Tk 336 cr dredging scheme under consideration

By Staff Correspondent

A Tk 336-crore dredging programme for improving the alarmingly declining navigability of the country's waterways is now under consideration of the Planning Commission.

Shipping Minister M K Anwar said this while inaugurating a four-day workshop on 'Multimodal transport - how to become a multimodal transport operator at a city hotel vesterday.

The workshop was organised by the Shippers Council of Bangladesh with the assistance of the UN-ESCAP.

FBCC1 President Salman F Rahman, Shippers Council Chairman M R Ali and Vice Chairman Rezaul Karim also spoke on the occasion.

The shipping minister said, due to unilateral withdrawal of Ganges water our inland waterways reduce to only about 4.000 kilometres during the dry season. In the past, the total length of the country's inland waterways was about 12,000 kms, he mentioned. Referring to various devel-

opment programmes in the shipping sector, the minister said a Tk 310-crore interim development programme for Chittagong Port has been undertaken to increase container and cargo handling efficiency Besides, an inland container

port will be set up on the Buriganga river at Pangaon under Keraniganj in Dhaka at a cost of Tk 277 crore, the minister pointed out.

M K Anwar said, multimodal transport system together with containerisation has brought

See also Page 6

about revolutionary changes in international trade, transport and shipping. It is of vital importance for us to develop and efficiently operate the system for promotion of our exports. he added.

In this regard the minister also stressed the need for coordinating banking rules, Customs procedures and insurance policies to facilitate efficient operation of multimodal transport system.

against the "recent killings of

farmers and workers and price

spiral of essentials" and for

resignation of the BNP gov-

ernment to pave the way for a

non-party caretaker adminis-

tration to conduct early gen-

agitation programmes includ-

ing a sit-in by the party MPs

who had resigned in December

last in front of the Speaker's

Protesting the "murders of

18 peasants in the recent

countrywide demonstration

against fertiliser crisis and the

ers since the BNP came to

power. the AL chief said the

Prime Minister has created a

black chapter in the national

Hasina said there was no

reason for shortage of fertiliser

in the country, since there was

a surplus production. "Corrupt

practices in the distribution

system and politicisation of ev-

erything by the ruling BNP

have resulted in the crisis"

In this regard, she reiter-

ated that the Prime Minister

must resign accepting all re-

sponsibilities for the fertiliser

and food crisis. "Resignation of

the Industries Minister is not

About the Opposition legis-

lators' resignation from

Parliament and the Speaker's

ruling in this regard, the AL

president said the BNP was

now running the country with

a dead parliament and the

Speaker had rejected their

resignation letters just to let

BNP government. People

would surely remove this cor-

rupt, killer, vote-dacoit and

inefficient government", she

The AL chief also repeated

her allegations that the BNP

had destroyed democracy.

established autocratic rule and

betrayed all including the po-

litical parties, workers, farm-

ers, students and profession-

als. It has also turned the

country into a market of for-

eign goods by destroying local

dressed by AL central leaders

including Abdus Samad Azad,

Abdul Mannan, Sajeda Chow-

dhury, Abdur Razzak, Tofael

Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta,

Amir Hossain Amu, Zillur

Rahman, Mohammad Nasim,

city mayor Mohammad Hanif,

Matiya Choudhury and Abdul

Khaleda

From Page 1

ated the people of the forces

who gave legitimacy to the au-

tocratic government by partic-

hands with them to foil

democracy and the develop-

ment process initiated by the

present elected government."

people to count the days of

hartals that affected the mills,

minded the people that when

the Opposition failed to get the

people's support after submit-

ting their resignation from

Parliament, they started poli-

with hindering smooth trans-

port of the much needed agri-

cultural input by calling pro-

grammes of hartal and siege

when the government took

things under its control from

a huge number of weavers in

the area, she said the govern-

ment is actively considering to

Prime Minister also inaugu-

rated the ISD (International

Subscribers Dialling) tele

phone network by talking to

President Abdur Rahman

During the meeting, the

Referring to the problem of

the private sector.

bring about a solution.

