

5 pc of current ADP for family planning

Allocation for the family planning (FP) sector in the current annual development programme (ADP) is about 108 million US dollars, nearly five per cent of the total outlay for national development, reports BSS.

The allocation for the FP sector in the Third Five Year Plan was only 2.20 per cent of the national development programme.

In addition to the ADP allocation, the government allocates funds to the FP programme from its revenue resources. The revenue fund has been more than doubled to 20 million US dollars in 1993-94 against 9 million US dollars in 1989-90. Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf said in an exclusive interview with BSS yesterday.

The minister said both the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) and donors are important financiers for the country's family planning programme. Donors' assistance includes foreign exchange spent directly for consultants, contraceptives, drugs, supplies and equipment and also local currency support for civil works, research and training. The government spends mostly on salary, land costs and maintenance of physical infrastructures and development activities.

Expressing concern over what has been described as over-dependence on donors' assistance associated with the on-going programmes, the minister said the government is now considering a phased strategy for achieving self-reliance. He said the short term measures will concentrate on maximising management efficiency, nominal cost recovery and implementing cost effective service delivery programmes. The long-term goals will be achievement of full-cost recovery and in-country capability in contraceptive production leading to attainment of overall programme sustainability. He, however, said donor assistance would be necessary until complete self-reliance is achieved.

Expressing satisfaction over the impact of the family planning programme, the health minister said decline in the total fertility rate from 7 to below 4 by 1993 had slowed the population growth by 10 million. He said reduction in the

fertility rate contributed to self-sufficiency in foodgrain, increase in the per capita income, improvement in the teacher-student ratio, a reduction in the proportion of high risk birth and, consequently, reduced infant mortality and maternal mortality. He said all these factors have contributed to an improvement of the quality of life at a level that would not have been possible without a strong family planning programme.

In this context, he said slower population growth will further the government's efforts to improve the quality of services in health, education, social welfare and housing.

He said the Bangladesh population programme is characterised by almost universal level of awareness, increased contraceptive prevalence, reduced infant mortality, decreased fertility and mortality and a growing supportive environment conducive to the further expansion of the programme.

The health minister said the family planning programme cost will reach 250 million US dollars per year in the year 2005 as against the allocation of 108 million dollars in 1993-94.

Major's wife dies at CMH

By Staff Correspondent

Rasheda Begum, wife of an army major, succumbed to severe head injuries in the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka yesterday.

Cantonment police said a gang of armed men who reportedly barged into the Major's house at 61 Shaheed Mainul Road, Dhaka Cantonment and repeatedly hit Rasheda on the head with a sharp machete after she raised a hue and cry on seeing them inside the house early Sunday. However, the armed men fled immediately, police added.

Fatally wounded, Rasheda was rushed to the CMH where she died around 10 in the morning yesterday.

Rasheda's husband, Major Abdul Halim, has lodged a murder case with the Cantonment police, but no arrest was made so far, according to police.

Ruling party wins Mexican elections

MEXICO CITY, Aug 22: Ernesto Zedillo, the candidate of Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), claimed victory early today in watershed presidential elections after partial official results gave him 47.14 per cent of the vote, reports Reuters.

"The figures... establish that a clear triumph can be seen for the PRI in the presidential elections," Zedillo said in a statement.

The partial official results were based on returns from 15 per cent of polling booths across the country.

They gave Diego Fernandez of the Conservative National Action Party 31.35 per cent of the vote and Cuauhtemoc Cardenas of the centre-left Democratic Revolution Party 15.49 per cent.

Earlier forecasts of a Zedillo victory were rejected by Cardenas, who stopped short of alleging outright fraud but called the projections a "trick" and said he would win.

Cardenas called on his supporters to mass in Mexico city's main Zocalo square from noon (1800 GMT) today where he would give them further instructions.

Zafar's denial

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were no talks within the JP or with the government for the release of Ershad on parole.

"I must also make it absolutely clear that the Jatiya Party stands solidly united on the demands for the unconditional release of the party chairman through a country-wide agitation and legal measures in the courts," he said referring to The Daily Star report published on Sunday.

Our reporter's reply: The Daily Star stands by its report that there was serious difference of opinion in the party high command about ways to free Ershad.

The matter was discussed at the JP presidium meeting Sunday and those attending favoured street agitation as the best means to free Ershad. It was clearly mentioned in The Daily Star report that the matter might be discussed at Sunday's presidium meeting.

