

Cooperative movement yet to achieve its desired goal: Salam

The LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder said in the city Monday that a cooperative movement led by honest and sincere persons could help achieve socio-economic development for the poor people in the country, reports BSS.

Speaking at a function on the occasion of distribution of prizes among the best cooperators and best cooperative societies of the Dhaka division the minister said the cooperative movement was yet to achieve its desired goal although it had started 100 years ago.

Lack of honest leadership and proper management, and legal complexities had been hindering the cooperative movement in the country.

Presided over by Azizul Huq Bhuiyan, Registrar of Cooperative Societies, the function was also addressed among others by Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives, Mohammad Abdul Hye, whip of the Jatiya Sangsad. Ashraf Hossain, chairman of Bangladesh National Cooperatives Union, Sahiduddin Ahmed MP, chair-

person of National Women Cooperative Society, KJ Hamida Khanam MP and prize winners Abul Qader and Farida Akhter. A total of 34 cooperative societies and 34 best cooperators were given prizes at the function.

Talukder said only an effective cooperative movement could bring a revolutionary change in the country's socio-economic sector.

He urged the cooperators to carry forward the cooperative movement through honest and sincere efforts to reach the desired goal of achieving socio-economic progress.

The minister said despite some failures, there had been considerable progress in the cooperative movement in the country.

Speaking on the occasion deputy minister Abdul Hye said the government had undertaken extensive programmes for the development of cooperative activities.

He urged the cooperators to play their due role in implementing those programmes aimed at ameliorating the condition of the poor people.

USAID help assured

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has assured Bangladesh that it would try most so that US assistance to the country is not interrupted, reports UNB.

The assurance came from the USAID Chief Brian Atwood during a meeting with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in Washington Friday, according to a message received in Dhaka Monday.

Atwood also reportedly assured Saifur Rahman of personally supporting Bangladesh's plea for writing off past US food aid debt.

During the meeting, the USAID chief cited Bangladesh as the "best example" among developing countries with regard to development efforts, particularly in education and rural development.

He told Rahman that during a recent occasion in Egypt, he had cited Bangladesh's success

in micro-enterprise development.

Earlier, during a trip to Zaire Atwood also mentioned Dhaka's success in treating diarrhoeal diseases.

According to the message, Saifur Rahman expressed Dhaka's apprehension of being affected by a reduction of resources from the USA as external assistance.

He also apprised Atwood of the accumulation of the food aid debt which was creating major dislocation in the country's fiscal management.

Referring to US assistance in Bangladesh's electoral reform, Rahman said that the current political impasse had threatened the achievements made in the last four years.

The Finance Minister expressed appreciation for the supportive role being played by the USAID in the government's efforts for poverty alleviation.



The visiting Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) President Madam Huguette Labelle called on Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman at his office Monday. — PID photo

Biswas hosts reception

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Begum Biswas hosted a reception on the occasion of the Independence and National Day at the Bangabhaban on Sunday, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia attended the reception.

Chief Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, deputy leader of the parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, cabinet ministers, chief whip, deputy speaker, diplomats, judges of the Supreme Court Appellate and High Court Division, state and deputy ministers, cabinet secretary, chiefs of staff of the army, navy and air force, members of parliament, political leaders, disabled freedom fighters and their families, attorney-general, comptroller and auditor general, governor of Bangladesh Bank, secretaries to the government, officers of the rank of major-general in the army and equivalent in navy and air force, vice-chancellors of universities, editors and senior journalists, eminent educationists and respectable citizens of the country attended.

Biswas exchanged greetings with the guests.

Symposium on natural calamities

Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday underscored the need for enunciating simple, low-cost and pragmatic devices to cope with natural disaster, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest a symposium on "facing natural calamities" arranged by Bangladesh Academy of Sciences. The academy president SD Chowdhury, secretary general Prof Aminul Islam, Dr AAZ Ahmed, Dr Adhikari of Nepal and SK Dubey of India also spoke on the occasion.

Prof Chowdhury said natural disasters disrupt the country socially, economically and even politically. He called upon all including the scientists to come forward unitedly to face natural calamity and for its proper management.

Prof Chowdhury also stressed the need for making the people aware to face natural disaster and protect themselves from it. He called upon the concerned quarters for proper management of the materials used for the disaster-hit people.

Short Film Forum gherao Censor Board office

By Staff Correspondent

The members of Bangladesh Short Film Forum gheraoed the Film Censor Board office in the city Monday protesting the board's refusal to issue the Certificate of Release to Tanweer Mokammel's short films "Nadir Naam Madhumoti" and "Smriti '71".

