



Girls' education helps check spread of HIV in Bangladesh

Says WB vice-president for South Asia

BSS, Bangkok

Girls' enrolment in schools have been playing a vital role in keeping Bangladesh a low prevalence country of HIV/Aids in Asia, a top executive of the World Bank (WB) said here yesterday.

Pratul Patel, WB vice-president for South Asia, said girls' education was a powerful weapon to check the spread of Human Immuno Virus (HIV) and the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids) in Bangladesh, where 54 percent students in primary schools are female.

"Educated girls are aware of what happens to their bodies, they are capable of negotiations with their partners, and they know how to protect themselves," Patel told the news agency at the Impact Convention Centre where the 15th International Aids Conference is going on.

The 15th Aids conference is jointly organised by the

International Aids Society (IAS) and Thai Ministry of Public Health. The six-day conference began on Sunday. Around 20,000 delegates including UN Secretary General Kofi Annan are attending the conference.

Patel said Bangladesh has every opportunity to maintain its low prevalence rate of HIV through development of leadership at all levels including the political arena, village levels and media world.

"The leaders in Bangladesh are shy about speaking directly on HIV/Aids and sexually transmitted diseases. But it is the time to speak directly to break the social stigma and let people know the facts, he said adding that the situation still remained at a very low level, but it might turn to the worst at any time.

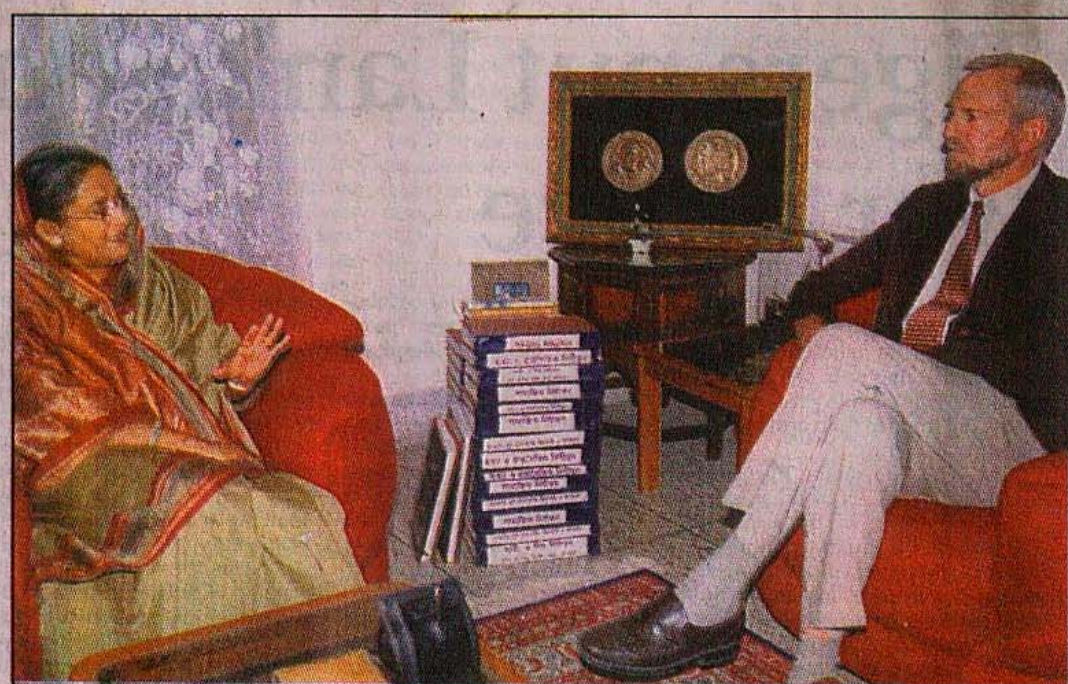
"If you look into the fourth national serological survey you will see 4 percent drug users are HIV positive. The situation is alarming. So you have to look into the matter seriously," he said.

"I can at least say money will not be a problem. Already money is there to fight HIV," he added.

Earlier, at a press conference, the World Bank executives from Africa and Europe said that the leaders in South Asia were very reluctant to surface the HIV issue in public. The leaders at all levels starting from state level to grassroots levels in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh prefer to play a hide-and-seek about HIV and sex issues, they pointed out.