Biswas from the dais.

She charged the Opposition

tics with rice and fertiliser.

factories and schools.

"And they have again joined

Begum Zia also asked the

The Prime Minister re-

ipating in their elections.

The rally was also ad-

industries, Hasina alleged.

But no force can save the

the BNP cling to power.

killings of 17 industrial work-

Hasina also announced fresh

eral elections.

office on April 24.

history.

she alleged.

enough".

Hasina promises subsidy

From Page 1

said creating a crisis of lertiliser, rice, paper and other essentials, for not granting subsidy in the agricultural sector, killing farmers as they agitated for fertiliser at fair price and the workers for demonstrating against unsuit able industrial policy, sale of public sector industrial units at throw-away prices and retrenchment of workers without ensuring alternative jobs for them.

The AL organised the peasants-workers' rally as part of the Opposition's agitation

Ctg road mishap From Page 1

Four others including BTV cameraman Mohammad Hossain and PRO of fisheries minister Abdullah Al Noman Mostafa Kamal and another TV staff Abdur Rahim, were injured. They are now under treatment at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital. The condition of Hossain was critical, hospital sources said.

Among the four killed. Monir Hossain Mukul succumbed to his injury at Chittagong Medical College Hospi-

Police said the accident took place when their jeep collided head-on with a passenger bus bound for Chittagong from Cox's Bazar at 9:00 am today. All the passengers of the bus except one remained unhurt, police added

Sources said the victims were on way to Cox's Bazar to cover a programme of Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman scheduled for this afternoon.

Dalim

From Page 1 the country's ambassador

there. But it was reportedly reluctant to clear the agreement accepting Dalim as envoy, it is learnt. The government will now

send the name of a new nominee to be the ambassador to Brazil. The post of Bangladesh envoy in Brasilia has been vacant since the retirement of Maj Gen (retd) Abdus Salam some months ago.

Meanwhile. Dr Afsarul Quader, who is Director General of the United Nations desk in the Foreign Ministry. is expected to proceed shortly to Kenya to take up the post of High Commissioner. Dr Quader's agreement has already been approved by the Kenyan government.

New Postings

Syed Muazzem Ali, who is a Director General in the Foreign Ministry, will shortly take over as ambassador to Iran. His agreement has already received approval of the host government.

Major General Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, whose services have been placed at the disposal of Foreign Ministry and who has been appointed ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman is expected to take up his assignment within a few weeks. The post in Muscat which was so long at the charge d'affaires level is being upgraded with the new post-

Ajax Jute Mills laid off

From Our Correspondent KHULNA, Apr 16: The Mirerdanga Ajax Jute Mills has been declared laid off from April 15. A spokesman of the zonal office of BJMC said, the lay off came because of heavy losses, financial crisis and inability of the mills to pay the

wages of the workers. Meanwhile, workers are reportedly continuing production voluntarily keeping offi-

cials confined to the offices. The besieged officials are being guarded by two contingents of riot police.

JP urges PM

From Page 1

Hossain, secretary general Anwar Hossain Manju and assistant secretary general Munirul Hag Chowdhury.

Mizanur Rahman Chowd hury reiterated the party's demand for general elections under a caretaker administration, saving there was no consistency between the activities and words of the present government.

He also announced a fresh agitation programme, including a sit-in by the MPs who had submitted their resignations on December 28 last in front of the Speaker's office on April 24.

Moudud Ahmed accused the government of creating the food and fertiliser crises. The country was facing a food shortage of 34 lakh tonnes which would increase by 10 uliser crisis, he said.

and demanded publication of the report of the enquiry commission formed on June 6 1981 in connection with the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman.

the BNP would have to resign to lacilitate the formation of a aretaker government if it wanted the constitutional process and democratic order to

English From Page 1

English language as a compulsory paper in all the departments of the universities. It also decided to introduce English language as compulsory subject in Degree (Pass and Honours) from 1995-96 session.

