Wasa bottled water in market from August

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Shanti, the brand name for the Wasa bottled water will be available in the market on the first week of August. The new plant established at a cost of Tk 13 crore is capable of producing 10,000 litres of pure water per hour.

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority's (WASA) bottled water project, initiated over six years back would be finally complete as the authorities say that they would begin production in August.

"Automatic machines have been set up for production, refining and bottling. It would ensure hygienic, purified and quality water for consumers," said Hedayet Ullah Al-Mamun acting managing director, Dhaka Wasa. "We would start test production from the last week of this month (July)."

Shanti, the brand name for the Wasa bottled water will be available in the market on the first week of August.

The new plant established at a cost of Tk 13 crore is capable of producing 10,000 litres of pure water per hour.

"The plant has the capacity of bottling 6000 litres of water per hour. Rest of the water would be supplied in reusable containers of 10 litre and 20 litre," said Al-Mamun.

Wasa has decided to market bottles containing 500 millilitres (ml), 1 litre, 2 litre and 5 litre of water.

A new deep tube-well has been set up to collect water from the ground level. The plant will also manufacture plastic bottles required to carry water to the market.

"We have called tenders for marketing agents and will complete the other procedures like getting standard certificate and fixing prices within middle of this month," said the acting MD.

He also said that the technical set up is complete and that Wasa had established the plant on its own land in Mirpur.

Wasa hopes to lease the plant out for operation and maintenance to some private operator.

"We will hold the quality controlling authority and marketing in our hands to ensure quality product and maximum benefit for Wasa," said the MD.

Wasa officials also said that the water they provide would be priced lower than the existing market rate, but they have not set a price as yet.

"One of our main goals is to supply pure drinking water to the market at a very minimal price so that the other companies charging a higher rate for the same kind of product are forced to reduce their rate," said an official of Wasa.

"In principle we have decided to sell our bottled water at 30 to 40 percent lower rate than that of existing market price," he added.

Wasa bottled water was expected to be available in the market in January this year.

The initial project procedures, such as floating tenders, took over three years from early 2000 during the tenure of the previous government. Two more years later, in May 2005 Paragon Enterprise Limited was awarded the contract to set up the plant.

"Wasa handed over the land for development late and it took us time to pile and fill up the wetland and it was only after that we started construction," said Azharul Islam, executive director, Paragon Enterprise Limited.

STAR PHOTO

Wasa plans to sell their bottled water at cheaper price than those already in the market.

JUNNUN QUAZI

Time to play football. Street children take the advantage of playing their favourite games on the streets during general strikes called by the opposition. The picture was taken yesterday at Panthapath.

Minister stresses on quality in private universities

CITY CORRESPONDENT

It is the government's duty to ensure quality of university education, private or public, no matter whether any quarters like it or not, said Education Minister Dr. M Osman Farruk at the 'Prime Minister Gold Medal Award-2006' presentation at the Prime Minister's (PM) office on Sunday.

"Government's role in ensuring quality education at private universities cannot be held hostage to a argument that these universities are initiated with private entrepreneurs' money," said Dr. Farruk at the event organised by University Grants Commission, Bangladesh (UGC).

The minister condemned the trend of public university teachers that they quite often take jobs at private universities being allured by higher monetary benefits even without prior permission from their own institutions.

Focusing on the government's priority to promote higher education, he said that of the total 29 public universities in the country, only 12 were founded during the present BNP government.

"The academic situation of private universities, except five to seven, is really deplorable as far as quality is concerned," said the UGC chairman Prof. M Asaduzzaman.

"Government's role in ensuring quality education at private universities cannot be held hostage to a argument that these universities are initiated with private entrepreneurs' money"

"Private sector is inseparable from the development process in today's age of globalisation," he said. "But it does not mean that private entrepreneurs are licensed to do anything they wish with education in particular," he added.

"Higher education in the private sector will hardly move forward unless and until the entrepreneurs permit the government to take action to streamline private university education," Prof. Asaduzzaman further said.

Regarding the public universities, he said that the authorities should not take autonomy as a license to do anything and run the institutions at will, he added.

An enormous amount of public money is spent on education at public universities of which 80 percent makes up teacher-remuneration with almost no allocation for research.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, present at the function as the chief guest, said that she was not happy seeing unfortunate news related to various universities.

"Certificate-only education comes to no use in reality," she said, "Education must be up to the mark," she added.

University teachers have to impart education of global standard within the country if they can do so abroad, she said.

Accountability has to be ensured in financial matters at the public universities, she added.

