

Dhaka elected vice-president of CIRDAP meeting

BSS, Jakarta

Bangladesh was elected vice-president of the 24th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of the regional forum CIRDAP yesterday as the delegates from member countries showered praises on Dhaka for its contributions to the cause of poverty alleviation and rural development in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Dhaka-based Centre for Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) was set up in 1979 with the active support of the FAO and other donor nations and agencies.

Bangladesh played a key role in the formation of such an inter-governmental organisation whose task is to reduce poverty and accelerate the pace of rural development in the region through collective efforts.

Secretaries of the government are the members of the EC and Bangladesh's rural development and cooperative secretary Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury was unanimously elected as the vice-chairperson of the EC meeting.

our staff correspondent adds: Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will leave for Jakarta tonight to attend the 14th meeting of the Governing Council (GC-14) of Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP).

The two-day ministerial meet-

ing on strategies and programmes for rural development will be inaugurated by Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri at 10:00am on Monday at the Indonesian State Palace. Rural development planners and policymakers of countries of the Asia-Pacific region will attend the meeting.

Thirteen ministers in charge of rural development and agriculture, all GC-14 members, will discuss strategies to alleviate rural poverty in the region, official sources said.

The GC-14 meeting will be preceded by a two-day meeting of the CIRDAP's Executive Committee comprising secretaries of rural development departments of the 13-member countries.

Official sources said Mannan Bhuiyan, who is also the secretary general of BNP, will call on President Megawati Soekarnoputri on Monday to discuss bilateral and regional issues.

He will also meet several Indonesian ministers, ministers from participant countries and CIRDAP high officials during his stay in Jakarta.

Tareque Rahman, first joint secretary general of BNP, will be the acting secretary general of the party during Mannan Bhuiyan's absence. Bhuiyan is expected to return on August 30.



The Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation stages a demonstration in the city yesterday to press for its 12-point demand.

PHOTO: STAR

'Raise awareness to protect environment'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Participants at a conference of doctors yesterday called for raising awareness to protect the environment.

They urged all, including the civil society, to help ensure a sound environment free from all kinds of pollution.

The third national conference of the Doctors for Health and Environment (DHE) was held at the Planning and Development Academy auditorium in the city.

Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) and vice-chancellor of BRAC University, attended the conference as chief guest while Prof. A K M Abdus Salam, founding president of DHE, presided.

Prof. Chowdhury said all should come forward to work together to ensure a sound environment.

He also urged the doctors to take effective steps to contain the environmental pollution.

Prof Nazmun Nahar, chairman of Sammelon Prostuti Parishad, said poverty is one of the reasons for environment pollution. Most of the poor people are not even aware of it.

She called for steps to raise the living standard of poor people and ensure healthy environment in the

working places.

Abed Khan, editor of the Bhorer Kagoj, said that efforts to protect environment might face serious setback if proper steps are not taken to check noise pollution.

Dr Abdul Matin, general secretary of DHE, said mass awareness campaign is essential for ensuring a pollution-free environment.

He stressed the need for framing a national strategy for eco-friendly schemes.

Former minister AMA Muhit, former registrar of Bangladesh Medical Association Dr Sharfuddin Ahmed, and Dr Mostak Hossain of the Doctors Forum, also spoke.

Later, Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury gave away 'Awards of Doctors for Health and Environment' to Dr Kamal Hossain, Dr Ahmed Rafique, Dr A K M Abdus Salam and Dr Mahfuzur Rahman for their outstanding contribution to the society.

Super six round of inter-school debate from Sept 9

CU CORRESPONDENT

The super six round of the Clinic Plus-Prothom Alo inter-school parliamentary debate competition will begin on September 9.

'Dristi', a local cultural organisation, will conduct the competition.

Chittagong Government High School, Dr Khastagir School,

Kapasgola City Corporation School, Silver Bells School, Ankur Society School and Meron Sun School will take part in the super six round.

After the semi-final in the super six round, a Baroari competition will be held.

The first and second rounds of the competition were held last month.

101 JU teachers urge authorities to meet their demands

JU CORRESPONDENT

A total of 101 teachers of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday urged the authorities concerned to meet their three-point demand including the naming of the auditorium after Zahir Raihan.

In a statement, they said Zahir Raihan made significant contribution to cultural and political arena of the country.

Besides, the cultural and political activists on the campus have been demanding for long to name the auditorium after him.

So we demanded of the university authorities to name the auditorium after Zahir Raihan, the statement added.

The other demands of the teachers are the formulation of laws against sexual harassment of students and the setting up of a Shaheed Minar on the campus.

The teachers also expressed deep concern over the attacks of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on general students including the activists of Progressive Students' Alliance and Jahangirnagar University Sangskritik Jote.

They urged the university authorities to take immediate action against the JCD cadres who attacked the students.

The JCD activists started beating up the students as they demanded the naming of the auditorium after Zahir Raihan while the JCD men wanted to name it after Ziaur Rahman.

Rahman.

The signatories to the statement included Anu Mohammad, Shah Sufi Mustafijur Rahman, Shormind Nilormy, Mohammad Rafique, Khaled Hossain, Sharif Enamul Kabir, Raihan Rhyne, Nasim Akhter Hossain and Swadhin Sen.

Govt college teachers' strike Sept 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of government colleges under the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Education Cadre will observe a strike across the country on September 25 to press for their various demands, says a press release.

A decision to this effect was taken yesterday at a meeting presided over by Prof Mohammad Kafil Uddin, president of the BCS General Education Association.

The demands included cancellation of harassment-transfer of the leaders of the association and withdrawal of officials including deputy secretary from the posts of education cadre.

Teachers of 251 government colleges, 11 teachers training colleges and three government alia madrassahs will observe the strike.

1,974 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested a total of 1,974 people, including three listed criminals, during their ongoing country-wide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

They also recovered eight firearms, two other weapons and 111 rounds of bullet. And six cases were filed against 15 people under the Arms Act, said a police headquarters release.