

2 killed in separate road accidents

KHULNA, Oct 11: A teenaged boy was killed and another seriously injured in a road accident at Meghna-Jamuna Cross Road under Khalisipur upazila of the district yesterday, reports BSS.

Police said the accident occurred when Kalu Sheikh, 14, and Rafiqul, 14, were crossing the road riding on a bicycle. They were hit by a lorry. Kalu

'20,000 private

practitioners to be involved in health services'

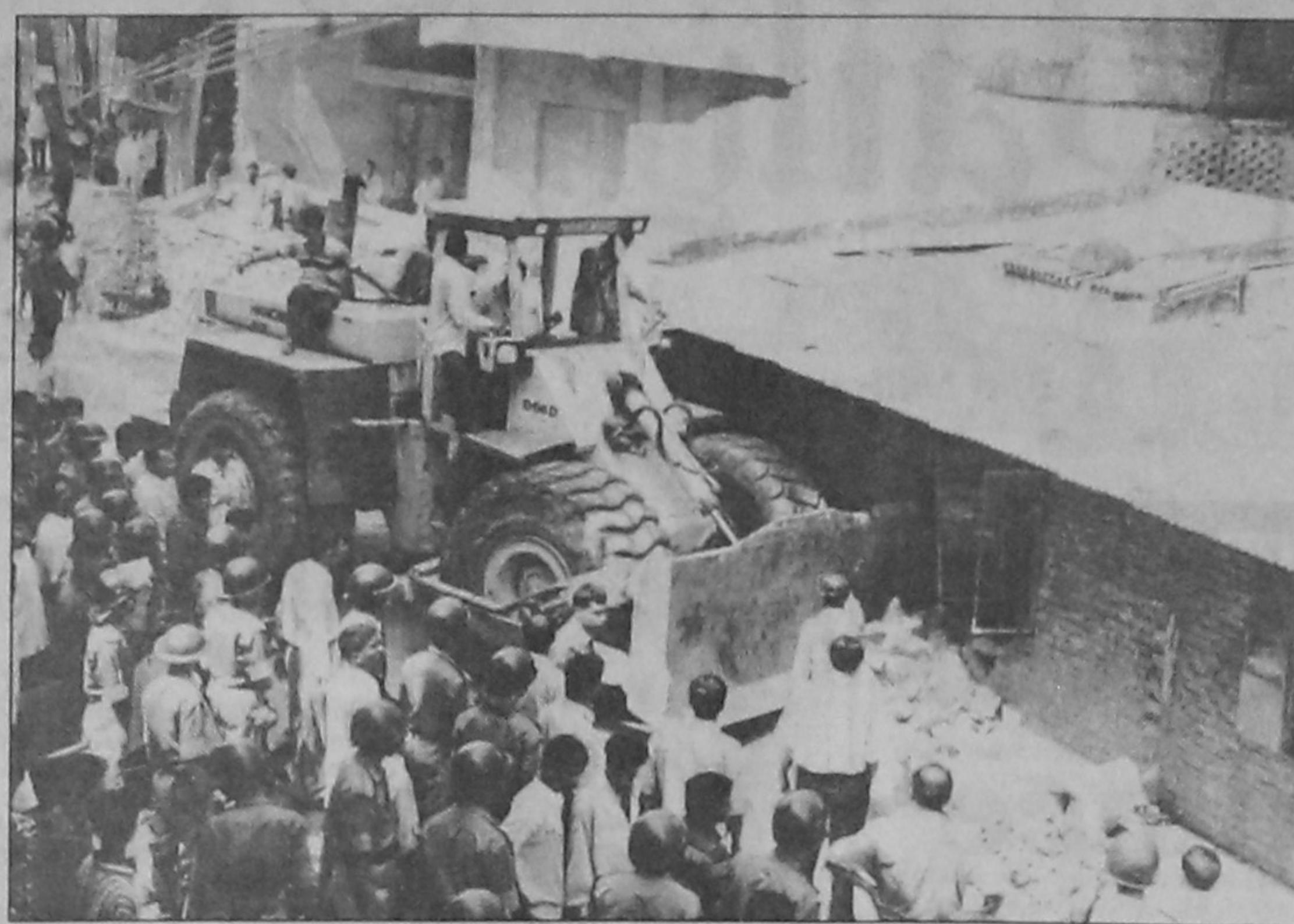
Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlur Karim Selim yesterday said the government is planning to involve 20,000 private practitioners with the improved health delivery services to make the health and population sector programme a success, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest the concluding session of the 2-day national workshop on 'General Practices and Family Medicine in Bangladesh', organised by Department For International Development (DFID), at a city hotel.

The minister said the government would provide all facilities to involve the private practitioners for the wellbeing of the common people, which will help establish the health delivery services on strong footing at the grassroots level.

He laid emphasis on reorganising the existing scattered initiatives to make the primary healthcare services available to all and bring about a qualitative changes in the healthcare system of the country.

Presided over by the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Dhira Kumar Nath, the function is also addressed, among others, by the Vice-Chancellor of Maitripa Academy for Higher Education of India Prof B M Hegde, National Professor Nurul Islam, team leader of Public-Private Partnership Program Dr Vel Gillan, Senior Health Advisor of DFID Frank Atherton and Director of Medical Education Board Prof Shah Monir Hossain.



