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Effective water management plan Cooperation between users and departments concerned must

Ministers, donor representatives and experts yesterday laid emphasis on incorporating users and ensuring participation of broad segment of the society for preparation of an effective National Water Management Plan (NWMP), report agencies.

They expressed their views at the day-long National Water Management Plan Launching Workshop held in the city yesterday.

Officials said despite its scheduled timeframe to submit the final report in 2000, the NWMP would be like a "rolling plan" which will undergo continuous monitoring and updating to accommodate any deviation in priorities emerging from socio-economic changes in the country.

The plan was adopted on March 15. The NWMP, which has been divided into three phases, will formulate the plan on the principle of "minimum public sector intervention" and with small scale projects in the private sector and local governments ensuring optimum people's participation.

The key infrastructures and

major interventions will, however, remain with the government.

Inaugurating the workshop, Water Resources Minister Abdul Razzak said although water is an integral part of our life, its abundance or scarcity can disrupt and endanger our existence. So, proper management of water is critically essential for getting maximum benefit.

Razzak said development of one sector at the cost of another is not at all desirable what has been done in the past.

The water minister said that this can only be achieved through close cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration that can be ensured by strengthening the role of the National Water Council (NWC) headed by the Prime Minister.

He said the NWC will formulate a national water policy and a water code to guide activities related to water management planning.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury in her address said good management and cooperation among the users is needed for an effective national water management plan.

"We must ensure that a strong spirit of cooperation exists between ministries and departments with regular consultation with beneficiaries particularly at villages, unions, thanas and districts".

Matia Chowdhury said the interest of the landless and the poor to be fully taken into account in the national water management plan (NWMP).

Appreciating the strong commitment of the government, World Bank Country Director Pierre Landell-Mills said that two critical steps to be taken for the development of the national, integrated water resources management.

The first is to develop a framework policy relating to issues such as water rights, its allocation between sectors, and the institution needed to support the policy and the investment programme.

The second step is to prepare the future national water plan itself.

Landell-Mills said that preparation of the plan should be transparent and involve the participation of broad segments of the society.

AL Parliamentary Board meets today

A meeting of Awami League Parliamentary Board (ALPB) will be held at 4 pm today at the party's central office in the city with party chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Candidates seeking the AL nomination to contest the Barisal-5 seat of the Jatiya Sangsad have been requested to appear before the ALPB for interviews.

Highlights

- From Page 1
- vate investment will come from domestic resources.
- 61 per cent of the public sector investment will be financed out of domestic resources.
- 17 per cent of the investment will go to agriculture, 16 per cent to industry, 13 per cent to transport and communication, 8 per cent to power and gas.
- 23 per cent growth rate projected in power and gas, 14 per cent in industry, 4 per cent in agriculture.
- Production of 25 million MT foodgrains by 2000.
- 5739 MW power generation by 2002.
- Literacy rate envisaged at 70 per cent from 47 per cent now.
- Cut down population growth to 1.32 per cent.
- Reduce population of poverty line to 30 per cent.
- Rise in domestic savings to 16 per cent of GDP.
- Creation of 6.35 million job opportunities.

Democracy in Pakistan

From Page 1

number of people. "Sharif is the first non-feudal leader of Pakistan who represents the middle class and the wide range of urban professionals."

Previously, the political system in Pakistan was a closed one where entry was restricted he observed.

The process of cohesion is now working to bring about national unity. The regional groups which previously exerted separate influence have been galvanised to work in the mainstream of politics.

"The politics in Pakistan are now more focussed on economic issues."

The Pakistani minister said his country now has a more secure disposition. He cited three reasons, which he called three D's, for this. These are the Dubai factor, Defence and Democracy.

Elaborating, Mushahid said Pakistan is feeling the positive impact of its overseas earnings.

Probe reports

From Page 1

quiry committee, constituted by the Deputy Commissioner, sent its report to the Education Secretary today.

The report said that no evidence was found about the leak-out of question papers from the treasury here, but some evidences are there that the question papers were leaked out from the place of printing.

It has also brought allegation against the concerned thana administration for the incident and put forward recommendations to take necessary steps in this regard.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Daily shortfall of water supply in city 50cr litre, minister tells JS

The daily shortfall of water supply in Dhaka city is 50 crore litre, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to a question by A N M Ehsanul Haq Milon (BNP) he said that the total requirement of water supply in the city is 140 crore litre. The government has plan to meet the shortfall, he said in a written reply.