The meeting was informed that the government had taken steps to introduce English language at all levels of education.

The minister sought allout cooperation from the vicesincerity.

Education Secretary and University Grants Commission chairman were present.

Power plant

based company is also negotiating a production sharing contract (PSC) with Petrobangla to explore natural gas in the western part of the coun

The MOU was signed at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources by Additional Secretary Jamal Hossain and Presi dent of Geopetrol W E Richards on behalf of their respective sides.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Energy Secretary Faizur Razzak acting Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh John Devell and other high officials concerned were present at the

Noting that the country's electricity demand is expected to double by the end of the century, the Energy Minister welcomed signing of the MOU to set up a private sector power plant. He assured full government support to the private investors in the power economic policy.

Cabinet Sub-committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.

Geopetrol said that the proposed power plant would be equipped with dual burners capable of using either furnace oil or natural gas or both. Initially the plant would use furnace oil and would switch to natural gas in the future if the company's exploration efforts proves successful, it added. The project would be partially funded by the Canadian International Development Agency

From Page 1

per cent import growth. The

import bill will be between US

The national savings also

reached nearly 15 per cent of

the GDP, he said, adding if the

current trend continues, the

saving investment ratio will

Rahman suggested more

eventually reach up to 17pc.

discipline in fiscal and mone-

tary management by cutting

down wastes and extrava-

gances. He also underlined the

need for involving the private

sector in the economy.
Referring to reforms, the

Finance Minister said the

World Bank and donors some-

times insist on speedy imple-

mentation of the reform pro-

out, it may not be possible to

implement reforms overnight

But ironically, he pointed

grammes.

dollar 5.5 to 6 million next

A said is being administered oral polio vaccine at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday, the second phase of the National Immunisation Day. - Star photo

Phase II: Children immunised at 1.5 lakh centres

By Staff Correspondent

The second phase of the National Immunisation Day (NID) was observed across the country yesterday with the aim to immunise some two crore children under five against po-

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated the NID at the Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) building at Mahakhali by dropping polio vaccine into the mouths of three minor girls at noon yesterday. She took the children in her lap and patted them with motherly affection.

Some 1.30 lakh centres were opened on the day in vil lages, market places, schools clinics and other public places to immunise the children under the 25 crore taka vaccination programme. Some six lakh volunteers were engaged for the purpose.

The government had declared March 16 and April 16 this year as NID to eradicate polio from the country by the year 2000. The NID will be observed in the same way in the next two years.

The Health Ministry, in collaboration with UNICEF WHO, Rotary International USAID and socio-cultural organisations, is implementing

this programme.

The programme of the day began at 8 am and continued till 4 pm. Parents with their children spontaneously came to the vaccination centres where the children were also given vitamin A capsules.

was observed on March 16 in which some 1.53 crore chil dren were given the polio vac Polio vaccines were also

The first phase of the NID

given to the children in different ward commissioners' of fices, hospitals, maternities and dispensaries. Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad

Hanif administered the oral vaccine to the children at Sramajibi Hospital at Naya-

The Radda MCH-FP centre at Mirpur vaccinated over 23000 children at its six cen tres in the area. The WHO representative, Dr W Hardjotanojo and officials from the USAID. Bangladesh Rotary Polio, EPI and Radda Barnen and others visited the MCH centres.

The Rotary Club of Motijheel and Progoti S/W organised a vaccination programme at the Jane Alam Sarker High School and at the college premises in Khilkhet where some 1000 children were

Manzur murder case

fessional statements about their respective roles before a magistrate, could not be produced on that day due to country-wide strike by the industrial workers. As such the CMM issued

fresh warrants for producing the arrested officers in court tomorrow.

The court also issued showcause notices against the DIGs (Prison) of the Dhaka, Comilla jails and the SP of Tangail district jail through special mes-

Court sources said the bail petitions of Latif and Shams, submitted on April 11, and the retraction petition filed by Shams, may also be heard to-

Emdad's lawyers said they would move the higher court if their client's prayer for bail is rejected by the CMM.

