

Parliament news

26 dev projects for women's welfare being implemented

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that a massive development programme is being implemented through 26 development projects under the Women Affairs Directorate and the Jatiya Mahila Sangstha, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Prof Panna Kaiser during the Prime Minister's question hour, Sheikh Hasina said the programmes include vocational training, loan giving project, creating awareness among women, creation of women organisations and financial assistance to distressed women and children.

The Prime Minister said 14 programmes out of the total 26 were aimed at providing training on raising poultry, cattle raising, pisciculture, sewing, handicrafts, computer training to the distressed women living in rural and urban areas and giving them loans so that they could become self-reliant.

Besides, she said, provision of hostel facilities for working women at a minimum cost, setting up day-care centre for the children of working women and setting up exhibition centre in different districts, including Dhaka, for marketing the items produced by women, are also in the government plan.

Dinajpur Wheat Research Centre to be upgraded

Agriculture Minister Begum Mottia Chowdhury yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that Dinajpur Wheat Research Centre would be upgraded to an institute for innovating temperate and saline-tolerant new varieties of wheat to boost wheat production if adequate fund is allocated, reports BSS.

Responding to a call attention notice of Awami League whip Mizanur Rahman, she said the government was determined to raise wheat production.

Mottia Chowdhury said because of the facilitators role of the government, farmers had produced 15 lakh tons of wheat last year. She said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had set wheat procurement price at Taka 8.70 per kg last year when the farmers re-

sponded positively.

The minister said the wheat procurement price has been fixed at Taka 8.80 per kg this year to give fair price to wheat farmers so that they can grow more wheat in the northern and other parts of the country.

She was strongly critical of the previous government for not giving thrust to wheat production and said Bangladesh could produce 40 lakh tons of wheat but no government had taken steps in this regard in the past.

Whip Manu, in his call attention, asked the minister whether wheat research centre could be upgraded to an institute during the tenure of the present government and the minister said it would depend on the availability of budgetary allocations.

Security of MPs Speaker seeks home minister's intervention

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury yesterday requested the home minister to give stern directives to the superintendent of police of Madaripur to ensure full security of life and property of Sangsad member Shahjahan Khan (AL-Madaripur), reports BSS.

Disposing of a privilege notice of Shahjahan Khan, the Speaker sought intervention of the home minister in preserving the dignity and privileges of all members of Parliament.

Accepting the privilege motion, the Speaker said he had decided to send it to the standing committee on privileges for giving its recommendations after full investigation into the matter.

The Speaker said in his notice, Shahjahan Khan has stated that the SP Madaripur had searched his residence and his car on Nov 1, when Shahjahan Khan was coming to Jatiya Sangsad, his car was intercepted by police at the instruction of the SP, he added.

The Speaker said on Nov 9, Khan had informed the House of the incidents which breached his privilege as a member of the House.

73 high officials transferred more than once in 16 months

Education Minister ASHK Sadique informed the House that the government had transferred a total of 73 high officials more than once in 16 months since July 1 last year, reports BSS.

In a written reply to Mohammad Mosharrar Hossain (BNP-Feni), Sadique, who is also incharge of Establishment Ministry in Parliament, furnished a list of the officers who were transferred more than once. Of them 13, were secretaries, nine additional secretaries, 18 joint secretaries and 33 deputy secretaries.

New TV series 'The Adventure of Sinbad' from Friday

Bangladesh Television (BTV) will telecast a new TV series titled 'The Adventures of Sinbad' from Friday, reports UNB.

BTV will air the series, based on the storybook '1001 Nights', after 8 pm Bangla news.

BTV would be the first to release the fantasy and action oriented TV-series among the South Asian countries.



Shankar prize winners: Mayna, Deep and Shamma.

3 get Shankar painting award

By Staff Correspondent

Three Bangladeshi children were awarded the international Shankar Prize 1997 for painting in New Delhi recently, said a press release.

The children, Arju Islam Mayna, Shatadru Nandi Deep and Shakiya Shamma, are members of the Kachi Kanchar Mela, a children's organisation in Bangladesh.

