

## MoU with Mauritius on manpower export soon

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Mauritius yesterday agreed to strike a deal in the form of memorandum of understanding (MoU) to formalise the existing cooperation in the field of manpower export to the island-state.

Both sides also showed interest in examining the possibility of establishing direct air links between the two countries.

Regional and international issues of common interest also came up at official talks between Mauritius Minister for Foreign Affairs Jaya Krishna Cuttaree and Bangladesh Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at the State Guest House, Padma.

After the meeting, the Mauritius foreign minister told reporters that he had a "very fruitful meeting" with his Bangladesh counterpart and hoped that the cooperation between the two countries as well as South-South cooperation would strengthen as a result.

Later in the day, the Mauritius

foreign minister made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

A foreign ministry press release said Jaya yesterday visited the mazar of president Ziaur Rahman and paid homage to the late leader.

## KMP Commissioner transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Javed Patwary, Commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police, has been transferred to Noakhali as Commandant of Noakhali Zonal Police Training Institute yesterday.

He joined Khulna Metropolitan Police on January 1 this year.

The DIG of Khulna Range Abdul Aziz Sarker has been asked to take the charge of police commissioner on temporary basis.

Meanwhile, Abdullah Al Mamun of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has joined the KMP as Deputy Commissioner. He has succeeded Abdullah Al Mahmud. Mahmud has joined as Police Super of Rajshahi district.



Students and teachers of diploma engineering programmes and professionals stage a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting the setting up of engineering staff college.

PHOTO: STAR

## '43 pc children malnourished'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-three percent of the country's under-five children are malnourished while 17 percent are severely stunted, said the director of Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN) Prof Farida Khatun.

Also, 48 percent children are underweight for their age and 13 percent are underweight for their height, she said at the inaugural session of a seminar in the city yesterday.

Global Nutrition Programme, Uppsala, Sweden and the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), Bangladesh jointly organised the five-day international seminar on nutrition.

"One of the foremost reasons of malnutrition in Bangladesh is maldistribution of resources," said Dr MA Hadi, vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

Citing a survey of 1999, Prof Farida Khatun said over 43 percent of the population suffer from iodine deficiency disorder and 50 percent of all pre-school children and pregnant women in rural areas are anaemic, which indicates a severe public health problem.

Malnutrition problem in Bangladesh in terms of protein-energy and micro-nutrient remains among the most severe in the world,

she said.

In his presentation, Dr Mohsin Ali of National Nutrition Project said household food insecurity, lack of access to basic healthcare and lack of awareness about healthy way of

life are some of the factors responsible for malnutrition.

Terming nutrition a development issue, he said that good nutrition status reduces poverty by boosting productivity, leads to better educational outcome and lowers the risk of diet-related chronic disease.

A total of 150 nutrition professionals from African, Asian and Latin American countries have so far been trained since the Global Nutrition Programme began in 1999, said its director Britta Ogle.

The access to information technology (IT) and other latest communication tools have made the training much easier and expeditious, she said, adding that nutrition programmes and IT must be combined with a multi-disciplinary approach.

A total of 37 participants from 20 countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America are taking part in the seminar that aims at sharing information on nutrition, disseminating available materials and developing new ideas.

Health secretary AFM Sarwar Kamal and the Swedish Ambassador Borje Martsson also spoke at the inaugural session chaired by the NICVD director Prof Md Nazrul Islam.

## IDB food aid for flood-hit children

UNB, Dhaka

A consignment of 245 metric tonnes of baby foods donated by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for the flood-affected children of Bangladesh was handed over to the government yesterday.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf received the food aid from IDB Field Representative Mohammad Syef Uddin and Operations Officer Kunrat Wirasubrata.

The foodstuffs have been allocated for seven districts - 47 metric tons for Mymensingh, 24 tons for Netrakona, 64 tons for Kishoreganj, 13 tons for Sylhet, 34 tons for Moulvibazar, 46 tons for Habiganj and 17 tons for Sunamganj, a government handout said.

DEATHS OF 11 IN MEDITERRANEAN

## Dohar Travels owner Salam on 3-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Abdus Salam, owner of M/S Dohar Travels and Tourist, arrested following the tragic deaths of 11 Bangladeshis in the Mediterranean last month on their illegal voyage to Spain from Morocco, was placed on a three-day remand yesterday.

Ramna police produced Salam before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka with a seven-day remand petition.

In the petition, police said Salam along with others took a huge amount of money from many people for sending them to Spain. But they tried to send them illegally by boat that caused 11 deaths in the sea from hunger and thirst. So he needs to be quizzed to find out his accomplices and their whereabouts, the investigation officer (IO) said.

The defence lawyers filed a bail petition saying that their client was implicated in the false case to harass him. So they prayed for granting their client's bail.

After hearing both the sides, Magistrate Towfiqul Islam rejected the bail petition and placed Salam on a three-day remand for interrogation.

Ramna police arrested Abdus Salam from his Bijoyagar office in the city at about 1:30pm on Sunday and seized 35 Bangladeshi passports, three registers and other documents. His partner, Mosharrif, is still at large.

DOUBLE MURDER

## Aminul to be produced in court today

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Aminul Islam, suspected killer of Dr Nazneen and her domestic help Parveen, was interrogated yesterday and will be produced before the court today.

DB police arrested Aminul on Sunday from a village in Faridpur district and brought him to the capital. He was absconding since the murders at their Central Road residence in the city on March 6.

Dhanmondi police along with Aminul raided different places in the capital, said Investigation Officer (IO) SI Shahdat Hossain.

"We interrogated him to confirm whether he was involvement in the killings or he had any associates or not", the IO said.

"We raided several places where Aminul used to go and his friends live."

Police suspected he raped the household Parveen and killed Dr Nazneen as she witnessed the incident. Later, he also killed Parveen.

## Russian film festival begins

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A three-day Russian war-based film festival began at the Dhaka University Teachers' Student Centre (TSC) yesterday to mark the 60th anniversary of victory against fascism.

DU Treasurer Prof Sayed Rashidul Hasan inaugurated the festival.

Russian Ambassador Andre A Starcov, Director of the Russian Science and Cultural Centre, Dhaka Yuri I. Macarov and Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique addressed the inaugural function.

Advisor to the TSC Dr Mustafizur Rahman presided.