

New healthcare initiative launched in C'nawabganj

UNB, Dhaka

'Clustering programme', a new initiative taken experimentally in the country's health sector, has been launched in Chapainawabganj district to make the existing health and family planning programme "more functional."

This programme for sharing manpower, including doctors, medical equipment, and other logistic supports among the hospitals and health complexes in the upazilas of the district, has been taken to ensure better health and family planning service, according to sources at the Health and Family Welfare Ministry.

This experimental programme is being implemented among the six hospital and health complexes in Chapainawabganj district, which has been divided into two clusters - Cluster No. 1 and Cluster No. 2.

District Sadar Hospital, Shibganj Upazila Health Complex and Bholahat Upazila Health Complex have been placed under the Cluster No. 1 while district Mother and Children Welfare Centre (MCWC), Nachole Upazila Health Complex

and Gomostapur Upazila Health Complex under Cluster No. 2.

Six medical teams have been formed for the two clusters.

Health and Family Welfare Advisor Maj Gen (retd) Dr ASM Motiur Rahman inaugurated the programme after visiting the district sadar hospital and Mother and Children Welfare Centre (MCWC) on Tuesday.

Under the programme, health and family planning programme would be more functional and effective through ensuring best usage of manpower, logistics and medical equipment.

The programme would be gradually implemented across the country, if the experiment proved a success, said the Health Ministry sources.

The new programme has been taken in absence of any scope to ensure all types of general treatments in all the upazila health complexes in the country. Somewhere there is shortage of physician while at some other places there is lack of medical tools or other equipment.

By sharing manpower, including doctors, and medical equipment among the upazilas under the cluster programme, services and functions

of the health and family planning programme would increase and be more effective, said Munshi Jalal Uddin, senior information officer of the Health and Family Welfare Ministry.

He said the programme would remain functional by using the existing medical facilities of the hospitals and health complexes in the district without any special allocation, but with coordination among the doctors.

Because, a surgeon of an upazila health complex would be able to give health service to another upazila health complex under one cluster on a stipulated day in a week, he added.

Similarly, medical equipment of one upazila health complex may be used for other upazila health complexes under a cluster. In this way, two or three upazila health complexes or hospitals would be taken for one cluster, which would be implemented across the country in phases.

SAFMA WORKSHOP

Enactment of right to info act demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

South Asian Free Media Association of Bangladesh (Safma) organised a workshop on 'Reforms and election reporting by the electronic media' at a hotel in resort town Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Speakers at the workshop pointed out that both electronic and print media should be given full freedom to facilitate the present drive against corruption and crime.

The media must also be careful to exercise neutrality, objectivity and authenticity in the profession, they added.

They also demanded enactment of right to information act.

Farhana Afroz presented a keynote paper on 'TV news: in the eyes of a young professional'.

Safma President Reazuddin Ahmed presided over the workshop.

Safma Vice-president Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Joint Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi, EC members Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan and Elahi Newaz Shaju and News Editor of Ekushey TV Shah Alamgir were present in the workshop.

Captured BSF man handed over to Indian authorities

Bss, Rajshahi

A jawan of Indian Border Security Force (BSF), who was caught by the local people when he intruded into Bangladesh territory at Char Mazar Diar frontier under Rajpara upazila of the district yesterday morning, was handed over to Indian authorities in the afternoon.

BDR sources said Raju Ranjan, 34, a jawan of Kaharpara BSF camp under Raninagar thana of Murshidabad district in West Bengal, entered about 600 meters inside Bangladesh territory with a SLR loaded with 50 rounds of bullet and tried to open fire on Bangladeshi people at around 9:15am.

But local people captured him and handed him over to a BDR patrol party under the 10th Rifle Battalion.

Later, upon a battalion commander level meeting between BDR and BSF, the captured BSF man was handed over to BSF authorities at the same frontier at 4:00pm.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alhaj Mohammad Akhter-uzzaman, former additional general manager of Rupali Bank and father of Zayadul Ahsan Pintu, chief reporter of The Daily Star, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at LabAid Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 73.

Akhteruzzaman, also a social worker, left behind his wife, five sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest at Azimpur graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza at Dhania Rasulpur Jame mosque.

Death anniversary

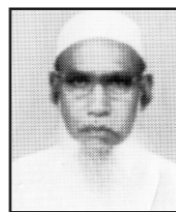


Nawabganj College, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at the memorial built on the college premises at 11:30am.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programme.

MA Khaleque Sheikh



of Cultural Sub Committee of Awami League, says a press release.

On the occasion, a daylong Qurankhwani will be held at Munir Kandi Ashrafur Uloom Madrasa.

Besides, a milad mahfil will also be held at his village residence at Gohala after Asr prayers.

His relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programmes to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