Besides the forum members, several hundred film, theatre and cultural activists participated in the gherao programme and chanted slogans against the government and the censor board and demanded immediate release of the Liberation War-based short films.

During the programme, a memorandum was handed over to the vice-chairman of the censor board. Members of the board were also present at that time.

Annual general meeting

The annual general meeting (AGM) cum-Eid reunion of the St Joseph's Old Boys' Association will be held tomorrow at 4 p.m. at the Hotel Purbani International, says a press release.

Workshop on JMB opens

A three-day strategic planning workshop jointly organised by the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA) and the management consultants was inaugurated at Hotel Sonargaon in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The workshop will examine in depth the current structure of the authority and consider how it should continue to meet its present responsibilities while at the same time preparing itself for the post-implementation responsibility of operating and maintaining the bridge.

As many as 70 senior officials of the government and senior staff members of the JMBA are taking part in the workshop which will be conducted with the assistance of Price Waterhouse and Sir William Halcrow and partners Ltd as management consultants to the JMBA.

In his inaugural speech, State Minister for Social Welfare Md Fazlur Rahman drew the attention towards the great importance of the bridge in the country's overall perspective and said the international community also felt its significance by making available US dollar 600 million to finance its construction.

Directives to ascertain exact number of vehicles

The standing committee on Establishment Ministry yesterday directed the concerned authorities to ascertain the exact number of vehicles and submit the list to transport pool, reports BSS.

Presided over by State Minister for Establishment Aminul Huq, the standing committee meeting also recommended to give allotment of cars to the joint chiefs of the Planning Commission.

The meeting held at the Sangsad Bhaban was also informed that central motor vehicle repairing workshop has repaired and done maintenance of 1132 vehicles of various types at a cost of Taka 5.63 crore. The committee expressed its satisfaction at the repairing and maintenance of vehicles at a lesser cost compared to the cost of other organisations.

15 pc married women unable to conceive

Infertility among the women is breaking family serenity as more than three million or about 15 per cent married women of the country are unable to conceive, reports UNB.

Only two per cent of the infertile couples can afford to go abroad for investigation and treatment, and they drain out about Tk 150 crore every year, physicians said Monday at the publication ceremony of a journal on infertility and sterility.

They identified sharp rise of sexually transmitted diseases, indiscriminate use of family planning methods, atomic radiation, smoking, specific abortion, septic delivery and irogenic factors in the poor section as the causes of infertility.

Childlessness is the prime cause of family unrest like polygamy, divorce and suicide. Both male and females are responsible for infertility but in most cases females are to be blamed for the cause in our country, the physicians said.

Speaking on infertility, Deputy Leader of the House Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury called for concerted efforts of government, NGOs, private sector and international community to contain the increasing rate of infertility.

He laid emphasis on the spread of knowledge of reproductive biology related to fertility among the country's 20,000 medical practitioners. "Specialised knowledge should

Business guide in English

An English-language business guide styled as "Business Guide's Yellow Pages of Bangladesh '95" has been published, reports UNB.

The guide includes names, addresses and telephones of over one lakh business establishments, industrial units and professionals belonging to about 2,000 types of businesses and professions.

Business Guide Publications Ltd has published it in cooperation with the Export Promotion Bureau recently, said a press release of the publications Monday.

always be expanded and updated."

Prof Chowdhury said Bangladesh's population control programme is highly acclaimed around the world, but "We should further intensify our work to contain population boom as well as the infertility problem."

The government will extend all-out cooperation in establishing an institute of Reproductivity to extend better investigation and treatment facilities to the infertile women of the country, he said.

WHO Representative Dr W Hartoatanojo said some 2-10 per cent couples around the world are unable to conceive and bear a first child, and 10-25 per cent are unable to have a second or subsequent child, known as secondary sub-fertility.

The list of causes of sub-fertility are complex but STD, in the present context of "openness," specially gonorrhoea and chlamydia infection both in the female and males seems to be quite common, he said.

Bangladesh Fertility Society, which publishes the "Bangladesh Journal of Infertility and Sterility," organised the publication ceremony at BIRDEM auditorium.

WFUNA team meets Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Monday said the United Nations and the world leaders should take effective steps for mitigating the sufferings of millions of people around the globe, reports UNB.

"Millions of world population are converted into refugees and their numbers have been swelling gradually", the President said while talking to the representatives of World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) at Bangabhaban.

The representatives are attending the 5th Regional Conference of WFUNA of Asia and the Pacific Region in the city.

The delegation included representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Japan, Korea, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka.

A NEW PACK.
THE SAME GREAT TASTE.



A TASTE APART.