The PM called upon the award wining students to dedicate themselves for the welfare of the country's common people, as most of their educational expenses are met with taxpayers' money.

A total of 57 outstanding students, who obtained first class firsts and secured highest marks at graduate level in each faculty, of the 16 public universities were awarded with the Prime Minister's Gold Medal, this year.

The UGC that instituted the medal in 2005 awarded meritorious students for the second time.

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milan and Education Secretary Momtajul Islam also spoke.

healthouting,taxicab&traintiming

HEALTH

Hospitals

Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam 9336611, 7411660
BARDEM 8616641-50
Cholera Hospital (ICDDRB) 8811751-60
CMH (Dhaka) 9870011
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital 8628612-6
Holy Family Red Crescent 8311721-5
Islamia Eye Hospital 9119315, 8112156
Lion Eye Hospital 9129127
Medinova Medical Services 8620353-4
Mirpur General Hospital (Pvt) Ltd 9007873, 8015444
Mitford Hospital 7319002-6
National Heart Foundation Hospital 8014914, 8010491, 8021399
Orthopedic Hospital 9112150
Salimullah Medical College Hospital 7319002-6
Samorita Hospital 9131901
Shahid Suhrawardi Hospital 9122560-78, 9112086, 8114856, 9130800
Shishu Hospital 8116061-2, 9119119

Clinics

Akand Clinic 8015855, 8022581
Aroggaya Niketan 9333730
BAV.S Maternity 8016413-4
Dhaka Monorog Clinic 9005050
Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic 8822738, 8812992
Ibn Sina Clinic 8119513
Jahanara Clinic (Pvt) Ltd 8912929
Judi Maternity 9113322
Paltan Poly Clinic 9557385
Retina Eye Center (Clinic) 9884588, 9884566
Shishu Bekash Clinic 9351625
The Eye Clinic 9333238

Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061,7319022
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9

Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040

Ambulances For Dead Body

Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail 9336611, **Gandaria** 7319808, 7318166,
Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
Elephant Road-Friday
Bishal Center-Friday
Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday
Polwell Market-Friday
BCS Computer City-Friday
Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
Stadium Market-Friday
Bangabazar Market-Friday
National Museum-Thursday
Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.
New Market-Tuesday
Gausia Market-Tuesday
Mouchak Market-Sunday
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesdeay
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
Eastern Plaza-Sunday
Farmview Super Market-Sunday
Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday
Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

Passenger's Complain
01711-000990, 01711-000991, 01711-000992, DMP-999, 2627.

Cab Salida Ltd. 9344477, 01711-620888, 01711-610405
Cosmo Cab Ltd. 9112959, 8127191,
Nitol Cab Co. Ltd. 8125285, 01711-621953
JBS Cab Ltd.0191-364575
Coal Cab Ltd 8130485, 01711-826731
Limujin Cab Ltd. 9318351, 9337204
Multi-Cab Ltd. 9666502, 9570740
Nihon Taxi Cab Ltd. 8624742, 8624741
Orion Taxi Cab Ltd. 934727, 9347277, 01711-155144
Reliance Cab Ltd. 9339563-4
RMS Cab Ltd. 8118536
Shatarupa Taxi Cab Ltd. 731083, 01711-458740
Tinni Cab Ltd. 9662009, 01711-645257
Teletex Cab Ltd. 7202201
Alif Cab Co. Ltd. 0191-357838, 83116948
Cab One Ltd. 9563054 Ext.-3077, 3178
United Cab Ltd. 7510166, 01711-348474
Ulka Express Ltd. 9359885, 01711-313554
Cab Bangla Ltd. 9563077 Ext.-3054, 3178, 01711-622644
Cab i Ltd. 9563054, 9563077, 01711-629585
Cab line Ltd. 8321162
Capital Cab Co. Ltd. 9352847-9
Classic Cab Ltd. 200825, 01711-233851, 01711-812415
Comport Cab Ltd. 8817610-4
Cab Express Ltd. 9341369, 9339337, 9348401 Ext.-111

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express	Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm	Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm
Mahanagar Prabhati	Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am	Reaches Chittagong at 1-55 pm
Mahanagar Godhuli	Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm	Reaches Chittagong at 10-55 pm
Turna	Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm	Reaches Chittagong at 6-40 am
Parabat Express	Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 am	Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm
Joyantika Express	Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm	Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm
Upaban Express	Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 pm	Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am
Tista Express	Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am	Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm
Ekata Express	Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm	Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-15
Upakul Express	Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm	Reaches Noakhali at 5-00 am
Agnibeena Express	Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm	Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm

LIBRARY & INFO-

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
Information Resource Center, The American Center - 8813440-4, 9886395-9
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141-2
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412
Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4