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**Vision-2000 launched Steps taken to improve healthcare services: PM**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government attaches top priority to removing hunger, poverty and illiteracy and has taken a massive, integrated programme to turn the huge population into valuable human resources, reports UNB.

The government has taken up an integrated programme for the expansion of public health services, including maternal and child health," she said launching a Vision-2000 funded project on reproductive health at a function at Hotel Sheraton in morning.

Vision 2000, a programme of International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), is funding the "Community Ownership of Reproductive Health Initiatives Project" in Bangladesh for promoting quality of healthcare and reproductive rights.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf, State Minister for Health Prof M Amanullah, IPPF President Dr Attiya Inayatullah, Director of Vision-2000 Fund Josephine Mayo, FPAB secretary general Prof Syeda Firoza Begum, FPAB director general Dr Ahmed Neaz and Advocate Enayet Ali also addressed the function.

Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) president Dr Neelima Ibrahim presided.

The Prime Minister said effective measures have been taken for enhancing the skill of health management system as well as improving the quality of health services.

**Forgery adopted to allot US quota, JS told**

Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed yesterday admitted that the quota allotted to garment factories in collaboration with the Export Promotion Bureau exported US quota category 634 and 647/548 garments adopting forgery in 1997, reports UNB.

In reply to Kamal Ahmed Majumder (AL), the minister said following the quota administration rule of 1991, visa for 5,69,349.24 dozens of garments of 634 quota category have been issued in favour of 147 garment factories through over programming against 5,52,364 available quota.

He said to ensure 100 per cent export as per rule there is a system of over programming of 120 per cent.

Tofael said during 1997 quota year US 647/548 quota category visa have been issued for exporting 16,68,297.70 dozens of garments in favour of 298 factories.

Akhtaruzzaman of BNP sought the floor to speak on a point of order when deliberation on the issue concerned was closed.

The Speaker tamed the BNP MP by saying: You did not ask for the floor at the right time. I'll look for you tomorrow and I'll let you speak provided you come within my sight.

Disappointed at the rejection of 150 notices he deposited since BNP returned to parliament on Sunday, BNP lawmaker Mashur Rahman thanked the Speaker for maintaining neutrality in the past few days in conducting the session and urged the chair to act similarly in selecting notices.

I don't need thanks now because I had been neutral all the time — was the prompt reply from the Speaker.

You're now not only neutral but also speak the truth, Mashur said referring to the Speaker's statement contradicting the commerce minister's on prices of onion and salt the day before.

The prices have fallen further, concluded the Speaker.

**Sangsad tidbits**

From Page 1

Rabbi blamed the ruling Awami League for "not trying to corrupt persons in the previous BNP government."

"Should we understand that there has been a secret deal between the two parties on the issue of corruption? Or is the AL playing with the corruption by BNP?" he said, resulting in laughter by the AL and BNP members.

At the flag end of yesterday's sitting, the House lacked quorum. As pointed out by a BNP MP, the Chair ordered headcount.

The AL members outside then started returning to the House promptly while several BNP MPs were seen going out in the same manner. One of them was seen pushing his party colleagues sitting beside him to go out and they did not together.

However, the House had quorum with a number of ruling party members coming back.

**No arrest**  
From Page 1

police control room where the still-unidentified person allegedly took Maria and raped her.

A police official said six policemen of the district police used to engage in round-the-clock duties at the control room equipped with wireless sets and telephones.

A senior police official said although they were yet to find out the person involved in the rape but the investigators were not ruling out the possibility of involvement of police personnel in the rape incident.

An additional DIG of the Dhaka range was heading an investigation with four other officials from the Special Branch, CID, Dhaka Metropolitan Police and district police.

**Discussion**  
From Page 1

nothing but a round-up of government activities. He strongly criticised it because it failed to project the country's objective situation that includes deteriorating law and order, increasing corruption rise in the number of landless people and so on.

Criticising Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her "inaction" regarding alleged corruption by former BNP ministers, the JP legislator said: "I do not know whether the AL and BNP have reached any secret entente to plunder national wealth." He also alleged that the BNP government was more fascist than Hitler.

Referring to the President's observation about rule of law, Chowdhury said: "He should know that there can be no rule of law keeping the Special Powers Act and Section 54 of the Penal Code."

