

Remove obstacles to use of biotech

Scientists urge govt

BSS, Dhaka
Scientists and agriculturists yesterday observed that the introduction of biotechnology could help reduce poverty with increased agriculture production in the country.

They urged the government to remove all barriers immediately and create an environment to promote the biotechnology. It has already ushered in new hopes in neighbouring countries, they added.

"This is the century of biotechnology. Introduction of biotechnology in a developing country like Bangladesh will help meet the growing demand for foodgrains and other diversified diets," said Dr S M Elias, an agriculturist, at a discussion at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC).

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Bangladesh Agri-

cultural Research Council (BARC) jointly organised the session to discuss a proposed project to assess the potential of biotechnology for agricultural development in Bangladesh.

Executive Director of BARC Dr Nurul Islam chaired the function which was attended by over 60 scientists, agriculture experts and biotechnology consultants from all over the country.

Sources in the BARC said the government and the FAO have taken a joint effort to implement a short-term project to assess the current status of the biotechnology development in the country.

They also will find out gaps within the biotechnology development and take up projects and programmes for further development.

Dr Jahangir Alam said bureaucratic tangles and shortage of funds for research are major barriers to the development of biotechnology.

The use of the technology is now confined to the private sector and tissue culture only. He sought increased budget from the government for the development of the potential sector.

Dr R B Singh, team leader of the biotechnology project, said the ministers concerned have shown keen interest in expanding the technology but minds of others should be changed.

He said some of the non-government organisations have started using the technology in growing banana, orchid and potato in the country, but unfortunately those are defective.

So, a concerted effort is needed for a perfect development of the technology, he said, adding that the government should come first to encourage others.



An art exhibition began at the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University yesterday on the occasion of 88th birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin.

78 CU teachers demand release of Muntasir, Shahriar, Saber

CU CORRESPONDENT

Seventy-eight teachers of Chittagong University (CU) demanded immediate release of Prof Muntasir Kabir, writer Shahriar Kabir and Awami League leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

In a statement yesterday, the teachers said the arrests have raised question about the government's motive.

"We firmly believe that it is a conspiracy against them," they said.

Expressing grave concern over the arrests, the teachers said such harassment would only encourage the fanatical forces.

The signatories to the statement include Prof Anupam Sen, Prof Moinalul Islam, Prof Khan Towhid Osman, Prof Ruhul Amin, Prof Benu Kumar Dey, Prof Hossain Kabir, Prof Gazi Saleh Uddin, Prof Mohibul Aziz, Assistant Professor Ali Asgar Chowdhury and Andrew Alok Dewary.

Dialogue on birth, death registration

Formulation of law underscored

BSS, Rajshahi

Speakers at a dialogue with newsmen here yesterday underscored the need for formulating a law regarding birth and death registration in the greater interest of the nation.

"Birth and death registration is a must for any country to ensure rights to its citizens and their socio-economic development," they said in the dialogue titled "Birth and Death Registration Law-2002".

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) organised the dialogue where 35 journalists from different newspapers and news agencies participated.

Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mijanur Rahman Minu, MP, attended the dialogue as the chief guest.

Public Prosecutor of Women and Children Repression Control Court, Rajshahi, Advocate Ershad Ali Fsha, General Prosecutor of

Rajshahi Judge Court Advocate Abul Kashem, Chief Health Officer of the RCC Dr Rizvi Sultan, Advocate Saiaza Zaman of the BNWLA and its programme officer Rashedul Kabir Obayed also spoke on the occasion chaired by local unit member of the BNWLA Advocate Shaera Khatun.

Speaking on the occasion, Mayor Minu said the RCC earned a tremendous success in the field of birth and death registration in the last seven years and that has been adopted by the country's other city corporations as model.

1,209 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police rounded up 1,209 people, including seven listed criminals, from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday.

They also recovered three firearms, 15 other arms, three bullets and filed three cases.

MP Club executives

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Whip Khandker Delwar Hossain and Whip Alhaj Syed Wahidul Alam were elected president and general secretary respectively of the Parliament Members' Club yesterday.

The 35-member executive committee was declared elected unopposed by the election commission of the club, says a press release.

The three vice-presidents are Whip Ashraf Hossain, Whip Mohammed Fazul Haque Aspia and Chief Whip of the Opposition Abdus Shaheed.

Four joint general secretaries are Abdul Gani, MP, Whip Rezaul Bari Deena, Deputy Minister for Education Abdus Salam Pintoo and Dr Hamida Banu Shova, MP.