Zillur Rahman further informed the House that 76 grade III municipalities in the country have been sanctioned Tk 39.17 crore from the exchequer during the current fiscal year for development and welfare purposes.

The LGRD Minister gave figures of the allocation to each municipality.

Replying to M K Anwar (BNP-Comilla) who wanted to know the reasons for wide difference in the money given to the same grade of municipalities, the minister said the sanction was based on population, area and backwardness.

He admitted that some municipalities were given higher allocation as those were "deprived and neglected" by the previous government on political ground.

"We're trying to bring them at par with other municipalities," said Zillur Rahman.

SAARC confce of information ministers tomorrow

The first-ever conference of SAARC Information Ministers begins in the city tomorrow with an aim to strengthen the information network among the SAARC countries, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the two-day conference at the International Conference Centre (ICC) at 10 am.

Pakistan Information Minister Mushahid Hossain arrived in the city yesterday while the Information Ministers of India, Nepal and Sri Lanka are expected to arrive today.

The inaugural session of the conference will be followed by consultation and plenary session at Hotel Sheraton.

SAARC Secretary General in city

SAARC Secretary General, Naem U Hasan, arrived in Dhaka yesterday to attend the two-day meeting of SAARC Information Ministers beginning tomorrow, reports BSS.

Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Information D N Bepari received him at the airport.

Talking to journalists on arrival at the airport, the SAARC Secretary General said the Dhaka meeting is important as it is a part of the process to upgrade level of cooperation in the region.

SAARC gives due importance to improve cooperation in the field of communication and information, he said adding that SAARC Audio Visual Exchange (SAVE) is already working.

Film producer Dhali killed in road accident

Film producer Fazlur Rasheed Dhali was killed in a road accident on Wednesday night on Airport Road in the city, reports UNB.

Police said the accident occurred when the private car of Dhali collided head-on with a truck at Nikunja area near airport.

Dhali, 45, former husband of actress Rozina, was driving the car.

Police recovered the body immediately after the accident and sent it to the DMCH.

Gunbattle rocks DU campus

From Page 1

Hall, which was grazing in the field, was caught in the cross-fire and killed.

Lethal weapons including cleavers were also used during the fight.

Hundreds of panicked students and admission seekers were seen running for safety while police, posted near the Madhu's canteen, went behind the petrol van, probably for shelter, when the gun-battle began at around 11:30 am. Police forces, posted at the entrances of all the dormitories for male students also played the role of spectators during the gunfight, witnesses said. Yesterday was also the last day for submission of admission forms by the admission seekers.

Police however swung into action an hour after the gunfight, lobbing about 30 tear gas shells and resorting to baton charge on students at Jasimuddin Hall, causing further sufferings to the scared students and admission seekers and leaving some injured. Police picked up 65 persons from the Jasimuddin Hall. Police recovered one



City BNP workers demonstrating in front of Titas Bhawan in the city yesterday demanding smooth supply of gas. — Star photo

Nor'westers kill 20

From Page 1

thana was killed by lightning. In Fardpur, three persons were killed and 33 others injured when nor'westers lashed two unions in Nagarkanda thana at about 7.30 pm.

The district officials says some 700 houses in Aighar and Majardia unions were destroyed. Trees were uprooted and standing crops damaged.

Shamsul Haq, 40, of Panch Pakhia village, Barasat Mondal 50, of Chualia village and Rashida Begum, 23, of village Muralia died in house collapse during the storm.

The Deputy Commissioner visited the affected areas and granted Tk 1000, two metric tons of rice and a few dozens of sarees and lungis for the homeless.

UNB Correspondent from Feni reports: Lightning, heavy rains, hailstorm and onrush of hilly waters left two girls and a boy dead and crops of about 6,000 acres damaged.

Ariful Islam, 12, was electrocuted while Amena Khatun 13, and Sabura Begum, 10, were killed by lightning during the nor'westers that swept over Sonagazi thana on Wednesday night.

Film producer Dhali killed in road accident

From Page 1

than 200 students from three DU halls — Jashim Uddin, Ziaur Rahman and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman — were arrested. The "innocent" students were taken to police control room and harassed, they said.

The JCD leaders alleged that armed BCL activists, backed by the police, attacked the JCD activists on the campus yesterday. Following the action on the JCD activists, the BCL activists set fire to about 70 dormitory rooms, looted belongings and damaged furniture, they said.

