

PDB collects Tk 2.5 cr in fines from bill defaulters in Ctg

UNB, Chittagong

Desperate to improve the city's worsening power supply situation, Power Development Board (PDB) has taken various steps, including surprise raids by mobile courts to check power pilferage.

As part of its measures, PDB has formed a task force to tackle the mounting problem of power pilferage and oversee collection of

its outstanding bills amounting to Tk 189 crore.

PDB collected over Tk 2.5 crore in fines from bill defaulters, including industries, hotels, markets and residential consumers, in last four months through the mobile courts.

The authorities have decided to continue the activities of 15 monitoring cells of the task force and mobile courts until they see a

marked improvement in the situation.

The task force has launched its first phase work disconnecting power lines of the bill defaulters, including government, semi-government, autonomous and non-government offices. They are being served with notices to pay their bills in two months' time.

Besides, several teams are working round the clock in the city and its adjacent areas with the help of Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

Separate teams have been formed for every area to disconnect electricity lines of the bill defaulters and illegal power users.

The areas from where the mobile teams collected Tk 2.5 crore in fine from 30 organisations include Sagorika and Bayezid Bostami, Kalurghat, Nasirabad, Khatunganj and Sitakunda.

According to competent sources, industries in these areas usually use 10-20 lakh units of electricity a month, but their meters show only 50,000 to 1.5 lakh units. "This unusual gap prompted us to conduct the surprise raids in the areas," said an official.

The allegation of power pilferage, mainly by ice factories, comes from residential areas in greater Bakulia, Sholokhbar, Bibhut, Nasirabad, Pahartali, Halishahar, Agrabad, Pathantoli and Madarbari.

Of the PDB's total outstanding bills, Tk 79.80 crore remained unpaid by various government organisations and Tk 109 crore by private organisations.

Although many are skeptical about the success of the PDB's drive, officials are hopeful that it will help improve the power crisis in the port city.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershower likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowsers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours till 6 pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls may occur at one or two places over Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said, adding that day temperature may remain unchanged over the country during the period.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Mongla and the lowest of 19.9 degree Celsius at Khulna.

The sun sets in the capital at 6.39 pm today and rises at 5:12 am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were.

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage	Morning	Evening
Max	Min			
Dhaka	32.7	24.3	64	64
Chittagong	32.0	21.5	70	70
Rajshahi	31.0	24.5	83	86
Khulna	33.0	19.9	-	82
Barisal	31.5	21.2	65	81
Sylhet	33.1	21.4	-	73
Cox's Bazar	32.6	21.9	74	88



PHOTO: STAR
BNP leaders pay last respect to slain ward commissioner Binoy Krishna Sarkar when his body was brought to the party office at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday. Binoy was gunned down at Tanti Bazar in the old part of the city on May 22.

TB claims 70,000 a year

UNB, Dhaka

"TB patients may never be cured if they do not complete treatment or forget to take even one of the medicines or the doctor prescribes the wrong drugs or the wrong combination of drugs," said one specialist.

In these cases, TB bacteria becomes resistant to drugs. An estimated 30 per cent irregular treatment becomes chronic, according to official sources.

A recent US study suggests antibiotics can control dormant tuberculosis, but infected people may develop the disease if their immune systems are weakened.

The government through its National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTCP) is providing free services in all 460 upazilas across the country and four metropolitan cities aiming to cover 95 per cent areas of the country. But people are mostly ignorant about the charity for lack of awareness-building steps.

There are only two types of posters and stickers containing messages about TB published by NTCP that are rare at even in the capital, let alone a rural village.

No television or radio campaign is on while billboards and such other displays are also lacking about the disease, which kills one in every 10 minutes in Bangladesh and affects one in every 2 minutes, according to official data.

TB can be cured if all drugs are taken for 6-8 months, which are provided free of cost.

Lack of awareness among the people about government's free treatment facility takes them to local private practitioners when preliminary symptoms surface. Many times, they do not complete the course.

There is no official data about

how many patients are rushing to the private practitioners and are cured or not.

Dr M A Wahab, former senior consultant physician of BIRDEM, who runs his private clinic at Baridhara in the city, said he treats at least two TB patients each week.

He said the number of TB patients in the country is much higher than government estimation as the private practitioners deal with many other patients.

In capital Dhaka, where the number of migrated people is high and increasing day by day, there are only two centres -- Chankarpul and Shyamoli -- from where the city-dwellers used to get free treatment. More than 500 TB patients visit each of these two spots every three months for treatment.

Dr Vikarunnessa said five NGOs had recently been engaged in the programme in the capital to cater free TB treatment facilities to the urban people and five more will join soon.

In addition to a training programme for the Imams (religious leaders) and school teachers will be opened from July 4 as part of awareness-building drive.

Bangladesh is considered the worst TB-affected country in Southeast Asia and the fourth worst affected in the world.

Tuberculosis and its causes are closely linked to poverty. The probability of becoming infected and developing clinical conditions is associated with malnutrition, crowding, poor air circulation, and poor sanitation -- a vicious cycle established by poverty.

So far, 31 per cent TB patients have been detected under the government-supported programme, Dr Vikarunnessa Begum, Deputy Programme Manager (TB) of NTCP, told UNB correspondent.

There is no official data about



PHOTO: PID
Canadian High Commissioner David Preston called on Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury at his office in the city yesterday.

'Golden Palm' winning films to be screened

The Zahir Raihan Film Society has come up with 15 "Golden Palm" winning films for the cine-buffs of the city, says a press release.

The film club will start screening these films tomorrow. Three films will be screened at 3:30 pm, 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm daily.