Kazi Zafar's press release, issued after the presidium meeting, only reflected the decision of that meeting.

The Daily Star report did not say that "some negotiations are going on with the BNP government on this question," which the JP leader quoted in his press release.

The government promised this would be the cleanest election in the country's history. Past votes, including the



1988 victory by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari over Cardenas, have been tainted by fraud.

After a tumultuous year with a peasant uprising in the state of Chiapas and the March 23 assassination of then-PRI presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio, many here believe Mexico's political stability is riding on a clean election.

Civic alliance, the leading Mexican election observer group, predicted Zedillo would win the election but said it could not endorse the electoral process.

Jordan

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cuss the peace process and bilateral relations with Jordanian leaders, the official news agency Petra said.

Majali told journalists after the first meeting that the two sides "will examine all the joint political, economic, administrative and security problems and set out a timetable for issues to be discussed with Israel."

Abed Rabbo said they had agreed to "set up three committees to examine all these issues in a realistic and practical way."

The PLO reacted angrily when the July 25 Israeli-Jordanian peace declaration recognised Jordan's special role in administering the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, which both the Israelis and Palestinians claim as their capital.

Jordan and Israel also recently concluded a 30-million dollar accord allowing Jordanian products to be exported to the occupied West Bank.



A rally marking the holy occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi was brought out in the city Sunday. — Star photo

Launch mishap

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out rescue operation in difficult situations, sailed this morning from Chittagong for Chandpur with four more divers on board.

The Chairman of the IWT, the Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong and other senior officials are now in Chandpur to oversee the operation.

Meanwhile, the government has formed a committee to investigate into the accident. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia instructed setting up the body.

Most of the bodies recovered from the river were found four to five kms downstream of the spot.

The bodies, including those of two children, were first spotted by fishermen and then recovered by people from the nearby villages.

District officials said the victims included a 12-member bridal party on-board MV Dinar-2.

The bloated body of the 17-year-old bride was recovered this morning from near a village in Haimchar thana, about six-km off Chandpur town.

JU dean polls today

By JU Correspondent

The election of three faculty deans will be held at the Jahangirnagar University today.

Two panels of teachers will contest the posts of Dean of Arts, Social Sciences and the Science faculties.

Minority Tamil party backs Kumaratunga

COLOMBO, Aug 22: Sri Lanka's new People's Alliance (PA) government, seeking to increase its tiny overall parliamentary majority, won the unconditional support of a minority Tamil political party, Tamil sources said today, reports Reuters.

Dharmalingam Sithadthan, leader of the Tamil Democratic People's Liberation Front (DPLF), met newly installed Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga on Sunday night and offered the DPLF's support.

"We offered unconditional support and she accepted it," said an official of the DPLF, which won three seats in the 225-seat Parliament last week.

Other Tamil parties, which together with the DPLF have 17 seats and hold the balance of power, have said they would support the government on a case-by-case basis.

But they say they approve of Kumaratunga's plan to find a peaceful solution to the country's ethnic conflict. She has called for talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels, who have been fighting for independence in the island's north and east since 1983.

Kumaratunga's People's Alliance won 105 seats to the 94 won by the United National Party (UNP), which lost last week's parliamentary election after 17 years in power.

The PA can count on support from Sri Lanka's Muslim congress which holds seven seats and an independent group with one seat.

Another Tamil group, the Eelam People's democratic front which won nine seats in the northern Jaffna peninsula controlled by Tamil rebels, is also not backing the UNP, contrary to earlier expectations.

The new parliament meets for the first time on August 25.

Ctg APSU begins 7-day programme

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 22: The All Party Students Unity (APSU) began a week-long programme here today demanding the arrest of the July 26 killers.

APSU is also demanding removal of the police commissioner and withdrawal of cases filed against its leaders.

The programmes include exchange of views with the SKOP leaders, lawyers, leaders of different wards and representatives of colleges.

On July 26 at least six persons were killed and over 200 injured in a gunfight between two rival groups on the day of Jamaat chief Golam Azam's public meeting here.

Dialogue on Rly reform today

By Staff Correspondent

A dialogue on the theme, "Bangladesh's Railways: An Agenda for Reform" will be held today from 2:30 to 6:30 pm at Hotel Sonargaon under the auspices of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

The dialogue has been designed to bring together policymakers, Members of Parliament, professionals and businessmen to discuss issues of Railway reform.