A previous prayer for Emdad's bail was rejected by CMM Matiur Rahman on March 28.

"because of our unique political

culture, sensitivity and social

compulsions ... We can't im-

plement them with the speed

the World Bank and donors

cal reality and social compul-

sions, then I will be an unreal-

istic Finance Minister." Saifur

said explaining his predica-

ments. "Whatever the World

Bank and donors say may not

be axiomatic ... We're trying to

He said, "reform and good

"But their perception of

governance" had become the

catchwords for many western

good governance may not al-

improve our situation."

"If I can't realise the politi-

often want."

donors.

Meanwhile, Mostafa Golam Quddus, the police officer who became famous after arresting the fleeing Gen Manzur on June 1, 1981, and who was injured in a serious road accident near Sitakundu last April 3. returned to Dhaka vesterday after undergoing treatment at a Bangkok hospitat.

Quddus had suffered a compound fracture in his left humerus (upper arm) in the accident which occurred when he was accompanying some CID investigators to Fatikch hari to identify the spot inside a tea garden from where he had arrested Gen Manzur along with his family.

He left for Bangkok on April 4 and was admitted to the Samithevij Hospital, a lead ing medical centre in the Thai capital.

Doctors had to operate on his arm and use steel plates to join the bones. His arm is still in a cast.

He was advised to return to Bangkok for a check up after

two weeks.

discussion-oriented people, Saifur said comparing the situation in Singapore, Taiwan and

BSS adds: Saifur Rahman said some 18.5 per cent rise in realisation of Value Added Tax (VAT) during the current year compared to last year reflected higher productivity by the new industrial units.

He refuted the allegations that massive imports from India was causing harm to Bangladesh economy. The minister pointed out that our foreign exchange reserve and exchange rate between taka and rupee did not reflect that imports from India had affected Cas explosion

From Page 1 stage, gas leaking from a freshly snapped pipeline led to the blaze.

Fire engines rushed to the spot immediately and doused the blaze after a nearly 25minute struggle.

Lalbagh police said no case was registered in this connection till late last night.

Meanwhile, two more per sons, injured in the gas stove explosion at 69. Ulan Road Rampura, have died at the DMCH, raising the death toll to

Those who succumbed to heir burn injuries yesterday are. Khandaker Babul, 28. and Rahima, 20.

The conditions of three other injured undergoing treatment at the DMCH. namely Lablu, 6, Laily, 35, and Nurul Islam, 30, were stated to be critical.

Fifteen persons, including three children, were injured in the explosion which oc curred in the kitchen of the two-storied building last Tuesday.

Mujibnagar Day From Page 1

Sved Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Munsur Ali, A H M Kamruzzaman and Mushtague Ahmed.

The Awami League and its front organisations have drawn up an elaborate programme to observe the day throughout the country. A three-day programme has also been ar ranged at Muitbnagar.

The programme includes hoisting of national and party flags at the party offices at 6:00 am and garlanding the portrait of Sheikli Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Bhaban in the city at seven in the morning. There will be discussion meet ings in different areas of the capital.

The Bangladesh Mujibnagar Karmachari Kalvan Sangsad has arranged a discussion meeting at 4:30 pm at the Hotel Raj moni Isha Kha auditorium. will be followed by a cultural

In a statement vesterday the AL chief Sheikh Hasina said the Charter of Independence was adopted on this day in 1971. The constitution of Bangladesh was written on the basis of this charter, she

Sheikh Hasina accused the ruling BNP of distorting the history, working against the hopes and aspirations of the people, democratic values and infringing fundamental human rights.

Fertiliser, rice

From Page

Cabinet at any next meeting. would take a decision regarding an 'emergency stock' of

The wheat procurement drive is now in progress, he pointed out.

