

Call for widening of BSS horizon

Newspaper editors at meeting with new BSS Chief

Editors of national dailies in a discussion in the city yesterday called for further widening the coverage of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) with greater accuracy and speed under the changing democratic and technological atmosphere, reports BSS.

The editors appreciated the recent efforts of the BSS management in diversifying and bringing dynamism into the news services and assured their full cooperation and support in developing the agency in its true perspective as a national news agency.

They made a number of suggestions in bringing about qualitative and quantitative improvement of BSS news services — in both English and Bangla — to meet requirements.

Presided over by the newly appointed Chief Editor and Managing Director of BSS, Haroon Habib, the discussion was addressed by 20 national editors and representatives of transnational news agencies like AFP and Reuters.

"As a national organisation, BSS belongs to the state and its activities should be based on a national outlook, overcoming the traditional mind sets," Haroon Habib said in his introductory remarks.

The BSS chief expressed his

confidence in giving the agency a national character in its true perspective.

Speakers at the discussion were Chief Editor of the Financial Express Rezauddin Ahmed, Acting Editor of the Sangbad Bazarur Rahman, Editor of the Bangladesh Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Editor of the Jugantor Golam Sarwar, Chief Editor of the Manavjanta Motiur Rahman Chowdhury, Editor of the Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman, Acting Editor of the Daily Prothom Kamal Lohani, Editor of the New Nation AM Mufazzal, Editor of the Financial Express Moazzem Hossain, Editor of the Daily Sangram Abul Asad, Executive Editor of the Janakantha Borhan Ahmed, Advisory Editor of the Independent Khalilur Rahman, Editor of the Daily Janata Fakir Ashraf, Editor of the Arthoniti Zahiduzzaman Faruq, AFP representative Nadeem Quadir and the Reuters representative Syed Ahmeduzzaman.

Former BSS chief editors Fayed Ahmed, ABM Musa Amanullah and DP Barua also spoke on the occasion.

This is the first ever discussion of its kind since the creation of BSS after independence.

Rezauddin Ahmed said despite limitations as government-controlled new agency, BSS could improve its services by strengthening of its regional news network, making exclusive and specialised reports and features on different aspects. Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury pleaded for enhancing subscriptions of the newspapers for BSS news so that it could improve quality of service. To reduce dependence on government funding, he said, BSS could develop its assets including construction of a multistoried BSS Bhaban in Motijheel.

Motiur Rahman Chowdhury was critical about BSS and said 90 per cent of its news were government oriented with no breaking or development items. He suggested changing of recruiting policy of the agency and said every government, during their tenure, recruited party fellows without judging their merits and professional skills.

Motiur Rahman of Prothom Alo said BSS files one sided stories highlighting the government and the cabinet. He said opposition news are seldom heard sometimes is done to save the government. He demanded complete autonomy of BSS.

Nasim exchanges views with MPs of Khulna, Barisal divisions

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday exchanged views with MPs of Khulna and Barisal divisions about improvement of law and order situation, reports UNB.

The meeting held at the chamber of Home Minister was attended, among others, by Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Talukdar Abdul Khaleq, Dr Mozammel Hossain, AK Fayedul Haq, AKM Jahangir Hossain, Mustafa Reshade-e-Suja and Dharendra Deb Nath Shambhu.

The MPs stressed the need for raising the strength of police in coastal thanas and provide them with necessary transports, repair of dilapidated thana building, renovation of armoury and jails. They asked for more vigilance by police to ward-off clashes in char areas at the time of harvesting paddy.

Nasim said that it would be easier for the administration to take action for improvement of law and order situation when he was fully aware of the problems from MPs of respective areas.

'Bangladesh may emerge as developed country by 2020'

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Advocate M Rahmat Ali yesterday said Bangladesh will emerge as a developed country by the year 2020 if Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government's endeavour to convert all village homes into independent farms could be made successful, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing a policy review meeting of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) at Palli Bhaban in the city.

Joint Secretary (Development) of the LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry Kazi Reajul Hoque, Director General of BRDB Nazrul Islam, senior officials and district level officers of the board were present in the meeting.

The meeting was informed that BRDB serves as the widest official network for rural development and the board has so far implemented 47 projects in different districts across the country.

The board officials said at present BRDB has been implementing 14 projects. It has brought under its rural development programme 39,56,837 families through 62,447 farmers' organisations and 53,476

marginal women's organisations.

