METROPOLITAN

"Alternative food production should be promoted to fight hunger'

BSS, Dhaka

Agriculture Minister Moulana Motiur Rahman Nizami yesterday urged experts to undertake more Food Secretary Habibur Rahman. research suiting the needs of the country for producing alternative food to fight hunger.

Addressing a seminar on the occasion of the World Food Day at Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BRAC) as the chief guest, the minister stressed the need for extending the research outcome to the grassroots level for its proper utilisation by farmers.

Jointly organised by the government of Bangladesh and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the seminar on 'Fight Poverty to Reduce Hunger' was addressed by Food Minister Tariqul Islam as the special guest.

Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture of Bangladesh Agriculture hard work. University Dr Lutfur Rahman presented the keynote paper.

others, by FAO Representative in Bangladesh Bui Thi Lan and Nu-

trition Advisor of FAO M.A. Quddus and Executive Chairman of BARC Dr Nurul Alam. The seminar was chaired by

Moulana Nizami said the country is in a suitable condition to produce rice and wheat and thanked scientists for their attention to producing alternative food.

He said the four-party Alliance sought people's mandate with a pledge to free the country from

The minister also sought people's support in implementing the political will of the government into action to eliminate hunger from the country.

Speaking on the occasion as the special guest, Food Minister Tariqul Islam said the country will have to survive the stiff global competition by dint of talent and

He said to wage an effective war against hunger we will have to It was also addressed, among give importance to the development of poultry, livestock and

An International Organization invites application from qualified candidates for the following position: Technical Officer for Field Unit. Masters in Social Sciences, Public Health preferably with three-years experience in providing technical assistance and training in Family planning, MCH and reproductive health program, excellent communication skill in Bangla and English are required. Computer skill in word-processing and spreadsheet applications is required for the job. The position is field based located in Bogra district headquarters. The job requires undertaking field visits to the Upazila and below to provide technical assistance for efficient management implementation of Essential Services Package.

Persuasion in any form during recruitment will automatically disqualify candidacy. The closing date is October 28, 2001. Interested candidates should send their CV with a recent photograph to The Advertiser, The Daily Star Box- A-3822 Candidates, who earlier submitted their CV for this position need not apply.

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- processing, analysis and presentation of statistical data. Minimum 2 (two) years M&E experience in Development Projects,

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Govt suspends BSS board of directors

BSS, Dhake

The government yesterday suspended the board of directors of the national news agency BSS, an official release issued in the city

It said the chief editor and managing director of BSS would run the activities in accordance with his authority.

"Directives relating to constitution of a new BSS board of directors would be given later," the release added.

'Govt committed to restore academic atmosphere

on campuses'

BSS, Dhaka

Education Minister Dr M Osman Faruk yesterday called upon the authorities concerned to restore congenial academic atmosphere in the educational institutions.

The minister made the call while exchanging views with the Director General of the Education Department, project directors, chairman of different education boards and principals of government colleges in Dhaka at his of-

Placing emphasis on improving quality of education, the minister said the present government is politically committed to maintain congenial atmosphere in all educational institutions across the country.

State Minister and Deputy Minister for Education A N M Ehsanul Huq and Abdus Salam Pintu, Education Secretary Muhammad Shahidul Alam and Vice-Chancellor of National University Abdul Momin Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.

9 firearms recovered

BSS, Dhaka

Police seized nine firearms and two other weapons and 74 bullets during the countrywide combing operation in the last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday, a police press release said.

They also arrested 1,015 people, including one identified terrorist, from across the country. Nine cases were filed against 16 people under the Arms Act during the drive.

Of the arrested, 483 are wanted by police and 515 accused in cases under investigation.

Police also seized 2800 explosives during the operation.

Interpreter.

negotiable.

PHOTO: STAR Awami League President Sheikh Hasina visiting party activist Zakir Hossain at the Mohakhali Chest Diseases Hospital yesterday. Hossain was wounded seriously in an attack recently.

Clinical contraception cases on the decline

UNB, Dhaka

Despite substantial increase in contraceptive prevalence in last five years, proportion of clinical contraceptives, excepting injectable, is decreasing under Bangladesh's family planning programme making those dearer.