In reply to a question if he. as the ruling party Secretary General, apprehended a negative impact of the fertiliser and rice crisis on his party's prospects in the next elections. Salam Talukdar said "I don't think so.

gerated in the media and in some places opposition parties tried to create disturbance out of it," the BNP leader said. Does a farmer carry cock-

tails during purchase of fer-

He hoped that boro production would not fall in the current season.

From Page 1

around 60,000 to nearly 1.06.000 presently. Responding to a question

the Foreign Ministry official also mentioned that 51.5 million US dollars have been earmarked as compensation for the Gulf war affected Bangla-

About press reports on obtaining debt relief of 200 million US dollars from the Kuwaiti government, the spokesman said that there was no question of such loan cancellation since the total amount obtained from Kuwait as loans was only around 70 million dollars. He, however, added Bangladesh has made a request to get a waiver of the existing amount of credit. Regarding the Bangladesh

Prime Minister's welcoming the Crown Prince at the air-

The Midnight Eile

11 killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Apr 16: Eleven persons, including two security men and four militants, were killed in separate incidents in parts of the Kashmir valley since last evening. The security forces destroyed two underground hideouts and arrested six mulitarits and seized a big cache of arms and ammunition in the talley during the period, an official spokesman said here today, reports PTL

HHUBANESWAR, Apr 16: A group of rebel Congressmen in Orissa owing allegiance to expelled Congress-I leader Arjun Singh and senior party leader N D Tiwari have decided "to reorganise" the state Congress and work for the cause of the poor and the deprived class to save the party's ideals and goals", reports PTI.

The rebel partymen, who had formed a 'Congress Save Coordination Committee held a meeting here yesterday under the chairmanship of Dolagobinda Pradhan, a former minister, who was also named convenor of the committee.

The meeting authorised him to form coordination committees to take up future programmes for "reformation" of the party under the leader ship of Arjun Singh and others.

In another resolution, the meeting decided to request all opposition political parties to field Chintamani Panigrahi. former governor of Manipur as he common opposition candi-

Turn sports From Page 1

tion in the world arena, reports UNB.

"There are many countries which are smaller than Bangladesh but have booked a birth of dignity in the world community through success in the field of sports." Begum Khaleda Zia said, regretting that the country was yet lagging behind them.

"It was the aspiration of commonman that our sportsmen would consolidate their position in the international arena, but that expectation is vet to be fulfilled," she said while inaugurating a three-day National Sports Conference at he Osmany Memorial Hall.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports has organised the conference, first of its kind in the country, to promote sports.

Begum Zia termed sports as a symbol of national prestige and called upon the sports organisers to find out talented youths from society and train them up for the desired imprevenient in this field.

Programmes

From Page 1 the JP Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Jamaat Ameer Golam Azam announced their programmes at their respective rallies in the city on the

On April 24, the Opposition will also hold rallies and bring out processions across the country, demanding resignation of the BNP government, dissolution of "illegal" Parliament and general elections under a caretaker government.

The Opposition parties will obsérve countrywide demonstration day on May 5 as part of their agitations.

Besides, the AL will hold rallies at all divisional district and thana headquarters on April 26 to protest price spiral of essentials including foodgrain, lertiliser and paper.

25 injured in N'ganj clash

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ. Apr. 16: Some 25 persons, including seven policemen, were injured

tween two rival groups in Bandar Bazar area last night Seven persons received bullet injuries. Nimai, 18, Abdus Salam, 20, Maran Chandra Das, 18. Wazuddin, 60, Mohammad Hasan Khan, 24, Ratan, 25,

hospi de Three policemen were admitted to the Narayangang hospital with serious injuries in their heads. They are Nurul Haq. 35, Mohammad Shafi, 35, and Bachchu Mia. 35

According to police, two groups of youths attacked cach other with guns and cockt dis

From Page 1 Sources at the National

Return from the income tax, on the other hand, was

cent short of the target Collections of customs duty were to the tune of Tk 2376.12 crore. about Tk 315 crore or more than 15 per

about Tk 239 crore, 26 per

during the period was also up by more than 21 per cent from that of the same period of the last fiscal year.

