



Zero Point area in the city looks deserted during hartal hours yesterday. The 14-party opposition combine enforced a countrywide 36-hour shutdown from 6:00am yesterday to press its demands for electoral reforms and resignation of the chief election commissioner.

Attack on garment workers at DEPZ condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two human rights organisations yesterday condemned the attack on garment workers including a pregnant woman at Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) in Savar on Monday.

They also demanded punishment of the persons responsible for the attack and removal of on-duty officials.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, in a press release yesterday, said when the workers of Youngone Group were protesting the payment of half-day salary for May 31, some officials attacked them injuring 40 workers including a pregnant woman Lata.

The parishad demanded immediate fulfilment of the workers' demand and treatment of the injured.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association has also demanded exemplary punishment of factory manager.

'Around 8 pc suffer from thalassemia in S Asia'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

HSBC-Red Crescent Thalassemia Research Centre, first of its kind in the port city, was inaugurated here on Monday.

Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) Advocate Harun Al Rashid MP inaugurated the centre at Jamison Red Crescent Maternity Hospital Building at Anderkilla.

Chittagong District Red Crescent unit established the centre under the auspices of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC), sources said.

Speakers at the inaugural ceremony said around 3 to 8 per cent people of South Asian countries suffer from thalassemia, a disease one inherits from parents through red blood corpuscles.

The thalassemia patients are vulnerable to mechanical injury that might lead the patients to death, cautioned concerned specialists at

the ceremony.

For survival, the thalassemia patients need to get blood transfusion done at regular intervals, which is very expensive, they said.

Advocate Harun addressed the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest with Acting President of Chittagong District Red Crescent Unit Dr Shahadat Hossain in the chair.

HSBC Chief Executive Officer Steve Banner, acting Secretary General of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society ASM Akram and former principal of Chittagong Medical College (CMC) Professor Dr Chowdhury Mahmud were present as special guests.

Addressing the ceremony, Advocate Harun emphasised the importance of finding ways to prevent thalassemia before the birth of a baby since treatment of the deadly disease is yet to be discovered.

He said the research at the newly established centre would make

efforts to do something in this regard.

BRCS chairman further said the research centre would play a role in creating mass awareness against the disease in Chittagong.

Steve Banner in his speech said HSBC is always trying to contribute to various charitable works for the cause of humanity while carrying out banking activities in 76 countries and territories in the world.

In this respect, he said HSBC feels proud of being a part of the centre making a donation of Tk 42 lakh for it.

Dr Minhaj, in-charge of the centre, told The Daily Star that the centre installed a modern Haemoglobin Electrophoresis Machine to detect the thalassemia.

The centre would have five beds and offer the patients blood transfusion at only Tk 600 as against Tk 2000 charged for each transfusion outside, he informed.

MIRPUR HOUSING ESTATE 600 flats to be distributed today

BSS, Dhaka

The National Housing Authority (NHA) will distribute 600 flats located at Mirpur Housing Estate in the city to 600 persons from among the 7,649 applicants through lottery.

The lottery will be held today in presence of the applicants at 11:30am at Osmani Memorial Hall. Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas will be present at the function as the chief guest, an official handout said.

The flats have been constructed to sell those to the people of the limited income group on a higher-purchase basis. Sizes of the flats are 1,000, 800 and 500 square feet.

The applicants have been requested to take their seats in the Osmani Memorial Hall by 11:00am.

ELECTORAL ROLL JSD demands resignation of CEC

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Left leaning Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haque Inu and General Secretary Syed Jafar Sajjad yesterday stoned the Election Commission (EC) decision of updating the voters' roll without going from door to door to collect information. Terming the attempt as a forgery, they demanded resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner and the two other commissioners.

"The Election Commission should be recast on the basis of consensus and only then an acceptable updating of the existing roll of 2000 can be done," they said in a statement.

Tk 23.82 lakh received for AMCH in May

Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) received over Tk 23 lakh 81 thousand from 18 new donors in May, says a press release.

They are - Dr Aminul Haq and Chhabi Amin, Tk 6 lakh 89 thousand 109.65; Kanchan Mian, Tk 6 lakh; anonymous lady, Tk 5 lakh; Iftekhar Ahmed Nasir, Tk 2 lakh; Nazma Islam, Firoza Mahmud and Mian Fazle Karim, Tk 1 lakh each; Mansurur Rahman, Tk 25 thousand; S N Billah, Tk 20 thousand; Firoza Haq, Tk 15 thousand; Sohel Haq, Tk 6 thousand; Amina Begum, Sahara Begum and Himel, Tk 5 thousand each; Ummey Saira, Tk 4.5 thousand; Sultana Sharmin, Tk 4 thousand and Anwar Hossain Choudhury, Tk 3 thousand.

