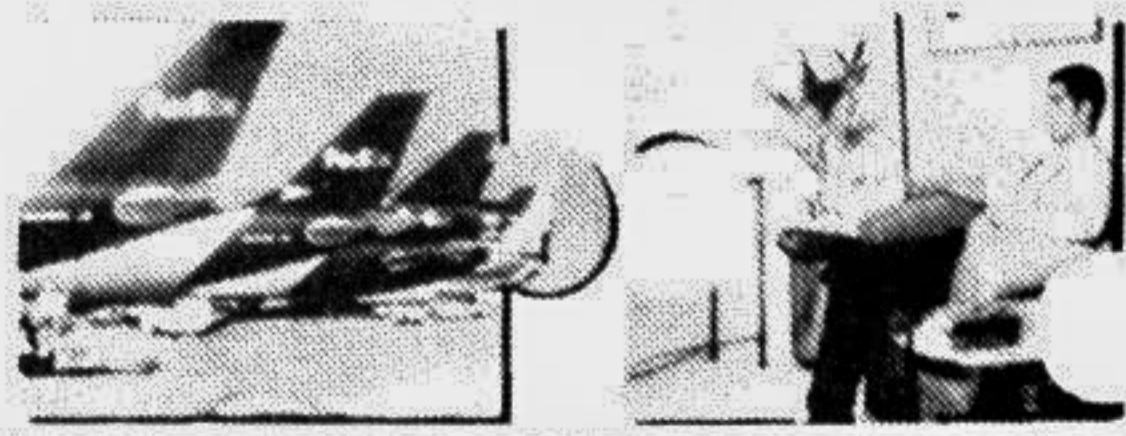


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PM opens mosque-based primary edn programme

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for freeing the country from the curse of illiteracy to ensure human resources development, reports UNB.

"The government has taken up massive programmes for the spread of education and given highest priority to poverty alleviation," she said, inaugurating the mosque-based primary education programme at the Osmani Memorial Hall in the morning.

Addressing the imams from across the country, who will run the mosque-based programme for the children, Hasina emphasised the need for proper religious teaching.

Lack of proper religious teaching leads to fanaticism and misinterpretation of religion," she said.

Under the programme, the imams of mosques across the country will impart primary education to the children in their respective areas under the supervision of the Islamic Foundation.

The imams will be trained for the purpose and provided with a monthly remuneration of Tk 500 to run the programme.

More than 2.5 lakh mosques in the country will provide space, teachers (imams) and other facilities to make primary education accessible to the local children.

The Prime Minister said, "It will be possible to introduce Class I and II in the mosques by utilising the huge manpower available at negligible cost."

With the implementation of the programme, two major problems in the expansion of education — shortage of class rooms and teachers — can be removed to a great extent, she added.



Jatiyatabadi Sechhasebak Dal brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting price hike of essentials. — Star photo

JS Task Force

From Page 1

appropriate authorities to this decision of the Committee.

Besides, the Committee noted that inter-enterprise and inter-agency debts arising from unpaid bills for goods and services rendered to each other had been spiralling in the country.

The state-owned enterprises (SOEs) are frequently faced with liquidity crisis due to their failure to collect arrear debts. To encounter this crisis, the enterprises take the easy way out of taking a 'go-slow' policy on paying their own obligations to the other enterprises, said the Committee report.

Noting that the financial administration of the government is faced with another deeper crisis, the Committee advised the Finance Ministry to take effective steps immediately to remedy the situation in consultation with the Auditor General's Office.

The Committee, which had to deal with a large number of undiscussed Audit Reports accumulated over the last two decades due to intermittent functioning of parliament, decided to discuss recent Audit Reports simultaneously with the Audit Reports of 1987-88. In pursuance of this decision, the Committee has already initiated discussion on the Audit Reports of 1994-95, the report pointed out.

It instructed all ministries to hold bipartite and tripartite meetings with Audit Directorate to expedite review of all Audit Reports prior to 1987.

A total of 138 Audit Objections and Comments made in the Audit Reports of 1994-95 and 1987-88 of 10 different ministries were discussed by

Policeman hurt as snatchers hurl cocktail

By Staff Correspondent

A police habilder was injured when two snatchers hurled cocktail on him in Dhanmondi residential area in the city yesterday afternoon.

The snatchers were also injured as local people caught them and gave them a severe beating. They were arrested and later admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Police recovered a knife and three cocktails from them.

The injured habilder, Kabir Hossain, was admitted to Razarbagh Police Hospital.

The snatchers were roaming around on Road No 5 in a rickshaw. As a police van stopped the rickshaw on suspicion they jumped off it and started to run away.

They were caught by local people on Road No 3.