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Voter ID cards before next polls, JS told

By Staff Correspondent

Identity Cards would be distributed among the voters before the next general elections, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

Replying to a question, the minister said the project for voters' ID cards hit snags due to some defects in it during the past BNP rule and the present government was carrying on with the project.

Under the fresh initiative, voters' ID cards were being prepared in such a manner that those could be used for multipurpose, he noted.

To another question, Abdul Matin Khasru said voting was postponed in 418 centres during the recent Union Parishad elections across the country. Voting had already taken place in many of those centres where there was no court injunction.

BOI approves 4 investment proposals

The Board of Investment (BOI) has approved four investment proposals for registration with a total investment of Tk 3,9705.40 million, reports UNB.

The approval was given at a meeting of the executive council of the board in the city yesterday with its Executive Chairman Farooq Sobhan in the chair.

The investment proposals include one foreign direct investment (FDI) and two joint-venture projects, said a press release adding that the foreign entrepreneurs are from USA, UK, Lebanon, Finland and UAE.

Speaker

From Page 1

ting does not begin in time, he said.

The Deputy Speaker however said that he did not see them.

Mentionably, the morning sitting is delayed by 30 minutes to one-hour every day due to lack of quorum in the House.

BNP lawmakers were sometimes seen waiting in the lobby for the session to resume, delaying the quorum.

Earlier, on several occasions, the Chair urged members of both the sides to attend the session in time. The Opposition members had also blamed the Chair for failing to resume the session on schedule and the ruling party for lack of quorum.

While many of the ruling party members were seen attending the session behind schedule, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was often found in the House in time. On many occasions, she was seen among a few members, who attended the session in time.

Fatchett

From Page 1

bly imprinted in our mind," he added.

Referring to the British minister's visit, Choudhury said that it would help further strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries.

Earlier in the morning, the British minister called on the state minister for foreign affairs, reports UNB.

During the meeting at the foreign office, Fatchett said Britain wants to further expand the existing relationship with Bangladesh in various fields, including the economy.

The British minister praised the Bangladesh government for taking the initiative and successfully holding the three-nation business summit which, he said, would bring the country towards development.

State minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury briefed the British minister about the economic and investment scenario of Bangladesh.

Graduates' seats in JU Senate Hectic campaign for Sunday's election

By Gobinda Bar

Hectic campaign is going on for the Jahangirnagar University Senate registered graduates' representatives election on Sunday.

Fifty candidates from two panels are vying for 25 seats in 92-member JU Senate. The candidates and their supporters have started to move door-to-door to convince 2008 voters.

Of the two panels, one is led by the former president of Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) Prof. Khokar Muzahidur Rahman while the other is jointly backed by the JU pro-VC Prof. Alauddin Ahmed and Prof. Mesbahuddin Ahmed.

Meanwhile, both the panels are holding projection meetings as part of their campaign. FBUTA president Prof. Mustahidur Rahman introduced his panel known as "Sarbadalio Okiya Panel" at a projection meeting Monday at the National Press Club auditorium. The panel, dominated by former JU Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders also includes

a number of former pro-Awami League Chhatra League, Samantantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) and pro-JSD Chhatra League leaders. The panel is being backed by the pro-BNP and pro-Jamaat teachers of the university while a few pro-Awami League teachers are also campaigning for the panel.

Projection meeting of the other panel known as "Ganotantrik Progratishel Panel" was held at the Public Library auditorium Wednesday evening.

Introducing the candidates, JU pro-VC Prof. Alauddin Ahmed urged the registered graduates to vote for his panel "to ensure congenial academic atmosphere as well as a campus free of anti-liberation forces".

The "Ganotantrik Progratishel Panel" has nominated former JU pro-AL Chhatra League and Chhatra Union leaders for contesting the election.

This election of registered graduates to the JU Senate has opened up a possibility to bring a new polarisation in teachers' politics.

Fifth Plan announced

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Of the public investment, Tk 528 billion or 61 per cent would be mobilised from domestic sources like revenue surplus and capital formation while Tk 331 billion or 39 per cent is likely from foreign aid.

At the end of the plan, revenue surplus might reach Tk 377.26 billion (8.26 billion dollars) approximately through an annual increase in tax revenue by 10.90 per cent and non-tax revenue by 8.60 per cent. Revenue expenditure is estimated to grow by 6.50 per cent during the entire period.

