

Use integrated management to ensure pure drinking water

Speakers say at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday underscored the need for an integrated management of using ground water, surface water and rainwater to ensure pure drinking water for the city dwellers.

If it is possible to utilise the integrated use of water cycle in urban areas, the environmental balance and water quality can be ensured, they added.

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) organised the seminar styled "Integrated management of urban water cycle: The Singapore experience" at its office in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, Local Government Division

Secretary Sheikh Khurshid Alam said, "Currently, we extract 80 percent ground water for supply water which is very alarming."

If Wasa takes an initiative to stop extracting ground water, the ministry will give full support in this regard, he added.

The secretary said the experience of Singapore cannot be a role model for Bangladesh. It has to be done based on the perspective of our country.

Emphasising the importance of sanitation, he said, "If we cannot improve sanitation, not only Dhaka city but also the entire country will suffer as well."

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Country Director Prof Ainun

Nishat said the government should adopt a concrete planning considering surplus population of the country and growth rate of population in Dhaka city.

"Climate change and urbanisation both should be considered regarding water supply," he added.

Wasa Managing Director Raihanul Abedin presented a paper with his experience in Singapore and recommended to carry out a feasibility study on reservoirs in Ashulia or other suitable areas.

The study should be undertaken immediately under private-public partnership, waste water and effluent treatment plants should be undertaken immedi-

ately to control pollution in rivers around the city.

Other recommendations include the water wells in adjacent areas of the city should be implemented immediately, construction of several surface water treatment plants to reduce dependency on ground water and dry season flow augmentation in peripheral rivers around the city.

Presided over by Dhaka Wasa Board Chairman Abdullah Harun Pasha, the seminar was addressed by Wasa Board Vice Chairman Prof M Firoz Ahmed and Institute of Water Modelling Executive Director Emdaduddin Ahmed as the special guests.



PHOTO: STAR

Students who achieved GPA-5 in this year's SSC examinations enjoy themselves at a reception programme at Nandan Park in Savar yesterday. The Prothom Alo and Aktel organised the two-day programme for the meritorious students. (Story on Page 2)



PHOTO: STAR

Visiting European Union Parliament Member Nirj Deva calls on Awami League acting president Zillur Rahman at the latter's residence in the city yesterday.

50 percent DIIT scholarship for female students

METRO DESK

Daffodil Institute of IT (DIIT) has declared 50 percent scholarship for the female students and also announced the admission procedure of September 2008 session in BSc (Hons) in Computing and Information Systems and in Business Administration.

The students who have minimum GPA of 3.5 in HSC will get the opportunity to study under British University with 50 percent scholarship, says a press release.

The last date of application for the scholarship is August 28. The initiative has been taken as part of the social responsibilities of the university.

The education system of DIIT is internationally recognised and approved by QCA where all the examinations are held at the British Council, syllabuses are designed in the UK, question papers are set and answer scripts are checked by the UK authority and finally the result, mark sheet and certificate also sent from the country.

Weather Forecast, Warning Signals New system from next month Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new system of weather forecast, warning signals and disaster message will be introduced from the next month so that people can understand them easily and take proper steps to reduce possible damages by natural calamities like flood, cyclone, earthquake and tsunami.

"The new system of weather forecast, warning signals and mass disaster message will be finalised by this month. All government and private organisations across the country will implement the new system from next month," said KH Masud Siddiqui, director general of Disaster Management Bureau (DMB), while talking to The Daily Star after a roundtable yesterday.

The roundtable titled 'The dissemination technique of new weather warning signals and finalisation of mass disaster message' was held at Biam auditorium in the city.

It was organised by DMB under the 'Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP)' of UNDP.

Speaking on the occasion Food and Disaster Management Secretary Mollah Wahiduzzaman said the advisory council signed a file on March 2 for modernising the weather forecast, warning signals and introducing new mass disaster message so that people can easily understand them.