They said the world Bank has committed 380 million US dollar for HIV/Aids prevention programme in Asia, and 1 billion US dollar for 28 sub-Saharan countries in Africa. The performance of China and Thailand are appreciable compared to other Asian nations.

Globally, the number of HIV/Aids cases is 40 million and 15,000 new infections occur everyday. In Bangladesh, official number of HIV cases is only 363, but UNAIDS estimates the number around 15,000.



Danish Ambassador Niels Severin Munk called on Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday.

Tk 221cr BCC budget announced

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal City Corporation (BCC) yesterday announced a Tk 221.74 crore budget for 2004-05 without imposing any new taxes.

Announcing the highly ambitious budget, Mayor Majibur Rahman Sarwar pledged to make Barisal a green, clean, beautiful and cultural city.

He, however, admitted that he could not carry out many development activities due to lack of funds.

The mayor sought people's cooperation in the development efforts of the corporation.

He also urged them to pay the taxes regularly.

Of the total amount in the budget, only Tk 20.81 crore will come from its revenue sources and the rest Tk 191.74 crore from various grants.

Obituary



Md Saad Hossain Khan, father of Md Tofael Khan, managing director of City Art Press Ltd., died at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 76, says a press release.

He was the founder of Kakardia Primary School in Sylhet and Azimunnisa Women's Madrasa.

He is survived by his wife, four sons, four daughters and a number of grandchildren.

Tk 4 crore Dutch-Bangla donation for Cancer Hospital

Dutch-Bangla Bank authorities decided to donate Tk 4 crore for construction of the first floor of the proposed Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) to be established by Dhaka Ahsania Mission at Uttara in the city, says a press release.

The Managing Director of the Bank Md Yasin Ali handed over a letter in this regard to the Executive Director of the Dhaka Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam yesterday at a simple function at the Dutch-Bangla Bank head office at Sena Kalyan Bhaban in the city.

Abul Hashem Khan, Deputy Managing Director (Operations) and A. A. M. Zakaria, Deputy Managing Director (Administration) of the Bank, Dr Moazzam Hossain Khan, Coordinator of Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation and Prof Nurul Islam, Director, Public Relations Division of Dhaka Ahsania Mission were present on the occasion.

While receiving the commitment letter Rafiqul Alam lauded the role and leadership of Mohammad Shahabuddin Ahmad, Chairman of Dutch-Bangla Bank for this great donation. He hoped that other individuals or organisations will feel inspired and come forward to help establish the proposed 500-bed Cancer Hospital costing Tk110 crore.

SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS, CLASSROOMS Academic activities at 4 JU deptts disrupted

JU CORRESPONDENT

Shortage of teachers and classrooms and lack of laboratory facilities have brought academic activities of four departments at Jahangirnagar University (JU) to a virtual halt.

The authorities introduced urban and regional planning, biochemistry and molecular science, environmental science and international relations as full-fledged departments in 1998-99 academic session, but did not provide enough classrooms and teachers.

As a result, the students have been facing session jam of more than one and half years.

The students of biochemistry and molecular science at a press conference yesterday gave a seven-day ultimatum to the department chairman for appointment of at least four regular teachers.

They also threatened to boycott all classes and examinations if their demand goes unheeded.

The department has now only three teachers and two classrooms while the number of students is 135 divided into six batches.

Even the classrooms do not have enough space for students of a single batch, said a teacher of the department, seeking anonymity.

Urban and regional planning, a department under social science faculty, now has six teachers and two classrooms against about 150 students in six batches of different

academic sessions.

As most lab instruments are very old and unfit for use, the students have to rush to Dhaka University and Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology often for their laboratory works, students complained.

The department also does not have any seminar library, they said.

Environmental science, a department under science faculty, fails to offer a single classroom for the students till now. Classes are held in a room at the central auditorium that was meant for the cultural organisations.

"Although the university allotted a room, the department could not be shifted there for shortage of necessary furniture," said Rashedul Karim, a teacher of the department. International relations, a department under arts faculty, has been facing serious shortage of teachers.

