

Met Deptt to set up new hydrogen plant

SHEHAB AHMED

The Meteorological Department is going to set up a Hydrogen Gas Plant to fill its observation balloons which gathers weather data everyday.

Earlier it had its own plant which was sold in an auction by the Public Works Department last year to make room for the Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Met office sources said.

After the plant was dismantled, the met department was forced to keep its balloons floating with the help of chemically generated hydrogen gas costing it more than producing it in its plant.

Now the government has sanctioned Tk. 5 crore to install a new plant to generate hydrogen gas for its balloons.

Some 44 balloons are released everyday by the met department to gather weather data.

Weather radars at different parts of the country also provide vital information to the Met office.

Apart from the balloons and radars, the met office also gets weather data from different satellites, sources said.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) satellite makes two flights over Bangladesh and transmits data to the met office twice daily.

A Japanese geo-stationary satellite transmits data every one hour. Similarly the met office receives data from the Indian INSAT every hour.

Besides, it receives wind speed and temperature data from the Bracknell Observatory in the United Kingdom. It also receives

data from European Union Satellite Observatory System. The met office is also linked to the global weather data exchange programme through the Indian system via New Delhi.

From the American station at Guam island in the Indian Ocean, the met office receives data on cyclones when they gather over the ocean and surrounding areas threatening Bangladesh.

Five newly elected MPs take oath

BSS, Dhaka

Five lawmakers who were elected in the January 17 by-elections took oath of office yesterday.

Speaker Barrister M Zamir Uddin Sircar administered the oath at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The new lawmakers are Dharendra Nath Saha (Narail-1), M Shahidul Islam (Narail-2), M Motiur Rahman Talukder (Barguna-3), Mahi Badruddoza Chowdhury (Munshiganj-1), and Chowdhury Akmal Ibne Yusuf (Faridpur-4).

Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddique, Chief Whip Khandker Delwar Hossain, Whips Syed Wahidul Alam and Rezaul Bari Dina were present at the function.

Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed, Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat, conducted the swearing-in ceremony.



Different women organisations staged a demonstration at the TSC road island on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding immediate arrest of all accused and punishment to those responsible for the death of Simi.

Take preventive measures to avert risk of cancer: President

Cancer detection centre opens

BSS, Dhaka

President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday laid emphasis on preventive measures to avert the risk of cancer and check the deadly disease.

"Prevention is not just better - it is cheaper too," he said while inaugurating the Cancer Detection Centre of the Dhaka Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital at Mirpur.

"Past mistakes of western health planners, must not be repeated by developing countries," he said.

He observed that primary or tertiary prevention might not be difficult to organise with motivation, sincerity and dedication of people concerned.

Prof. Chowdhury said that secondary prevention, as far as early

diagnosis is concerned, might also be organised, but early and proper treatment was difficult particularly due to lack of skilled surgeons or radiation oncologists.

The President said besides the government, people from all strata, including philanthropists, industrialists, members of rotary and lions clubs could be directly involved in prevention of cancer.

Referring to some success stories of Bangladesh in the health and population sector, President Chowdhury said, "we have achieved notable success in controlling diarrhoeal diseases and in this regard the oral saline has made Bangladesh and ICDDR,B famous in the world."

He expressed the hope that Dhaka Ahsania Mission would be able to provide appropriate treat-

ment facilities to cancer patients of the country and as well as others from neighbouring countries.

Chaired by Kazi Rafiqul Alam, Executive Director of the Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), the inaugural function was also addressed by Post and Telecommunications Minister Barrister M Aminul Haq and Director of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Prof M A Hai.

Barrister Aminul Haq lauded the efforts of Ahsania Mission in providing social service, including medicare facilities, to people. He recalled the role of Hazrat Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (RA) in establishing the Mission in 1958.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam said that the Mission was going to set up a 300-bed Cancer Hospital with international standard treatment facilities at the city's Uttara area.

UNFPA to give tech assistance to FP programme

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will provide technical and managerial assistance to the Directorate of Family Planning to strengthen the capacity of its Behavioural Change Communication Unit (BCCU), a press release said.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in this regard was signed between the two organisations yesterday.

With the UNFPA assistance, the BCCU would be able to provide effective advocacy programme support of reproductive health, family planning, gender and other related health issues, the press release said.

The MOU also provides that in consultation with the BCCU, the UNFPA will arrange for consulting support and will also consolidate and modernise the unit's capacity to develop BCC materials.

Shahabuddin, Director General of the Family Planning Directorate and Suneeta Mukherjee UNFPA Representative in Dhaka, signed the MOU on behalf of their respective organisations.

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Training for energy managers

UNB, Dhaka

An international training titled 'Practical Training for Energy Managers from Industry' will be held at Bangladesh University Engineering and Technology (BUET) into two phases.

Experts of UN-ESCAP and leading energy experts of the country will conduct the training, to be organised by the Centre for Energy Studies (CES), BUET and UN-ESCAP of Bangkok with the financial assistance of Japanese government.

The 1st phase of the training will be held from January 28 to 30 while the 2nd phase from March 27 to 28, said a press release.

BUET Vice Chancellor Dr Nooruddin Ahmed will inaugurate the training at Academic Council Bhaban on Monday at 9.30 am as chief guest where Takashi Sato energy expert of UN-ESCAP of Bangkok will be present as special guest.

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Death of Simi Immediate arrest of all accused demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanded immediate arrest of all accused and exemplary punishment to those responsible for the death of Simi.

They alleged that certain police officials have sided with the terrorists for which they were not arrested. It is a threat to women's freedom when police joins in committing crimes, they added.

The speakers were addressing a rally organised under a banner 'We on behalf of Simi' in front of the Swopajito Swadhinota Chatar yesterday afternoon.

Khusi Kabir of Nijera Kari, Sultana Kamal of Ain-O-Shalish Kendro (ASK), Meghna Guha Thakurata, Rekha Kabir, Simi's mother Zarina Begum, Prof. Monjurul Islam Chowdhury, Urmi Rahman and Shah Murtaza Ali addressed the rally.

The speakers said the death of Simi is a reflection of the deteriorating law and order in the country.

Simi's mother said the only 'crime' of her daughter was that she returned home late from her work and led an independent life.

She had sought police assistance but instead she was bullied. Simi, a young talented and aspiring artist of Khilgaon in the city, killed herself after undergoing intense pressure put on her and her family by local youths, policeman and neighbourhood elders.

Mass Upsurge Day today

BSS, Dhaka

The historic Mass Upsurge Day will be observed in the capital and across the country today.

On January 24, 1969, pro-democracy people took to the streets defying the curfew imposed by the then government.

Fourteen-year old Matiur Rahman was killed in police firing during a demonstration in the city on the day.

In a message on the eve of the day, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia urged the countrymen to consolidate independence and democratic rights achieved through supreme sacrifices of the people.

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