

96 pc has access to drinking water: Unicef report

The health of the people in the country has improved as their level of nutrition rose and access to improved drinking water widened over the last couple of years, reports BSS. Consumption of iodized salt has also increased significantly over the period. UNICEF in its recent world report revealed that more than 96 per cent people in the country have access to improve drinking water when India and Pakistan have 88 per cent each. The report said 55 per cent of the households in Bangladesh consumed iodized salt while in India and Pakistan, 70 per cent and 19 per cent households did so. Regarding sanitation facilities, the UNICEF report said 53 per cent of the total population in Bangladesh use adequate sanitation facilities against 88 per cent in India and 61 per cent in Pakistan. In Sri Lanka, 91 per cent people have access to ade-

quate sanitation facilities. The report, which covered position of people's health, nutrition, education, maternal mortality and economic growth across the world, said that nearly 11 million children die every year of preventable diseases in the world. Referring to nutrition level, it said that 170 million children are mainnourished and 100 million never see the inside of schools across the globe. Giving child mortality rates across the world, it said Bangla- desh ranked 53rd in the world in terms of child mortality rate, while India ranked 49th and Pakistan 39th. The position of Sri Lanka is 135th. In child mortality rate, Sierra Leone showed the gravest situa- tion with 316 deaths of children per thousand births every year, while Switzerland came up with best figures where only four such deaths take place per thousand births.

The report placed emphasis on giving more attention to the welfare of children and cutting child mortality rate. It said \$80 billion are needed per year to give every newborn a good start in life. Referring to the maternal mortality rate across the globe, the report said a woman in the developing world including Bangladesh is on an average 40 times more likely, than a woman living in the developed world, to die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. It also showed that child mortality rate in Bangladesh improved significantly during the last one year. The report said that infant mortality rate in the country has come down by 39 per cent over the last 10 years. The enrolment of children in primary schools reached 95 per cent and the literacy rate has gone up to 62 per cent over the last couple of years, it said.



BNP lawmaker Barrister Nazmul Huda addressing a meeting of the Sammilita Ainjibi Parishad at the South Hall of Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday. --Star photo

Dawn-to-dusk hartal

Because of its 'misdeeds, corruption, vandalism and politicisation'. Khaleda Zia said the AL government has politicised everything in the country. It has appointed party men and relatives of AL leaders in all top positions driving out competent people. "After politicising lower courts, it has started appointing party men and controversial and incompetent persons in higher courts to serve its own interest," she added. She said "false" cases were filed deliberately under PSA against Morshed Khan, his son Faisal Morshed Khan and another party lawmaker Mujibur Rahman Sarwar to harass them and destroy their public image. Khaleda Zia said cases under PSA have to be filed against the ministers and terrorists who damaged hundreds of vehicles,

resorted to arson, killed a taxi driver and let loose a reign of terror on December 14 last year. Turing to government's failure to supply text books to school students, she said, "Criminals and bank loan defaulters have become friends and well-wishers of the AL government". Without naming the company which was awarded the printing work, she said, "Those who were once infamous for bank loan default have now emerged as book defaulter." About lease of the "Fairly House", she quoted press reports and said the government leased it to an Indian company for only Tk 22 crore although its price is over Tk 100 crore. "Some AL men might have made fortune from this deal". She also alleged that some AL men made at least Tk 400 crore from MIG-29 purchase deal. She said murder, snatching,

hijacking, terrorism, rape and other crimes have become rampant. Awami League leaders and activists are involved in most of such incidents, she alleged. "It is not possible to curb terrorism without removing this terrorist government. Foreign investors and businessmen shy away because of the law and order situation". Presided over by city BNP President Sadeque Hossain Khoka, the meeting was also addressed by, among others, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and party leader Abdus Salam, JP Secretary General Nazir Rahman Manjur and party leader Saifur Rahman, Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mujahid and party leader ATM Azharul Islam, IOJ leader Abdul Latif Nezami and Jagga President Shafiul Alam Prodhan.

CDBL MD resigns

Biman officials said they are now planning to invite potential airlines to a 'road show' in Dhaka to present Biman in its real perspective. This would remove any doubt on its prospects as its business is increasing since last year. They said that the major reason behind prospective partners' lack of interest in Biman's privatisation programme was the employees' agitation against it last year. Besides, a simultaneous move by Biman to procure new generation aircraft also discouraged the prospective partners. Another reason, the officials said, is that Biman offered only 40 per cent stakes to the startegic partners. "They would feel encouraged if they are offered 49 per cent share and the government and the employees retain 51 per cent share on a 40:11 ratio. At the same time, Biman's status as a national carrier could be retained," one official noted. The Board of Management of Biman would meet shortly to discuss the latest situation.

