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DISTRIBUTION OF FREE TEXTBOOKS

Monitoring lapses cause slight delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The advisory committee on printing and distribution of free textbooks for primary and secondary schools has identified some lapses including lack of monitoring for the delay in distribution of textbooks.

"Lack of monitoring was one of the major reasons behind the slight delay in distribution of free textbooks. One-third of the monitors did not play their due role," committee Chief Prof Akhtaruzzaman said after holding the advisory body's last meeting at the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) yesterday.

The committee was formed on June 13 last year to oversee printing and distribution of free textbooks for academic year 2010.

He said the committee would recommend giving such responsibilities to efficient people in the future to complete the massive task of distributing free textbooks smoothly.

The students, who have not yet got text-

books, will get them within a week, he said.

The committee chief said the slight delay in distribution of textbooks would not hamper the academic life of students to a great extent.

"The percentage of students, who did not receive textbooks, is small," he said.

The committee also identified late start to the massive task as another reason behind the delay and would recommend starting the process in January instead of May or June, said Prof Akhtaruzzaman.

"The tasks of collecting papers, preparing lists of recipients and floating tenders should begin as early as possible," he said.

He said they would suggest enhancing coordination among the ministries and directorates concerned to expedite the whole process.

The advisory body would recommend verifying the qualification of printers before giving them responsibilities and further decentralisation of the printing work, he said.

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Idea Cup goes to Sri Lanka

BISHWAJIT ROY

Sri Lanka lifted the Idea Cup at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday with a four-wicket win over India in a final that started hopelessly but finished as an exciting contest.

The Lankan win however kept one notion intact -- win the toss, win the match. And it was no exception in the final after Lady Luck smiled on Lankan captain Kumar Sangakkara, who called the coin correctly for a fifth successive time and rightly sent India in to bat.

After losing five wickets for 60 runs India still put up a fighting total of 245 thanks to a fantastic hundred from young batsman Suresh Raina.

But the Lankan experience

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Sri Lanka team members party on the podium with the Idea Cup after defeating India in the final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur last night.

PHOTO: STAR



Fakhruddin refutes report on his 'dual citizenship'

STAR REPORT

Former chief adviser to a caretaker government Fakhruddin Ahmed said he holds citizenship of only Bangladesh.

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BURIGANGA RUBBISH BIWTA gets 2 dumping sites

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The stalemate arising from absence of a suitable dumping site is temporarily over with the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) finding two privately owned sites at Jhaochar and Shoalmachi yesterday.

The BIWTA officials said that so far 2,500 metric tons of sludge and solid rubbish have been removed from the riverbed of Buriganga around Sadarghat area. Once the disposal picks up momentum, the clean up operation would be expanded, they said.

"We are learning from the whole process of cleaning the riverbed and disposal of the rubbish," said Md Nurul Anwar, BIWTA's Superintending Engineer.

The riverbed cleanup operation came to a standstill three

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BNP standing body discusses PM's trip

Statement Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly-formed National Standing Committee of BNP sat for the first time at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office last night with her in the chair.

Party sources said the meeting was called to discuss the outcomes of the prime minister's visit to India. They said the issue of the party's return to parliament was also on the agenda.

After the meeting senior BNP leader RA Gani said, "This

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Boro irrigation to get uninterrupted power

6-hr every day for 2 months till mid-April

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will ensure uninterrupted power supply in rural areas for six hours every day for two months to facilitate irrigation of Boro crop, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said yesterday.

The Rural Electrification Board will install over 500 transformers in various areas to make sure that farmers get incessant power supply from 11:00pm to 5:00am every day from mid-February to mid-April, the minister told journalists after an inter-ministerial meeting between the ministries of agriculture and power.

"I am ready to face criticism from some

people in cities but I want to make sure that farmers get uninterrupted electricity supply during Boro season," said.

The government this year has set a production target of 1.9 crore tonnes of rice in 48 lakh hectares of land in Boro season. Of the irrigation pumps in the country, 2.69 lakh are run by electricity while 14.25 lakh are run by diesel.

The departments concerned would be instructed to ensure that farmers don't operate pumps in the daytime, the agriculture minister said.

