

3-tier edn system suggested

By Staff Correspondent

The Committee for Formulating the National Education Policy has suggested a three-tier education system — primary, secondary and higher levels of education, according to official sources.

Teaching of English language as a subject has been given special emphasis maintaining Bangla as the medium of instruction. Committee sources said, adding that introduction of English language from Class II, instead of Class III earlier, has been recommended.

Work-oriented curriculum have been recommended for all levels. The need for training of teachers after a regular interval has also been given emphasis.

Consideration of increase of higher education fees for the wards of solvent parents was also suggested, the sources added.

The committee recommended inclusion of Class I to Class VIII in primary level, and

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Cinematographic equipment, shooting costume at FDC gutted

Huge quantities of cinematographic equipment and shooting costume of the Film Development Corporation (FDC) were gutted in a fire in the small hours of yesterday, reports BSS.

Police and Fire Brigade sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit in the godown on the second floor of the old building at 1 am.

Five Fire Brigade vehicles rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control at 2.50 am. The operation of the Fire Brigade was hampered as electricity was off at that time.

No casualty was reported by the FDC authorities. The estimated loss in the fire could not be ascertained immediately. Fire Brigade sources added.

A general dairy was registered with Tejgaon thana.

Agri-commission report by Sept

The Agri-Commission formed to devise the techniques for producing surplus foodgrains in the country will submit its primary report to the government by next month, reports UNB.

This was disclosed in a review meeting of the Commission held at BARC auditorium yesterday.

Addressing the meeting, Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury urged the commission to finalise the report in a shortest possible time.

The Minister also gave emphasis on incorporating specific recommendations on development of fisheries, livestock and environment in the report.

She also stressed the for adding recommendations to the report on technology transfer, development of fertiliser and irrigation management, use of balanced fertiliser, planned use of surface and ground water, role of government and non-government organisations and inter-organisational coordination and ensuring fair price of food crops to the farmers.

In the meeting, expert of the

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Tk 203400 cr dev outlay in Fifth Plan Average growth rate projected at 7.3 pc

The draft fifth five-year plan (FYP) for 1997-2002 with a development outlay of Tk 203,400 crore, 58 per cent of which is projected to be shared by the private sector, was released yesterday at a national workshop at the Planning Commission, reports BSS.

The draft national plan came after a two-year break since the fourth FYP expired in 1995. The size of the proposed outlay is more than three times greater compared to the previous one.

Inaugurating the workshop, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad said the fifth FYP is aimed at minimising poverty and making the country ready to face the challenges of the 21st century.

"It will be a matter of shame for Bangladesh to step into the coming century with its

poverty. We must have specific programmes to reduce the poverty level," he said.

State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir chaired the function while politicians, MPs, academics, senior officials, NGO leaders and representatives and mission chiefs of donor agencies, including World Bank and UNDP, took part in the discussions.

Social Science Research Council of the Planning Commission organised the workshop.

Samad Azad said despite the past efforts for socio-economic development through five-year plans, the desired results could not be achieved.

"We need to analyse the reasons behind it and, therefore, an open dialogue, like this, between researchers, policy-makers

and planners, and the policy implementors is very important to chalk out our future action plans," he said.

According to the draft document, out of the total outlay, Tk 117500 crore is to be contributed by the private sector.

On the other hand, the projected share of national savings to the outlay is 78.39 per cent against 21 per cent of external financing. In the previous Tk 62000 crore fourth FYP, the share of private sector, domestic savings and foreign financing was 44 per cent, 55.64 per cent and 44.36 per cent respectively.

The projected average GDP growth rate during the next five-year period is 7.3 per cent with 6.01 in 1997-98, 6.27 in 1998-99, 7.55 in 1999-2000, 7.98 in 2000-01 and 8.54 in

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Biman admits issuance of circular on ZIA

Star Report

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has admitted issuance of a circular asking all its cabin crew to announce the name of Zia International Airport as "Dhaka International Airport."

Deputy General Manager of Biman's Flight Service Md Mujib Haque, when contacted by The Daily Star yesterday, admitted that the circular signed by him was issued on July 17.

The official name of the airport is Zia International Airport (ZIA).