Buriganga

Request for Tk 19 crore is part of this huge amount. Severe resource crisis is making it difficult to allocate money to these projects, he explained. "The matter is now lying with the minister," he said, "whether he wants to prioritise the Buriganga Project is his discretion." Meanwhile, a BIWTA plan to dredge the riverbed has reportedly been shelved.

SAPTA

On the other hand, India, in a notification, informed the Bangladesh government that it would provide 10 to 90 per cent duty concessions on 77 items. According to sources in the business circle, such trade concessions were yet to be implemented, since the countries did not take any follow-up action after the notifications. A recent study shows that trade among the South Asian countries constitutes less than 20 per cent of the region's total trade with the rest of the world. In 1996 Bangladesh's exports to and import from its four South Asian neighbours India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were 1.7 and 17.7 per cent respectively of its total trade with the rest of the world.

BTTB mobile

But the planning ministry said donors were reluctant to finance such project in the public sector as private cellular operators were doing well. There are four cellular mobile phone operators in private sector with about 2.86 lakh subscribers. Three of those are providing GSM service to about 2.53 lakh subscribers and the other provides analogue AMPS and Call Device Multiple Access (CDMA) service to about 33,000 subscribers. BTTB's mobile phone service would cover entire the country. At present only GrameenPhone has such service in all the six divisions while PBTl and Telekom Malaysia International (TMIB) have service in Chittagong city and Sheba Telecom in the capital.

ZIA

responsible for pilferage of luggage of any passenger as well as cargo, the CAAB official said. He however said other airlines also maintain their own security and share the responsibility with Biman in looking after luggage. "We take the help of police to maintain law and order at the canopy and in the area up to the main road", a top official of CAAB said. But airport police and 18 other agencies operating at the terminal building and at the runway also do not come under the control of CAAB. They operate individually. But he asserted that Biman is solely responsible for pilferage and loss of luggage. Without connivance of Biman employees, none can touch any luggage before delivery," the official added.

Biman

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PM: Opposition

From Page 1 throughout the country. Alerting party leaders against all conspiracies, Hasina said faith and confidence of the people are the main sources of power for the Awami League. The AL chief urged party leaders and workers to continue their sincere works for the people to win the next general election. Hasina asserted that it is not possible to alienate Awami League from the people through conspiracy. She lamented that AL has become victim of conspiracy from within and outside. She also cautioned that stern action would be taken against anyone trying to hamper the image of the party. The Prime Minister said the popularity of the ruling party has increased for good work and the increasing popularity of Awami League has made the opposition doubtful about their chance to win the next election. She said her government has restored discipline in all sectors, established a base for rapid economic development and

solved longstanding problems of the country. "The people have started getting the results of development activities of the government," she said. She also mentioned successes of the government in attaining autarky in food, increasing literacy rate and buying capacity of the people. The Prime Minister termed the present government as the most efficient since the assassination of Bangabandhu and said it has ensured a balanced development in all part of the country. Among others were present Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, AL Office Secretary Abdul Mannan Khan, Whip Mujibul Haq Mujib, A F M Mustafa Kamal MP, Tajul Islam MP, Advocate Joynal Abedin Bhuiyan MP, Advocate Abdul Hakim MP, Prof Panna Kaiser MP and District AL President Prof Khorsheed Alam and Acting General Secretary A T M Mahbubur Rahman.

Credit card forgery

From Page 12 ing the same number was issued to one Abdul Haq. The hotel authorities then informed DB police. Razzak had four cards. The card in his name was genuine. He forged three credit cards issued in the name of three persons and used those. Razzak was staying in the hotel with his wife, two children and two middle-aged women, occupying three rooms. DB police sources said London police earlier accused Razzak of credit card forgery. Two youths -- Titu Mian and Farhad Mian -- were arrested on December 15 last year when they attempted to purchase gold ornaments worth about Tk 70, 000 from a jewellery shop at New Market in the city, using a counterfeit credit card. The shop owner immediately checked with the bank concerned, found the card to be fake and informed Dhanmondi police. They were arrested and two fake cards were recovered. Another forger, Mohammad Iqbal Ahmed, a Bangladeshi born British citizen, was arrested from Shylhet town on August 12 last year. Seven counterfeit cards and a machine used for making such cards were

recovered from his possession. A list of credit cards of some persons who visited Hotel Sonargaon earlier was also recovered from Iqbal, the sources said. A case was filed with Shylhet Kotwali police. But Iqbal obtained bail and left the country. The sources said Iqbal had used fake credit cards in Shylhet and Dhaka earlier also and made payments of over Tk 1.5 lakh, using those. When contacted, an official of Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank said, "We are more cautious now while processing transactions through credit cards and have alerted local banks doing transactions with us."

