

Salahuddin Yusuf urges physicians

Ensure better treatment to stop patients going abroad

Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday urged the physicians to ensure better treatment to stop patients visiting the neighbouring country for treatment, reports UNB.

"We have to end this disgrace that the patients being denied of better treatment in the country are going abroad," he said addressing the first convention and scientific seminar of Bangladesh Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at IPGMR.

Yusuf said doctors' negligence, in attentiveness to patients and inaccurate treatment are forcing a large number of people to go to India and other countries for treatment at the cost of huge foreign currencies.

The Association's president

Prof Mohammad Qamrul Islam chaired the opening session which was addressed, among others, by IPGMR Director Prof Mohammad Tahir, Prof Mahmudul Hasan, Prof Sohrab Hossain and Prof MA Wahed.

The health minister said there are many unemployed physicians in the country while the number of specialists is very small.

Many posts of specialists remained vacant in several hospitals including medical colleges, he said, asking the Association to give him a list of the specialists so that he could take steps to remove this problem.

Yusuf said the government has created some 3119 new posts for doctors while jobs of

5000 physicians have been made permanent.

He regretted that doctors do not perform their duty in hospitals especially in the night shift in many essential departments like maternity and cardiovascular units.

The government has decided to start outdoor services in the morning and afternoon shifts in the hospitals to ensure medicare facilities for the poor people.

The health minister agreed that the physical medicine department has not been developed due to shortage of specialists and equipment.

He said the government has given special emphasis to modernise the physical medicine department.

President, PM greet Queen Elizabeth II

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday felicitated Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her birthday today, reports BSS.

In a message on the occasion Justice Shahabuddin expressed his firm belief that the friendly relations that so happily exist between the two Commonwealth countries will be further strengthened to the mutual benefit of the peoples in the coming years.

He wished personal health, happiness and long life of the Queen and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

In a separate message Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina felicitated Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain on the occasion of her birth anniversary.

In the message the occasion the Prime Minister expressed the confidence that the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two Commonwealth countries will be further strengthened and developed in the years ahead.

She conveyed her best wishes for health and happiness of the Queen and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Ispahani launches new tea bags

By Staff Correspondent

MM Ispahani Limited, a leading tea-producing company of the country, officially launched a new double chamber tea bag under the brand name of Mirzapore Tea Bags in the city yesterday.

The marketing manager of the company, Moiz Siddique while welcoming journalists at a launching ceremony, held at a city hotel yesterday, said Ispahani has always been a pioneer in the tea industry of Bangladesh. The company was the first to introduce tea bags in this region under the brand name of Green Spot Tea Bag in 1965, he said.

Made from the best leaves from selected gardens using modern technology from Italy, the new tea bag will ensure an easy and prompt release of strong liquor to give the best taste, company officials claimed.

The filter paper used in the double chamber tea bag is made from 100 per cent natural materials. That is why this kind of tea bag is so popular in the tea-drinking nations, they added.

Among others, vice-Chairman of the company, Mirza Ali Behrouze Ispahani, director Salman Ispahani, and other senior officials were present.



Officials of MM Ispahani Ltd at the launching ceremony of 'Mirzapore' double chamber tea bags, held at a city hotel yesterday.

Syeda Shamsi gives statement in CMM's court

By Court Correspondent

Syeda Shamsi, who left her husband's home recently, yesterday gave a statement before a Magistrate at the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

She said she walked out of Dr Mesbahul Alam Khan's Mohammapur home on April 27 voluntarily with Reshadur Rahman, a director of Dhaka Bank.

Dr Mesbahul Alam, along with his two children and their grandfather, was present at the court during the hearing.

He had accused Reshadur Rahman of kidnapping his wife in a case filed with Mohammapur thana. Reshadur Rahman obtained bail from the court. A divorce notice by Syeda Shamsi was submitted to the court.

Eliana Khan represented Shamsi, while Mizanur Rahman represented Dr Alam.

'Private entrepreneurship to get priority in industrial policy'

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed said the government is out to explore all the avenues for national development, including trade and investment, giving priorities to private entrepreneurship, reports UNB.

He was inaugurating a 4-week long training for various private and public sector trainers under Bangladesh-German Competency-based Economics through Formation of Entrepreneurs Programme in the city yesterday.

The Commerce Minister said industrial policy placing private entrepreneurship atop is being formulated, and anomalies in laws, rules, regulations and policies will be removed with a view to encouraging private investment.

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation

(BSCIC) is implementing a good number of projects to develop entrepreneurship and employment at rural areas, said Tofael.

The minister said the government will also install an employment generation bank with a paid up capital of Tk 50 crore to provide self-employment to youths.

Other projects included in massive poverty alleviation programme of the government costing Tk 6,430 crore in the next fiscal would definitely create environment for boosting production in local manufacturing units, he said.

Tofael said the government is promoting all sorts of private initiatives for increasing micro and small industries.