Begum Rousan Ara Hena, a former lawmaker, was elected treasurer of the club.

Members of the executive committee are Dr T I M Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury, State Minister Ziaul Haque Zia, Zainul Abedin Faruq, whip Alhaj Zahed Ali Chowdhury, Mohammed Shahjahan, Alamgir Haider Khan, Shahjahan Chowdhury, Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi, Alhaj Tajul Islam Chowdhury, Nurul Amin Talukder, Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, Abdur Rob Chowdhury, A S M Firoz, Amanullah Chowdhury, Saifuzaman Chowdhury Jewel, Mohammad Ali Tareque, Kazi Mozammel Haque, Enamul Haque, Almas Hossain, Khondaker Mofizur Rahman Rokon, Prof Humayun Kabir Hiru, Abdur Raazaque Khan, former Additional Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat Khandaker Abdul Haque Mia and Executive Engineer of the Parliament Secretariat Jahruddin Chowdhury.

Restriction on assembly

UNB, Dhaka

Movement or assembly of four or more persons within 200 yards of the centres of Degree (Pass) Examinations has been prohibited during the examination.

DMP commissioner has imposed the restriction for peaceful holding of the examination beginning tomorrow, said a press release.

DHAKA TODAY

Recitation programme

Kajana, a recitation organisation, will present a programme titled "Liberation War: Looking back", Nasiruddin Yusuf, a cultural personality and freedom fighter, will reminisce about the Liberation War at the beginning of the programme. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 6:00pm.

Time: 9:30am.

Charity show

The Bangladesh Chhatra Kalyan Trust and the Cancer Treatment Fund Collection Committee will hold a cultural show to raise fund for the treatment of Mehedi Reza Aki, a former student of Bangladesh Rifles College, who has been suffering from blood cancer. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

BBC World Service

The BBC World Service organises a programme to mark its 70th founding anniversary and to exchange views on 'Bangladesh 1971', a 20-episode programme aired on BBC Bangla Service. Venue: Biswa Sahitya Kendra, Bangla motor. Time: 4:00pm.

Drama

The Udichi Shilpi Gosthi will stage a drama based on "Chhalekotha Sepal", a novel by Akhtaruzzaman Ilias. Venue: Mohila Samity. Time: 6:30pm.

Training workshop

A training workshop on the Civic Voter Education Programme, organised by the Manabik Shahajaya Sangstha (MSS), will be held. Venue: MSS office, House # 9, Road # 17, Block # C, Banani. Time: 9:00am.

Dialogue

The Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) organises a dialogue on 'Present criminal proceedings under special laws assisting the rights of the citizen, effecting and also the effectiveness of the criminal prosecution system'. Venue: BIAM auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 9:30am.

Workshop

The International University of Business, Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) will hold a workshop on 'Nurturing Quality Higher Education in Bangladesh' with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: LGED Bhaban, Agargaon.

Globalisation seminar

A two-day seminar on 'Globalisation and rights of workers', organised by the Bangladesh Krishi Farm Sramik Federation, will begin. Venue: WVA auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 9:30am.

NFOWD Seminar

The National Forum of Organisations working with the disabled (NFOWD) organises a seminar on 'Millennium Decade' with Social Welfare Minister Alif Hossain Mohammad Mujahid as chief guest. Venue: Samajseba Bhaban Auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 9:00am.

BWDB seminar

The Bangladesh Water Development Board will hold a seminar on the completion of Khulna-Jessore Drainage Rehabilitation Project with Water Resources Minister LK Siddiqi as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9:30am.

Discussion

The Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Ojya Parishad will hold a discussion to mark the Victory Day and Human Rights Day. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

ICAB AGM

The 30th annual general meeting of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) will be held. Venue: ICAB auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

BDRCS AGM

The 30th annual general meeting of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will be held. Venue: Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Seminar

Environment and Poverty issue in Bangladesh PRSP will be held with Law Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. The Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Environment, Economics and Poverty Programme organised the seminar. Venue: BRAC Inn Centre, Mohakhali.

JU Syndicate Dean election on Jan 15

JU CORRESPONDENT

Election to the post of deans' representative to the Jahangirnagar University Syndicate will be held on January 15.

The last date of submitting the nomination paper is January 5 while the last date of withdrawal of the nomination paper is January 8.

Prof Enamul Haq Khan, dean of Arts Faculty and Prof Robilul Islam, dean of Science Faculty will vie for the post.

Some 300 JU teachers are likely

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry over the country today. Met office said, moderate fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning.

