



The Adventurers Association of Bangladesh brought out a rally in the city yesterday to mark the World No Tobacco Day.

## 'Tobacco-control law soon'

UNB, Dhaka

The government will make a tobacco-control law soon to discourage smoking and ban it in certain public places.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain made the announcement yesterday before anti-smoking activists who are spearheading a campaign for a tobacco-free world.

"The government through an order would immediately prohibit smoking in the ministry of health,

all departments under it, medical colleges and specialised and district hospitals," he said while addressing a function marking the World No Tobacco Day.

Chaired by health secretary Fazlur Rahman, the function was also addressed by State Minister for Health Amanullah Aman, Additional Secretary of Health Ministry Khandaker Fazlur Rahman, WHO Representative George Kombo Karno and President of ADHUNIK National Professor Nurul Islam.

The minister noted that FIFA

declared the most popular football extravaganza, which kicked off yesterday, tobacco-free and urged mass media to raise awareness about bad effects of smoking.

The function was told that 111 crore people, 20 crore of them women, smoke and 35 lakh die of tobacco-related diseases every year worldwide.

Earlier, a colourful rally was brought out from national museum that ended at Dhaka Medical College. The Health Minister led the anti-tobacco march.

## Learning achievements of students low in country: Survey

BSS, Dhaka

The learning achievements of students remain low in Bangladesh, although the country has come a long way in solving the problem of access to classroom with good progress in increasing the quantity in education.

Teacher absenteeism, poor motivation and lack of supervision as well as support contribute to poor learning outcome while limited effort is being made to assess students' learning achievements in primary schools.

Therefore, a large number of students drops from primary schools without achieving basic literacy and numerical skills. Thus, the main challenge for Bangladesh now is to improve the quality of education, according to a survey report.

The survey was conducted by the World Bank in collaboration with Proshika and the Survey and Research System among 2,400 households in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna.

It found 70 per cent of students enrolled nationally in government schools at the primary level.

Between 1990 and 2000, the number of primary level educational institutions increased from 47,000 to 77,000, mostly outside the public sector, with enrollment rising from 12 million to 17.5 million.

All respondents' satisfaction

level do not exceed 28 per cent although access to education is high, the report said.

The survey found the parents using the services of a private tutor, a teacher at school or other means as strategies for admission of their children.

Some of them sent their children to tutors from the target schools or some others resorted to 'political influence' to obtain admission of their kids.

Various problems were also found involving availability of textbooks, teachers forcing parents to hire them as tutors and quality of teachers.

More than half of all respondents faced difficulties in obtaining free textbooks from government primary schools; and children do not get good results unless teachers are engaged as tutors, the report said.

Slum-dwellers complained of irregular attendance of teachers in schools.

"Students are compelled to hire teachers as tutors outside of classrooms and are given low exam scores if they do not do so," the report said quoting the households.

The survey results and focus group discussions speak of a general lack of accountability of schools and teachers.

According to the report, school management committees convene occasional meetings, which are inconclusive and generally ineffective with no committed membership.

## Obituary

Mohammad Shahin Ahmed Punu, a member of Moitree Samaj Kalyan Sangha and a former teacher of Moitree Night High School,

died in Dhaka on May 30 at the age of 38, says a press release.



Three first-ever test tube babies with their parents at a function marking their first birthday at their Savar residence yesterday.

## First-ever test tube babies turn one

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Country's first ever test tube babies born at the Central Hospital in the city on May 30 last year are fine.

The three baby girls - Hira, Moni and Mukta - are growing up well, the parents informed a group of journalists at a function marking their first birthday at their Savar residence yesterday. Five more couples with their test tube babies were also present there.

Dr Parveen Fatima, senior consultant of gynaecology department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

City BNP meets today

BSS, Dhaka

A joint meeting of Dhaka City BNP will be held at the party's Naya Palton office here at 7 pm today, a party press release said.

Secretary General of BNP and IGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will attend the meeting as chief guest.

City BNP President and Mayor of Dhaka Sadek Hossain Khoka will preside over the meeting.

General Secretary of City BNP Abdus Salam has requested all eight parliament members of the city, presidents, general secretaries/convenors, party ward commissioners and presidents and general secretaries of the front organisations to attend the meeting.

Medical University who successfully pioneered the most sophisticated technique was present on the occasion.

Parents Md Abu Hanif and Feroza Hanif thanked the team member of "CARE IVF" who carried out the successful operation. The babies were born after 16 years of their marriage.

Since the birth of these babies, a total of 27 more test tube babies were born in the country. Besides, there are 28 more test tube pregnancies at the moment.

Dr Fatima and her team is also doing intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection, one of the most advanced techniques for the treatment of male infertility.

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• Proven English speaking and writing skills;  
• Ability to travel outside Dhaka;  
• Salary: Commensurate to the responsibility.  
Candidates are requested to join in a walk-in interview with a copy of their Curriculum Vitae and photograph on 6 June 2002 at 9:00 AM at Women For Women, 1/2 Sukrabad, Dhaka-1207. C-1191

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**In the Supreme Court of Bangladesh High Court Division (Statutory Original Jurisdiction) Company Matter No. 62 of 2002**  
**In the matter of:** An application under section 43 of the Companies Act, 1994  
**AND**  
**In the matter of:** Mehdadur Rahman and others..... Petitioners. -Versus- Prime Bank Ltd. and others..... Respondents.  
Please take notice that upon an application filed by the Petitioners under section 43 of the Companies Act, 1994 for rectification of share register of Prime Bank Ltd., the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division presided over by Mr. Justice A B M Khalrul Haque was pleased to admit the same on 21.5.02 and has fixed the matter for hearing on 30.6.02. Anyone interested to oppose the said application may do so by a duly authorised Advocate or in person on the day fixed for hearing. Copy of the application may be obtained upon payment of prescribed fees from the undersigned.  
**Khaled H. Chowdhury**  
Barrister-at-Law, Advocate, Supreme court  
The Legal Minds  
Road # 9/A, House # 20, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209.  
Tel: 812 3035, 9121439