

Regional cooperation needed to exploit energy resources

BSS, Dhaka
A two-day workshop on "Regional Cooperation in Energy Sector" began in the city yesterday with a renewed pledge of coordinated efforts in exploiting the huge untapped regional energy resources for overall economic benefit of the region.

Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir said the regional cooperation should be based on energy resource production, transmission, training and dissemination of technologies to get out of the energy poverty.

Dr Alamgir called upon all the regional countries to shun their political shortsightedness for a long term benefit in energy sector cooperation. "We are determined for regional cooperation, he added.

"We have to overcome regional prejudices," he said adding that Bangladesh could be benefited immensely by taking surplus hydro electricity from Bhutan, which is only 13 miles away from our country.

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Experts from Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and most Bangladesh are participating the workshop.

Prof Rehman Sobhan said the future of the region lies on cooperation on "win-win basis" rather than confrontation. Regional energy situation should be viewed on a common perspective for optimising the benefit in a globalised economic scenario, he pointed out.

Farooq Sobhan said only 10.5 per cent hydro energy of the region has been exploited so far and regional efforts should be made to find out potential area of cooperation in hydro-power development as well as laying of gas pipe line to contribute in economic growth of the region.

Illegal drugs, liquor destroyed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Police yesterday destroyed a huge amount of illegal drugs and liquors recovered by the Detective Branch of police and different thanas of the city in the last six months at Shahbagh Police Control Room yesterday.

Police also organised an exhibition of various illegal arms recovered by police during the period in front of the control room.

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim, Inspector General of police M Nurul Huda, magistrate of Dhaka Metropolitan Court and senior police officials were present at the time.

The drugs, damaged by bulldozer, are 29,760 bottles of phenyl, 115 bottles of foreign liquor, 24 bottles of homemade liquor, 1,594 cans of beer, 320 cartons of foreign cigarette, 25 kilogram cannabis, one kilogram heroine, 1,295 injections, and 2.5 kilogram pistol and its pieces of metal.

The drugs were damaged at per the order of court.

A total of 771 firearms, which includes two rifles, nine air-rifle, 44 shot gun, 100 revolvers, 12 hand-pistols, two air-barrelled pistols, 160 revolvers (241 homemade and 136 foreign), 38 pistols (14 homemade and 24 foreign), 25 pump guns, 24 L.L. one shotgun and 416 other arms were also destroyed.

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Dev work of DC Hill resumes in Ctg

BSS, Ctg
The development works of the city's DC Hill (also known as Baisakhli Prangan) into cultural spot cum park resumed on Thursday last after a break of 16 days.

Development work of the park came to a halt from February 28 as the land secretary, in a letter issued on February 27 to the Secretary of the Cabinet Division and Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong, termed such construction work by the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA), without prior permission from the respective authority, as illegal.

Minister for Civil Aviation, Tourism, Housing and Public Works Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, who returned home from Saudi Arabia a few days ago, told BSS yesterday that the ongoing development work of the park will

be completed within the time frame and none have the right to impede the construction work as the project was approved by a pre-ECNEC meeting.

The minister inaugurated the development works of the park on February 20 at a cost of Taka 1.5 crore.

Eng. Mosharraf visited the cultural spot cum park yesterday morning and ordered the officials concerned to complete the work within the stipulated time. Chairman of the CDA Col A Z Jalalabadi and Deputy Commissioner Mosharraf Hasan accompanied him.

The CDA has undertaken the self-financing project of developing picturesque DC Hill into cultural spot cum park over eight acres for promotion of the century old Bengali heritage and culture.

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