Bangabandhu murder

From Page 1

ness No 56 Mohammad Shafiqullah, Inspector of Police and prosecution witness No 57 Mohammad Daud Ali, assistant secretary of the Foreign Ministry.

Shafiqullah said as officer-in-charge of Dhanmondi thana he recorded the case in connection with killings at Dhanmondi 32 on August 15, 1975 lodged by Mohitul Islam on October 2, 1996.

"The plaintiff had mentioned the reason for the delay in filing the case," he said adding that Mohitul in the chah described what happened at the residence of the then President from 4:30 am to 8 am on that day.

Shafiqullah further told the court that earlier on August 31, 1996 he received a written allegation on the killing of Bangabandhu and others from two persons — M Taiduddin and M Mohsinul Haq.

"I didn't take it as a regular case as decision of the government on the assassination was not in force. For this I accepted the allegation and sent it to my

Manju removed

From Page 1

met Ershad after receiving the letter. Manju had said, "Yes, I was together during the Jatiya Sangsad session today and discussed a lot of things, but it has got nothing to do with the organisation".

It may be recalled that few months back a section of JP leaders led by Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Shah Moazzem Hossain broke away from the party on the question of JP's joining the 'government of consensus' led by the Awami League.

Asked whether Ershad's move will trigger further split in JP, particularly in its parliamentary party, Manju avoided a direct reply saying, "I hope not". Sources in the JP, however, claim that the secretary general has "manoeuvred sufficient support from party MPs."

Asked whether losing the party post will weaken his position in the government Manju said, "Strength and weakness of a minister depends on his ca-

5 traders held

From Page 1

hoard salt to make a windfall profit by creating an artificial crisis.

Hospital sources said the wounded four were identified as Asik Ahmed Babu, 25, Babul Mia Shikdar, 28, Salekh Ahmed, 64, and Babul Aktar, 32. They were admitted at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Shafiqullah, Commissioner of Ward No. 15, sent Asik and Babul Mia with some other persons to the Balughat Market to gather information about the price hike of salt at about 10 am, the sources added.

There they had an altercation with the salt traders. Former principal of Balughat High School Salekh Ahmed and his son Babul Akhter also joined the salt traders.

At one stage both the groups were locked in a scuffle and they chased each other in which the five persons were injured.

However, none was arrested in connection with the incident till last night. A case was lodged with Cantonment thana in this regard.

Meanwhile, police said the 5 persons arrested were identified as Hanif, Ershadullah, Jamal, Harun and Jashim. They were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday.

During a raid Mirpur police arrested them while they were selling salt at a higher price at Muktiyoddah Market that evening.

A general diary was lodged with Mirpur thana in this regard.

Feni incident

From Page 1

The function was arranged by a local Director of Shell Oil on Saturday. While the team was a few kilometers away from its destination, some six gangsters stopped their convoy on the road and fired three rounds of gunshots in the air, forcing them to turn back immediately.

The gangsters earlier ransacked the function venue in Durgapur.

Following this incident, the local director of Shell Oil was called to the Ministry Sunday and was asked whether the Petrobrangia, Energy Ministry and other concerned authorities were informed about the planned visit.

Sources said that the local director had invited the Chairman of Shell Transport and Chief Executive of Cairn Energy to inaugurate a primary school and a first aid centre in his own village. It was expected that both Shell and Cairn would donate a good amount of money from their social services fund for these community service project.

The local director of Shell did neither take permission from the authorities to accept the donation from the foreign companies, as required by the law, nor did he inform the foreign companies about the laws around the country. He did not also inform Petrobrangia, the Energy

City BNP meets today

A meeting of the city BNP will be held at 29 Minto Road at 5 pm today, reports UNB.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will be present at the meeting, said a party press release.

Members of its convening committee have been requested to attend the meeting.

Hannan Shah

From Page 1

85.38.046 with the bidding amount and awarded the work ignoring the lowest bid.

The court charged Hannan Shah with awarding the work order for his personal gain and benefit and thus incurring a loss of Tk 85,38,046 to the government.

The accused persons have been charged under section 409 BPC and 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.

Accord signed

From Page 1

between the two parties on January 14, last year at the Speaker's mediation.

The four-point agreement had followed resolution of an earlier boycott of parliament by BNP in November, 1996.

Last night's accord reiterated full implementation of the four-point accord.

Telecommunications and Works Minister Mohammad Nasim read out the accord that provides for inclusion of all 113 BNP MPs in parliamentary standing committees and re-constitution of the committees already formed.

It noted that the Speaker would remain non-partisan, the Radio and TV would cover parliamentary proceedings objectively. Performance of the Treasury and Opposition benches, would be covered equally and, if complaints arise on the issue, those would be sorted out by the Speaker in consultation with the two sides.

The Speaker and negotiators of the two parties were present while Nasim read at the accord.

