

'Ensure sanitation for the poor'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should ensure sanitation for the poor and ultra-poor to achieve its target of bringing every family under sanitation coverage by 2010, speakers at a national conference said yesterday.

Active participation of the marginal people in such activities and sustained rehabilitation of slum dwellers are a must to achieve the target, they said.

The NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation and the Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) organised the conference on 'water and sanitation' at auditorium of Institute of Engineers in the city. Grassroots representatives from six divisions took part in the conference.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan attended the conference as chief guest while A.Y.B.I. Siddiqui, former secretary of LGRD ministry, Paul Van Koppen, director, International Water and Sanitation Center (IRC), the Netherlands and Carle D. Groot, chairperson, Local Consultants Group (LCG) attended as special guests.

Speaking as chief guest, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan hoped that the country would be brought under sanitation coverage by 2008 and the rest two years would be spent to maintain its sustainability.

According to government statistics, 67 percent people are still deprived of sanitation facilities.

The minister said a directive has been given to the authorities at upazila level to spend 20 percent of the allocation provided by the LGRD ministry on sanitation.

The ministry is also taking up a project to aid the extremely poor in this regard, he added.

Dr Dibakar Singh, executive director of DSK, said they organised 200 meetings at union parishad level and six meetings at six divisions to gather opinion from the grassroots people about the sanitation issue and know about their problems.

Suchitra Mallik read out the declaration paper that called for a social movement for sanitation and rehabilitation of slum dwellers.



PHOTO: STAR

Ahmad Nagar in Demra has been reeling under waterlogging since the torrential rain battered the country for four days from September 13. Most people of the area moved to safer places and the others are suffering a lot but the authorities are yet to take steps to remove the stagnant water.

DHAKA TODAY

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'The Passion of the Christ' (2004). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Launch

The formal launch of Unctad World Investment Report, organised jointly by the Board of Investment and the United Nations Information Centre, will be held. Venue: Hotel Purba International, Motijheel. Time: 11.30am.

Meeting

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute will hold a meeting on 'Advocacy and capacity building on competition policy and law in Asia' with Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sarina, Banani. Time: 9.00am.

Seminar

Information Handling Services organises a seminar on its products and services with Syed Marghub Murshed, chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission as chief

Blood donation

Quantum Foundation organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Moulavi Bazar Babesai Samity campus. Time: 10.00am to 5.00pm.

Workshop

Belta organises for English teachers a workshop titled 'Group work: Creating a collaborative classroom.' Venue: British Council Auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

Painting exhibition

A solo painting exhibition by Sadul Hassan Rafi will be inaugurated. Venue: Alliance Francaise Gallery, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till October 10 from 9.00am to 12.00noon and from 5.00pm to 8.00pm daily.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen

7 killed in Mymensingh road crashes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least seven people were killed and 25 others injured in two road accidents in Mymensingh yesterday.

According to police, the first accident occurred on the Mymensingh-Netrakona highway at Doyarampur under Tarakanda upazila in the morning when a Netrakona bound passenger bus from Mymensingh collided with a truck, killing four people on the spot and injuring 25 others.

The injured were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where two of them died at about 3:00pm. Identity of the dead and injured could not be known.

Another mishap took place on the same highway at Shambhuganj under Kotwali Police Station in the evening when a Sherpur bound passenger bus from Dhaka hit an unidentified boy aged about 6 from behind. The boy died on the spot.

42 daggers, swords found at Khulna madrasa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna police in a raid on Nurul Ulm Hafezia Madrasa recovered 42 daggers and swords at around midnight on Monday.

Police have detained 22 students and three teachers including Nasiruddin, the superintendent of the madrasa, for questioning over murder of Imran Hossain Rony, 14. He was found hacked to death in the ojukhana of the madrasa in the early Monday morning. Since then, police have been cordonning off the area. Senior police officers suspect Nasiruddin and the teachers of having links with Islamic militant organisations.

Contraband items worth Tk 27 lakh seized in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Coast Guard members seized contraband items worth around Tk 27 lakh from Vatiary in Chittagong on Monday.

Acting on a secret information, they intercepted a truck and seized 1592 pieces of Indian sarees, 426 pieces of bed-sheets and other items.

CDA demolishes market building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) yesterday demolished a portion of a huge three-storey market building at Sholoshahar Gate area in the port city.

The building housing Sheikh Farid Market narrowed down the Bayezid Bostami Road near Sholoshahar junction.

An eviction team, led by CDA Magistrate Tahera Ferdous, started the demolition drive at around noon to clear off a 15-foot-wide stretch along the road.

The building had been obstructing smooth vehicular movement at the entry point of Bayezid Bostami Road that connects CDA Avenue of Nasirabad in the south and Hathazari Road in the north, said a CDA source.

Dhaka to remain biggest partner of CIDA

Canadian High Commissioner tells PM

UNB, Dhaka

During the meeting with the prime minister, Sproule said that Canadian import from Bangladesh has tremendously increased since the application of duty-free access of Bangladeshi products.

