

BNSF threatens strike from June 8

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Nourjan Sramik Federation (BNSF) has threatened to enforce a non-stop work stoppage from June 8 if their demands are not met by June 7.

The demands include stoppage of irregularity in waterway sector and appropriate steps to check accidents, extortion and piracy in the waterways.

The programme was announced at a rally held at Aminbazar ghat in the capital Friday.

Addressing the rally, leaders of the federations said they would not accept the measures taken by the government for checking accident in the waterways sidetracking the real causes.

They demanded effective steps to stop all sorts of irregularities in the sector within June 7.

Opposition urged to join parliament

BSS, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has again called upon the Opposition to join parliament.

He said problems can be solved through discussions and the demands raised by the opposition can only be solved in parliament.

Mannan Bhuiyan was speaking at a joint meeting of city BNP and the newly elected ward commissioners at the city BNP office at Naya Paltan yesterday.

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

GSK launches vaccination campaign

BSS, Dhaka

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) formally launched a campaign to raise public awareness about vaccine-preventable diseases at a function in the city yesterday.

Dr George John Komba-Kono, the WHO Representative in Bangladesh, formally launched the campaign as chief guest.

The campaign titled "vaccination" aims at raising awareness about diseases that can be prevented through vaccination and are currently not included in the EPI.

Dr David Sniadack, Epidemiologist of the WHO in Bangladesh, presented a paper on the success of EPI.

Zahidul Quayyum of the Institute of Health Economics, Dhaka University, spoke on the health economics of vaccination and Dr Ashoke K Roy, Communications Manager of GSK made a presentation on vaccine-preventable disease beyond EPI and vaccines of GSK.



Finance Minister Saifur Rahman speaking as chief guest at the Reunion of Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

Prospect of Indo-Pak war Adequate flexibility kept in budget: Saifur

UNB, Dhaka

Apprehending the prospect of war between India and Pakistan, adequate flexibility has been kept in the national budget for 2002-03, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said yesterday.

"We have kept adequate flexibility in the budget keeping in mind the Indo-Pak war scenario," he said while addressing the ex-students of Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College in the city.

About the size of Annual Development Programme (ADP) envisaged at Tk 19,200 crore for next fiscal year, the Finance Minister said the World Bank and donors favoured a bigger ADP. Despite that we have kept it flexible enough, he added.

Saifur said the government has attached priority to education and health sectors. He felt the need for more allocation to these sectors than what he could do in the budget.

He told the ex-students of the Osmany Medical College that management is the biggest problem in the country's hospitals.

"The same situation is prevailing in all the hospitals across the country. Pain grips the mind of anyone visiting the hospitals. Lack of light, water supply and proper maintenance marred the health services."

He stressed the need for radical and timely improvement in hospital management for providing better services to the patients.

The Finance Minister said the government's plan is to eradicate poverty through a comprehensive programme and that's why priority has been attached to the education and health sectors for human resource development.

"As development is ours, the concept and procedure must be..."

ours. If we want to be self-reliant, we must shun the tendency of dependence on others."

Saifur regretted that despite frequent reminders by him there was no positive response for development of the MAG Medical College. He said the hospital in the college would be upgraded to 1000-bed in phases from 500-bed.

Health Minister Dr Khondoker Mosharrar Hossain said the previous government could not utilise 20 per cent of a Tk 15,000 crore health project in four years.

"They have constructed buildings but not provided doctors, nurses and other facilities that are more important," said Mosharrar.

Prof M Alauddin, Prof M A Hadi, Dr Shamimur Rahman, Dr Golam Sarwar Biddut and Dr Mostafa Towfiq also spoke at the function.

Dhaka for greater transparency in UNSC debates

BSS, New York

Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, has called for greater transparency in the Security Council debates.

He was speaking at the Wrap-up Session of the Security Council on the final day of the Singapore Presidency yesterday.

Ambassador Chowdhury said that at present most Security Council debates are held in private and it meets in public only for formal statements and voting.

Consequently, the outside world remains unaware of the honest differences between Council Members, he added.

"Let the world be aware of the reasons why Council Members take the position they do... the search for consensus behind the scene should not end in muting the voice of dissent."

The Bangladesh Ambassador also proposed that where situations permit Security Council ses-

sions can also be held outside the United Nations headquarters -- in the region where the hotspots are located -- and this could make the deliberations more effective.

He also proposed an institutional framework for regular coordination between the Security Council and other UN organs such as the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and the Security Council.

PID enters digital world today

BSS, Dhaka

The Press Information Department (PID) will enter the digital world today with the inauguration of a modern colour photographic laboratory in its office at Bangladesh Secretariat.

Information Minister Tarikul Islam will inaugurate the sophisticated laboratory, which will be able to develop and print a film within 19 minutes. PID officials told BSS yesterday.



Reaz Rahman, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, speaking at a symposium on Globalisation, Migration and Development organised by the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) in the city on Friday. Also seen in the photo are (left to right) Shahidul Huq, DG, BMET, Prof. C R Abrar, Brunson McKingly, DG, IOM, Kamrul Islam, Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Charles Nuttall of the British Council.



The 4th unit of Modern Diagnostic Centre (MDC) was inaugurated at Johnson Road in the old part of city on Friday. Photo shows Chairman of the Board of Directors of Shahjalal Bank Limited Sajjatuj Jumma inaugurating the 4th unit of MDC as chief guest.

ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia & the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's (ADB) overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Bangladesh Resident Mission

The ADB-Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM) was established to assist its Headquarters in the implementation of projects and programs, in project processing, country programming, and economic and sector work. It also coordinates the ADB's activities with other resident diplomatic and donor missions, NGOs, academic institutions, local think tanks, private sector and other members of the civil society.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND GENDER OFFICER

Ref No. Ext. AD-1/02

Reporting Arrangements: The position reports to the Country Director

Description of Responsibilities:

- Provides guidance on the implementation of the ADB's Policy of Gender and Development (GAD), and on gender capacity building to Government agencies and BRM staff to enable them to formulate GAD strategies, guidelines and action plans and to implement projects with gender/social components;
- Identifies and analyzes poverty and gender issues in ADB's portfolio of assistance, and prepares specific social and gender action plans to facilitate project formulation and implementation;
- Administers selected loans and Technical Assistance (TA) projects with significant gender/social components;
- Assists in processing loan and TA projects, identifies and conceptualizes GAD components in loan and TA projects for potential assistance;
- Conducts policy dialogue with the Government and coordinates with other aid agencies on the social development and GAD issues;
- Facilitates communication between ADB, Government and other aid agencies, and NGOs and civil society on issues relating to social and gender and development, and poverty reduction;
- Assists in aid agencies and NGOs coordination as it relates to social development and gender, and acting as GAD focal point at BRM, and
- Undertakes other tasks related to project administration as and when needed.

Selection Criteria:

- An advanced degree in social science, gender and development, and/or related fields;
- At least three years of relevant professional experience;
- Sound knowledge of government administrative systems and procedures;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Bangla;
- Strong computer skills including word processing and database software;
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to work in a multicultural team; and
- Ability to work independently.

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

(Ref No. EXT-AD-2/02)

Reporting Arrangements: The position reports to the Head, Administration

Description of Responsibilities:

- Assists in office administration;
- Assists in various jobs relating to BRM building construction;
- Assists in logistics management;
- Assists in procurement/maintenance of supplies, equipment and vehicle;
- Monitors the jobs of office contractors' staff;
- Maintains staff attendance and updates leave records;
- Assists in the settlement/relocation of expatriate staff;
- Assists in the administration in protocol functions;
- Liaises with Government offices for various official matters of BRM, and
- Assists in holding seminars/workshops.

Selection Criteria:

- A university degree from any reputed university or a master's degree preferred;
- A minimum of three years' experience in office administration;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Bangla;
- Strong computer skills including word processing and database software;
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to work in a multicultural team; and
- Ability to work independently.

RECEPTION / TELEPHONE ASSISTANT

(Ref No. EXT-AD-3/02)

Reporting Arrangements: The position reports to the Head, Administration

Description of Responsibilities:

- Ensures that visitors to BRM are properly received;
- Receives visitors and obtains clearance from BRM staff and directs them to appropriate office, and maintains log of all visitors;
- Ensures that visiting dignitaries and other visitors with special requirements are received with appropriate protocol;
- Receives and logs all incoming mails;
- Prepares and sends documents for dispatch, and logs the same;
- Operates PABX and receives calls and passes them to the staff concerned after obtaining clearance; and
- Assists in other routine clerical work, such as typing, photocopying, etc.

Selection Criteria:

- Two-year college or preferably a bachelor's degree or equivalent;
- Minimum of three years' experience in Reception Duties;
- Good written and oral communication skills in English and Bangla;
- Good word processing skills;
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work in a multicultural team; and
- Ability to work independently.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff comes from about 50 member countries. ADB generally recruits its support staff locally from the member country, in which the Resident Mission is located. The positions are for a three-year fixed term appointment. The advertised positions are local positions for which applications from persons resident in Bangladesh are solicited. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the positions advertised are for the Bangladesh Resident Mission, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Resident Mission at the discretion of Management. For further information, visit <http://www.adb.org>.

Send CV/resume and cover letter by fax, mail or e-mail. An online form is available at <http://www.adb.org/employment/appform.asp>. Quote Ref. No. and submit application by 23 June 2002 to:

Tel: 9334017
Fax: 9334013
E-mail: adbbrm@adb.org

Toru Shibuchi
COUNTRY DIRECTOR
ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK-BANGLADESH RESIDENT MISSION
BBL OFFICE COMPLEX, 2nd FLOOR
1 MITO ROAD RAMNA, DHAKA-1000

Only short listed candidates will be notified.

Marketing of agro products to be modernised

BSS, Dhaka

Marketing of agricultural products would be modernised to protect interests of the growers and the consumers.

This was decided at the second meeting of the cabinet committee formed to review the recommendations of the agricultural commission and other matters of the agriculture sector, at the agriculture ministry here yesterday.

The government will soon re-constitute the agriculture-marketing department in this connection, an official release said.

Convener of the committee and Industries Minister M K Anwar chaired the meeting.

The meeting was told that programmes have already been taken on 143, out of 245 recommendations made by the commission. Of the remaining 102 recommendations, 32 were discussed at the expert and inter-ministerial meetings.

The meeting decided to take immediate steps on a number of recommendations among those 32.

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Participants are invited for the above program in Japan which will be implemented by the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS), Japan with financial subsidy from the Japanese Government.

The Managing Directors/Chairmen of Manufacturing and Service Industries (employing approx. 50-600 persons) of Bangladesh and Nepal within the age limit of 30-55 years and having more than three years of top management experience and academic qualification of University Degree or equivalent are eligible to apply.

A finally selected participant or his/her company will have to bear a portion of the expenses which will include the purchase of an airticket locally and the payment of a small amount in Japan.

Interested persons in Bangladesh may contact AOTS Dhaka Office to know more about the program and then send a simple application on company's letter-head along with bio-data, photo, company brochure, etc. to the following address by 5:00 p.m. of 16 June 2002 (Sun):-

The Representative,
AOTS Dhaka Liaison Office

Rooms 31-32, 7th Floor, Eastern Plaza
Hatirpool, Sonargaon Road, Dhaka-1205
Tel: 861-3856