

Normalcy returns to BTV

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cers' Welfare Association and the Non-gazetted Employees' Welfare Association, during the meeting held at the TV Bhawan, accepted the go-vernment decision to appoint Mostafizur Rahman, Director, Development as the new General Manager of BTV.

An earlier order of the ministry, revoking the appointment of Nawazesh Ali Khan as GM in addition to his duties as Director, VTO, within two days of appointment sparked resentment among the employees and officials who had announced a series of action programmes. Khan was appointed GM on September 24 but the ministry cancelled that order on September 26.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by Information Secretary Dr. Ekram Hossain, Director General of BTV Habibul Rahman, Deputy Director General (Programme) Mostafa General (Programme) Mostafa Kamal Syed and Director (Admin) Chowdhury Fakhruzzaman.

When contacted over telephone, Information Minister Nazmul Huda told The Daily

'Anti-plague drug available'

The medicines for treatment of plague specially tetracycline capsule and streptomycin injection are produced in abundance in Bangladesh and their supply and market price are normal, according to a press release of the Directorate of Drug Administration yesterday, reports BSS.

The Drug Administration dismissed any reason for anxiety or fear in this regard and has requested all concerned to maintain normal supply and price of these medicines.

Star: "The matter has been resolved. There was some confusion among a section of employees and officials which has been dispelled after today's meeting."

He said, "The previous decision was taken in my absence, which has now been amended and Mostafizur Rahman appointed GM."

Indian plague

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were seven confirmed cases in the region, but they reversed themselves today, saying they had spoken before definitive test results were available.

In a puzzling development, the NIDC said three or four of the Delhi victims had no connection with Surat, raising questions as to how they contracted the disease.

The Delhi government today ordered all schools and cinemas in the Indian capital to close immediately to help check the spread of plague, a senior official said.

Lawyers-BMA

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will file a writ petition in the High Court next Sunday. Dr. Mohiuddin told The Daily Star over telephone last night.

The legal notice said, "You (both the doctors and bureaucrats) are continuing your actions and inactions knowing fully well that such a situation would lead to more deaths and aggravate the suffering... and as such why you should not be criminally liable for the deaths and sufferings."

It further said their actions, inactions and omissions are also contrary to their professional ethics and code of conduct.

Govt threatens doctors

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note.

The press noted with regret that despite sympathetic gestures shown by the government the response of the BMA was negative.

"At a time when the country is facing the danger emanating from the outbreak of plague in a neighbouring country, there is every need to mobilise all our human and material resources to protect the people from this scourge. In such a

Durga Puja from Oct 10

The five-day Sharad Durga Puja, the main religious festival of the Hindu community, will be celebrated from October 10 to October 14 throughout the country, according to a press release of the Bangladesh Puja Uddipan Parishad yesterday, reports BSS.

In a statement, president and general secretary of the Parishad K. B. Roy Chowdhury and Swapan Kumar Saha appealed to the leaders of all political parties and various socio-cultural organisations not to give any such programmes during the five days of Durga Puja that might interrupt the normal celebration of Sharadipuja. They sought cooperation of all in this regard.

No democratically elected government can remain a silent spectator when the people are suffering for want of proper medical treatment and care which are recognised in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh as one of the fundamental necessities of life."

The present elected government is fully aware of the genuine problems being faced by many sectors including doctors," it said, adding: "The government has been trying sincerely within its limited resources to solve the problems of the members of the BCS (Health) cadre.

The government press note, declaring the doctors services essential, urged the BCS (Health) cadre members to resume their duties at once under intimation to the Director General of Health Services, failing which the government will be compelled to reluctantly allow the law to take its own course."



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia caressing some children at the inaugural ceremony of the World Children's Day and Children Right Week-94 at Osmany Memorial Hall in the city yesterday.

— PID photo

Children's Rights Week opens

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decades. This resulted in a skilled and active workforce and now they are enjoying the fruits of their investments, she observed.

"Inshaallah we will also step into the new century as a competent nation if we can implement our programmes for children's welfare," Begum Zia hoped.

She said her government has attached importance to children's welfare and establishment of 'children families' for the orphans as well as rehabilitation of the handicapped children.

She said the government has strengthened the expanded programme for immunisation and introduced compulsory free primary education for removing illiteracy.

Besides, all primary schools in 1,000 unions have been brought under the Food-for-Education Programme — free education upto Class Ten for girl students in rural areas and stipend for the girls have also been introduced, she said.

The Prime Minister informed her audience that a 'children policy' was being formulated and after its finalization a Children's Welfare Council would be set up and more elaborate programmes taken up for the development of children.

She recalled that Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had established the Shishu Academy and Shishu Park, introduced the TV programme *Natun Kuri* and national children's competition and undertaken various other programmes for their development.

As per the election pledge, Begum Zia said, the BNP government has been establishing branches of the Shishu Academy in all districts and formulating laws to prevent repression on children and child trafficking.

She advised the children to devote themselves to their studies and build themselves up as worthy citizens to lead a developed Bangladesh in future.

Food imports from India banned

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Biman operates one weekly flight to Athens via Bombay and Dubai while its twice-a-week flights land at Delhi and Dubai on way to New York.

Biman officials said two Dhaka-Calcutta flights were cancelled yesterday, not because of the plague but for the *Bharat bandh* (general strike) in India.

Biman operates 16 flights from Dhaka to Calcutta a week while its carriers fly twice a week from Chittagong to Calcutta.

The Chittagong Port Authorities at a meeting decided that any ship coming to the port after staying 15 days in any Indian port will have to anchor at the outer anchorage. The ship has to be fumigated and its crew medically checked.

No Indian ship would be allowed inside the port without certificate from the Port Health Officer.

The master of an ship in the port will have to immediately inform the port authorities of any symptom of plague on board.

A press release from the Chittagong Port Authority, however, added that at present, there was no Indian ship at the port.

Reports from Rajshahi said the authorities have begun a motivational drive along the bordering areas in a bid to prevent trespassing of Indian citizens.

Officials at the Sona Masjid border checkpost have started medical check-up of people entering Bangladesh.

According to an official announcement, the authorities requested the people to give plague-related information by telephone numbers 223078, 223013 and 228118.

Similar measures have been taken for the Benapole land port.

The ministry has ordered sealing off two inland water points at Daikhawa (Kurigram) and Dhulian (Chapalnawabganj).

Our Staff Correspondent in Chittagong reports: The district administration has taken measures to prevent possible outbreak of plague in the port city following the havoc caused by the disease in India.

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"We had over 5000 people killed by the coup leaders," Aristide told CNN in an interview as the Haitian parliament debated an amnesty law as part of a US-brokered agreement for military leaders to step down.

"I'm sorry. Once you have crimes against humanity, you cannot talk about blanket amnesty. And we have a lot." Aristide also said he hoped for a "new beginning" with the restoration of democracy, and reiterated his appeal to Haitians to refrain from violence.

Aristide said he was optimistic that the agreement with Haiti's military would allow his return without an outbreak of violent unrest.

"We're building a nation through democracy," he said. "I hope the world will celebrate a new beginning with us, the same way we did that on May 10 in South Africa."

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