Newly appointed Canadian High Commissioner David Sproule said this when he called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

The Canadian envoy said Bangladesh would continue to enjoy special focus and remain the biggest bilateral partner of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Bangladesh is one of the nine countries in the world, and the only Asian country, to be in the special focus of CIDA.

He termed the progress in the

social sectors, particularly girls' education, as impressive success.

He mentioned the efficient handling of emergency relief and rehabilitation in the wake of the recent devastating floods in Bangladesh.

Sproule also lauded the role of Bangladeshi troops in different UN peacekeeping missions, which he termed as a difficult task.

Terming Bangladesh as a country of ample opportunities and great potentials, Sproule said his biggest effort would be to increase Canadian investment that already exists in different sectors in Bangladesh.

Referring to the nearly 50,000 Bangladeshi living in Canada, he said they were making significant contribution to the Canadian economic activities.

Khaleda sought Canadian assistance for higher training of professionals in the legal profession.

She, through the Canadian High Commissioner, extended greetings to Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin who took to office in July. She also invited her Canadian counterpart to visit Bangladesh at his earliest convenience.

British Council conducts IELTS workshop

The British Council in Dhaka and Chittagong conducted the first session of one-day workshop on IELTS for its registered candidates yesterday, says a press release.

The workshop focussed on different techniques of the IELTS test, including a mock exam, to help candidates achieve better results.

Six more workshops will be held in October.

The registration is on a first come first served basis and the workshops will be conducted in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet.

Interested persons can contact British Council for further information.

GIS to help make dev planning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has installed the Geographical Information System (GIS) and established a comprehensive local level infrastructure database for planning and monitoring development activities especially in rural areas.

This was stated by LGED Chief Engineer Shahidul Hasan at a seminar at Agargaon in the city yesterday.

The LGED, in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), organised the seminar on 'Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) for Development'.

Shahidul Hasan said GIS is an important and modern technology to help produce map through computer for proper development planning.

It is a new approach for gathering spatial information concerning sustainable development and natural resources management, he added.

Shahidul Hasan said the LGED is expanding its GIS technical support to other organisations by providing geographical database and analyti-



State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Ziaul Haq Zia speaks at a seminar on 'Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) for Development' at the LGED seminar room in the city yesterday.

cal support.

Speaking as chief guest at the seminar, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Ziaul Haq Zia expressed his gratitude to JICA and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development for their sincere cooperation in maneuvering the GIS.

He hoped the GIS technology would contribute greatly to identify the problems in the way of our development.

Prof. Eiji Yamaji of Tokyo University presented a keynote paper at the seminar.

Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi and JICA Resident Representative Akio Arai also spoke.

WHO guidelines on safe water released

STAR REPORT

The World Health Organisation (WHO) released its updated Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality (GDWQ) in Geneva yesterday to help detect contamination in drinking water.

The guidelines will help countries like Bangladesh in reducing to a great extent outbreaks of water-borne diseases caused by chemical and bacteriological contamination.

Sources said Bangladesh government will also update its national guideline on safe drinking water in line with the latest WHO guidelines.

"The new guidelines will be launched here formally at a meeting of all the stakeholders shortly.

The department of public health and engineering (DPHE), in association with WHO and arsenic policy support unit (Apsu) of DFID, will jointly organise the meeting," said Md Taufiqul Arif, senior project officer of WHO in Dhaka.

"The revised guidelines will allow public health management to focus on prevention of microbial and chemical contamination of water supplies," said Dr Kerstin Leitner, WHO assistant director-general for Sustainable Development and Healthy Environments.

"This third edition of WHO guidelines is the most significant water-related public health development since the introduction of chlorine," says Dr Michael Rouse, president of the International Water Association (IWA).

The new edition has reviewed and revised the recommended values for chemical limits in drinking water in line with the latest scientific evidence.

The updated guidelines repre-

sent a paradigm shift in advice on how to manage the provision of safe drinking water both in large urban settings and in rural areas of the developed and the developing world, sources added.

Injured BNP activist Murgi Selim dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling BNP activist Mohammad Selim alias Murgi Selim who was injured in a bomb attack at Lalbagh in the city on Friday died at a hospital yesterday.

Selim, 27, succumbed to his injuries at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital at around 2:00am after he was shifted from Dhaka Medical College Hospital the same day.

The bomb attack was a sequel to a factional feud in the Lalbagh BNP unit.

Police, however, could not arrest anybody in this connection.

Another BNP activist Mohammad Ripon was also injured in the attack allegedly by his rival faction led by local commissioner and his brother.

Local Commissioner Ashraf Ali Azam, his brother Newaz, Lamha Sohel, Kala Khokon and several others made the attack, said the investigation officer of the case quoting the injured.

The IO said he was trying to nab the accused but all of them went into hiding.

Selim was also an accused in several cases, police said.