Italian envoy hosts reception

Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Rafeale Miniero hosted a reception yesterday evening at the Italian Embassy on the occasion of the National Day of Italy, reports BSS.

Ministers, political leaders, journalists, diplomats and city elite attended the reception.

Award for book design

Syed Iqbal has received the first prize for book design, awarded by Jatiya Grantho Kendro (National Book Centre), says a press release.

Iqbal received the prize for his cover design and illustrations of a children's book on the Liberation War, Muktiuddher Galpaka, published by the Bangladesh Shishu Academy.

Qulkhwan

Qulkhwan of Begum Saleha Hussain, widow of SMS Hussain, a former estate officer of EPIWTA, will be held at her residence at Naya Paltan today after Magreb prayers, says BSS.

Begum Hussain died of old age complications at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Saturday, family sources said. She was 70.

She was buried at the Jurain graveyard on Sunday.



Workers obstructing a road at Demra industrial area yesterday on the last day of a 48-hour industrial strike and barricade programme called by jute, textile and cotton mills workers. — Star photo

DU Alumni Assoc team meets President Political leaders should act in accordance with desire of majority

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said the guardians, teachers and students should ventilate their concern about the terrorist activities in the name of student politics, reports UNB.

The political leaders should also think and act in accordance with the desire of the majority people who want a violence-free campus, he said.

The President was talking to a 13-member delegation of Dhaka University Alumni Association that called on him at Bangabhaban. Association president Prof Muzaffar Ahmed led the delegation.

Appreciating the concern of the President about the deteriorating academic atmosphere in the country, the delegation members said that the guardians, teachers, students and the people in general welcome the presidential move for ensuring congenial and peaceful atmosphere in the educational institutions.

They said that the issue-based and idealistic student politics influenced the political leaders in the past in materialising demand of the people. But, they said, the situation has been reversed and the students are now being used by the political parties for their political interest.

The members observed that the elections of the central and hall unions should be regular and provision for contesting those elections should be made compulsory, for the time being, only for the meritorious students.

They opined that coordinated efforts should be made to mobilise public opinion in favour of a peaceful academic atmosphere with a view to enabling the students to continue their studies unhindered.

Speaking of the long history of the association, they said they will be obliged if the President could extend his help and cooperation in constructing a building for the association on the land already provided to them by the Dhaka University authority.

President Shahabuddin appreciated their concern about the present state of student politics.

BOU introduces internet-mail system

Bangladesh Open University (BOU) has introduced the internet-mail system within its network first of its kind in the country's educational institutions, reports UNB.

BOU Vice Chancellor Dr Aminul Islam inaugurated the internet mail system by sending a E-Mail message to BOU Dhaka Regional Resource Centre from its campus in Gazipur on Sunday.

The BOU will be able to communicate promptly with all its regional centres through internet under the new system of LAN and WAN mail-service.

Workshop concludes

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury Monday emphasised the need for sharpening the negotiation skill of the developing countries, including Bangladesh, to reach an agreement in the forthcoming Kyoto ministerial summit on climate change, reports BSS.

He was addressing the concluding session of the two-day international workshop on north-south dialogue on climate change organised by a Consortium of Institutions led by BCAS director Dr Aliq A Rahman. It was addressed, among others, by global climate change experts Prof Ogunlade R Davidson, Dr Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Dr Irving Mintzer, ambassador Dr Towfik Ali, ambassador Humayun Kabir, Dr Mahfuzul Haque, BCAS chairman AZM Obaidullah Khan and BCAS executive director Dr Saleemul Huq.

Partners Board meet begins Nov 17 Plan of action to be charted based on S-S collaboration

Star Report

In one of the most significant international events since the world went to Cairo in 1994 to discuss population and development, ministers, top specialists and NGO activists will come to Dhaka next week to chart an agenda of action for developing countries.

The three-day event, marking the third meeting of the Board of Governors of the Partners in Population and Development, an inter-governmental alliance of 10 developing countries, will begin in the city Nov 17.

