

Metropolitan



Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) held a coordination conference at the BDR headquarters in the city yesterday. Director General of BSF AK Tandon and Director General of BDR Maj Gen M Azizur Rahman led their respective sides. —PID photo

Sit-in in front of Banglabazar Patrika office begins today

The journalists and other employees of the Banglabazar Patrika will begin a non-stop sit-in programme in front of the newspaper office from 11 am today to press home their various demands including withdrawal of termination orders served by the management and implementation of the fifth wage board award, reports BSS.

The programme was announced by the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ).

One drowns in Buriganga

By Staff Correspondent

A youngman drowned in Buriganga river at Sadarghat launch terminal in the old city early yesterday.

Fire Brigade sources said the dead was identified as Nirob, 22, an employee of MV Sahi Doot of High Speed Navigation.

Nirob fell into water from the launch deck at about 4:45 am. Fire service divers recovered the body after searching for about an hour.

Colleagues of the dead told fire brigade rescuers that Nirob was an epilepsy patient.

Rally on White Cane Safety Day held

A rally was brought out in the city on the occasion of the World White Cane Safety Day from the National Museum yesterday, reports UNB.

Post and Telecommunications and Housing and Public Works Minister Mohammad Nasim led the rally as chief guest which was terminated in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

The rally was organised by Rotaract District Organisation and Rotaract Club of Mahanagar North-West.

Nat'l health policy Four sub-committees submit recommendations

By Staff Correspondent

Four out of the five sub-committees formed to formulate the national health policy have submitted their reports to the Health Ministry.

According to official sources, the recommendations made by the sub-committees include a client-oriented approach that stresses 'one stop service' at hospitals and thana health complexes, improving the quality of service, ensuring access to it and focusing on essential package of services that include basic priorities like reproductive health and child healthcare, communicable disease control and simple curative care.

The sub-committees also recommended improving hospital-based services through partnerships with NGOs and private non-profit hospitals and through 'a larger and better

regulated role' of private sector. Besides, 'autonomy of management combined with local accountability,' was suggested, an official said.

Special training for health service providers and development of staff and logistic support are among the many other suggestions.

It could not be known why the sub-committee-5 has not yet submitted its report. None of the committee members could be contacted for comments.

The main committee — comprising about 25 members including senior government officials representative of Bangladesh Medical Association and others — headed by Minister for Health and Family Welfare Salauddin Yusuf, will now examine the reports and finalise the national health policy.



Prabarana Purnima, one of the main Buddhist festivals, was celebrated at Kamalapur Buddhist Temple in the city as elsewhere across the country yesterday. —Star photo

Dhaka seeks Japanese aid for Ganges Barrage

By Staff Correspondent

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak on Monday sought Japanese assistance for implementation of the Ganges Barrage project.

Now on a visit to Japan, Razzak made the plea while addressing two gatherings of a cross-section of Japanese policy-makers and officials, organized by the Bangladesh embassy in Tokyo, according to a fax message received here.

In the morning, the minister addressed representatives of Japanese Foreign Ministry, Construction Ministry, MTI, OECF, JICA, GIF, ADB and the World Bank.

At the meeting, he said the Ganges Barrage project will help Bangladesh overcome the critical challenges of development including poverty alleviation and preservation of environment in the south-west part of the country.

Abdur Razzak said the construction of Ganges Barrage and storage of water in the dry season was crucial to Bangladesh's overall economic development. His address was followed by a slide presentation on the project by the Secretary, Water Resources Ministry, and Chairman, Water Development Board.

In the evening, the minister met another group of people which included Shin Nakagawa, MP. Razzak gave a detailed position on the merit of the Ganges Barrage project and sought Japanese support for its implementation.

Bangladesh Ambassador Rashed Ahmed also spoke at the meeting.

Managing body of govt pry schools reorganised

The government has reorganised the managing committees of the government primary schools with the inclusion of members of parliament of the respective areas as advisors for ensuring proper management and successful implementation of different programmes undertaken by the government, an official press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The seven-member managing committee in each school has made provision for inclusion of a guardian representatives of the meritorious students.

The headmaster of the school will be the ex-officio member-secretary of the committee. The duration of the committees will be two years.