BCS body threatens fresh agitation

By Staff Correspondent

The BSC General Education Association has warned it would resume agitation if the authorities do not implement its 16-point charter of demand.

Two killed in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Aug 22: Two young men were killed Sunday in separate incidents in Shaikhpura thana of the district, police said today, reports UNB.

Suspected woman smuggler handed over to police

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 22: A Myanmar woman suspected of smuggling, caught by BDR near Teknaf border check post on Saturday, was handed over to the police after interrogation, official sources said today.

Myanmar currency amounting to one lakh kiats was seized from the possession of the woman — Laito, 40 — a resident of Mongdow township in Arakan province, the sources said.

The Myanmar woman entered Bangladesh territory with a transit visa. The undeclared currency was kept concealed in her tiffin-carrier.

During interrogation, Laito confessed that she was involved smuggling and brought the currency to hand over to a local pharmacy owner, officials said.

The pharmacy was raided but its owner fled earlier, sensing trouble.

Writ petition

From Page 1 Col 2

Moudud Ahmed, acting leader of the Jatiya Party in Parliament, yesterday filed a petition for stay along with a provisional application for leave to appeal against the judgement of the High Court. Moudud's prayer seeking issuance of rule upon the Speaker and the Secretary of Parliament in the writ petition against the Opposition's boycott of parliament were earlier rejected.

The writ, filed by Advocate Anwar Hossain Khan on June 26 against the continuous boycott of Parliament sessions by the Opposition, was fixed for hearing on August 23 by a High Court division bench comprising Justice Kazi Shafiuddin and Justice Kazi A T Monwar Uddin.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Barrister Rafiqul Huq, Barrister K S Nabi and Barrister Abdur Razzaq and Advocate Aftab Hossain appeared for the opposition parties.

Barrister Mohammad Ali, Advocate Abu Bakar Siddique and Advocate Nowab Ali appeared for the petitioner.

Flood situation

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raising the death toll to nine from August 16. The dead were identified as a seven-year-old daughter of Taib Ali and a three-year-old son of Abdur Razzak of Charnohanpur village.

JP : Mizan

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his voice he said they had seen their own faces in the mirror, but started mounting false propaganda against others. They will soon be exposed in the eyes of people, he added.

Meanwhile, the Jatiya Party (Nationalist) in a rejoinder stated in clear terms that it had so far sent no proposal imploring its merger with the JP (Mizan).

On the contrary leaders of the JP (Mizan) have of late been sending proposals to leaders of the JP (Nationalist) to do politics together. Their proposals, however, could not be considered due to ideological differences. The JP (Nationalist) does not believe in the politics of talism in the Awami League, the rejoinder said.

The JP (Nationalist), the rejoinder said, stood committed to Bangladesh nationalism and Islamic values. Therefore, the question of forming political alliance with parties that have deviated from these idealism does not arise at all, the rejoinder added.

The Midnight File

Somali militiamen kill 7 Indian soldiers

MOGADISHU, Aug 22: Dozens of Somali militiamen ambushed UN peacekeepers Monday killing seven Indian soldiers and wounding nine in southwestern Somalia, officials said. In a separate incident, US military vehicles were fired on Monday by Somali gunmen in Southern Mogadishu. "An unprovoked and carefully coordinated ambush occurred on an Indian convoy at Burleego," said Maj Richard McDonald, military spokesman for the UN mission in Somalia, reports AP.

Syria rebuffs Israeli offer

BEIRUT, Aug 22: Syria rebuffed an Israeli offer to withdraw from Lebanon within nine months, insisting there had to be a comprehensive peace deal. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview published today. Rabin told the London-based Arab daily Al-Hayat that the offer to quit Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon within nine months had been passed to Lebanon by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, reports AFP.

Ershad: Boat case

From Page 1 Col 4

dentially. Kinsho was the last bid while Marubeni was the second bidder in the boat purchase quotation.

The PW-2, who completed his deposition on the third day yesterday, said that despite objections from the Relief Ministry, Ershad approved boats made of fibre glass. The ministry had favoured steel body craft for a variety of reasons, including availability of repair facilities in the country.

Lack of boat-building facility was cited as the reason for not accepting the quotation of Kinsho Mataichi, the witness said.

On a query from Public Prosecutor Abdur Razzaq Khan, who conducted the deposition, the witness said there was no such condition that the supplier would have to have a building facility.