The Partners Initiative, launched at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, groups Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. The ten nations are internationally recognised as having developed effective population policies, programmes and services, and as being strongly committed to the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed is expected to inaugurate the conference in the morning at a city hotel, to be preceded by a meeting of the Partners Executive Committee.

The committee has also invited other developing countries, international agencies and NGOs interested in the implementation of improved reproductive health and family planning programmes through expanded South-South Cooper-

ation.

Behind the birth of the alliance was the concept of maximising benefits from South-South collaboration, articulated in the 20-year Programme of Action which was endorsed by 180 countries in Cairo, a Partners statement said.

"This is the first time that an international alliance has been formed specifically to expand and improve South-South collaboration in the fields of family planning and reproductive health," said Balla Musa Silla, Acting Executive Director of the Partners Initiative.

Sharing experiences has been at the core of the Partners agenda, which has been clearly defined by the leaders of Partners and its supporters, officials here said.

"One of the main objectives of the Partners Initiative is to facilitate and to coordinate the sharing of knowledge and capabilities between the countries," according to Dr Nabiba Gueddana of Tunisia, the Partners Chairperson. "The Partners concentrate essentially on the sectors in which they have been successful," she said of the initiative. "At the same time they respond to the needs of the participating countries, thus allowing a beneficial technical cooperation to take place."

Health and Family Welfare Minister Sahuddin Yusuf, who represents Bangladesh on the Board, spoke of an "in-depth planning exercise" with an effective collaboration be-

tween government and NGOs. "This, among other things, will identify and evaluate the areas of comparative advantages of the partner countries, and then identify who can learn from whom in what areas," he said.

"We envisage that this partnership will accelerate the process of national capacity building within an international South-South framework."

Dr Nafis Sadik, the UNFPA Executive Director, in a statement said the initiative "brings together valuable experiences, initially from 10 developing countries, in such aspects as community participation, programme management, information, education and communication, and family planning. "Now the challenge is to share these experiences as an important input to the implementation of the Programme of Action and, in particular, towards adopting a more holistic approach to reproductive health."

The Dhaka meeting of the Partners Board, which follows similar meetings in Harare in 1995 and in Mexico City in 1996, will also review progress made so far by this South-South initiative, and discuss the Secretariat's operational plan for 1997-99.

"The meeting will also provide an opportunity to review the activities undertaken by the Partners to promote a greater NGO-government collaboration in the implementation of broadened reproductive health

Audit Parishad team calls on PM

A 24 member team of Bangladesh Audit Parishad called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office and placed their various demands, reports UNB.

Addressing the team members, the Prime Minister said the government would consider the legitimate demands of the auditors for the interest of transparency and accountability of the administration.

She asked the officials and employees to work with sincerity in protecting and upholding the democratic rights of the people for overall development of the country.

"You'll have to work fast and take decision rapidly for the interest of the people," Hasina said praising the role of audit section. She asked them to work for ensuring transparency and accountability of the administration.

The delegation members mentioned that in 1973, the government of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman resigned their post and made them auditors.

Discussion on Sher-e-Bangla today

A discussion meeting on the occasion of 124th birth anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazul Haq will be held at the auditorium of National Museum at 3:45 pm today, reports UNB.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed will be the chief guest at the function, jointly organised by Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Smriti Sangsad and Bangladesh Jatiya Bekitito Gobeshona Kendra.

The Sher-e-Bangla National Award will also be distributed at the function to be held at 3:45 pm.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Home Minister Rafiqul Islam, Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah, State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Planning, Civil Aviation and Tourism Dr Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir and State Minister for Jute and Textiles A K Fazul Haq will be present as special guests.

Prof Salahuddin Ahmed and Prof Syed Maksud Ali will take part in the discussion, which will be followed by a cultural function, said a press release.