The BRDB through different grassroots level organisations has disbursed Taka 3,712 crore and 54 lakh in the agriculture and non-agriculture sectors.

The board sources highlighting success of its poverty eradication programme said that 21 per cent recipients of the BRDB have become self-reliant and another 30 per cent is on the process to be self-reliant.

The state minister directed the board officers to work with sincerity to eliminate rural poverty and convert every village home into a centre of development translating the vision of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He called upon all government and non-government organisations and development partners to assist in this noble enterprise.

Ershad begins Ctg tour today

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad will start a 2-day political tour of Chittagong by road today as part of the opposition campaign against the government, reports UNB.



General students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding immediate reopening of the university.

— Star photo

SUST students demand reopening of university

By DU Correspondent

Students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) yesterday brought out a procession in the city demanding immediate reopening of the university.

Following the procession that started from the Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University, they held a rally in front of the Press Club at noon.

They announced that they would observe a series of programme to press home their demand. The programmes include hunger strike at the central Shaheed Minar on April 4 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm forming a human chain at TSC on April 5 at 10:00 am a human chain at the Dhaka Medical College on April 6 at 10:00 am and a human chain at the Jahangirnagar University on April 9 at 10:00 am.

On April 11 they will gather at the TSC and submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister and leader of the main opposition BNP.

Addressing the rally, the students demanded congenial atmosphere on the SUST campus and security of both the teachers and students.

Among others, Bipu and Rana addressed the rally.

DU offers course on Comparative Religion

Two years Masters programme in Comparative Religion of the University of Dhaka will start from July 1, release of the University said, reports BSS.

Students who have obtained at least second class Honours in Arts or Social Science from any university can apply for admission in the Department of Comparative Religion.

Interested students have been advised to collect application forms and other information from Room Number 2027 of the Arts Building of the University from April 20 to 30.

Return of dead!

BAGERHAT, Apr 2: A man who was said to have been killed by his rivals 26 years ago returned home Saturday, reports UNB.

But police arrested the man, Moslemuddin (70), of Badurtala village in Morolgan thana, and his brother Abdul Ali who had filed a false murder case on Feb 12, 1975.

Police had also arrested eight people following Ali's case.

However, the two sides — plaintiff and defendant — had settled the case in exchange of money and land property within three months of filing the case.

Police said Moslemuddin had, in fact, left the house following a family feud and was living in Pabna as an employee in a shop.

World Press Council president due today

President of World Association of Press Councils (WAPC) and Chairman of Press Council of India Justice PB Sawant will arrive in the city today on a two-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Justice Sawant will be accompanied by R Gunasingam, Secretary General of WAPC. The visit takes place at the invitation of Bangladesh Press Council.

During their stay here, WAPC leaders will call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed. They will meet Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru and State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed.

WAPC President and Secretary General will also participate in a round table meet with the members of the Bangladesh Press Council, editors of different dailies, journalists, lawyers and intellectuals. The discussion meeting organised by Bangladesh Press Council on "The Role of Press Council in upholding press freedom and protecting individual rights" will be held on April 4 at 10:30 am at the national Press Club.

Justice Habibur Rahman Khan, Chairman of Bangladesh Press Council will preside over the discussion.

WHO-IFRCS 'safe blood campaign' from Apr 7

World Health Organisation (WHO) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS) in association with the government here as elsewhere across the world will launch a campaign aimed at ensuring safe blood transfusion to mark the World Health Day on April 7, WHO officials said, reports BSS.

The first World Health Day in this new century is dedicated by WHO to safe blood. Terming blood as the 'most precious life

resource', the release said blood serves as vital defence mechanism and the essential carrier of oxygen needed by human body.

The officials said WHO Director General Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland and IFRCS Secretary General George Weber in a statement urged people all over the world to think carefully about the slogan 'Safe blood starts with me'.

Prior to the launch of the campaign on April 7, WHO country office here and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will hold a press conference at 4 pm on April 6 at Sheraton Hotel in the city to create massive social awareness about the importance of safe blood.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof Dr M Amanullah and Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) Sheikh Kabir Hossain, among others, will be present at the press conference.

All these cyclone shelters would be constructed in Chittagong district, he said in reply to a question appearing in the name of Advocate Goutam Chakrabarty (BNP-Tangail).