Yusuf Hossain Humayun, defence counsel for Ershad who objected to this query, said since the quotation has been made an exhibit there was no scope for asking such questions.

The witness testified to the authenticity of several files, correspondence and minutes of the Cabinet Committee on the purchase of the boats.

Amin further stated that because the price quoted by Marubeni Corporation was very high, the number of boats to be purchased was revised. He said the former president approved the revised number.

It was originally estimated that 520 boats of different sizes and 23 engines would be supplied by using a 2.5 billion yen grant. Ultimately only 275 boats were supplied.

When the presiding Senior Special Judge Abdus Salam asked the defence to cross-examine the witness, it declined to do so, citing some problems.

PM orders probe

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Shipping Minister M K Anwar apprised her of the salvage operation.

The Prime Minister also instructed the Shipping Ministry to take all necessary and effective measures to avert any further accident of passenger vessels in the river routes.

Over 100 passengers were feared drowned when the Shariatpur-bound double-decker launch from Dhaka MV Dinar-2 carrying about 300 passengers capsized some 500 yards off the Chandpur launch ghāt.

Earlier Begum Zia expressed her deep shock at the tragic death of passengers.

In a condolence message, the Prime Minister prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved families of the victims.

Khandaker Mahbub Hossain, chief defence counsel for Ershad, told the court that his client was harassed by the security people who frisked him while coming out of the Central Jail. The conduct of the security people had upset Ershad who didn't want to stay in the court, Hossain said.

PP Razzaque Khan objected and said that during two hours of deposition by PW-2 the accused was seen discussing with his two lawyers — Hossain and Mahbubur Rahman, a former minister — and that there was no sign that the accused was feeling uneasy, he said.

Khandakar Mahbub Hossain insisted on not going ahead with the cross-examination and demanded an adjournment of the proceedings. He further said the defence would have to think after yesterday's "episode" whether to carry on with the case.

The Public Prosecutor objected to the adjournment which the judge allowed upon a written prayer from the defence, adjourning the proceedings till 10:30 this morning.

Int'l workshop

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The discussions included music and songs, recitation from poetry, presentation of books and food of Bangladesh, and the impact of satellite TV on Bangladeshi culture.

The workshop will be followed by a Bangladeshi cultural evening in Amsterdam which will be open to public.

Leading professionals like Sayeed Ahmed, Shahidul Alam, Tanvir Mokammel, Mahfuz Anam, Salma Sobhan and former secretary and Ambassador Hedayetul Huq will present papers at the workshop.

Earlier, the NBS, established to accumulate collective experience of the researchers and professionals from Bangladesh and European centres, has organised workshops in UK and Denmark.

Meanwhile, a forum discussion on 'Bangladeshi Culture: Tradition and Innovation in an Aid-Development Society' was held yesterday evening in Netherlands organised by the Bangladeshi community there, the Royal Tropical Institute and the organisers of the workshop.

Another political party floated

A new political party styled 'Bangladesh Gano Oikya Party' was floated at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday, reports BSS.

Addressing the press conference the president of the party Yar Ahmed, and advocate of the Bangladesh Supreme Court, explained the programmes and objectives of his new party.

পল্লবী দ্বিতীয় পর্ব

ইস্টার্ন হাউজিং লিমিটেড-এর আবাসিক প্রকল্প

পল্লবী প্রধান সড়ক (১১ বাসস্ট্যান্ড) থেকে ১ কিঃমিঃ পশ্চিমে এবং বোটানিক্যাল গার্ডেন সলেন প্রাকৃতিক সৌন্দর্যমণ্ডিত এবং দৃশ্যমুগ্ধ পরিবেশে অবস্থিত। প্রকল্পটিতে ইতিমধ্যে প্রায় ৪০০টি প্লট উন্নয়ন করে সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদেরকে হস্তান্তর করা হয়েছে। বর্তমানে প্রকল্পটিতে নতুন জমি উন্নয়ন ও প্লট বরাদ্দ চলছে। পল্লবীতে প্লটের আয়তনঃ ২.৫০, ৩.০০, ৩.৫০ ও ৫.০০ কাঠা। প্রকল্পটিতে প্রয়োজনীয় সব ধরনের নাগরিক সুবিধা থাকবে। আপনার পছন্দের প্লটের জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন।

যোগাযোগের ঠিকানাঃ

ইস্টার্ন হাউজিং লিমিটেড

ইসলাম চৌধুরী (৪র্থ তলা)

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