The accord was signed by the Speaker and Tofael Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Mohammad Nasim, Abdul Hasnat Abdullah and Abdus Shahid from the Treasury Bench.

From the BNP side, Badrudza Choudhury, Saifur Rahman, Col Ol Ahmed, and Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan put their initials on it.

There was some give and

Police deployed around DFO's office in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Mar 2: Police have been deployed in the Divisional Forest Office and around the residence of DFO Md Ali Kabir Haider from early this morning following threats over phone and in person by a group of ruling party activists Sunday night.

The police commissioner, when contacted, said the DFO and persons serving in his office were feeling insecure as some unruly elements threatened them for not meeting their illegal demand for 'special pass' of goran wood and Golpatta.

Meanwhile, all officials and employees of the Divisional Forest Office abstained from work today in protest against threat and unruly behaviour of the ruling party activists. The DFO also remained out of his office out of fear.

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Bangladesh Rifles week begins today

Bangladesh Rifles Week '98 begins in the city today, reports UNB.

The main objective of the week is to evaluate the past activities of the para-military force and to plan its future course.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will take salute and inspect parade at BDR headquarters at Pilkhana in the capital as chief guest.

The Prime Minister will also distribute awards to BDR men.

PM: Cabinet

From Page 1

tackle the situation.

The ministers concerned, however, found some rationale in the price hike of onion, as "onion production has really suffered a setback in both Bangladesh and the neighboring countries." The Commerce Minister informed the cabinet that arrangements have already been made to import sufficient quantity of onions in the private sector.

Later, the cabinet approved a draft bill seeking to set up an Employment Bank. The EB, modeled after the Grameen Bank, will provide financial assistance to the income generating projects run by the youths.

The bank which is scheduled to start operation with a paid-up capital of Tk 50 crore from the public exchequer, will have an authorised capital of Tk 300 crore. Rest of the money would come from different commercial banks and financial institutions. The capital will be divided into three crore ordinary shares worth Tk 100 each.

According to the draft bill, the bank will be set up under the supervision of the Bangladesh Bank, while a 15 member management committee headed by a chairman will run the bank. The BB will appoint the executive director of the institution. Among other organisations, Youth Development Directorate, Social Welfare Directorate and the Labour and Manpower Directorate will have one representative each in the management committee, while five representatives would come from shareholders.

Tofael

From Page 1

salt and other essential commodities.

"The move for creating an artificial crisis and panic buying by a section of the people was intended to achieve political gains by undermining the image of the government," said the minister without naming anyone. The attempt has been thwarted promptly, he added.

Citing an example of the heinous move, Tofael said activists of a political party bought the entire salt from shops in Mirpur Sunday night and loaded in two trucks. It was done just to create panic in the market.

Tofael said salt producers of Cox's Bazar informed him yesterday that crude salt was selling at Tk 60 to Tk 80 per ton.

The minister admitted shortage of onion and attributed the reason to the extreme cold weather during the growing period of early crop.

Tofael said suggestion of traders at the meeting with him for waiving the entire 37.5 per cent import duty on onion would be considered.

President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry Yusuf Abdullah Haroon who was present dismissed the rumour of salt crisis.

"There is no question of salt crisis, there is no scope of shortage of salt at any time of the year," asserted the FBCCI president.

He said they would be able to gradually remove the adversities of free market economy through regular interactions between the government and traders.

Dhaka-Tehran JEC to sign accords today

The Bangladesh-Iran Joint Economic Commission (JEC) will sign a number of agreements on trade, finance, technology and cultural cooperation today, reports UNB.

This was decided at the plenary session of the JEC held in the city yesterday evening.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria and Iranian Minister for Construction Mohammad Saida-Kia led the respective sides in the discussion.

The agreements are expected to be signed in areas of cement, airlines, shipping, avoidance of double taxation, setting up of joint trade body and Railway wagon import.

Shah A M S Kibria said the Joint Commission will enable us to find out ways and means for further expanding and consolidating bilateral relation and cooperation in various fields.

The meeting will yield positive and tangible results for mutual benefit, he added.

He said although a number of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed between the two countries, the progress of implementation is yet to gain momentum.

Kibria considered the third meeting of the JEC as an opportunity for reviewing the progress of implementation of the decision of the second session held in 1995.

The meeting will lead to concrete recommendations for expanding the existing areas and identifying new ones for cooperation.

Salt, onion prices

From Page 1

terday. They said police barred them from selling more than two or three bags (25 kg per bag) of salt at a time to one customer.

"The rumour is over," said Majibar Rahman of Nuran Salt Industries, a wholesaler at the New Super Market. He said retailers were still placing huge orders for salt bags. Depending on the brand, a 25 kg salt bag was selling at Tk 195 to Tk 250. A truck loaded with salt bags was seen parked in front of the Super Market. Nuran sold 300 bags yesterday against its normal sale of 60 to 70 bags.