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Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation
Office of the Project Director
Survey and Monitoring Project for Development of Minor Irrigation
Shech Bhaban, 22, Manik Mia Avenue, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Notice for Short Listing of Local Consulting Firms for Technical Assistance Consultants

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

To further develop and expand minor irrigation for achieving the ultimate objective of self-sufficiency in food, year round sustainable irrigation through conjunctive use of surface and ground water is a must. On the other hand monitoring, collection, analysis and preservation of all relevant data and information on minor irrigation in improve, modernized and scientific ways is a pre-requisite for formulation of sound irrigation policy and planning. Keeping all these in view the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has approved a project entitled "Survey and Monitoring Project for Development of Minor Irrigation" to be funded from GOB grant. It is intended that a part of the grant allocated to the project will be applied to eligible payments under consulting services. The consulting services in short will include, (a) To assist in irrigation and water management, ground and surface water monitoring, (b) To extend technical assistance in installation and operation of water quality testing equipment, analysis of water quality, (c) To assess the harmful effect on crops, environment, human life, animals as a result of dissolution of arsenic and other minerals in water, (d) To establish computerized data bank, analyse and process data and prepare reports for which the invitation of application for short-listing of reputed engineering consulting firms is issued. Interested consulting firms may obtain further information from the background documents available in the office of the undersigned during office hours in week days.

The consulting firms should be well-established and nationally-reputed and the firms might be single or combined together to form a united proposal for short-listing. No firm should form association with more than one group.

Application form and other relevant information shall be obtained from the office of the undersigned at Shech Bhaban (5th floor), 22, Manik Mia Avenue, Dhaka-1207 up to 5.00 PM on 23rd April, 2000.

Expression of interest (EOI) must be delivered to the address below by 24th April, 2000.

Md. Nurul Islam
Project Director (Add. Chief Engineer)
Survey and Monitoring Project for Development of Minor Irrigation
Shech-Bhaban, 22, Manik Mia Avenue
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.

ADC-1140
DFP-7298-29/3
G-591

APAC demands immediate reopening of SUST

SYLHET, Apr 2: All Party Action Committee (APAC) has called for immediate reopening of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) and resolve the problem through peaceful means, reports UNB.

The call came from a rally today at Court-Pont in the town with Khelafat Majlish leader Maulana Habibur Rahman in the chair.

APAC leaders demanded that the buildings and halls of the university should be named after the saints, immediate release of those arrested during the trouble and withdrawal of false cases filed against them.

They also warned of tougher programmes if the demands are not met immediately.

District BNP President MA Haque, Jamaat-e-Islami City President Dr Shafiqur Rahman, former MP Maulana Obaidul Haque and District JAGPA President Moksud Hos-

sain were among others who addressed the rally.

Another report from Magura says: Children of freedom fighters of the district staged sit-in demonstration at Chourangi-Crossing in the town today protesting fanatics attack on journalists and Nuhash Palli of popular writer Humayun Ahmed. Humayun had observed token hunger strike in Sylhet in favour of naming the university buildings and halls after Bangabandhu and Jahanara Imam.

Various organisations, including Chhatra League, Jubo League and Bangabandhu Sanskritik Jote, also brought out a procession and chanted slogans against the fanatics.

Later they organised a meeting which was addressed, among others by Mohammad Ulka, Hasan Farvez Rion, Obaidur, Meer Nasir, Shamim and Shilbu.

Ganges water 35,509 cusec received from March 21-31

Bangladesh received 35,509 cusec Ganges waters at Harding bridge point during March 21 to 31, a release of Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) said, reports BSS.

The JRC release said Bangladesh's share according to the indicative schedule of the Indo-Bangla water sharing treaty (signed on December 12, 1996) was 29,688 cusec during the period.

JCD to submit memo to Home Secy today

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the main opposition BNP, will submit a memorandum to the Home Secretary today demanding immediate release of its arrested leaders and activists including President Habib-un-Nabi Sohel and General Secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, said a press release.

In this regard, JCD will bring out a procession at 10:00 am today from the Dhaka University campus, the release added.

