Matin Master, Roy Ramesh Sramik League president,secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 101-member committee of Jatiya Sramik League, workers front of Bangladesh Awami League, has been formed with Abdul Matin Master as president and Roy Ramesh as general secretary.

Lawmaker M Ahsanullah Master has been elected executive president and Tofail Ahmed organising secretary, according to a press release yesterday.

The other office bearers are Shajahan Khan, MP, Fazlul Haq Mantu, Sukur Mahmud, Hasan Ali Chandu Sardar, Motahar Uddin, Abdul Mannan and Habibur Rahman Akandah, vice-presidents; Aminul Haq Faruk and Sirajul Islam, joint secretaries; Humayun Kabir, office secretary; M Jamal Uddin, publicity and publication secretary; Sultan Ahmad, finance secretary; Safar Ali, international affairs secretary; Rawshan Jahan Sathi, women affairs secretary; Saidur Rahman, law and bargaining secretary; Ala Uddin, workers development and welfare affairs secretary; Rafiqul Islam, relief and rehabilitation secretary; Shamsul Haq Safi, trade union coordinating secretary and Jahangir Alam Majnu, sports and cultural secretary.

Two members of the committee are Abdus Salam Khan and M Yusuf. The names of two other vice-presidents, three secretaries and the remaining members would be announced later.

PHOTO:STAR

Former mayor and city Awami League President Mohammad Hanif speaks at a rally at Muktangan yesterday. The city AL organised the rally to protest rising crimes and repression on opposition activists.

1491 more held, five firearms recovered

UNB, *Dhaka*

Police arrested 1,491 people including two listed criminals from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

They also recovered five firearms, five other weapons, and bullets and filed seven cases against 12 people under the Arms Act, says a press release.

'Birth registration can help improve health services'

BSS, *Dhaka*

Health services could be provided for the rural mothers and children in a better way under the existing government budget if births are registered timely and expectant women undergo check-up regularly, a Japanese health specialist said here on Thursday.

Ito Hiromi of Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) said the regular statistics of mothers, expectant women and babies could not only help arrest mortality, but also promote the immunisation programme among the rural poor.

Exchanging views with a group of journalists at the office of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) at the IDB Bhaban, Ito said the women and children are the most sufferers of health hazards in the villages.

She said the lack of cleanliness, malnutrition, infection and skin diseases have been affecting the growth of the rural children and women.

Ito said the EPI (extensive programme for immunisation) needs more attention, but the health services improved in the last two years.

The government of Japan, under the JOCV programme, sends a number of volunteers to Bangladesh for rendering technical services to different sectors including health.

Ito has served the poor for two years in Feni.

Tk 1.2 lakh Japanese donation for six NGOs

BSS, *Dhaka*

Sho-Ko-Kai, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Dhaka, recently donated Tk 1.20 lakh to six non-government organisations (NGOs).

The NGOs will utilise the money for purchasing furniture, books for libraries, equipment for training centres and medicines.

The NGOs are Mahamuni Bidhoba-O-Anath, International Angel Association, OISCA-International, Asia Arsenic Network, Shapla Neer and AMADA.

Bangladesh representative of Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) S Nishikawa said the Sho-Ko-Kai, for the first time, gave this donation to the NGOs. JETRO acts as the secretariat of Sho-Ko-Kai.

Hilsa festival begins at Nandan

A two-week 'Hilsa Festival' began at Nandan, a super shop for daily needs, in the city's Gulshan area yesterday, says a press release.

Nandan has organised a special expedition to the banks of the Padma. Hilsa fish will be displayed at Nandan a few hours after the catch is hauled in the early hours of dawn.

With the purchase of every kilogram of Hilsa, customers will get 250 grams of dry spices free. And with the purchase of over Tk 1000 of Hilsa, customers will receive a gift voucher from Nandan, which can later be used for shopping purposes.

Nandan, the country's largest super shop, is a joint venture of Bangladeshi and British entrepreneurs.

USTC Pharmacy Alumni Assoc formed

CU CORRESPONDENT

Pharmacy Alumni Association (PAA) of the University of Science and Technology Chittagong (USTC) was formed with Sabuj Barua and Akhter Sayed as convenor and joint convenor.

Other members of the association are Mollah Md Asad Ullah, Md Bazlur Rahman, Shams Minhaj Monzur, Faisal Ahmed, Saifuddin Al Mahmud, Obaidullah Zaman, Nazmul Karim, Shahidullah Kaisar, Farid Uddin Kawser, Samina Arif, Nazim Uddin, Tanvir Mostafa, Shahnur Rahman and Rabiul Hasan.