Asian Int'l confce on mentally retarded begins Nov 16

The 13th Asian International Conference on Mentally Retarded will be held in Dhaka under the auspices of The Society for Care and Education of Mentally Retarded in Bangladesh (SCEMRB), reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the first ever such conference here on November 16 at 10:00 am in presence of 125 delegates from 14 countries and 275 participants representing various government, non-government and UN agencies in Bangladesh.

Prof M Shamsul Huq, chairman of the organising committee of the conference and a former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University and former chairman of University Grant Commission, told a press conference in the city yesterday that the conference would add a new chapter in the march towards establishing the rights and privileges of the mentally retarded in Bangladesh.

Prof M Shamsul Huq said the conference to be held from November 15 to 21 would have the theme as "rights of the mentally retarded, role of the Asian governments and the United Nations". "We seek out cooperation from guardians of the retarded children, social workers, NGOs, politicians and the media people to contribute their best in this regard," he said.

Weather Light rain forecast

Temporary light rain or thundershower is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm Wednesday, reports UNB.

Met Office says weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere across the country.

Night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged throughout the country.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Khulna and the low and rises tomorrow at 6:12 am.

The sun sets today at 5:14 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:12 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.4	21.1	77	75
Chittagong	26.6	22.6	88	83
Rajshahi	30.4	21.5	87	87
Khulna	33.0	22.5	80	92
Barisal	31.0	21.0	93	97
Sylhet	28.7	20.0	98	79
Cox's Bazar	29.0	24.9	80	91

Notice

Bangladesh Sociological Association

First International Conference

Bangladesh Sociological Association will organise an International Seminar in Connection with its National Conference on 18-20 November, 1997 in Dhaka. Any one who has obtained Master's Degree in Sociology, at least one year before, is eligible to become a member of the association after filling out the printed application of Tk. 50.00 (Fifty) only. Old members must clear up their arrear subscription, if any. To become a delegate in the conference, a registration fee of Tk. 150.00 (One Hundred Fifty) will be charged.

For details, please, contact:

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Department of Sociology Dhaka University. Ref: Data/GIS/97/235

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Dhaka Electric Supply Authority Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in T-1 Form are invited from Dhaka Electric Supply Authority enlisted A,B&C class contractors and bonafide suppliers for supply of stationery goods under Commercial Operation Division, Uttara. Detailed description of tender can be purchased at Tk-20/=(twenty) only (non-refundable) per set through Bank Draft from the (A) Office of the General Manager, Consumer Service (North), 75, Kakrail, Dhaka, (B) office of the Superintending Engineer, Consumer Service, Gulshan, (C) Office of the Executive Engineer, Commercial Operation Division, Uttara up to 26/11/97 subject to permission of the undersigned and tender will be received at 12:00 Noon of 27/11/97. Tender box will be opened on the same day at 12:30 PM in presence of the tenderers (if any) present. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer

DFF-24820-4/11 Commercial Operation Division, Uttara G-2727 DESA, Dhaka

Tender Notice

DU/Zone-1/T-13/1997-98

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA: Sealed tenders in Dhaka University form "Tender for Works" are hereby invited from the enlisted contractors (Furniture) of Dhaka University for "supply of furniture in the Examination Hall at Curzon Hall" of Dhaka University at an estimated amount Tk 2,75,000/-.

The tender will be received by the undersigned & the Director, Planning & Development/Registrar, Dhaka University up to 12 Noon on 19th Nov. 97 and will be opened on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence of the undersigned Director, Planning & Development/Registrar, Dhaka University & the contractors who may remain present. The tenderer may also drop their tender in the tender box kept in the office of the Chief Engineer & the Treasurer, Dhaka University. Contractors will have to deposit as earnest money a sum of Tk 5500/- in Demand Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh. Specification and other particulars may be had from the office of the undersigned on all working days except on the date fixed for submitting the tender & on payment of Tk 200/- (non-refundable) to the Janata Bank, TSC branch, after showing necessary enlistment papers endorsed by the undersigned. Contractors should write the name of the works and their firms name on the envelope clearly.

MA Mannan Executive Engineer (I) University of Dhaka

GD-310