The circular, a photo copy of which was made available to The Daily Star, reads, "As per

BIMAN BANGLADESH AIRLINES
FLIGHT SERVICE DEPARTMENT

REF: DCCV/27/97/142
DATE: 17-07-97

All Cabin Crew:

As per decision of the Management from now on whenever in flight announcement are made regarding "Dhaka Airport", it must be mentioned as "ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT." Any amendment as necessary must be made in this regard.

This is for strict compliance.

(D. M. JAHID HAQUE
DY. GENERAL MANAGER
FLIGHT SERVICE

cc: Director Customer Services
cc: Director Flight Operations
cc: Principal, BRTC
cc: General Manager Customer Services
cc: Manager Coordination to M.D.
cc: Manager Coordination to D.M.D.
cc: Chief Purser(Ops./Trg.)
cc: Briefing Officer(On duty)- He is requested to brief the crew accordingly.

The photocopy of the circular

Biman flight's unscheduled landing in Istanbul

A Biman flight in London-Rome-Dhaka route had to make an unscheduled landing in Istanbul offloading 50,000 litres of fuel for technical reasons on Thursday, reports UNB.

The plane had to make a stopover in the Turkish city as a passenger suffered cardiac attack on board and doctors advised that he be taken to hospital immediately.

The passenger fell sick half an hour after the flight (BG-008) had taken off from Rome. Three doctors who examined the patient were travelling in the same flight.

The aircraft then spewed out the fuel in space and landed in Istanbul. This (offloading fuel) was done for technical reason," said a Biman high official.

The passenger Shahidul Dewan, was, however, out of

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JRC meets in Lalmonirhat today

RANGPUR, Aug 2: A meeting of the Bangladesh-India Joint River Commission (JRC) will be held at Doani of Lalmonirhat district tomorrow on water sharing of the Teesta, reports UNB.

The meeting, which begins at 10 am, will be held at the Teesta Bridge Guest House, Aubokash.

In the meeting, a four-member Indian side will be led by the chairman of North Bengal Flood Control Commission from Jalpaiguri, M. R. Mandal.

Chief Engineer (Project-4) Aftab Ansari will lead the Bangladesh side.

JP Co-Chairman Shah Moazzam Hossain could not attend the meeting due to indisposition, the release said.

The delegation included

Mostafa Jamal Haider, Shamim Al Mamun and Mainuddin Bhuiyan, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan was present at the hour-long meeting.

JP Co-Chairman Shah Moazzam Hossain could not attend the meeting due to indisposition, the release said.

The injured persons were admitted to private clinics.

The clash erupted at about 5 pm when a meeting was in progress in front of the residence of Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, president of the new committee and a process-

Rival BNP groups clash in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 2: Activists of two rival factions of BNP clashed today near Kazir Dewri over formation of the new committee of the party's city unit, leaving at least five persons injured, police and witnesses said.

The injured persons were admitted to private clinics.

The clash erupted at about 5 pm when a meeting was in progress in front of the residence of Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, president of the new committee and a process-

sion of the faction opposing the committee was passing through the area.

Activists of both the factions blasted cocktails and exchanged brick bats. Window panes of Nasiruddin's house were damaged, police and witnesses said.

Talking to this correspondent Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, Asraful Huda, said the clash did not continue for long as police deployed there earlier, dis-

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26 arsenic patients found in Narsingdi, Comilla

By Special Correspondent

day, but found no patients. It collected water samples from tubewells for analysis from the two thanas, he said.

The DCHT released an update of their arsenic poisoning survey which was initiated in October last year. The results computed until June shows that highest number of arsenic affected people are in village Samta under Sharsha thana of Jessor. Luximpur district in Noakhali thana record with 41 patients.

Dr Mahmudur Rahman, co-ordinator of DCHT, said at a press conference at the hospital that they found 18 patients at Sirampur village in Raipura thana of Narsingdi district on July 31. Another eight patients were found at Tujarbhanga village of Baragaon union in Daudkandi thana on Saturday.

A DCHT team also combed the Srinagar and Louhajang thanas of Munshiganj on Fri-

Magurjhara fire

Site for relief well selected

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 2: The new site for drilling relief well at the Magurjhara gasfield has been selected. The location is about 640 metres west of the main well.

Dr Robert W. Nicholson, International Drilling Manager of Occidental, after visiting the gasfield yesterday afternoon informed that it will take about six weeks more to seal the gas well. This has to be done by capping the mouth of the main well through diagonal drilling. For this purpose, drilling of the relief well is expected to begin next week, Nicholson said.