Speaking next, Sarwar Jamal Nizam of BNP claimed that the country was experiencing a silent famine.

Nizam said prices of essentials like rice, lintel and onion are going up.

He alleged that the government has concluded three agreements to protect the interest of India. Criticising the CHT agreement, he said, "It is not understandable why a citizen should be barred from residing in any particular area of the country."

**We are outraged**

From Page 1

eliminating this evil.

We appeal to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament to head a rational movement to eliminate violence against women, and especially of massive instances of rape. We appeal to all political parties to take a collective stand on this issue. Finally we appeal to all women's bodies to invite and put collective pressure on all concerned to act immediately on this issue. Violence against women knows no political ideology or boundary.

If we have any pride left, as a people, as a culture, as a part of the present day civilization then let none of us remain silent. However isolated this case may be, let us bury it under an outburst of revulsion and rage so that we are able to eliminate all crimes of this nature. Please do not wait for another six-year-old to fall a victim to our failures before acting. If we cannot protect our children, then no other achievement matters.

**Vajpayee**  
From Page 1

ported Vajpayee's bid to form the next government but would not join it. "I've got certain compelling reasons for not participating in the government. I can't divulge them now," she said Monday.

There was no indication she was backing away from her pledge to vote for Vajpayee in the critical confidence vote in Parliament that would confirm his government in power. The vote could come as early as next week.

The four parties together control 24 seats in 545-member Lok Sabha, the powerful lower house of Parliament, and their support is necessary for Vajpayee to win a confidence vote in Parliament.

The BJP has been bargaining for a week with other parties to ensure a majority in the 545-seat legislature after an inconclusive election.

**ঢাকা ওয়াসা বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

পানি ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হোন

আপনার সশ্রয়কৃত পানিতে আরেকজন উপকৃত হতে পারে

সামনেই আসছে শুক মৌসুম। এ মৌসুমে পানির চাহিদা বৃদ্ধির সাথে সাথে বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ ও পানির স্বর নীচে নেমে যাওয়ার দরুন পানি উৎপাদন-হাস পায়। এমনিতেই ঢাকা মহানগরীতে পানি সরবরাহে রয়েছে ঘাটতি। তদুপরি চাহিদা বৃদ্ধি ও উৎপাদন-হাস পাওয়ার কারণে শুক মৌসুমে পানি সংকট হয় তীব্রতর, জনজীবন হয় অসহনীয়। সুতরাং শুক মৌসুমে পানির সংকট লাঘবে/নিরসনে পানি অপচয় রোধে সচেতন হোন এবং পানি ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হউন। মনে রাখবেন আপনার সশ্রয়কৃত পানি আরেকজনের প্রয়োজন মেটাতে পারে।

