

The Need for a National Health Policy

Dr M Zakir Husain

Health policy is not merely statement of intentions or visions; it is also a clear guidance on how the State proposes to promote and protect the health of the people, what the private sector and the individuals will do, and what the professions involved in healthcare industry and delivery of services will do. Increasingly, a health policy is concerned with not just the government sector but also the growing private sector and the healthcare industry and trade.

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fact, availability of objective facts and findings, pooling of knowledge and experience, and evaluation of opinions of the health professions should be mandatory requirements in the formulation process of national health policy.

empowers individuals and families to make an informed and effective contribution to the protection of health and prevention of disease.

twined with health conditions and outcomes. Essential public health functions need to be revisited and redefined. In fact, this has been long overdue, and not in the so-called developing countries alone. Here again the professions and disciplines have to join together since health outcomes are derived from the effect of activities, programmes and policies of several sectors other than health.

sults. It is also obvious from the nature of the subject that the mechanism should be non-partisan in character as far as possible.

it is but on how pragmatic and feasible it is. The possibility of actual implementation is increased when the policy is based on consensus and pragmatism. As argued before, the non-partisan character of the policy-making body and the policy itself is extremely important to improve consistency with real needs and continuity of essential policy and programmes.

there are imperfections in the health care market because of uncertainty of the need of care. Health insurance in the private for profit sector will preferentially protect those whose risks are less and tend to exclude those who are at greater risk.

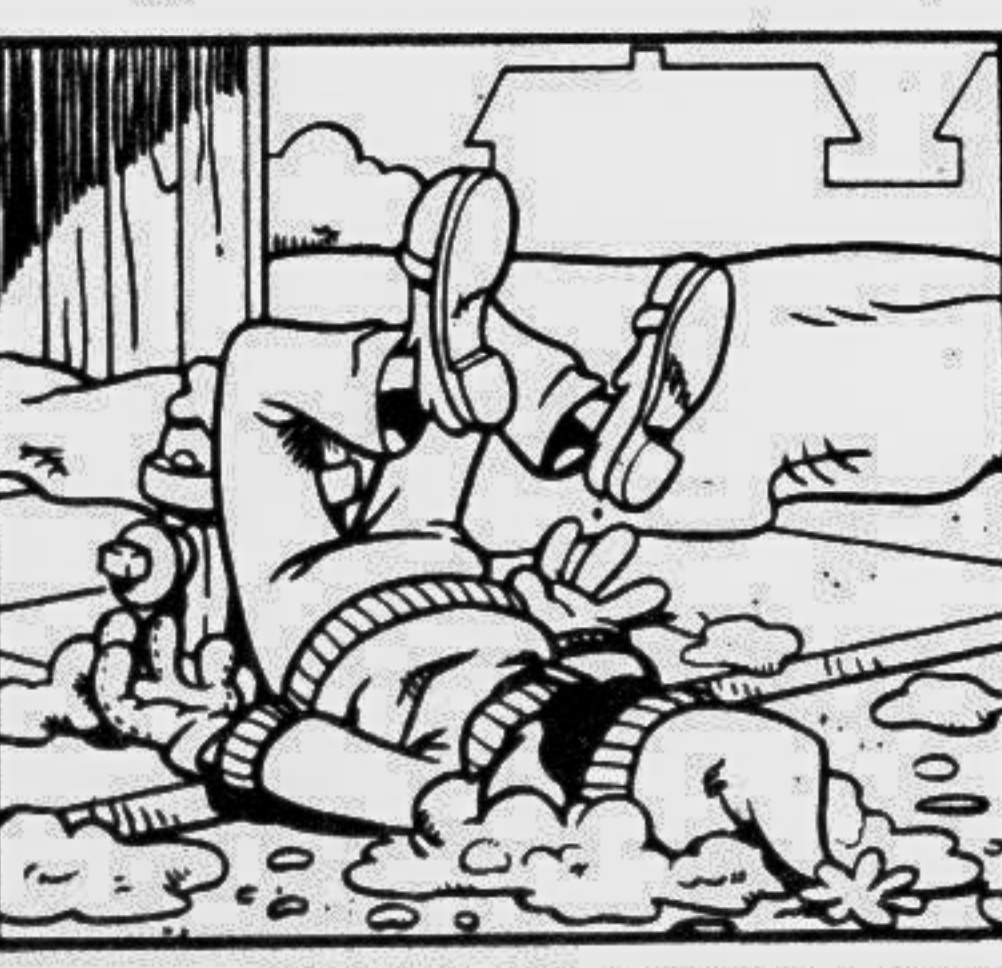
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Wide Prospects

THE CP group Thailand's largest conglomerate, has set its sights on India. The Bangkok-based group is planning to start a fully-owned subsidiary in the country. CP has business interests ranging from animal feed to motorcycles to cosmetics to semiconductors and telecom.