The total amount in the AMCH Fund now stands at Tk 30 crore 15 lakh 17 thousand, which includes the amount received from individuals and organisations, proceeds of the AMCH Lottery-2005 and a grant of Tk 10 crore from the Ministry of Social Affairs of the government.

As the world class 500-bed cancer hospital needs an estimated cost of about Tk 200 crore, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), the sponsor of the hospital, has urged all to come forward to donate for early construction of the hospital.

It may be noted here that there are provisions of dedicating bed, ward or wing of the hospital in the name of one's near and dear ones and also of being enlisted as a sponsor of the hospital by donating specific amount of money.

Meanwhile, construction work of the hospital is progressing fast as per schedule at Uttara in the city. The two basements have already been constructed and now construction works of the first floor is going on.

Donors to help tackle city flood, waterlogging during this monsoon

The World Bank (WB) is working closely with other donors to assist the government to provide a better urban environment for its citizens through improved water supply, sanitation and drainage services, says a press release.

A World Bank mission recently visited Bangladesh to examine preparations for the proposed Dhaka Chittagong Urban Flood Mitigation and Sanitation Improvement Project.

It also discussed short-term measures to help Dhaka cope with the upcoming monsoons.

The proposed Dhaka Chittagong Urban Flood Mitigation and Sanitation Improvement Project supports the government's goal of Sanitation for All by 2010.

The project is expected to include the provision of water and sanitation services to low income communities.

It will also improve Dhaka's storm water drainage systems and pumping stations in order to alleviate serious flooding and waterlogging in the capital.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are preparing projects with Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) and Chittagong Water and Sewerage Authority (CWASA).

All donors are coordinating their interventions to support the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and Cooperatives to provide an integrated programme of support to urban water supply and sanitation

sector.

The government signed a Project Preparation Facility (PPF) in 2005 to undertake the preparatory works for the project.

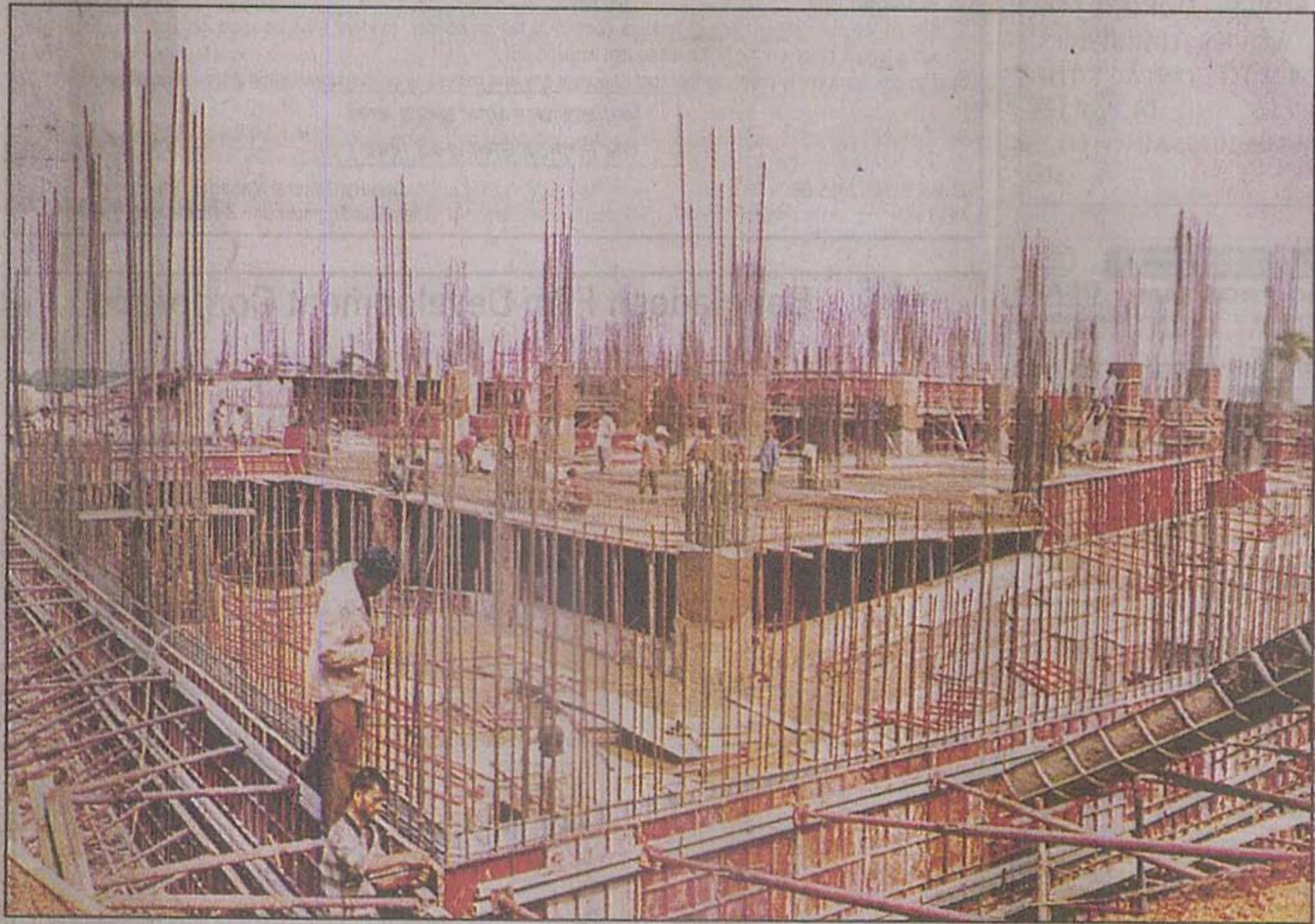
These include detailed technical designs, a performance improvement programme for DWASA, preparation of master plan for CWASA and a social and environmental management framework.