The department now has only three teachers for about 130 students in five batches.

Moreover, an internal feud among the teachers has created a deadlock at the department.

While contacted over telephone, Prof Tareq Shamsur Rahman, chairman of international relations, and Prof Shafiqul, chairman of environmental science, declined to comment on the issue.

Prof Shajed Afzar Karim, chairman of urban and regional planning, was not available for comments.

Looted arms recovered in Bhola

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police recovered the looted arms and ammunition in Bhola district on Sunday night.

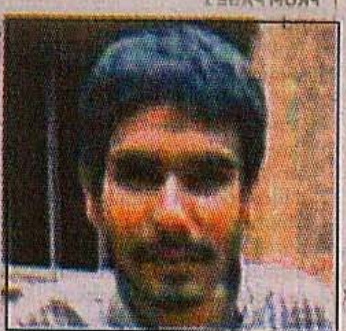
A sub-machine gun, a rifle and 40 bullets were looted from a police team during a clash with a mob at Anjur Hut in Char Manik union under Charfashion upazila.

Police found the arms lying abandoned at the spot at around 11.00pm.

The clash took place over torture of a schoolboy.

Zakir Hossain, assistant sub-inspector of Char Manik police camp, lodged a case against 15 people in connection with the attack on police.

Police also arrested 18 people, including two students of Anjur Hut School, Prince and Sohail. They were sent to jail.



Appeal for help

JU CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Amatullah, a student of Jahangirnagar University (JU), has sought financial assistance for his treatment.

He has been suffering from ankylosing spondylitis, a chronic inflammatory form of arthritis that affects the spinal joints, since 1995 but financial constraints forced him to withdraw from treatment.

A resident of Taltoil in Gazipur, Amatullah studies mathematics at the university. He could not sit for third year final examinations because of his illness.

Amatullah is an orphan. His younger brother, a low-paid garments worker, earns too little to afford his treatment.

"I want to live. I want to be back in classroom with the help of others," said Amatullah, with tears rolling down his face.

He appealed to the generous people to help him return to normal life.

Contributions can be sent to Account No. 18979, Agrani Bank, Jahangirnagar University branch, Savar, Dhaka-1342.



Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Sylhet, and Rajshahi divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions till 6.00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls at places over Chittagong, Sylhet and Rajshahi division during the period, Met office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 22.7 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:20am 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	29.8	23.9	79	88
Chittagong	30.6	24.5	83	78
Rajshahi	29.5	25.5	79	86
Khulna	32.5	24.2	89	82
Barisal	31.5	25.0	83	--
Sylhet	30.0	23.4	90	79
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.0	89	82



Managing Director of Dutch-Bangla Bank Md Yasin Ali hands over a commitment letter for donation of Tk 4 crore to Executive Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam at a simple ceremony in the city yesterday.

Zia Shishu Academy team meets president

BSS, Dhaka

A delegation of Zia Shishu Academy, which will visit the United Kingdom and France, called on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

The members of the delegation apprised the president of the activities of the academy and Zia International Children Fair to be held in December here. In connection with the fair, the delegation is going to those countries, they told the president.

The President said the fair and the trip will help uphold country's image abroad.

DHAKA TODAY

Drama

Chekhov Theatre will stage a workshop-oriented experimental drama based on the short story 'After the Ball Dance', by Leo Tolstoy. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm.

Bangla Academy

Bangla Academy organises a discussion marking the death anniversary of Dr Muhammad Shahidullah. It will be followed by a session of recitation. Venue: Seminar room of the academy. Time: 11.00am.

South Asia Water Forum

The inaugural ceremony of a three-day Third South Asia Water Forum 2004 will be held, with Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed as chief guest. The Global Water Partnership organises the event. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9.00am.

Muldhara

Muldhara organises a meeting to exchange views among the writers, journalists and artists. Venue: Muldhara Zakia Alam Auditorium. Time: 6.30pm.

Prize giving ceremony

The prize giving ceremony of Saig

Institute of Management and Technology will be held. Venue: IDB Bhaban Auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 10.00am.