French Ambassador Michel Lummaux will inaugurate the festival on Sunday. Andre Raynouard, director of the Alliance Francaise, will be present as special guest.

Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, president of the film club, will preside over the inaugural ceremony. It will be followed by the screening of the film "The Cranes Are Flying", an unforgettable film by Russian filmmaker Mikhail Kalatozov.

Other films include "The Third Man" by Carol Reed, "Kagemusha" by Akira Kurosawa, "Viridiana" by Luis Bunuel, "Missing" by Costa-Gavras, "The Tin Drum" by Volker Schlöndorff, "Taxi Driver" by Martin Scorsese, "Farewell My Concubine" by Chen Kaige, and "Blow Up" by Michelangelo Antonioni.

Barrister Huda said research activities are being conducted to ascertain the most detrimental ingredients of tobacco. Once it is detected, it would be easier to take action against the tobacco companies, he added.

Huda for more taxes on tobacco products

BSS, Dhaka

Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday called upon the finance minister to impose massive volume of taxes on cigarette, bidi and other tobacco products in the forthcoming national budget.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at a seminar on "Perilous effect of tobacco on child health." The Students Anti-Smoking Committee (SASC) organised the seminar at the Russian Cultural Centre in the city to mark the World No Tobacco Day to be observed on May 31.

Calling upon the parents and guardians not to smoke in front of the children, the minister assured that government will take steps to stop advertisement on cigarette over satellite and private TV channels before 10 pm.

Barrister Huda said research activities are being conducted to ascertain the most detrimental ingredients of tobacco. Once it is detected, it would be easier to take action against the tobacco companies, he added.

Dwijendra Nath cremated

UNB, Dhaka

Dwijendra Nath Saha, a senior reporter of The Independent and valiant freedom fighter, was cremated at the Rajarbagh Kali Mandir crematory ground in the city yesterday.

Dwijendra Saha, also the former general secretary of Mohanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee, died of a massive heart attack at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICID) on Thursday afternoon.

Earlier, the body of Dwijendra was taken to Dhakeswari National Temple and Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University to allow the people and students to pay their last respect to him.

Those who paid respect to Dwijendra at the national temple included former minister Abdur Razzak, Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad President Maj Gen (retd) C R Datta, former state minister A K M Jahangir, Awami League leaders Mukul Bose and Dr Mostafo Jalal Mohiuddin, general secretary of Oikya Parishad Dr Nimchandra Bhowmik and press club general secretary Swapan Kumar Saha.

DHAKA TODAY

Eid-e-miladunnabi

The inaugural ceremony of a fortnight-long Eid-e-Miladunnabi Programme, undertaken by the Islamic Foundation, will be held with President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Baitul Mukarram National Mosque premises. Time: 7.00pm.

Miladunnabi conference

Bangladesh Asheqane Matibhandari Association organises a grand conference in observance of holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi with Syed Mujibul Bashir as chief guest. Venue: Paltan Maidan. Time: 10.00am.

National Council

The biennial National Council of Swadhin Bangla Garment Labour Employees Federation will be held. Venue: Dhaka District Sports Association auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

Workshop

A two-day workshop on 'Development Studies', organised by Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB), will begin. Venue: IUB campus, H-6, R-14, Bandhara. Time: 10.00am.

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of Australia Fresh Apple Promotion, organised by the Australian Trade Commission, will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 12.15pm.

Writers' conference

A writers' conference of Kishorekantha and its prize distribution ceremony will be held with Minister for Social Affairs Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid as chief guest. Venue: Engineers' Institution auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Film show

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen 15 'Golden Palm' winning films from Cannes Film Festival from Sunday through Thursday. On the opening day, three films will be screened. These are: "The Third Man" by Carol Reed, "The Cranes Are Flying" by Mikhail Kalatozov and "Barton Fink" by Joel and Ethan Coen. Venue: Goethe-Institute, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 3.30pm.

VSAT Hub Facilities

Square Informatix Limited will formally launch its newly commissioned VSAT Hub Facilities with Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9.00am.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Public Health Engineering
Comilla Division, Comilla

Tender Notice

আবেদনেক মুক্ত নিরাপদ
পানি পান কর্মসূলী

শাস্ত্র স্বত্ত্ব পায়বনা ব্যবহার কর্মসূলী

Dated: 14-5-2002

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 under sealed cover are hereby invited by the undersigned from Directorate of Public Health Engineering's 2001-2002 financial year enlisted/renewed 'C' category 1st & 2nd class contractors for the undermentioned work.

Sl. No.	Description of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time limit for work
1.	Construction of pump house boundary wall approach road attached to Bara Govindapur High School under Chandina Municipality under Matlab, Chandina, Kachua & Borura Municipal Water Supply & Sanitation Project.	Tk 3,07,141/-	Tk 6,150/-	25 days.

Tenders can be purchased on cash payment of the prescribed price per set (non-refundable) from the office of the undersigned & Executive Engineer, PHE, Chandpur during office hours up to 29-5-2002. No tender will be sold on the date of receiving tender.

Tenders will be received in tender box kept at the office of the undersigned & Executive Engineer, PHE, Chandpur up to 1:30 PM of 30-5-2002. All the respective tenders taken together will be opened on 1-6-2002 at 11:00 AM at the office of the undersigned in presence (if any) of the attending tenderers.

Md. Sohrab Uddin Khan
Executive Engineer
Public Health Engineering
Comilla Division, Comilla
Phone: 76143.

DFP-13145-20/5
G-1459

টেক্সার নোটিশ

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

নিম্ন বর্ণিত কাজগুলির জন্য ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের তালিকাবৃক্ত টেক্সার আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। টিকাদারগণকে