

Technical training centres being set up in 18 dists

UNB, Dhaka
Labour and Employment Ministry is setting up technical training centres in 18 districts and six other centres for women in six divisional cities.

garden workers on family welfare and reproductive health. Besides, the meeting discussed the progress of a project to introduce vocational courses and modern trade courses in different technical training institutes.

IOM chief arrives today

BSS, Dhaka
Director general of the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) Burnson McKinley arrives in the city today on a three-day visit at the invitation of the government.

JU summer vacation from May 30

UNB, Savar
The month long summer vacation of Jahangirnagar University (JU) begins on May 30. However, the examinations of the university will be held as scheduled.

Bhutanese envoy calls on Hasina

UNB, Dhaka
Bhutanese Ambassador in Dhaka Dasha Lhatu Wangchuk made a farewell call on Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence yesterday.

They exchanged views on further strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Ambassador praised the former prime minister for socio-economic development in Bangladesh and improving economic ties between Bhutan and Bangladesh.

Wangchuk also thanked Hasina for the cooperation he received from her government in discharging his duties during his tenure in Bangladesh.

Sheikh Hasina recalled Bhutan's contribution to the country's war of liberation and said Bhutan was the first to recognise Bangladesh's independence in 1971.

She said Dhaka's trade and economic cooperation with Bhutan had improved substantially during her government.

Hasina's political secretary Saheb Hossain Chowdhury and press advisor Jawadul Karim were present during the meeting.



Bhutanese Ambassador Dasha Lhatu Wangchuk made a farewell call on Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence in the city yesterday.

Six firearms seized

BSS, Dhaka
Police recovered six firearms and 13 bullets from across the country yesterday.

Police also arrested 1,388 people, including 10 identified criminals, during the period.

The arrested identified criminals are Shahidul Islam of Khulna district, Ujjir Ali of Jhenaidah district, Dablu of Kushiya district, Abdul Halim, Mohammad Sharif, Mohammad Atiq, Mohammad Sagar of Dhaka city, and Mohammad Anwar Laskar, Shahadat Hossain and Mamun Khan of Narayanganj district.

BRTC plans to introduce taxicabs

UNB, Dhaka
BRTC, the state-run transport corporation, plans to add taxicabs to its steadily expanding fleet of vehicles to meet the growing demand for transports in the city.

Under the expansion plan, the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) has also decided to build six multi-story commercial bus depots in the capital city under joint venture to offer car-parking facilities.

"A proposal for procuring 500 taxicabs is under process. We are trying our level best to reduce transport problem facing the city dwellers," said BRTC chairman Advocate Taimur Alam Khondoker.

He, however, did not give any timeframe for the launch of the taxicab in the public sector, which is expected to further improve the modern transport service.

Talking to UNB yesterday, Taimur said the BRTC had already begun procurement of 100 single-decker buses with its own funds under a joint initiative with Progoti, the lone car-assembling plant in the country.

Of the new buses, 25 of Indian TATA company are already on roads and another 25 in the pipeline.

The BRTC chairman said procurement of 500 double-decker buses and 1,000 trucks had been included in the annual development programme 2002-2003.

"An 120-seater 26 Volvo buses will ply the roads soon as those are in the assembling phase," he said.

Now 24 Volvo buses are running in the city streets.

Also, under the sixth five-year plan, the BRTC has planned to procure 1,000 single-decker buses and 25 ambulances.

Quoting statistics of the World Bank, a BRTC official said 4,000 buses are needed to meet the transport demand in the city, but the number of buses is now 2,250.

The new BRTC chairman, Taimur, said after his assumption of the chair, Tk 4 crore in dues had been realised in last three months.

He said two driving institutes are being set up at Gazipur and Bogra and more driving centres would be set up in major district headquarters.

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