Use rate of clinical contraceptives, mostly injectable, rose above 53.8 per cent in 1999-2000 while it was 44.6 in 1993-1994.

But most successful method of mid-eighties, sterilisation, declined to about 60,000 cases on average annually from 500,000 in 1984/85.

The shortcomings were revealed in a brainstorming session on "Improving Clinical Contraception Use in Bangladesh" in the city on Tuesday where Health and Family Planning Secretary M Fazlur Rahman termed the trend "alarming". UNFPA country representative

Suneeta Mukherjee inaugurated the session jointly organised by United Nations Population Fund and Engender Health, Bangladesh, at IDB Bhaban.

Concerned government offi-NGOs and development partners attended the session and reviewed the means of strengthening the iour change information.

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use of clinical contraception in Bangladesh.

The health and family planning secretary said the dropout has two major implications -ending up with huge wastage of national resources and impact on the total fertility rate.

"Within the perspective of informed choice and volunteerism we need to build up awareness of our people on long-term and permanent method," he suggested.

The session noticed problems behind the trend of sterilisation decline, which were identified, among others, as trouble in service organisations at district and thana level, management problem from top to bottom, absence of performance monitoring apart from fear and misconceptions and lack of behaviour change communica-

However, the use trend of vasectomy and IUD usage remains more or less steady

It was said that there had been no change in total fertility rate in last six years and remained static at 3.3 per cent and infant mortality declined from 87 to 82 per 1000.

Still huge people remained out cials and representatives from of the range of family planning programme due to their ignorance as well as lack of sufficient behav-



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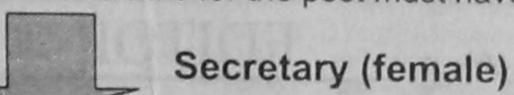
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Govt keen to export skilled manpower

BSS, Dhaka

The government will take up a special drive to explore more markets to increase manpower export, the newly appointed Labour and Employment Minister Abdullah Al-Noman said yesterday.

"We will give special priority to export more skilled and semiskilled manpower as it is one of the major foreign currency earning sectors and one of the main contributors to our national economy," he told a group of journalists at his Secretariat office. Bangladesh earns around Taka

10,000 crore annually in foreign currency from remittance of its citizens working in at least 40 countries around the world, he said, adding, "But we have been exporting skilled and unskilled manpower officially to just eight countries." "We have a plan to expand our

market to some other countries," skilled and semi-skilled manpower through our 36 training institutes with special emphasis on the most prospective of them - the IT sec- the US-Afghan developments."

tor," Noman said.

He said a good number of people were trained earlier, but no specific data was maintained regarding that.

"As a result it is not easy to trace them in quick response to urgent demands from some foreign companies, and the recruiting agents used to make use of this chance to export unskilled people in the name of skilled manpower causing damage to the country's image," he said.

"We will stop these recruiting business and destroy such network that tarnish the country's image abroad," the minister as-

He said, "If we maintain an exact data of trained manpower and export them as per requirement, the country's reputation will definitely be enhanced and that will help expand the market abroad."

The minister said, "We will try including the African countries, to sort out the problems and harand accordingly we will take spe- assment being faced by migrant cial initiatives to produce more workers and take steps accordingly to solve those and also keep track of the latest trends in the world job market particularly after

Govt urges all to help maintain law & order during Durga Puja

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Textile Mizanur Rahman Sinha yesterday said the main target of Begum Zia's government is to reflect the hopes and aspirations of the common people by building a terrorism and corruption free Bangladesh.

He urged all including local BNP leaders to help maintain law and order during the coming Durga Puja of the Hindu commu-

"The nation will not forgive us if we fail to root out terrorism from the society," he said while addressing the officials of Louhajang upazila and different street meetings there.

Sinha said the present government does not believe in words, it believes only in action.

As the people have given their mandate in favour of the BNP-led four-party alliance in the election on October 1, a vested quarter is now trying to disturb the alliance, he added.



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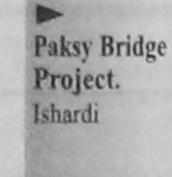
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