations ready before risking itself to be a potential 'testing ground' for crop genetic engiscience company yesterday.

Giving a talk on 'Crop Genetic tions ready as a safeguard." Engineering and Food Security' at a seminar in the city, Dr Rafiqul ture of malnourished mankind in Islam Khan, a staff scientist of the world, Dr Khan presented fast Syngenta Biotechnology Inc. of developing crop genetic engi-USA, advocated that Bangladesh neering as a potential answer to engineering against the backdrop of its ever-increasing population and decreasing cultivable land.

Syngenta Bangladesh organised the seminar held at its office in Dhaka. Country's leading agroscientists, academics, researchers and representatives of different public and private sectors at-

Biman offers low-cost flights on Sylhet-Dhaka route

BSS, Dhaka

Biman has decided to launch a on them. new programme to carry passengers on Sylhet-Dhaka route at cheaper fare availing Biman's wide-bodied Airbus flights.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin instructed the Biman authorities to reduce the fare on Monday, a Biman press release said yesterday.

Under the new offer to be effective from January 15, Biman flights on Tuesday (BG 104), Thursday (BG 106) and Saturdays (BG 052 and BG 18) will fly passengers to Dhaka from Sylhet charging Tk 1200 for an executive class journey.

For an economy class journey, the fare will be around Tk 1000. This offer will remain valid up to March 30, 2002 - the end of cur-

rent winter schedule of Biman. Biman passengers availing DC-10 and airbus flights in the Chittagong-Dhaka sector have already been enjoying such facility from January 7, the press release added.

tended the seminar moderated by Managing Director of Syngenta

Being asked by a participant about the risk of Bangladesh being used as 'testing ground' for geneering, cautioned a leading netic engineering, Dr Rafiqui Is-Bangladeshi genetic engineer lam Khan said, "it is possible but working with a multinational bio- we've to protect ourselves. We must have our own safety regula-

While drawing a gloomy picshould tap benefits of genetic redress hunger in today's and tomorrow's world.

"40,000 people die each day due to mal-nourishment," noted Dr Khan, a former staff scientist of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) and Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute (BSRI).

While describing the situation in India he told the seminar that enthusiasm was so high there that some farmers already procured 'Bt. Corn' (genetically engineered) even before the government introduced the necessary laws for that. The Indian government is now formulating laws trying to protect both the breeders' rights on genetically engineered crops and the rights of its own farmers

Dr Khan, who led the project on genetic engineering of jute, said despite strong opposition, cultivation of GM (genetically modified) crops expanded rapidly

over the last six years. Some 125 million acres, which account for 19 percent of total arable land across the globe, has now come under GM cultivation, Dr Khan demanded expressing the hope that GM would be the answer to growing global hunger and would reduce farmers' cost of

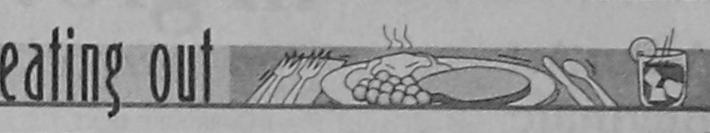
production. "In early 1990s, many critics of bio-technology were skeptical that GM crops could deliver improved products and make an impact in the near-future at farm-level. But the farmers have made independent decisions to increase their GM crop areas by almost 30-fold in six years," said Dr Khan, who leads a team of scientists in USA engaged in developing genetic engineering

techniques for soya bean. He noted that so far 16 countries have planted GM crops with USA topping the list with an overwhelming share of two-third of the total acreage. Argentina is the next largest grower of GM crops, followed by Canada and China, he

1322 more held BSS, Dhaka

Police seized seven firearms and 45 bullets and arrested 1,322 people during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday, a police headquarters press release said.

Six persons were caught with arms and police lodged four cases under the Arms Act during the



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