Global confce on water ends today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 5-day global conference on "Water, Indigenous Knowledge and Practice: The Role of Media" will conclude in the city today.

The concluding session will begin at CIRDAP auditorium at 9:30am. It will adopt the Dhaka Declaration, said a press release.

The conference has been organised by the World Water Forum of Journalists (WWFJ) in collaboration with the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB).

Over 100 water experts, scientists, journalists and officials from home and abroad are taking part in the conference.

Secretary General of WWFJ and Chairman of FEJB Quamrul Islam Chowdhury will chair the concluding session.

1159 more held

BSS, *Dhaka*

Police seized 10 firearms and 37 bullets during their country-wide drive in last 24 hours ending 6 am yesterday, a police headquarters press release said.

They arrested three persons and filed three cases against them under Arms Act.

Police also arrested 1159 persons including four listed terrorists, 645 under warrant and 507 accused of cases under investigation during the period.

Of the recovered firearms, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) seized five and district/units recovered the rest five.

The listed terrorists who were arrested are: Mostafa Kamal of Narail, Mehedi Hasan of Bagerhat, Jakir Hossain of Dhaka metropolitan city and Kausar Ahmed of Feni.

PHOTO: STAR

Former World Bank Country Director Pierre Landell-Mills speaking at an in-house dialogue on 'Reforming Governance in Bangladesh' at the Centre for Policy Dialogue office (CPD) in the city yesterday.

BGMEA urges govt to fix time limit for gas connection

UNB, *Dhaka*

Apprising the existing gas problems, including unnecessary delay in getting connection, in the garments industry, BGMEA yesterday sought cooperation of the government to make the main export earner viable in the present world economic scenario.

A delegation of BGMEA led by its President Kutubuddin Ahmed apprised the problems to State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resource AKM Mosharraf Hossain at a meeting here.

The delegation told the minister that due to lack of specific guideline for getting gas connection, they have to wait years after years, and requested the government to fix time limit for supplying gas to any new garments unit.

Agreeing on the point, the State Minister advised the garment owners to inform the ministry of their expected time limit to get the gas connection after establishing an industry.

Pointing to the price hike of furnace oil, the delegation urged the government to supply the oil at the previous rate to those industries, which do not have gas connection in their washing plants till the gas supply is ensured.

They also sought the State Minister's cooperation to allow the garment industries of Chittagong to get approval of gas supply from the headquarters of Bakhrabad Gas Systems in Chittagong instead of its principal office in Comilla.

The delegation also requested the government to relieve the garments industries from taking environmental certificate compulsorily, as gas emitted from industry's steam boiler is not harmful for the environment.

Giving a patience hearing to the garment industry's problems, the State Minister assured the delegation of solving these problems and fulfilling their demands, including setting up gas distribution system in Ashulia-Savar EPZ area.

He also informed that an enquiry committee would be constituted with the member of BGMEA soon to find out the reasons for suspending cost sharing system in gas supply.

The minister apprised the delegation that the government would constitute several committees, including load sanction committee, to develop the utility service like gas with the representation of BGMEA.

The BGMEA delegation included Second Vice President Kazi Moniruzzaman, VP Mohammad Atiqul Islam, VP (finance) Shafiul Islam Mohiuddin, Director A Razzak Sattar, Farouk Hasan and Secretary Mohammad Fasihur Rahman.

CIRDAP Council begins in Nepal today

BSS, *Kathmandu*

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan arrived in Kathmandu to attend the 13th Governing Council Meeting of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asian and the Pacific (CIRDAP) beginning today.

Nepalese State Minister for Local Development Duryodhan Singh Chaudhari received Bhuiyan at the Tribhuban International Airport. Bangladesh Charge d'Affaires in Kathmandu Humayun Kabir and Director General of CIRDAP Dr Mya Maung were also present to receive him.

The meeting of the representatives from 13 member countries of CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-13) is being preceded by a two-day meeting of the centre's Executive Committee (EC) which consists of the Secretaries of the relevant Rural Development Department of the ministries.

Various sessions of the meetings are to discuss strategies and programme for alleviation of poverty that continues to affect lives of rural population in the region.

Representatives from 13 CIRDAP member countries -- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam -- are expected to attend the meeting. In addition to the members, representatives of various UN donor and other agencies will be attending the meetings as observers.

Its main functions are to review the activities of the Centre, lay down general standards and guidelines for the management give guidance to the Director General of CIRDAP and put forward recommendations to the GC. Usually it meets once a year.

Both the CIRDAP meetings will be hosted by the Government of Nepal. The GC-13 Meeting will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba.

Bhuiyan is expected to return to Dhaka on January 20, officials said.

Notice

Our valued subscribers are hereby informed that due to the By-election at Srinagar & Sirajdikhan in Munshigonj district; the Narayangonj, the Old Dhaka & the Mohammadpur sites will be down for 24 hours, in accordance to Government orders, starting from 6 a.m. of 17th January to 6 a.m. of 18th January, 2002.

As a result of which our mobile and fixed phone (Handset & FWT) service will not be available for these hours at the above mentioned localities and their peripheries.

We would request you to kindly bear with us.

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Notice for temporary suspension of network

This is to bring to your kind notice that, in compliance with the Government's directive to temporarily suspend all mobile phone operations, GrameenPhone's network will remain suspended in Munshiganj, Faridpur, Barguna and Narail from 6.00am today, 17th January'02, till 6:00am tomorrow.

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