Gas Gains

IN a move that will edge out its rivals in the natural gas sector, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation of India, has tied up with Total of France. The joint venture will start a Rs 3,600-crore (roughly \$120 million) integrated project involving a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal and a 500 MW power project.

Metropolitan



Journalists and newspaper employees brought out a rally in the city yesterday demanding announcement of the 5th Wage Board Award. — Star photo

Newsmen, newspaper employees submit memo to Speaker

Journalists yesterday observed a four-hour token strike protesting government move to amend their wage-board rule and also submitted a memorandum to Parliament urging it not to enact the concerned ordinance, reports UNB.

Bangladesh elected member of OPCW executive council

Bangladesh has been elected a member of the 41-member executive council of the Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the first conference of the state parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention, now being held in the Hague, according to a message received in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

What's on today....

- Discussion on "Farakka Day": Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal has arranged a discussion marking Farakka Day. Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium. Time: 10 am.
- Zahir Raihan Film Society: 'Barton Fink' by Joel and Ethan Coen (USA) and 'Underground' by Emir Kusturica (Yugoslavia) will be screened. Venue: German Cultural Centre. Time: 5 pm and 7 pm respectively.
- International Family Day: The inaugural function of the day organised by the Ministry of Social Welfare will be held. Venue: Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Time: 10 am.
- Seminar-workshop: Public Relations and Publication Department of Bangladesh Scouts will hold seminar-workshop on public relations. Venue: Shams Hall of the Bangladesh Scouts Bhaban. Time: 9:30 am.
- Nari Pragati Sangha: A day-long workshop on Women in Massmedia organised by the Sangha will be held. Venue: WVA auditorium. Time: 10 am.
- Workshop: Agriculture Ministry, USAID, Project for Development of Agro-based Industries and Technology, IFDC will jointly hold a workshop on Trade Policy for Processed Agriculture Products. Venue: Hotel Abakash auditorium, Mahakhali. Time: 9 am.
- Centre for Policy Dialogue: A discussion on 'Reserved Women Seat in Parliament' will be held. Venue: Office of the Centre (6/A, Eskaton Garden Road). Time: 3 pm.
- Khetmajur Union: The two-day national council of the Khetmajur Union will begin. Time: 11 am. Venue: Dhaka Zilla Krira Samity Auditorium.
- Ganatantri Party: The opening ceremony of the two-day national conference will be held. Venue: Mahub Ali Institute (Railway Community Centre), Shahjahanpur. Time: 10:30 am.
- Classical music confce: On the 4th day of the ongoing classical music conference kheyal, dhumi, sitar, santar, sanai and classical dance will be presented. Venue: Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Time: 6 pm.
- Chouddagram Thana Welfare Assoc: An emergency meeting of the executive committee of the association will be held on the eve of its Eid reunion '97. Venue: TMC Bhaban, 7th floor, 52 New Eskaton Rd. Time: 6 pm.
- Newspaper hawker succumbs to injuries: A leader of newspaper hawkers, who was injured last month, succumbed to his wounds at Pongu Hospital in the city Tuesday, reports UNB. The dead was identified as Shah Alam alias Babul, 35, Uttara branch supervisor of Dhaka Newspaper Hawkers' Multipurpose Association.
- Course on taxation begins at ICMA,B: A three-day professional course on taxation began at the ICMA auditorium in the city yesterday, reports UNB. Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru inaugurated the course, organised by the Institute of Cost and Management Accountant, Bangladesh (ICMA,B). Chairman of the National Board of Revenue Shah Abdul Hannan also spoke on the occasion.



Scrambling for a drink on a sweltering afternoon: Women belonging to several organisations, including those evicted from an old city brothel on Monday, jostling for a glass of water, provided by an NGO which organised a demonstration of floating women workers yesterday in front of the Jatiya Press Club. Temperatures soared to 35 degrees on the first day of the Bangla month Jaishtha, when, adage say, the hot and humid temperatures help the jackfruit and mangoes to ripen fast. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

JU Math Deptt cancelled admission test May 22

Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities have cancelled the examination of two shifts of admission test, for first year honours class of Mathematics Department, held on Tuesday on the basis of the allegations of leakage of question papers, reports BSS.

Weather

No change in temp likely

Rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind may occur at a few places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Noakhali and Comilla in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.3	26.8	75	67
Chittagong	34.0	27.0	73	72
Sylhet	34.8	24.5	75	69
Comilla	35.4	25.5	81	74
Rajshahi	38.7	28.3	-	56