Besides, the committees monitoring the power situation at district and upazila levels

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

PM rules out food crisis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday ruled out any possibility of a food crisis in Bangladesh, saying the country has an ample reserve of food grains.

During a press conference at ITC Maurya Sheraton Hotel in Delhi she said, "There will be no food crisis in Bangladesh. We have a reserve of 11 lakh metric tonnes of food grains... and the Boro and Aman production have been good."

Asked about Bangladesh's import of food grains from India in the past, she said "We

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



To receive the prime minister on her return from India, ruling Awami League and its associate bodies brought out indiscriminate processions across the city resulting in sufferings to thousands yesterday. The photo taken on the Airport Road in the afternoon shows an unending gridlock.

PHOTO: STAR

Industrial Police taking shape

Committee formed; force to include fire fighters, ansars

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday formed a seven-member high-profile committee for the formation of a new police force styled Industrial Police.

The new police force will accommodate fire fighters and ansar members for policing problems of industries in the country's four industrial zones.

The committee, headed by Golam Hossain, additional secretary of the home ministry, has been asked to submit a complete report on raising the special police force by February 28.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun told reporters after an inter-ministerial meeting at the Secretariat.

The meeting discussed elaborately the formation of the Industrial Police with inclusion of firefighters and Ansars for effective function of the force, she said.

"We have decided in principle to deploy industrial police as soon as possible to check unpleasant incidents in the sector, especially in garment factories."

She said earlier, the home ministry had put forward a

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11 children rescued in Bandarban

3 'traffickers' held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'ban

Police arrested three persons on charges of trafficking children and rescued 11 indigenous children in raids from residential hotels in Bandarban town yesterday.

Acting on a tip off, Bandarban Sadar thana police raided four residential hotels at around 12.30pm and rescued the children. Police arrested the traffickers when they tried to flee.

Bandarban Sadar thana duty officer Saiful Islam said one of the suspected traffickers Gorden Tripura, 33, hails from Thanchi upazila.

He said Abdul Karim, 23, and Shams, in primary interrogation, admitted to police

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BRAWL WITH SI Students lay siege to Rab HQ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred students of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University yesterday laid a one-and-a-half-hour siege to Rapid Action Battalion headquarters following a scuffle

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Prayer Timing		
January 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

70 Pakistani VIPs on Taliban hit list

ANI, Peshawar

Almost 70 Pakistani VIPs, including the current and former chief ministers of NWFP, leaders of political parties, sitting inspector generals of police and heads of paramilitary forces, are on the hit list of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), it has emerged.

"We have managed to get a new list of possible targets of TTP from a reliable source working closely with commander of Darra Adam Khel, Tariq Afridi. The militants affiliated with Afridi are mainly based in Feroze Khel, Dara Garhi and Mirbak areas," The Nation quoted sources, as saying.

The TTP hit-list includes: NWFP Chief

Minister Amir Haider Khan Hoti, former chief minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao, President Awami National Party, Asfandyar Wali Khan, JUI-F Chief, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, MPA, Sikandar Sherpao, Inspector General of NWFP Police, Malik Naveed, Commandant Frontier Constabulary, Sifwat Ghayyur, DG FIA, Zafullah Khan, Chief Secretary NWFP, Javed Iqbal, Additional Chief Secretary FATA, Habibullah Khan, and CCPO Liaquat Ali Khan.

The names of provincial ministers include: Senior Minister Bashir Bilour, Information Minister Mian Itikhar Hussain, Minister for Prisons Mian Nisar Gul kakakhel, and Labour Minister Sher Azam Wazir.

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OnlinePoll

Do you think Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India is successful?

Yes (61.0%)
 No (35.4%)
 No Comments (3.6%)

Total votes: 1460

TODAY'S POLL

Who would you blame if Bangladesh misses the international deadline to introduce machine-readable passport and machine-readable visa by April 1?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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To honour **Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed**, Founder-Chairperson, BRAC - the prefects of the Senior Sections of **Bangladesh International Tutorial** handed him a calendar of 2010 - which they had made depicting the work of BRAC.

The school congratulates him on his being conferred a Knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II of England.

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