The association was formed with the graduate students of Pharmacy department on Wednesday.

National Professor Dr Nurul Islam who is also the vice chancellor of USTC, was present on the occasion.

Chairman of Pharmacy department Professor Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Assistant Professor Quamruzzaman Bhuiyan and Kawsar Ahmed were also present.

Earlier, a three-day long Pharmacy Festival-2003 was held at the university auditorium.

Diploma medical schools to be made training instts: Mosharraf

BSS, *Dhaka*

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday said the diploma medical schools would be turned into medical training institutes to develop skilled and efficient health service providers in the country.

"The government is pledge-bound to reach improved health services to every nook and corner of the country," he said adding that all union health centres will be modernised to provide better health services to rural people.

The health minister was addressing as chief guest the National Conference-2003 of diploma physicians at Mahanagar Natyamancha here.

Director General of Family Planning Directorate Fazlur Rahman, Dr Shamsul Huda, Dr A K M Kamruzzaman, Dr Abul Kalam Bhuiyan, Dr M A Farid and Dr M A Samad spoke on the occasion.

Dr Mosharraf Hossain called upon all concerned to consider themselves complementary to each and carry forward the health services to the people at grassroots. "Physicians, medical assistants, nurses and medical technologists have a pivotal role to play in this regard," he added.

Referring to Bangladesh's expenditure in health sector, he said the country is spending only 11 dollars against one person to provide health services when the standard expenditure was fixed at 35 dollars by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The minister said the government has undertaken various pragmatic steps in the health sector, as it is committed to provide health services to the doorsteps of the people.

Dhaka to send 1276 peacekeepers to Congo

UNB, *Dhaka*

Bangladesh will send 1,276 men of armed forces to Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in a major contribution to the UN peacekeeping operation there.

This is a significant involvement as Bangladesh contingents will replace the Interim Emergency Multinational Force (EIMF) from the European Union led by the French Armed Forces.

The multinational force was deployed as an emergency measure with the Security Council authorisation (Resolution 1,484) of May 30. The EIMF mandate ends September 1.

Bangladesh's deployment of peacekeepers in Congo will take place under the existing authorised strength of 8,700 for MONUC.

The United Nations decided to increase the strength of UN Missions in Congo (MONUC) by deploying a more robust force. In June last year, the UN approached Bangladesh to provide one Mechanised Infantry Battalion, one Logistic Unit, one Aviation Unit with 05 MI 17 Helicopter, one Airfield Support Unit and one Task Force MP Unit.

Contingents of Bangladesh were originally planned for deployment in Kinshasa and Kindu in the northeastern part of Congo.

In view of the recent crisis (fighting between ethnic groups Hema and Lendu and the opposing rebel groups - MLC and RCD) in Ituri region in the northeast of Congo, the UN offered Bangladesh to deploy there, as Task Force 2, to take over the command of Sector-6. Bangladesh agreed to provide the required force.

A Reconnaissance Team from Bangladesh Armed Forces visited the Mission area MONUC from May 2-14 this year in this connection.

Later, a two-member team from Bangladesh Armed Forces visited UN Headquarters in New York from June 12-14 and negotiated a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

A 6-member preparatory team from the UN visited Bangladesh from June 26 to July 2 to finalise details of deployment, said a PID handout.

A EU-French team also visited Bangladesh from June 30 to July 1 to discuss the peace process in the DRC and the issues related to transition between EU Emergency Force and Bangladesh Contingents under UN flag, the handout added.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Shamim Akhter Shimu, proprietress of Shailee Prokashana, a renowned publication house of the port city, and wife of Rashed Rouf, poet and assistant editor of the Azadi, died at a city clinic in the early hours of yesterday at the age of 31.

She left behind her husband, one son and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She was buried at her family graveyard at Chhonhara under Patiya upazila after a namaj-e-janaza at around 11.00am.

Akhtaruzzaman

BSS, *Dhaka*

Akhtaruzzaman, a retired deputy police superintendent, died of old-age complications yesterday at the age of 92.

He is survived by seven sons, two daughters and a host of grandchildren.

His qulkhwani will be held at the Jame Mosque of Siddheswari High School after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Morzina Khanam

Morzina Khanam, wife of general secretary of Bangladesh Kabadi Federation Munir Hossain, died at the Millennium Heart and General Hospital in the city at the age of 55.

She is survived by two daughters.

Her Qulkhwani will be held at her residence at 4, Maniknagar on July 7

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