



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a discussion at the Priyanka Community Centre at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday. Awami Jubo League organised the meeting.

Desco inks agreement with 2 US cos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Desco signed a multilateral partnership agreement with two US based utility companies aiming to improve its client service and performance through exchange of information and experience.

Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (Desco) signed the agreement with Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD) and Clark Public Utilities (CPU) at a city hotel yesterday with Desco secretary Nurul Huda, Larry Bekkedahl of CPU and Kenneth Floyd of SMUD as representatives of their respective organisations.

USAID and US Energy Association has jointly organised the partnership signing ceremony.

The organiser said the agreement is expected to help Desco learn from these companies how to provide better service to the consumers and

reduce system loss and improve efficiency.

Under the agreement, all the three signatories will be benefited from one another's experiences through workshops and exchange of visits, they added.

Addressing the occasion, Desco Chairman Md Tauhidul Islam said Rural utility companies should run on no-profit no-loss basis while city utility companies like Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa) and Desco should run on profit basis.

He informed that Desco would float its shares in stock exchange very soon.

Desco technical director Manzur Rahman and Deputy General Manager M Shajahan, Kenneth Floyd of SMUD, Larry Bekkedahl of CPU, USEA deputy programme manager Sridhar Samudrala and Senior Programme Coordinator Jason Huncok also spoke on the occasion.



Women journalists who were awarded for their contribution to journalism pose for photograph with the guests at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

11 women journalists awarded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 11 women journalists were awarded for their contribution to journalism at a reception yesterday.

Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJ) accorded the reception at the National Press Club.

Sultana Rahman, now working with Ntv as staff reporter, was given the best reporter award for her reporting while working with The Daily Star.

Sumana Sharmeen, assistant editor of the Prothom Alo, was given best management editor award.

Sitara Musa, a veteran journalist, was given lifetime achievement award for

her contribution to journalism. Each of them got certificate, crest and prize bonds worth Tk10,000.

The remaining eight journalists are Supreete Dhar, sub-editor of the Prothom Alo, Shila Afroz, staff reporter of the Amar Desh, Rowshan Ara Jolly, shift-in-charge of the Janakantha,

Nasrat Arshiana Chowdhury, staff reporter of the Manabzamin, Jannatul Bakia Keka, staff reporter of the Channel i, Salma Yasmin Rita, shift-in-charge of the Bhorer Kagoj, Rozina Islam, staff reporter of the Sangbad and Yasmin Rima, editor of the weekly Pathak Barta of Comilla. They were given crests and certificates.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed

handed over the awards to the recipients.

He said women are being empowered in the country and holding very important posts in many sectors.

He underscored the need for proper training of journalists as they have to discharge duties with great responsibility.

Suneeta Mukherjee, country representative of UNFPA Bangladesh, Nathalia Feinberg, deputy head of the Danish Embassy, Britt Falkman Hagstrom, ambassador of Sweden, Aud Lise Norheim, ambassador of Norway, and Richard R Larison, CEO of Apollo Hospitals spoke at the function with Nayeemul Islam Khan, BCDJ president and editor of the Amader Shomoy in the chair.

DU ADMISSION TEST

Seat plan for Kha unit

Admission test for Kha unit of Dhaka University will be held at 10:00am on Friday, says a press release.

This year a total of 16306 candidates will sit for the test. The applicants are asked to reach the examination hall by 9:30am on the exam day.

The seat plans are as follows: Roll number 200001 to 203071 at the Arts Building, 203072 to 203695 at Lecture Theatre Building, 203696 to 206381 at Business Studies faculty Building, 206382 to 206985 at Institute of Business Administration (IBA), 206986 to 207562 at Dhaka University Central Library, 207563 to 207804 at Institute of Modern Language (IML), 207805 to 208442 at Institute of Education and Research (IER), 208443 to 208866 at Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR), 208867 to 209122 at Department of Law (Kazi Motahar Hossain Building), 209123 to 209439 at Department of Geography and Environment (Kazi Motahar Hossain Building), 209440 to 209960 at Department of Mathematics (Kazi Motahar Hossain Building), 209961 to 210274 at Department of Statistics (Kazi Motahar Hossain Building), 210275 to 210578 at Department of Microbiology, 210579 to 210882 at Department of Computer Science

and Engineering, 210883 to 211179 at Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, 211180 to 2111570 at Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, 2111572 to 2111806 at Department of Chemistry, 2111807 to 212336 at Science Library, 212337 to 212911 at Department of Physics, 212912 to 213674 at Curzon Hall Examination Hall, 213675 to 213956 at Department of Applied Physics, Electronics and Communication Engineering, 213957 to 214224 at Department of Soil, Water and Environment, 214225 to 214656 at Department of Botany, 214657 to 214953 at Department of Zoology, 214954 to 215486 at Department of Biochemistry, 215487 to 215857 at Department of Geology, 215858 to 216153 at Department of Applied Chemistry and Chemical Technology, 216154 to 216422 at Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT), 216423 to 217275 at University Laboratory School and College, 217276 to 217643 at Teacher Student Centre (TSC), 217644 to 220000 at Ideal College, 65 Central Road, Dhaka.

The detailed seat plan will be pasted in front of the Arts Building and at all centres on the exam day and will be available at the website of the university at www.univdhaka.edu

Two killed as minibus hits autorickshaw in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were killed and three others injured when a minibus hit an autorickshaw in which they were travelling at Bijoy Sarani in the city yesterday.

The dead were identified as Ferdousi Begum, 35, wife of Abdul Qader, a Bangladeshi expatriate living in the USA, and Majibul Haque, 70, father of Ferdousi's sister-in-law. The injured are Ferdousi's daughters Hazera Akhter, 17, and Khodeza Akhter, 10, and autorickshaw driver Mohammad Ratan, 30.

They were going to the US embassy for visa purposes from their residence at Lalkuthi in Mirpur at around 5:45am, police said.

The injured were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), but the girls were later shifted to a private clinic.

Ferdousi's brother Abul Hossain told reporters at the DMCH that all the family members of his sister were due to attend a visa interview in the US Embassy yesterday.

Police seized the Mirpur-Gulistan minibus and arrested its driver.

GOOD NEWS for Women Entrepreneurs

BRAC has initiated a Financial Assistance Program for women entrepreneurs engaged in small business in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi, Sylhet metropolitan areas, and Jessore, Kushtia, Faridpur, Pabna, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Comilla and Mymensingh Districts.

If you are an enterprising woman entrepreneur, just fill the attached form provided below and return by courier service in the following address. BRAC staff will then contact you.

We might be able to provide you with Financial Assistance from Taka 20 Thousand to 3 Lacs.

Name of the Entrepreneur: _____
 Father's/Husband's Name: _____
 Present Address: _____
 Phone No (If any): _____

BRAC, Dhanmondi
 House 62/1, Road 12/A, Dhanmondi Residential Area
 Dhaka 1209, Phone: 0172133655, 02-8110337

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Contact: Ms. Lilia Tan-Habaccon, Registrar
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