

BRTC introduces bus service from ZIA to Motijheel

State-owned Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) yesterday introduced a bus service between Airport to Motijheel for the convenience of the air passengers, reports BSS.

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain formally inaugurated the new bus service.

As per the schedule of Biman, the bus service will ply between Airport and Motijheel via Kakoli, Mohakhali, Old Airport, Farmgate, Banglamotor, Sheraton Hotel and Gullistan.

Chairman of BRTC M Azmal Chowdhury and Acting Chairman of Civil Aviation Authority were also present on the occasion.

Police outpost set up at Mitford Hospital

By Staff Correspondent
The Bangladesh Chemists and Druggists Society (BCDS) has welcomed the Home Minister's move to set up a police outpost at Mitford Hospital Babubazar area in the city, says a press release of BCDS.

The demand for the police outpost was aired recently by chemists and druggists of the area following a series of crimes in the area. The outpost was set up as per the Home Minister's pledge on May 6 to set up an outpost within 72 hours.

"The outpost was set up temporarily on the fourth floor of the BCDS office building," President of BCDS, Sadekur Rahman said.



National Committee for Beijing Plus-Five Review-Bangladesh in collaboration with the Association for Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAM) held an exchange of opinion on the increase of women seats in parliament and direct election of women with the editors of national dailies and columnists at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium in the city yesterday.

**Number of women seats in JS should be raised to 64
Political backing necessary for empowerment of women**

Political support stemmed from social mobilisation can ensure empowerment of women at all levels in the country, senior professionals observed yesterday, reports BSS.

"Non-government organisations (NGOs) and other agencies can play an important role for the empowerment of women, but without active political backing it is not easy to achieve," they said while exchanging views with the NCBPR leaders on increasing the number of reserved seats for women

and their direct contest in parliament elections.

The meeting was organised by National Committee for Beijing Plus-5 Review (NEBPR), Bangladesh at the Jatiya Press Club.

Among others, Tasmima Hossain, MP, eminent journalist A B M Musa, Acting Editor of the daily Ittefaq Rahat Khan, Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Haroon Habib, Prof Momtajuiddin Ahmed, Chairperson of the Association of Development Agencies, Bangladesh (ADAB) Khushi Kabir, Proshika chief Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed, Joint Editor of the Daily Prothom Alo Abdul Gayum, City Editor of daily Janata Tajammel Ali, NCBPR Vice President Setara Musa took part in the discussion. Farah Kabir of the British Council moderated the meeting.

The speakers said there was no alternative to women empowerment and women participation in the highest level to make democracy meaningful.

The participation of women in politics is just "symbolic" now and an end to it is a must, they said, adding that the number of women seats in parliament should be increased to 64.

They tried to justify the demand saying 30 seats were sanctioned for women when population of the country was 75 million. But the number of women seats in parliament remained unchanged although the size of the population has now doubled.

They said that the number of women seats should be increased to 64 so that one woman lawmaker can represent a district being directly elected by people instead of being nominated.

They said nomination of women MPs in parliament is a humiliation for the entire women community.

The speakers suggested a national convention with participation of ruling and opposition political leaders, NGOs, professionals and social groups to reach a national consensus on this issue.

Kuwaiti minister arrives in city

Kuwaiti State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suleiman Maged Al-Shaheen arrived in the city yesterday from Jakarta on a two-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury received Al-Shaheen as he stepped into Bangladesh, leading a four member delegation. His delegation included a high official of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED).

The visit of Al-Shaheen follows a visit by a five-member KFAED delegation here last month. During his stay here, besides holding talks with his counterpart Chowdhury, the Kuwaiti State Minister for Foreign Affairs will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He is also scheduled to visit Bangabandhu Museum.

Abul Hasan Chowdhury hosted a dinner last night in honour of the visiting Kuwaiti Minister.

Gas Safety Week begins today

The first ever "Gas Safety Week" will be observed in the country from today to create awareness among the people about the use of gas, reports BSS.

Petrobangla has chalked out a set of programmes including holding of rallies and meetings and posting posters in observance of the week.

Efforts will be made to raise people's awareness of the use of the natural resources, its supply

and transmission, stemming of its wastage and the use of CNG throughout the week.

On the first day of the week, a procession will be brought out today at 9 am from the Osmany Uddayan at which will disperse at Kawran Bazar head office of Petrobangla.

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Prof. Rafiqul Islam and Secretary of the Ministry Dr. Taufique-Elahi Chowdhury will lead the

procession. Officials and employees of the Ministry of Energy, Petrobangla and representatives of the international oil and gas companies will join the procession.

Titas Gas, Bakhrabad Gas, Jalalabad Gas, Bangladesh Gas Fields, Sylhet Gas Fields, Wet Gas and BAPEX will also hold similar rallies and meetings in different parts of the country in observance of the week.

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