"Time has come to modernise our warning signals with easy language so that people can understand the weather forecast

easily. For this reason, we are going to introduce modern forecast and warning signals. Besides, we will also introduce mass disaster messages where guidelines to save lives and properties will be provided clearly," said Wahiduzzaman while addressing the roundtable as chief guest.

The recommendations that were made at the roundtable would be added to the mass disaster messages so that these can also be disseminated quickly and effectively, said DMB DG.

UNDP Assistant Country Director Tarik-ul-Islam, DMB Director M Abu Sadeque and representatives of Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Unicef, ActionAid, and Care Bangladesh also took part in the roundtable.

Baghdad Express starts journey as inter-city bus service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Baghdad Express began its journey as an inter-city bus service with the luxurious buses of Mercedes-Benz on Dhaka-Chittagong-Cox's Bazar-Benapole route yesterday with a view to introducing quality in bus services.

Secretary to the Communications Ministry Dr Mahbubur Rahman was present at the inaugural ceremony of the service at a city hotel as the chief guest.

Chairman of Baghdad Group Alhaj Md Ferdous Khan said the company is starting its operation with 10 buses of the latest model of Mercedes-Benz.

Some 25-seated buses will also be added to the service afterwards.

The air-conditioned buses are equipped with toilet facilities and have arrangement for recreations while travelling.

Managing Director of Baghdad Group Md Tanvir Khan and consultants Md Mohsin Chowdhury and Md Shaheed were also present.

Three bodies recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the bodies of two young women from the city's Adabar and Dakkhin Khan areas and the body of a six-year-old boy floating on the water of a pond in Tongi.

Adabar police said they recovered the body of the 35-year-old woman in the afternoon from a room of a residential hotel Parul Abasik Hotel at Adabar.

Police said they recovered the body being informed by the hotel staffers.

The staffers said the women who had identified herself as Kalpana and a man identified as Rafiqul Islam boarded a room on the 3rd floor of the hotel on August 3.

But in the morning, one of the hotel cleaners found the woman dead while Rafiqul Islam missing.

DMC morgue sources said the woman was strangled and several injury marks were found at different parts of her body.

In another incident, Dakkhin Khan police in the morning recovered the decomposed body of an unidentified woman, 22, from a house in Goaire area.

Police said the woman was strangled and her body was kept inside a house which was locked from outside.

Meanwhile, Tongi police yesterday afternoon recovered the floating body of a six-year-old unidentified boy from a pond at Auspara in Tongi, saying that the body was wrapped in a sack and was dumped into the pond.

Ensure equal rights of indigenous people

Speakers tell book publication ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a book publication ceremony yesterday called on the government to give recognition to the contribution made by the indigenous people to the country's liberation war.

They also demanded steps to establish equal rights of the ethnic communities.

The book titled 'Oshru-Sagore Milito Pran: Muktiyuddhe Adivasi O Cha Janagosthi' (Life united in the ocean of tears: Role of indigenous people and tea community) by Prof Mesbah Kamal and Zannat-e-Ferdousi, was launched at the National Press Club in the city.

Utsa Publications has published the 120-page book and its price is Tk 140.

Addressing as the chief guest, Sultana Kamal, a human rights activist and former adviser to the caretaker government, said, "We must recognise the contribution of the indigenous people to our liberation war."

Appreciating the works of the authors, she said, "This book has given us the opportunity to acknowledge their (indigenous people) contribution."

Nasiruddin Yusuf, a freedom

fighter and cultural personality, said the indigenous people are deprived of various opportunities, although the constitution has given equal rights to every people in this country.

Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma said, "We are yet to eliminate the communal forces and corruption from our country, which was one of the objectives of the liberation war."

He also said that those who have been at the helm of the country since independence did not represent the poor people.



PHOTO: STAR

Guests hold copies of a book titled 'Oshru-Sagore Milito Pran: Muktiyuddhe Adivasi O Cha Janagosthi' at a publication ceremony at the National Press Club yesterday. From left are Prof Mesbah Kamal, Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, Nasiruddin Yusuf, former adviser Sultana Kamal, Mafidul Haq and Zannat-e-Ferdousi.

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