Mild to moderate cold wave may sweep over Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Mymensingh, Tangail, Srirongal and Comilla today.

Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country. Country's highest temperature 27.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 08.6 degree at Srirongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:22 pm today and rises at 6:41 am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	23.2	13.1	74	50
Chittagong	27.4	13.0	78	70
Rajshahi	22.5	9.8	97	78
Khulna	25.0	13.5	92	85
Barisal	24.8	12.2	93	84
Sylhet	24.0	12.1	100	78
Cox's Bazar 2	6.5	15.0	92	65

JOB VACANCY

An international research organization invites application for the position of Researcher (Management Information System). This is a challenging position for providing MIS support to the project management unit. Responsibilities include (i) enter reports, letters, memorandums and other written documents as static data objects in the MIS; (ii) enter searchable data items in MIS; (iii) extract information from reports to be stored as both static and searchable data items in MIS; (iv) prepare reports through MIS database and (v) provide assistance to project management unit staff in using MIS.

The candidates having university degree with a diploma in Management Information System (MIS) or Computer Information System (CIS) and adequate experience in MIS related job including advance knowledge in computer application in MS Word, Excel, Access and SPSS. Very good written and verbal communication skills with standard typing speed in English are expected. Salary will be competitive. Interested persons are requested to apply by 15th January 2003 to the advertiser, GPO Box 64, Ramna, Dhaka 1000.



The annual general meeting of the Jatiya Press Club was held on its premises in the city yesterday.

ফুড প্যাকেজিং প্রকল্প

খাদ্য বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি ইনস্টিটিউট
বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ
ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৫

স্থানীয় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আইএফএসটি, বিসিএসআইআর এর "ফুড প্যাকেজিং" প্রকল্পের বৈজ্ঞানিক যন্ত্রপাতি ক্রয়ের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। নিয়ম ও শর্তাবলী সংশ্লিষ্ট দরপত্রের সিডিউল বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হইতে ২৬-০১-০৩ তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রত্যহ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে প্রকল্প পরিচালক ফুড প্যাকেজিং প্রকল্প, আইএফএসটি এবং কাশিয়ার বিসিএসআইআর সচিবালয়/ঢাকা গবেষণাগার/আইএফএসটি/আইএফআরডি/পিপি এন্ড পিডিবি, বিসিএসআইআর, ডঃ কুদরত-এ-খুদা সড়ক, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৫ এর অফিস হইতে দরপত্র মূল্য ৭৫০.০০ টাকা (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ টাকা) (অফেরতযোগ্য) প্রদানপূর্বক সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে। দরপত্রের সিডিউল বিসিএসআইআর এর ওয়েব সাইটে www.besir.org দেয়া যাইবে। দরপত্র উল্লিখিত অফিসসমূহে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাজে ২৭-০১-০৩ইং তারিখ সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ফেলা যাইবে। দরপত্র খোলার দিন দরপত্র সিডিউল ব্রিকিং করা হইবে না। বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সিডিউল হইতে জানা যাইবে।

আবদুল লতিফ
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সি-২৭৭৫
আইএফএসটি, বিসিএসআইআর, ঢাকা।

IN REMEMBRANCE

KASHFI KABIR 17TH NOV, '80-30TH DEC '01

THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR YOU LEFT US ALL AND RETURNED TO ALLAH (SWT). THE PERPETUAL EMPTESS, THE 21 YEARS MEMORY & THE PAIN THAT YOU HAVE LEFT BEHIND WILL CONTINUE TO STAY WITH US FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.

WE ALL PASSIONATELY FEEL FOR YOU EVERY MOMENT IN OUR DAILY LIVES. YOUR COLLECTION OF POWERFUL POEMS – WILL CONTINUE TO INSPIRE US, YOUR LOVE FOR ALL OF US, YOUR WONDERFUL SMILE, YOUR EXUBERANCE, YOUR WARMTH & THE SHEER JOY OF YOUR PRESENCE IN OUR HOME WILL ALWAYS BE MISSED.

YOUR BEDROOM IS NOW OUR PRAYER ROOM. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR YOU 5 TIMES A DAY & WE ARE SURE YOU ARE IN THE SAFE HANDS IN PARADISE AND INFINITELY BETTER THAN WHERE WE ARE NOW. MAY ALLAH GRANT YOU ETERNAL PEACE & HAPPINESS IN PARADISE

WE ARE ALL LONGING TO MEET YOU AGAIN

From: Eng C A Kabir, Eva Kabir, Michelle & Cherie C-2774

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