Agriculture sector would get the maximum investment allocation 16.46 per cent, to be followed by industry with 15.85 per cent and transportation by 13.50 per cent.

National savings as percentage of GDP would increase to 20.14 per cent by the end of the plan period. The rate was estimated at 15 per cent during the 'base financial year' 1996-97.

Share of foreign aid in the development programmes would decrease to 3.50 per cent (of GGP) from 4.30 per cent by the end of the plan period.

Inefficiency within the power generation and distribution systems would be removed by adopting appropriate policy steps under the plan. At least 13 per cent allocation in the Annual Development Programme would go to the sector because it is one of the capital intensive sectors.

When the plan is implemented, the nation's literacy rate will rise to 70 per cent from the current rate of 48 per cent and incidence of poverty would decline to 30 per cent from 48 per cent now.

Responding to questions, the state minister said, "We all would have to build up values in favour of good governance and

rule of law to attain a high rate economic growth."

Budgetary allocations for all unproductive sectors, including the losing public concerns, should be reduced, he stressed.

"We will also have to freeze the non-development activities," he said.

The government did not have any plan so far to cut allocations in the current Annual Development Programme, though there were press reports indicating this, he told a questioner.

"Sometimes there might have been inter-ministerial conflicts but the head of the government under whom we all work, did not take any decision to downsize the ADP."

The BNP government did not believe in (financial) discipline and made random misuse of public funds. "That's why they did not even go for any plan. Rather they wanted to use public funds for a vested quarter," Alamgir said.

BNP blames 'AL terrorists' for DU violence

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday blamed police and 'Awami terrorists' for last two days' violence on the Dhaka University campus, reports UNB.

In a statement, Bhuiyan said the government a bid to hush up its inefficiency and failure in running the country is trying to create unrest on the campus.

He alleged that the ruling party has turned the Dhaka University campus into a war filed by unleashing a reign of terror by its hired goons.

He also criticised police for their inaction during the trouble.

Bhuiyan said Chhatra League activists aided by their hired stormtroopers attacked the procession of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal on the campus yesterday, leaving a student dead and several others injured.

After the incident, the BCL terrorists with the help of police attacked the JCD leaders and workers as well as general students, he said.

The BNP leader alleged that the BCL men later captured Jasimuddin, Suryasen, Zia and Mujib halls of the students by driving out the students.

He also accused police of lobbing tear gas shells and arresting general students.

Unocal

From Page 1

some legal problems which stood in the way of signing any agreement.

The one-year LOI expired on January 21 and the government is free of any legal binding to sign the WRIP.

But Unocal, which has already spent a good amount of money behind the WRIP, has been trying its best to convince the government to award it the Shahbazpur field. It said that if the government awarded the company the Shahbazpur field, it would approach other foreign companies so that none raised any objection.

All other foreign companies had vehemently protested in early 1997 when the government signed the LOI with Unocal, which was the first such instance of violation of government policy to favour a private company.

Unocal's recent proposal to award the Shahbazpur field without any competitive bidding is going to be rejected, the sources said. "There had already been questions about transparency of the government in the second round block bidding. The government does not want to increase the doubts further."

BG Press men

From Page 1

letter which was found at the house of Kamaluddin, police conducted the raid and unveiled the mystery behind the scandal.

According to sources, the leaked questions had been sent to some people, including Abdul Quayum and Babul in Mirersara thana of Chittagong, by some BG Press employees just before the beginning of the SSC examination on April 16.

The letter, which was written by Kamal himself to Abdul Quayum, headmaster of Chinki Aslana Primary School of Mirersara, was not mailed ultimately.

In the letter, Kamaluddin wrote to Quayum, "I will see you soon with those two things which I had showed you before April 16. You have given me Tk 2,000 and reach rest of the amount to my wife in Mirersara."

Kamal confessed to the police that he had received a total of Tk 40,000 for leaking out the question papers.

Police said the accused leaked out the question papers from the BG Press either supplying hand written copies or the original ones.

"It's alarming that how one can leak out question papers from this tightly secured place," said a police official.

Earlier, a 5-member joint enquiry committee of CID and SB, headed by SSP of SB Golam Ribria, was formed to probe the question paper leak out.

Other committee members are: ASPs Khalilur Rahman and Asgar Ali Khan of SB and ASPs Khalequzzaman (City Zone) and Abdul Quader Khan of CID (Chittagong Zone).

The police is also expected to submit a report on irregularities at the BG press after investigation into the SSC question paper leak out.

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