

Five NGOs to implement Nat'l Nutrition Project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After almost three and a half years, the government has finally approved the applications of five non-government organisations to implement the national nutrition project (NNP).

The NGOs are BRAC, TMSS, SARD, Heed Bangladesh and Shed.

"By signing the agreement, the health ministry has solved the long standing dispute over the selection of NGOs to work in 16 area packages (APs) spreading over 76 upazilas to implement the project, said an official of NNP.

However, there still remains seven APs covering 30 upazilas to be cleared by the World Bank for financing the project.

In addition, the vital post of advisor, who would coordinate between the project office, the health ministry

and the World Bank, is still vacant.

The NGOs would implement the area-based nutrition components under the NNP up to 2006.

The actual field level activities would not start before December this year as training, printing of training modules and other works are still pending.

The NNP, to be implemented in 105 upazilas, aims at reducing acute malnutrition, particularly, among the women and children.

When implemented, it would reduce the incidence of low birth weight, malnutrition, anemia, goiter and night blindness.

Some two and a half lakh community nutrition organisers, volunteers, promoters and other field officers would work with the NGOs to reach the goals.

Morshed, Reaz greet counterparts on Ramadan

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman yesterday greeted their counterparts of different countries of the Muslim World on the occasion of holy Ramadan.

In separate messages, they said teachings and inspirations of holy Ramadan would help unite the Muslim Ummah and contribute greatly to the advancement and prosperity of Islam.

They wished their counterparts good health, happiness and success and the brotherly people of Muslim Ummah continued peace, progress and prosperity.