Police 'informer'

From Page 12 Police said the miscreants called Javed out of his residence at about 8:30 pm and took him to the nearby Rahmatullah camp. They shot in his legs and severed wrists. Javed was admitted to the DMCH. A case was filed with Pallabi police in this regard.

Emergency

From Page 12 Then these are sold to patients charging double the prices or even more. "This is happening for a long time," said a doctor at the casualty department. Refusing to be identified, she said those at the hospital store at times refuse to give life saving drugs showing some reasons. Doctors then have to ask patients' attendants to arrange those on their own. At the emergency wards, almost all the patients have to buy life saving drugs like titenus toxoid, diclonafec, ficlox, phenorbitin, enocof, oradoxon. The hospital is supposed to have at least 130 categories of drugs including 20 life saving ones for supply to patients round the clock, one source pointed out.

5 lawyers

From Page 1 Malek and Barrister Mainul Hossain -- met the chief justice and proposed appointment of the two superseded judges in the Appellate Division. Chief Justice Latifur Rahman accepted the proposal. The senior lawyers then met the President who expressed his limitations due to constitutional obligations. According to the constitution, the President can only advise the prime minister on the appointment of a judge. Afterwards the lawyers sought the prime minister's appointment. Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru while talking to The Daily Star confirmed that the Prime Minister would meet the five lawyers upon her return from Cambodia. One of the five members and Supreme Court BAR Association President Barrister Moimul Hossain told The Daily Star that the lawyers would hold a meeting tomorrow and decide the next course of action. When asked if he was hopeful that the crisis would be over, he refrained from making any comment but noted, "Barrister Ishtiaque is hopeful."

must know before introducing the system whether they would face any trouble. "It's not fair that CDBL will impose something on us."

Trial of war criminals under consideration

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the matter of trial of war criminals is now under special consideration of the government, reports UNB. "But it is necessary to create public opinion in this regard," she said while receiving a memorandum from a JSD delegation at Ganobhaban yesterday. A 10-member delegation of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal led by its president and Fisheries and Livestock Minister A S M Abdur Rab and general secretary Hasanul Huq Inu called on the Prime Minister yesterday evening. The JSD delegation submitted the memorandum to the Prime Minister containing a 17-point demand, mainly featuring the demand for a special tribunal for the trial of the 1971 war criminals.

PM to open DITF today

Dhaka International Trade Fair 2001 begins today, reports UNB. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the month-long fair at 3 pm at the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city. Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) president Yussuf Abdullah Harun and Export Promotion Bureau vice chairman A B Chowdhury will spoke at the inaugural function. A total of 40 pavilions, 60 mini-pavilions and 320 stalls have been allotted in the fair. Twenty-two foreign countries will participate in the DITF.

Bangabandhu's portrait

From Page 1 Jatiya Party Secretary General Anwar Hossain Monju and JSD President ASM Rab, two ministers in Sheikh Hasina's government of national consensus, left the House just before the bill was passed amid thunderous applause from the ruling party lawmakers. Both the ministers were present when the process of passing the bill was on. But, Monju left just a minute before the House passed the bill at 12.15 p. m. while Rab left a few minutes earlier. Five lawmakers of the Jatiya Party however stayed on. Seventy-two treasury bench members including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina were present during the passage of the bill. Once the bill was passed many of them left, leaving the House once again in quorum crisis. Gazi, who initiated the private member's bill, raised contro-

versy after joining the cabinet of Khandakar Mushtaq Ahmed following the assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975. Gazi was also a minister on the post-independence cabinet of Bangabandhu. A private member's bill is a bill moved by an MP who is not a minister. Normally, MPs in the opposition bench move such bills that rarely get approval of the House. A parliament official said only one such bill on privileges of the lawmakers was passed by the fifth Jatiya Sangsad while a veteran parliamentarian recalled another private member's bill being passed by the fourth parliament. The bill, placed on April 6 last year, had been pending for with the parliamentary standing committee on private members' bills and resolution for scrutiny. On scrutiny, the bill came to the agenda for passage during

the last session of parliament. But it was not moved for passage apparently to avoid bitter criticism by Major (ret'd) Akhtaruzzaman, who was prepared to protest the bill. Akhtar has meantime lost his seat because of attending parliament proceedings defying the decision of his party, BNP. The statement on objectives of the bill said the mandatory provision for preservation and exhibition of Bangabandhu's portrait are strongly needed so that the nation can show due respect to Father of the Nation and the future generations can come to know about him. It also recalled Bangabandhu's immense contribution to the nation's long struggle for independence. The bill referred to the fourth amendment to the Constitution and its article 34(b) that recognises Bangabandhu as Father of the Nation.