**বেড়াবে পানি সশ্রয় করতে পারেনঃ**

১. গোসলে — গোসলের সময় গা ভেজানোর পর শাওয়ার বন্ধ রাখুন। তারপর সাবান লাগিয়ে বা গা ঘষে শাওয়ার ছাড়ুন। এতে বেশ কিছু পানি সশ্রয় করতে পারেন।
২. হাত মুখ ধোয়ায় — হাত মুখ ধোয়ার সময় পানির কল বন্ধ রেখে হাতে মুখে সাবান লাগান বা ঘষুন কিংবা দাঁত ব্রাশ করুন। তারপর পানির কল খুলে ধুয়ে ফেলুন। পানির কলে ক্রেট থাকলে তা বদলিয়ে ফেলুন। এতে করে পানির অপচয় রোধ করতে পারেন।
৩. বালতি বা ড্রামে পানি জমিয়ে রাখায় — গৃহস্থালি কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য বালতি বা ড্রাম কিংবা অন্য কোন পাত্রে জমিয়ে রাখা পানি ব্যবহার না করলে বাসি হয়ে যায় না। এ পানি ফেলে না দিয়ে হাত মুখ ধোয়া, খালা বাসন ধোয়া কিংবা কাপড় কাচার কাজে ব্যবহার করতে পারেন। এমন কি ফুটিয়ে নিয়ে নিষ্কণ্ডে পানও করতে পারেন। এতে করে গৃহভাঙুরে পানি চাহিদা কমাতে পারেন।
৪. কাপড় কাচা কিংবা খালা বাসন ধোয়ায় — কাপড় কাচা বা খালা বাসন ধোয়ার সময় পানির কল খোলা না রেখে বালতি অথবা গামলায় পরিমাণমত পানি নিয়ে কাপড় কাচুন কিংবা খালা বাসন ধুয়ে ফেলুন। এতে কাপড়/খালা বাসন ভাল পরিষ্কার হয় এবং পানি সশ্রয় করতে পারেন।
৫. গাড়ি ধোয়া কিংবা বাগান পরিচরায় — গাড়ি ধোয়া কিংবা বাগান পরিচরায় হোস পাইপ খুলে পানি দিতে গেলে প্রয়োজনের চেয়ে অনেক পানি বেরিয়ে যায়। তার চেয়ে আপনি দু'বালতি পানি দিয়ে আপনার গাড়ি ভালভাবে ধুতে পারেন। পানি ভর্তি বালতি ব্যবহার করে ভালভাবে বাগানও পরিচর্যা করতে পারেন। এত করে পানির অপচয় কমাতে পারেন।
৬. হাঙ্গের ও ডু-গর্ভস্থ জলাধার — আপনার অসাবধানতা বা উপেক্ষার কারণে অনেক সময় হাঙ্গের অথবা ডু-গর্ভস্থ জলাধার উপচিয়ে পানি গড়িয়ে অপচয় হয়। বল কক ব্যবহার করে পানির অপচয় রোধ করতে পারেন। হাঙ্গের জলাধার ভরলে সময়মত মোটর বন্ধ করেও অপচয় রোধ করতে পারেন।

পানি ব্যবহারে আপনার সচেতনতাই রোধ করতে পারে পানি অপচয়, দূর করতে পারে পানি সংকট। তাই আসুন এখন হতে পানি ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হই।

আপনার সেবায়  
**ঢাকা ওয়াসা**

ওয়াসা-৩৩২ ৫৬/৯৮  
জিডি-১৮৯

**Muktijoddha**

From Page 1

perennial foes, Abahani and Mohammedan, shared the coveted title between for almost two decades since 1979 when BJIC has last won the trophy.

Ace marksman Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib scored both the goals for Muktijoddha, once in each half, to orchestrate a unique mid-pitch celebration at the flood-lit Mirpur Stadium.

Nakib, one of a dozen rebellious players who ditched Mohammedan and Abahani to join Muktijoddha in a sensational players' transfer way back in 1994, shot his side into the lead in the seventh minute, much to the implausible horror of Mohammedan who stepped into the match needing a draw to regain the title for the second consecutive year.

Nakib added salt to Mohammedan's wounds when, at the stroke of the final whistle, the volleyed a right-side floater from Hassan-al-Mamun.

Muktijoddha's joy knew no bounds. (Details on Page 11)

**Khaleda**  
From Page 1

ing was addressed among others by Comilla North Convenor Redwan Ahmed, Abul Kashem, Shah Mohammad Selim, Advocate Abdus Sattar and Advocate Ali Akkas.

**Authorities unconcerned**

From Page 1

diagnostic centres have been set up in residential areas over the years. Scientists and environmentalists warned that these business centres, unless properly shielded, could cause illnesses including cancer, cataract and various respiratory complications.

Dr ASW Kurny of the BUET's Metallurgical Engineering Department said the process of welding spread toxic gases in the surrounding areas as well as micro particles of lead, zinc, mercury and cadmium.

"The welding electrode has a flux coating and when it burns it produces silica and different oxides as well as ozone," said Dr Kurny warning that in addition to fire hazard people living around a welding workshop could experience chest pain, fatigue and other symptoms.

A BAEC scientist, requesting anonymity, said most diagnostic centres which use different ionising radiation for both diagnosis and treatment purposes do not comply with safety measures. "As a result, innocent people living in and around the premises were regularly exposed to radiation," said the scientist.

He said serious lack of competent manpower to operate these sensitive machines were also putting the lives of the patients at stake. "Many of these so called operators do not know how much dose is required for a specific purpose and end up giving the wrong doses," he said.

He said to install a simple X-ray machine it must be assured that the walls are made of concrete slabs with a specific thickness to prevent the ionising radiation from escaping.