Rajuk yesterday carried out a demolish drive to clean up illegal structures between Notre Dame College to Matsha Bhaban at Kakrail.

— Star photo

World Maritime Day today

World Maritime Day will be observed in the country today as elsewhere around the globe, reports UNB.

This year's theme of the day is "Making Maritime Partnership: International Maritime Organisation".

To mark the day, Department of Shipping will hold a seminar titled 'Expansion of the Fleet of National Flag Carrier' at LGED auditorium at 10 am.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria will inaugurate the seminar while State Minister for Shipping Motazal Hossain Chowdhury Maya will be present as special guest.

PM's message

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said maritime transportation plays a vital role in socio-economic activities of the country, reports BSS.

"Observance of the World Maritime Day in riverine Bangladesh is very significant and the day has special importance to us," she said in a message on the eve of the day.

She said since the early days, the seafarer Bangladeshi have been associated with maritime transportation.

Involvement of youths in disaster management stressed

Early warning and preparation can go a long way in mitigating losses during natural disasters

By Staff Correspondent

Early warning and proper

preparation can go a long way to bring down losses during natural disasters. Involvement of educated and trained youths in management of disaster preparation will also help reduction of loss and sufferings of the disaster-struck people to a large extent.

In his keynote paper "Role of Youth and Education in Dissemination of Flood Information" National Project Director and Flood Forecasting and Warning Project ANH Akhter Hossain said flood information should be reached to the right people at the right time.

Referring to a recent study, he said that if the information is reached upto the district level officials but not to the most vulnerable people, a large number of affected people do not receive the information.

MI Akram Hossain of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) said that a proper warning system could play a vital role in management. "Awareness is also a must along with warning for mitigation of

sufferings from disasters," he said in his keynote paper "Disaster Awareness Among Youths."

"We will get fruitful and effective results if BMD issues proper and timely warnings and youths are properly utilised at times of disasters," he added.

Dr AM Chowdhury of SPAR-NSO and Prof Rowshan Ara of Dhaka University also placed two keynotes on the occasion.

Agricultural Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury while inaugurating ceremony of the IDDR at the same venue earlier in the morning, urged the United Nations for further cooperation to face natural disaster and poverty alleviation.

Referring to various government steps for the flood-affected people, she said the government itself will not be able to face such natural calamities, everybody should come forward to mitigate the sufferings of the victims.

As part of the effort to protect vision world-wide elaborate programmes have been chalked out to mark the day. The programmes include holding of rally, seminar and free eye camp.

A rally will be brought out from the North Plaza of Chandrima Uddyan at 8:00 am, which will be concluded at the National Institute of Ophthalmology (NIO) premises.

Representatives from different government, non-government and voluntary organisations will take part in the rally to launch a social movement to eradicate blindness," said a press release issued by Sight Savers International (SSI).

A seminar will be held at the NIO conference room at 9:00 am, which will be attended by Director General of Directorate of Health Prof ABM Ahsanullah.

District Governor of Lions International-315-A-2 Ln MA Hasan, and Director of Medical Education and Health manpower Development Prof Shah Manir Hossain and Country Representative of SSI M Jalaluddin Khan.

Govt has adequate food stock for flood victims

Int'l help may be needed only for rehabilitation of flood victims, minister says.

By Staff Correspondent

districts is improving and the flood water at worst affected Shatkira is expected to recede within the next three or four days.

When asked why govern-

ment did not take necessary

steps before flooding began on

the night of September 22,

the minister said that the

districts

like

Meherpur, Chuadanga had

not seen floods in the last 50

years and the flash floods set in so fast that the area was submerged way before the govern-

ment could not do anything

of the country.

The government has suc-

cessfully managed to reduce of

the sufferings of flood affected

people so far but its main task

will start soon after the reces-

sion of flood water. State Minis-

ter for Disaster Management

and Relief Tahukdar Abdul

Khaleque said yesterday.

The state minister, however,

refuted allegations of partisani-

ship in relief activities while

addressing a press conference

at the ministry yesterday on the

the flood situation and relief

rehabilitation programme of the

flooded south-western region of

the country.

Tahukdar also said that the

government has adequate food

stock to meet the requirements of

the flood victims and is only

going to seek international help

for rehabilitation of the flood

victims.

The government has distribu-

ted 4,875 metric tonnes of

rice and Tk 31 lakh among the

flood victims at the south-west

and other flooded regions till

Tuesday last.

Besides, 2,175 metric ton

rice and Tk 6 lakh has been

allocated for seven districts for

distribution in the next three

days. The seven districts are

Satkhira, Jessore, Meherpur,

Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Ra-

jhshahi and Chapainawabganj.

The minister claimed that

the flood situation in most of the

districts is improving and the

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Besides, agro-materials will

be distributed among the farm-

ers free of cost to help over-

come the set back suffered by

loss of crops during flood, he

said.

The government however will

need the help of donor coun-

tries for renovation of infra-

structure loss, Tahukdar said.

"We have already obtained

basic food and other blended

food from World Food Pro-

gramme and UNICEF respec-

tively," he said.

When his attention was

brought to fact that Associa-

tion of Development Agencies in

Bangladesh (ADAB) has already

urged for international help, the

state minister said. "It is their

own business. It will be better

to ask them why they did so".

The state minister admitted

that some dirty elements had

been engaged in theft and

robbery in the flood affected

areas during the initial stages of

the disaster but additional police