Our Cox's Bazar correspondent Monayem Khan reported last night that the Salt Mill Owners Association at a press conference there yesterday said there was enough salt to meet three months' requirement.

The association leaders claimed that a section of unscrupulous traders spread the rumour of short supply of salt to make undue profit.

They said crude salt was being sold at Tk 40 per maund in Cox's Bazar, the main salt producing region of the country.

Our Narayanganj correspondent Ehsanul Haq Babu reported that the Narayanganj Salt Mill Owners Association and the Laban Aratard Samity at an emergency meeting yesterday reviewed the stock position and observed that the stock would meet the demand for the whole year.

Mill Owners Association started miking in Narayanganj town last night urging the people not to pay extra price for salt.

The correspondent reported that salt was being sold at Tk 12 to Tk 15 per kg at the wholesale markets at Nitaiganj, Dalpatti and B Das Road in Narayanganj.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries in a press release yesterday said that it surveyed the market and found supply of salt was normal and there was no reason for price hike.

দাকা ওয়াসা বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পানি ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হোন

দাকা মহানগরীর সম্মানিত গৃহস্থ সাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, দাকা মহানগরীতে পানি সরবরাহের মৌলিক ঘাটতি রয়েছে। এ ছাড়া শুষ্ক মৌসুমে বিদ্যুৎ বিস্ফাট ও পানির স্তর নীচে নেমে যাওয়ার ফলে উৎপাদন আরো কমে যায়। দাকা ওয়াসা আসন্ন শুষ্ক মৌসুমে পানি সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থা স্বাভাবিক রাখার জন্য সম্ভাব্য সর্বাত্মক প্রকৃতি গ্রহণ করেছে। তবে সর্বস্তরের গৃহস্থদের সক্রিয় সহযোগিতা ছাড়া এ সমস্যার সমাধান সম্ভব নয়। তাই পানি ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হওয়া এবং অপর্যাপ্ত রোধে নিম্নলিখিত পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণের জন্য সম্মানিত গৃহস্থ সাধারণের নিকট দাকা ওয়াসা বিনীত অনুরোধ জানানো হচ্ছেঃ

- পানির ব্যবহার সীমিত করুন।
- অপর্যাপ্ত পানির কল খোলা রাখবেন না। ক্রটিযুক্ত পানির কল বদলিয়ে নিন।
- গোসল, কাপড় কাচা, হাত মুখ ধোয়া ইত্যাদি নিত্যপ্রয়োজনীয় কাজে পানির অপচয় রোধে সচেতন হোন।
- বালতি, ডাম বা অন্য কোন পাত্রে জমিয়ে রাখা পানি ব্যবহার না করলেও বাসি হয় না। এ পানি ফেলে না দিয়ে নিত্য প্রয়োজনীয় কাজে ব্যবহার করুন এবং ইচ্ছে করলে ফুটিয়েও পানি করতে পারেন।
- গার্ভেজিং, গাড়ি ধোয়া ইত্যাদি কাজে হোজ পাইপ ব্যবহার না করে বালতি বা ক্যান জাতীয় পাত্র ব্যবহার করুন।
- বাড়ির ছাদের ট্যাক এবং ভূ-গর্ভস্থ জলাধার হতে পানি উপচিয়ে পড়া রোধ করুন।
- সংযোগ লাইনে সরাসরি চাপ কল/বৈদ্যুতিক মটর লাগানো দর্জনীয় অপরাধ। কাজেই সংযোগ লাইনে সরাসরি চাপ কল/বৈদ্যুতিক মটর লাগানো থেকে বিরত থাকুন এবং প্রতিবেশীদের ন্যায় পানি প্রাপ্তি নিশ্চিত করুন।
- নির্মাণ কাজে পরিমিত পানি ব্যবহার করুন এবং চৌবাকা উপচিয়ে পড়া রোধ করুন।
- পানির লাইনে কোন লিকেজ পরিলক্ষিত হলে তৎক্ষণিকভাবে নিকটবর্তী দাকা ওয়াসার অভিযোগ কেন্দ্রে অবহিত করুন।
- পানির সূত্র বন্ধনে দাকা ওয়াসাকে সহযোগিতা করুন।
- পানি ব্যবহারে গৃহস্থ সাধারণের সচেতনতাই রোধ করতে পারে পানি অপচয়, দূর করতে পারে পানি সঙ্কট। তাই গৃহস্থ সাধারণকে পানি ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

ওয়াসা-জরতঃ ৫৫/৯৮
জিডি-১৬৫

আপনার সেবায়
দাকা ওয়াসা

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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