Through liberalisation and globalisation of trade, the minister said, national economy has become more competitive and LDCs including Bangladesh

are facing new challenges and uneven competition in expansion of foreign trade.

"We have opportunities and resources to bolster the economy through expanding trade and increasing agricultural and industrial production," he said and called upon the private entrepreneurs to improve their overall efficiency to avail of the opportunities in global trade including duty-free access.

Presided over by the chairman of board of governors of Midas, Samson H Chowdhury, the function was also addressed by German Charge d'Affaires in Dhaka Dr Ingo Carsten, advisor to German Agency for Technical Cooperation (DGTZ) Ricarda Weidinger, representative of DGTZ, Michael K Nathan, and managing director of Midas Abdul Karim.

Midas and DGTZ organised the training.

Muggers snatch Tk 1.60 lakh

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers snatched away Tk 1.60 lakh from a person on Biswa Road near Khilgaon in the city yesterday morning.

Police quoting the FIR said that two youngmen in a motorbike attacked the man identified as Ehsanul Majid who was passing Khilgaon area in a rickshaw at about 8:30 am. Ehsanul was going to Motijheel from his house in Ulan in Rampura area.

The attackers threatened his life and took away the bag in which the money was kept. However, none was arrested in this connection till last night.

Ward commissioner of CCC assaulted

CHITTAGONG, June 15: A ward commissioner of the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) was roughed up by armed miscreants in Sabujbagh area of Pahartoli thana today, reports UNB.

Police said Siddique Ahmed Chowdhury, Commissioner of ward number 11, was attacked by a group of local musclemen at about 12.30 pm while supervising the works of a CCC development project.

Envoy to Guyana presents credentials

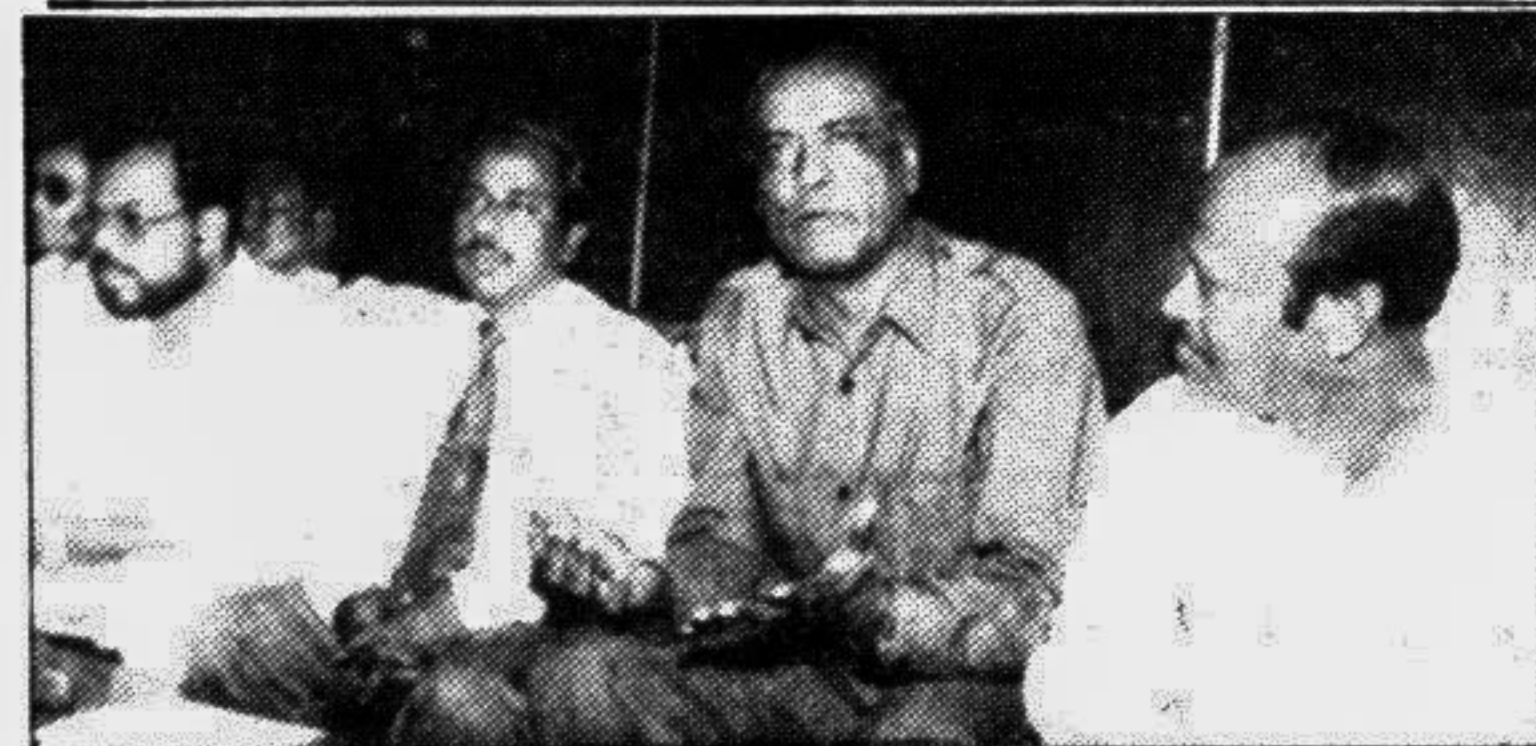
Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations presented his credentials as the concurrently accredited High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to President Samuel A Hinds at the office of the president in Georgetown on June 11, according to a message received in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The President of Guyana conveyed his warm personal greetings and best wishes to President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the people of Bangladesh.