BAEC is the government regulatory agency for the implementation of the Radiation Control Ordinance 1997. But sources confirmed that BAEC has no infrastructure to do the job.

"Since we do not have any infrastructure it has been suggested that the responsibility of monitoring be given to private firms," said a BAEC official, adding that here BAEC could act as a control of quality assurance of these firms.

DOE sources said almost all those hazardous industries and businesses were not even aware that they needed DOE clearance to set up their business. "Most thought that obtaining a trade licence was enough for them to do such a business," said a DOE official, explaining that under the Environment Conservation Rules 1977 it was a must for every workshop and industry to obtain a clearance from the DOE.

For any business to operate in the city a trade licence must be obtained from the DCC's Revenue Department which offers its services from its zonal offices.

DCC officials at Nagar Bhaban claimed they only issued trade licences after verifying the environmental report, consulting local people and a clearance letter from the local ward commissioner and Fire Brigade.

But an investigation reveals that a trade licence could be obtained without any such paper. A welding workshop owner at a Mohammapur residential area said he had obtained the licence within a day. "I had to produce the tenancy agreement of my shop and fill a DCC form, then a little extra cash to obtain my trade licence," he said.

DOE officials said during the city coordination committee meetings they had requested the DCC to only issue trade licences after obtaining an environment report.

"But not a single person ever came to our office asking for a clearance," said a DOE official.

**তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ**  
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)

**বিশেষ দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণী বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

তিতাস গ্যাস কোম্পানীর গ্যাস পরিবহণ ও বিতরণ নেটওয়ার্ক ঢাকা মহানগর ও শহরতলীসহ বৃহত্তর ঢাকা জেলা, বৃহত্তর ময়মনসিংহ জেলা ও বাঞ্ছাবাড়িয়া জেলা পর্যন্ত বিস্তৃত। মাটির নীচে স্থাপিত বিভিন্ন ব্যাসের গ্যাস পাইপ লাইন কোন কারণে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হলে স্বাভাবিকভাবেই গ্যাস প্রবাহ বিঘ্নিত হয় ফলে গ্যাস বিতরণ ও সরবরাহ সমস্যা দেখা দেয়।

গত ৫ই মার্চ '৯৮ রামপুরা টিডি ভবনের পাশে আবাসিক ভবন নির্মাণ কাজের পাইলিং করার সময় ডু-পুষ্ঠের ২২ ফুট নীচে স্থাপিত উচ্চচাপসম্পন্ন গ্যাস বিতরণ মেইন লাইন ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হলে ঢাকা শহরের বহুলাংশে গ্যাস সরবরাহ ব্যাহত হয় বা বন্ধ হয়ে যায়। তবে আশুন না লাগার কারণে জানমালের কোন ক্ষতি হয়নি।

দেশের সর্বত্র জনবসতি এলাকা বাড়ছে এবং সড়ক জনপথের বিস্তৃতি ঘটছে। ক্রমবর্ধমান উন্নয়নের ধারায় নতুন নতুন শিল্প কারখানা ও প্রতিষ্ঠান গড়ে উঠছে। কোথাও কোন প্রকার স্থাপনা নির্মাণ পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণের পূর্বে সেখানে গ্যাস লাইন আছে কিনা, গ্যাস ডিম্বিক প্রতিষ্ঠান স্থাপনের পূর্বে গ্যাস সংযোগ পাওয়া সম্ভব কিনা ইত্যাদি বিষয়াদি নিশ্চিত হওয়ার জন্য সর্শ্রষ্ট সরকারী/বেসরকারী সংস্থা, প্রতিষ্ঠান ও ব্যক্তিবর্গকে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। অন্যথায় যে কোন দুর্ঘটনা ও ক্ষয়ক্ষতির জন্য কোম্পানী দায়ী থাকবে না।

গ্যাস একটি অপরিহার্য দ্রব্য। গ্যাস ব্যবহারের নিয়ম-কানুন মেনে চলুন এবং গ্যাস লাইন রক্ষণাবেক্ষণে সহায়তা করে জানমালের ক্ষতি রোধ করুন।

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ/৯২/৯৭-৯৮  
জিডি-১৮৬

**কর্তৃপক্ষ**

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