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Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD), Tender Notice

- Quotation Notice : 02 of RHD Ferry Division/Barisal/1999-2000.
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- Estimated cost : Tk. lowest of quoted rate.
- Earnest money : Tk. 2% of quoted rate.
- Eligibility of contractor : 'A to E' general category contractor of RHD as per financial capacity & territorial jurisdiction.
- Availability of tender schedule : 1. Executive Engineer, RHD Ferry Division, Barisal/Khulna.
2. Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD Ferry Sub-Division, Barisal (only office hours. No tender will be sold on the date of receiving quotation schedule).
- Quotation receiving officer : 1. Superintending Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Circle, Khulna.
2. Executive Engineer, RHD Ferry Division, Barisal/Khulna.
- Last date of selling quotation documents : 10.04.2000 only office hours.
27.12.1406
- Last date of receiving quotation in sealed cover : 11.04.2000 at 12 Noon.
28.12.1406
- Date and time of opening quotation : 13.04.2000 at 1 PM.
30.12.1406
- Date and time of lottery (if applicable) : 13.04.2000 at 3 PM.
30.12.1406

DFP-7281-29/3
G-589
Executive Engineer
RHD Ferry Division, Barisal

STOCK LOT WANTED

Mr. Bensoussan of Cojabis, France will come Bangladesh to buy stock-lot of ready-made garments on spot decision. His visit itinerary as follows 3rd & 4th April, 2000 at Hotel Sonargaon, Dhaka, 5th April, 2000 at Hotel Agrabad, Chittagong, & lastly 6th April, 2000 again at Hotel Sonargaon, Dhaka till 5 P.M. All interested factories/parties are requested to contact Mr. Bensoussan directly at Hotel Sonargaon/Hotel Agrabad on the date mentioned above for sale of their stock-lots.

Local Contact :-

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Midasia Designers Ltd.
Phone # 8313340/8313637
8312950/8319631
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Midasia Designers Ltd.
Phone # 726283/711178
Fax # 710701

Directorate General Defence Purchase Ministry of Defence

New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Tender/Re-Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in foreign currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/suppliers/indentors (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Navy.

Sl No	Name of Items & Qty	Date of Selling	Date of Opening	Currency	Tender No
		From	To		
1.	Microphone for TX/RX/VHF Model 1525 (Qty-01 L/I).	31-3-2000	24-4-2000	F/C	6447/NP-2.
2.	Soap Soft Grade-I for 4.5" Gun. (Qty-60 Kg).	31-3-2000	24-4-2000	F/C	6448/NP-2.
3.	Rigid Inflatable Boat with Engine. (Qty-02 Nos).	31-3-2000	24-4-2000	F/C	6348/NP-3 Re-Tender.
4.	Graphite Crucible Size 300 & 200. (Qty-80+05 Nos).	31-3-2000	13-4-2000	F/C	6118/NP-3 Re-Tender.
5.	Spare for STBD Crane. (Qty-19 L/I).	31-3-2000	13-4-2000	F/C	6165/NP-2 Re-Tender.
6.	Spare for Air Conditioning, Ventilation & Jaction Boiler. (Qty- 14 L/I).	31-3-2000	13-4-2000	F/C	6166/NP-2 Re-Tender.
7.	Spare for Evin Rude Engine. (Qty-09 L/I).	31-3-2000	13-4-2000	F/C	6175/NP-2 Re-Tender.
8.	Spare for Single Bearing Generator. (Qty-27 L/I).	31-3-2000	13-4-2000	F/C	6176/NP-2 Re-Tender.
9.	Spare for Main Engine & Shafting Assembly. (Qty - 108 L/I).	31-3-2000	13-4-2000	F/C	6246/NP-2 Re-Tender.
10.	Spare for Main Engine. (Qty - 04 L/I).	31-3-2000	13-4-2000	F/C	6248/NP-2 Re-Tender.
11.	Spare for Radar HR-2000R & Decca RM-1226C. (Qty-32 L/I).	31-3-2000	13-4-2000	F/C	6249/NP-2 Re-Tender.
12.	Spare for CPP System. (Qty- 03 L/I).	31-3-2000	13-4-2000	F/C	6251/NP-2 Re-Tender.
13.	Pneumatic Fender. (Qty-75 Nos).	31-3-2000	13-4-2000	F/C	6256/NP-3 Re-Tender.
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1. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (not refundable) during office hours between 0800 hours and 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in the presence of tenderers (if present).

ISPR/Misc/2000/302
GFP-7256-29/3
G-590

Lt Commander BN
for Director General.