Earlier, the Bangladesh High Commissioner in his credentials statement, had conveyed the greetings of the President and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to the President and people of Guyana.

US Embassy sets up Internet website

The United States Embassy in Dhaka has established a website on the Internet, reports UNB.



Four Jatiya Party leaders, recently 'expelled' from the party central committee, held a press conference at the Jatiya Centre Club yesterday.

Children's rally held

Education Minister ASHK Sadique urged all, particularly the primary school teachers, to make their sincere effort for grooming children as able citizens, reports UNB.

The minister was addressing as chief guest a children's gathering held at the Osmani Memorial Hall yesterday morning.

Primary and Mass Education Department organised the gathering in observance of the National Primary Education Week '97, which began Saturday.

The week-long campaign has been organised with a call for creating mass awareness about the significance of primary education in national development.

The minister told the function that the government had already taken some steps to upgrade the country's primary education system.

Terming children as future of the nation, he said the child of today would become the leader of tomorrow and advised them to concentrate on their studies.

Earlier, the minister inaugurated a colourful rally at the Osmani Udyan. Hundreds of children from across the country, waving festoons and banners, took part in the rally.

Deputy Minister for Primary and Mass Education Prof Zinatunnesa Talukder also addressed the gathering and joined in the rally.

'Motivate farmers to use more bio-fertilisers'

Agriculture and Food Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury directed the concerned officials for providing the results of modern agricultural research to the common farmers as soon as possible, reports UNB.

The minister was addressing as chief guest at the certificate awarding ceremony of BCS (Agriculture) cadre officers at CERDI in Gazipur yesterday.

She also urged them to motivate the farmers to use more bio-fertilisers in their lands and train them about the use of balanced fertiliser. The total area of cultivable land were decreasing day by day, she added.

Matia Chowdhury urged the agricultural sector officials to discharge duties with more dedication to increase agricultural production in the country.

Fifty officers of BCS (Agriculture) cadre received foundation training here for four months orientation for professional skill development.

Later, she distributed certificates among the officers, said a PID handout.

Plan to revise tariff structure on import likely

The government will take up a comprehensive plan to revise the tariff structure on import for unhindered growth of local industries, reports BSS.

This was stated by Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed while talking to the World Bank mission chief Pierre Landell Mills at his office yesterday.

The minister said, Bangladesh is always in favour of liberalisation and globalisation of trade and has been pursuing free market economy since 1991, but sudden and hasty reduction of import tariff and withdrawal of quantitative restrictions (QRs) on most of the restricted items in the last five years has jeopardised the growth in industrial sector.

The minister said, the previous government raised duties on industrial raw materials consumed by the local industries and reduced tariff on imported goods. He said, the present government has taken steps to remove the tariff anomalies. He said, special facilities would be provided to exporters for ensuring export-led growth.

The government is unable to bear the incremental losses incurred by the state-owned enterprises (SOEs), he said adding that workers of the SOEs would be given the option to own the enterprises. If they decline to buy the industries, the government will divest the SOEs through open tenders, he added.

The minister said, infrastructural development company constituted by the government will mobilise loans for industrialisation. He requested the WB authority to utilise their good offices in reducing the tariff wall and withdrawing QRs by other neighbouring countries, including India.

In reply, Landell Mills appreciated the government steps to remove tariff anomalies and assured of WB's cooperation to implement the plan. He also gave an assertive indication to the minister's proposal for sanctioning special funds for the infrastructural development company.

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What's on today

- Folk theatre festival:** Kohinoor Opera of Narayanganj will present 'Beder Meye Jotsna'. Venue: Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Time: 7 pm.
- BCAS workshop:** Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies has arranged a workshop on 'People's participation in the water sector: Lessons learned from experience'. Venue: SPARRO auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 10 am. Chief guest: Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak.
- Seminar:** BCL Centre for Training and Research has arranged a seminar on 'Road safety in Bangladesh'. Venue: CENTR training hall, House 86, Rd: 7A, Dhanmondi. Time: 9am-6:30 pm.
- Zahir Raihan Film Society:** 'Kung Fu Master' by Agnes Varda will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise, Rd 3, Dhanmondi. Time: 6 pm.
- Rotary Club of Dhaka North:** The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.
- Rotary Club of Dilkusha:** The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 5:30 pm.

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