Wolfensohn visits BRAC project in Tangail

The visiting President of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, yesterday said that it was very heartening to see 'the poor people bringing out their inner strength, inherent capabilities and getting involved in various income generating activities.' He was commenting during his visit to a BRAC project and a school at Chitulpur village near Bhuapur in Tangail yesterday, says a press release.

Accompanied by his wife, Elaine, the World Bank President freely exchanged views with the members of a BRAC village organisation, formed with women under Income Generation for Vulnerable Group Development (IGVGD). The women, belonging to poor families, are now engaged in various activities like poultry, livestock, tailoring and other small trades.

They explained to the WB chief how micro-credit and other programmes of BRAC are steadily changing the condition of their lives. Their children are also receiving free primary education in BRAC schools.

Describing the benefits of BRAC's multifaceted programmes focusing on the people living below the poverty line, particularly women, as 'a remarkable achievement,' Wolfensohn said it is apparent that these poor people and their school-going children have 'gained immense self-confidence and can now freely express themselves.'

Fazle Hasan Abed, Executive Director of BRAC and Pierre Landell-Mills, Country Director of the World Bank in Dhaka, were also present.

Alamgir blasts drug policy

'Major reform programme to ensure better health services taken'

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday said the government has taken a major reform programme to ensure better health services in the next five years, reports BSS.

A major reform has been proposed in the fifth health and population programme (HAPP-5) which we want to implement in the next five-year with a view to establishing an effective and efficient health and family welfare services delivery system in the country, he said while a workshop addressing as the chief guest here.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) jointly organised the workshop, 'contemporary health situation in Bangladesh' at the NEC Bhaban.

A total of 15 technical papers related to health, family planning, demography and social statistics prepared by the experts from the survey components of the health and demographic survey (HDS) of BBS conducted during 1994 to 1997 were presented in the workshop.

State Minister for Planning, Civil Aviation and Tourism Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Dr M Amanullah and Health Secretary Mohammed Ali, among others, also took part in the occasion. Walid Ismail, Secretary, Department of statistics, chaired the workshop.

Yusuf said the health sector was the most neglected one and there was no administration or discipline within it when the present government came to power. But the present democratic government, he said, is committed to ensuring basic minimum health care for the entire population with particular emphasis on health of mothers, children and the poor.

The health minister said a total of 1,024 doctors have already been appointed and 394 more posts for doctors are being created for fresh recruitment. He said appointment of another 4,000 nurses are underway. Besides, the government has set up a committee for formulating the 'national health policy' and a high-level committee for reorganising the health and family welfare sector, he said.

Moreover, the government will reorganise the 'drug policy' of the country very soon, Yusuf informed the workshop while responding to a question of Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir.

Alamgir criticised the existing drug policy and said that the policy could not bring about minimum development in the health sector but made some drug industrialists rich.

He said the people of the country shall have to be made conscious about modern treatment so that they are not compelled to go to fake 'peers' and 'jaksirs'.

Prof Amanullah underlined the need for reducing unwanted fertility in the country and said the government has already decided to substantially change its strategy of providing services considering the need for improving the health status of the poor and the mothers at large. He also said that the government is going to launch the HAPP-5 in July next.

The workshop will be attended by members of local and international election observer group, election experts, members of parliament, academicians, lawyers, journalists.

DU Mourning Day observed

By DU Correspondent

Dhaka University Mourning Day was observed yesterday to pay tribute to the victims of Jagannath Hall tragedy.

On this day in 1985, 39 people, most of them students, were killed when the roof of a auditorium of Jagannath Hall of the university collapsed on them. About one hundred people were injured. They all were watching a TV serial at the time.

Classes and offices of the university remained closed on the occasion.

Black flags were flown atop all buildings of the university, the university flags was kept half-mast, and the students and teachers of the university wore black badges.

A mourning procession was also brought out from the Aparajeo Bangla of the university at 6:30 am. The procession, led by the Vice Chancellor of the University Prof A K Azad Chowdhury was participated by the students, officials and the employees of the university.

The procession ended at the mausoleum in Jagannath Hall premises built in their memory where the VC placed wreaths. One minute silence was observed after placing wreaths.