Blood donation programme

The Orca Blood for Life organises a voluntary blood donation programme. Venue: Bangladesh Bank. Time: 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Rotary Sonargaon Dhaka

Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Sonargaon Dhaka will be held. Members are requested to attend the meeting on time. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Memorial meeting

Sammilita Nagonik Samaj will hold a discussion in memory of Liberation War inspirer and noted writer late MR Akhter Mukul and slain journalist Humayun Kabir Balu. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 5.00pm.



Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka exchanges views with ward commissioners, elite of the city and journalists on refixing of holding tax at Mohanagar Natyamanch in the city yesterday.

Directorate General Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Re-Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders are invited in foreign currency from bonafide manufacturers/ dealers/ suppliers/ indentors (enlisted firms) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Army.

Ser No	Nomenclature	Date of selling From	To	Date of opening	Currency	Tender No
a.	Spare parts for Jiefang Truck 2½ Ton 6x6 Model: CA30A (47 line items) (4th Time)	22-07-2004	10-08-2004	11-08-2004	Foreign	2274/P-1
b.	Spare parts for RR Carrier Jeep Model: BJ 212 & 212A (Quantity-44 Line items) (3rd Time)	22-07-2004	10-08-2004	11-08-2004	Foreign	2285/P-1

2. Tender schedule with detail specifications & conditions will be available on payment of as per I/T selling rate (not refundable) during office hours between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderers (if present).

ISPR/Misc/04/640
DFP-17141-8/7/04
G-415

Major
For Director General

Padma Oil Company Limited

(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
Strand Road, Sadarghat
Chittagong, Bangladesh

Invitation for Tenders (Goods or Works)

Tender No: COF/ZIA/13-04 Dated: 22.05.04
International tenders are invited from reputed and genuine manufacturers, agents or suppliers having previous experiences for "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 2 Nos. x 18000 Ltr Capacity Low Profile Aviation Refuellers" as noted below:

1. Project name	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 2 Nos x 18000 Ltr Capacity Low Profile Aviation Refuellers for Kurmitola Aviation Depot (KAD), Zia International Airport, Dhaka.
2. Source of fund	Own source of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
3. Invitation for tenders ref. & date	COF/ZIA/13-04 dated: 22.05.2004.
4. Tender name	Procurement of Aviation Refuellers.
5. Time for completion of delivery	180 (One hundred eighty) after signing the contract.
6. Eligibility of tenderers	Manufacturer/agents/supplier having previous experience of similar works with whom Bangladesh has trade relationship.
7. Price of tender documents	US\$ 75.00 or euro 90.00 or BDT 5000.00 (non-refundable) per set.
8. Amount of tender security	US\$ 20,000.00 (twenty thousand)/Euro 22,000.00 (twenty two thousand)/BDT 12,00,000.00 (Twelve Lacs) in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee in favour of Padma Oil Company Limited encashable in any scheduled bank of Bangladesh.
9. Name and address of the office(s) selling tender document	a) Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Chittagong, Bangladesh; b) Padma Oil Company Limited, 6, Paribagh, Dhaka; c) At the office of the foreign embassy of the Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. i) United Kingdom, ii) Singapore, iii) Germany & iv) Dubai.
10. Name and address of the office receiving tenders	Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
11. Name and address of the office opening tenders	Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
12. Last date and time for selling tender document	Up to 1500 hrs. on 23.08.2004 (Local Time).
13. Last date and time for submission of tenders	Up to 1500 hrs. on 24.08.2004 (BST).
14. Date and time for opening of tenders	At 1530 hrs. on 24.08.2004 (BST).
15. Special instructions (optional)	(a) For any clarification please contact: Engineering & Planning Manager (EPM) Padma Oil Company Limited Strand Road, Chittagong, Bangladesh Telex No-66227 POCL BG Fax No-88031-618312 Phone: 031-614235-7 (b) The total procurement (goods and works) will be done as per Public Procurement Regulations - 2003.
16. Brief description of goods and services (works & services)	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 2 Nos x 18000 Ltr Capacity Low Profile Aviation Refuellers for Kurmitola Aviation Depot (KAD), Zia International Airport, Dhaka (Detail specification attached in the tender documents).

DFP-17022-6/7/04 G-400

Helal Ahmed Chowdhury
Engineering & Planning Manager