During its visit the mission suggested to the government that it undertakes an emergency programme with additional short-term measures to prepare Dhaka for the upcoming monsoons.

This would involve identifying priority sites within Dhaka that are likely to affect the city's storm water drainage, and to ensure coordinated efforts between DWASA, Dhaka City Corporation and the residents in those areas.



A foreign national and other home-bound passengers with their luggage wait outside Zia International Airport in the city during hartal hours yesterday as they find it difficult to get any transport to reach their destinations.



Construction work of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) is progressing fast as per schedule at Uttara in the city. The two basements have already been completed and now construction of the first floor is going on.

Screening of three films suspended

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Film Censor Board has suspended screening of three Bangla feature films in all cinema halls for showing censored indecent and objectionable scenes.

The films are Premika Chhintai, Bishakto Chokh and Rasta, said a PID handout.

It said the ban was imposed as some movie houses, including Bondhu and Mani Mahal of Narayanganj and Bilashi of Feni were found screening the censored obscene parts of the films.

'Numerical method can improve weather forecast'

A five-day workshop on Numerical Weather Prediction using the Florida State University Model was held at Bangladesh Computer Council in the city recently, says a press release.

In the country, the weather prediction is done using empirical methods based on subjective experience and statistical techniques. As a result, weather prediction is done only for 24 hours and that too is not very accurate.

But the numerical method can predict weather up to a week in advance.

Dr Vijay Kumer Tallapragada, who is working at the US National

Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), conducted the training from June 3 to 7.

Twenty-four participants from Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Saarc Meteorological Research Centre and different universities in the country took part in the workshop.

Mian Mushtaque Ahmed, secretary to the Ministry of Science and Information and Communication Technology, inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest. He also distributed certificates at the end of the workshop.

Bangladesh Computer Council

has a Supercomputer. A numerical model of the weather developed by Professor TN Krishnomurti of Florida State University was installed at the Supercomputer.

Prof Krishnomurti has donated his model to Bangladesh without charging any fees. He also arranged training for Bangladeshi scientists in the operation of the model.

When the model becomes operational, forecasting of weather will improve considerably. This will make forecast of cyclones and floods in advance and will be very useful to the farmers.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Novo Nordisk is a healthcare company and a world leader in diabetes care. The company has the broadest diabetes product portfolio in the industry, including the most advanced products within the area of insulin delivery systems. With headquarters in Denmark, Novo Nordisk employs approximately 22,000 full-time employees in 79 countries, and markets its products in 179 countries. Novo Nordisk A/S, Bangladesh is pleased to announce that Transcom Distribution Company Limited (TDCL) has been appointed as its Distributor in Bangladesh. TDCL has already started sales and distribution through its 15 Branch offices nationwide to the chemists at wholesale and retail markets and institutions of the country. Novo Nordisk A/S, Bangladesh requests all chemists and institutions to place their orders to the respective Marketing Executives or contact directly to the Branches of TDCL immediately for Novo Nordisk Insulin and other products, which TDCL will deliver within shortest possible time.

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