A special prayer session by the Hindus, Buddhists and Christians was held at the Jagannath Hall premises at 8:30 pm for the peace of the departed soul.

Prayers were also offered in different mosques of the university including the central mosque of the university after Asr prayers.

A memorial meeting will be held on October 26 on the occasion at the TSC auditorium of the university.

MASTERMIND

English Medium School VACANCY

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| 1. Post VICE-PRINCIPAL (1-Position) Female only Sub: Preference English | 3. Post Administrative Off. (1 Position) morning Female only Evening post (1 Position) Male only Sub: Preference Math | Interview 10:30 am Saturday 18th October, 1997, at House # 5, Road # 31 (Old), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka. Tel: 9130878 |
| 2. Senior Physics Teacher Male or Female C-748 | | |

Job Opportunities in Development Project

The Patuakhali Barguna Aquaculture Extension Project (PBAEP) is a government project under the Department of Fisheries. The main objective of PBAEP is to increase fish production of 15,000 existing household ponds in Patuakhali and Barguna district. PBAEP started in October, 1997, for a duration of seven years.

The Danida Technical Assistance (DTA) of PBAEP is now looking for candidates for four senior posts on a two-year contract (renewable). All four positions are based in Patuakhali and require computer skills (Windows, word-processing, spreadsheet use) and good spoken and written English.

Salaries are negotiable, based on qualifications and experience, and include two festival bonuses and one annual gratuity. PBAEP will assist in finding suitable housing. Women staff are eligible for a child day care benefit.

1. EXTENSION MANAGER (EM) (MONITORING)

The Extension Manager (EM) supervises the Monitoring Section of 5 officer-level staff and 22 Extension Monitors.

- Master's degree in social science, socio-economics or other relevant subject. Good knowledge of social aspects of capture fisheries and pond aquaculture.
- Minimum of 10 years' working experience, including at least 4 years in a similar position. Good diplomatic and lobbying skills.
- Experience in the design and implementation of socio-economic surveys, impact assessments and handling of large data bases.
- Age preferably between 35 and 50 years.

Both men and women candidates are encouraged to apply

2. WOMEN'S PROGRAMME COORDINATOR (WPC)

The WPC jointly with the TM will supervise the Training and Extension Section of 11 Aquaculture Officers. The WPC will ensure full participation of women target group and women staff.

- Master's degree in extension science, teaching or other relevant social science. Good knowledge of social aspects of pond aquaculture.
- Minimum of 8 years' working experience, including at least 3 years with a donor funded project or a large NGO.
- Experience in supervising extension programmes and in training of project staff (TOT).
- Good knowledge of gender-issues in rural development projects and experience in supervising WID programmes.
- Age preferably between 30 and 45 years.

Both men and women candidates are encouraged to apply

3. TRAINING MANAGER (TM)

The TM will support both male and female oriented training and extension activities. TM will co-supervise 11 Aquaculture Officers together with the WPC.

- Master's degree in fisheries science or related subject.
- Minimum of 6 years' working experience, including at least 2 years in a similar position with a donor funded project or a large NGO.
- Wide experience in supervising extension programmes and in conducting training of project staff (TOT) and target groups.
- Age preferably between 28 and 40 years.

Both men and women candidates are encouraged to apply

4. ACCOUNTS AND CREDIT MANAGER (ACM)

The ACM supervises 3 officers in the Administration Section and is responsible for DTA accounts, DTA personnel files and supervision of DTA support staff.

- Master's degree in Commerce, Accounting or MBA. Proven experience in computerised accounting (NAVISION).
- Minimum of eight years' working experience in financial administration and accounting, including at least three years with donor funded projects or large NGO.
- Experience with credit monitoring systems and preparation of monthly credit reports.
- Experience in personnel management and staff supervision.
- Age preferably between 35 and 45 years.

Both men and women candidates are encouraged to apply

Send CV with short cover letter, one passport photograph, two recommendations of previous employers incl. telephone number, and expected salary, to: Chief Project Adviser, C/o Royal Danish Embassy, GPO Box 2056, Dhaka, before 6 November 1997. All interviews will be held in Patuakhali starting from 16 November 1997. Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

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