gets by big margins. VAT collection from imported goods stood at Tk

1417.59 crore, a hefty turnover crossing the period's or nearly 24 per cent.

ble 147 per cent. Supplementary Duty is imposed on some luxury items. Additional receipt at import stage was attributed by NRB of-

According to the Bangladesh Bank statistics, imports during July 94-Jan 95 rose 32.40 per cent to 3060 million US dollars compared to 2266

income tax collection during the period totalled Tk 673.23 crore falling short of the period's target of Tk 912

NBR sources, however, said the poor income tax collection was due to a post-budget like in import duty on petroleum that squeezed the profitability of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation usually the number one income-tax payer.

VAT collection at production stage was Tk 712.27 crore which exceeded the target by a little over 4 per cent.

জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সরকার ঘোষিত লোড ম্যানেজমেন্ট নীতি বাস্তবায়নে সাহায্য করুন

সেচ পাম্পসমূহ পিক আওয়ারে অর্থাৎ সন্ধ্যা ৬টা থেকে রাত ১০টা পর্যন্ত বন্ধ রাখুন। সরকার ঘোষিত বিশেষ উৎসবের দিন ব্যতিরেকে

অন্যান্য দিনে সবধরনের আলোকসজ্জা বন্ধ রাখুন। সন্ধ্যা ৬টা থেকে রাত ৮টা পর্যন্ত ইস্ত্রি, হিটার,

কুকার, ওয়াটারহিটার ইত্যাদির ব্যবহার বন্ধ রাখুন। (৪) এক শিফটে চালু শিল্প ও ক্ষুদ্র শিল্প কারখানাগুলি

(৫) অহেতৃক বাতি জ্বালাবেন না।

পিক আওয়ারে বন্ধ রাখুন।



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lakh tonnes due to the fer-Moudud Ahmed described the Gen Abul Manzur murder case as politically motivated

Anwar Hossain Manju said

progress of introducing

chancellors to sustain the ongoing development spree through their devotion and

From Page 1

signing ceremony.

sector in line with its liberal Bangladesh has so far signed six MOUs with foreign private investors for setting up power generation plants. Of these, the proposal of Geopetrol is the most advanced as it was earlier approved by the

given the polio vaccine.

From Page 1 suspects, who have made con-

Dhaka to seek more food aid

South Korea.

our economy.

ways be the same as that of Saifur said in a free econours ... Here democracy and omy nobody is compelled to development go together. We buy from India. The import is have to maintain social and due to economic consideration democratic equilibrium. We and comparative cost advanare a much more debate and tage, he added.

"In fact the crisis was exag-

tiliser." Talukdar asked.

Kuwait

nearly 63 per cent are overseas people including skilled and unskilled workers. While the number of Egyptians. Pakistanis and Indians employed in Kuwait had either declined or marked nominal increase after the Gulf war, Bangladesh workforce now dominated the Kuwaiti manpower market. Its number has increased from

porte the spokesman agreed that it was a departure from standard protocol but said it was done as a personal gesture towards the Kuwaiti Prime Minister in view of the excellent relationship between the two countries. The Crown Prince, he recalled, also received and saw off Begun Khaleda Zia during her visit to Kuwait in May, 1991. A special royal aircraft was also provided by Kuwait during Begum Zia's trip to Dakar to attend the OIC conference.

Cong dissidents in Orissa form separate body

in a two-hour gun fight beand Alamin, 24, were admitted

to the Naravangani General

Revenue

Board of Revenue (NBR) said an import surge boosted collections at the import stage which ultimately contributed to the fattening of the public coffer above expectation.

cent higher than the target of the period Customs duty collection

Similarly, carnings from both the Value Added Tax (VAT) and Supplementary Duty at import stage surpassed tar-

target by about Tk 269 crore Also, a Tk 69.96 crore collection as Supplementary Duty at the import stage surged over the target by an incredi-

ficials to uptrend in imports in recent months.

million in the corresponding seven months of last year.

crore.