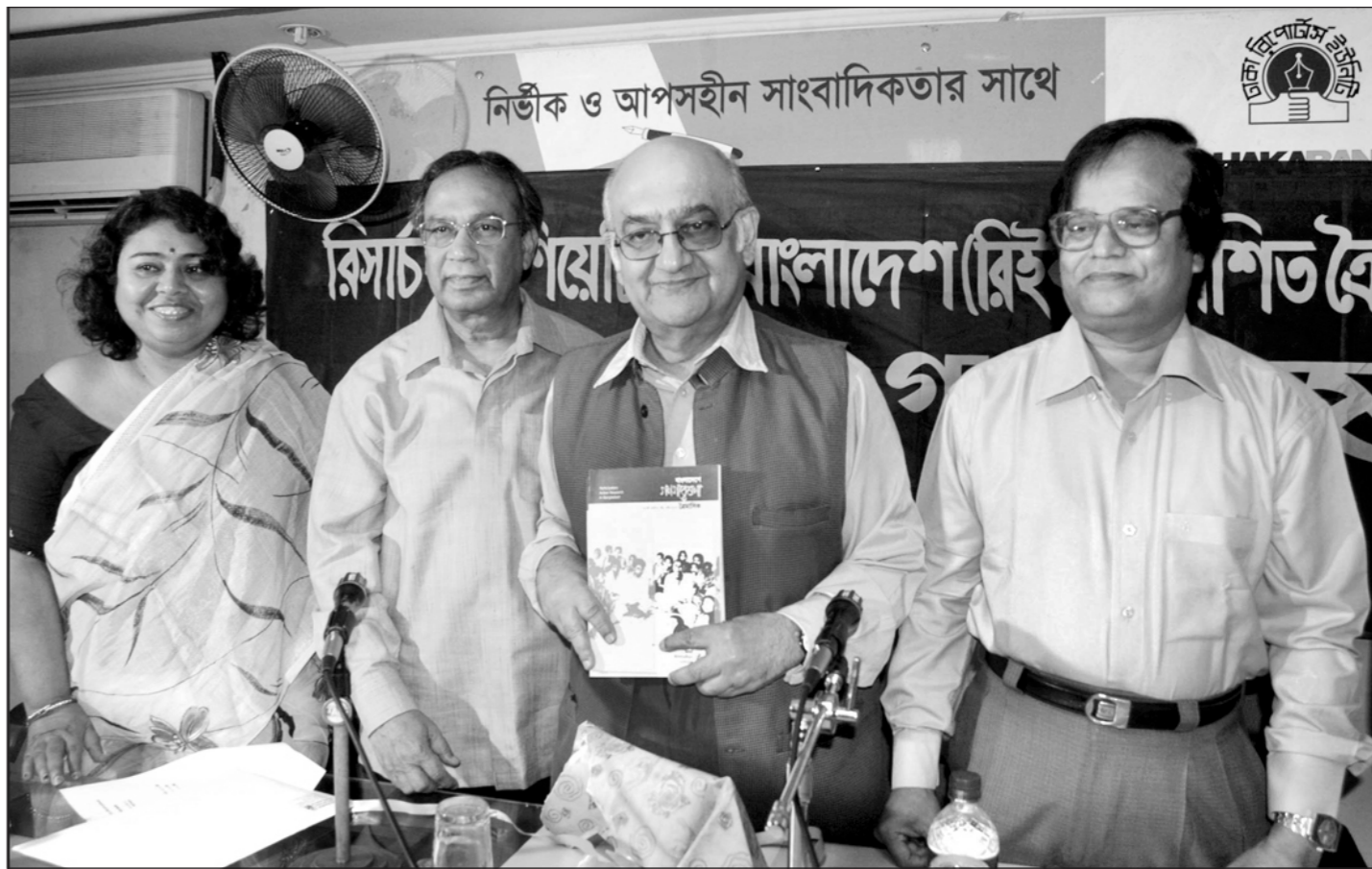


PHOTO: STAR

Eminent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan launches a quarterly journal at a ceremony at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium yesterday. On his right are RIB Chairman Dr Shamsul Bari and Executive Director Dr Meghna Guha Thakurota while on his left is Prof Moinul Islam.

Journal on participatory action research launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at the launching ceremony of a quarterly journal yesterday said participatory action research could raise awareness among the lower class and minority people.

Eminent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan launched the journal titled 'Participatory Action Research in Bangladesh' at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB) has published the journal.

"Researches, made and imported from abroad, do not bring positive results most of the time to its target," said Prof Rehman Sobhan.

"Researches have to be carried out by the people related to the research," he said, adding that "it would then have positive impact."

Researchers, engaged in the participatory research (PR), said the PR has changed the lot of poor and minority people by raising awareness among them.

RIB Chairman Dr Shamsul Bari and Executive Director Dr Meghna Guha Thakurota were also present at the ceremony.

Int'l workshop on dynamics of food and cash Mar 14

UNB, Dhaka

A daylong international workshop on 'Dynamics of Food and Cash: Impact on Livelihoods of the Extreme Poor' will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city on March 14.

High-level representatives from a number of countries, development partners, donor agencies, GoB, NGO officials and foreign researchers will take part in the workshop, said a release.

WFP Bangladesh commissioned IFPRI (The International Food Policy Research Institute) based in Washington DC to conduct an efficacy study on Relative Efficacy of Food and Cash in Enhancing Livelihood of the Extreme Poor in May 2006.

The workshop, jointly organised by the Economic Relations Division of the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), will disseminate major findings of the study.

With support from the key donors, mainly DFID, the study has examined four major foods and cash based interventions in Bangladesh.

Father, son electrocuted in Nilphamari

UNB, Nilphamari

A man and his son were electrocuted at West Chikanmati Mollapara village in Domar on Thursday night.

Sources said Rafiqul Islam, 40, and his son Zahidul Islam, 15, died on the spot in a paddy field at about 10:00pm when they came into contact with an electric cable, which snapped earlier.

The two were going to the pump room to irrigate their paddy field.

The bodies were recovered from the field yesterday morning.

2 'muggers' killed in gunfight with Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two alleged muggers were killed in a gunfight with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members at Hazaribagh in the city on Thursday night.

One of the dead was identified as Shah Alam, leader of the gang, but the identity of the other could not be known.

The shoot-out began when Shah Alam and his accomplices, who were in a car, started firing on the Rab members who tried to intercept the car on the Hazaribagh embankment road at around 11:45pm, Rab sources said.

The Rab members then retaliated with fire, leaving two of the muggers dead. They also seized the car and a revolver.

The bodies were sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy. No-one claimed the bodies as of last night.

3,500 Phensidyl bottles seized

Meanwhile, Rab members last night recovered 3,500 bottles of

Phensidyl, a revolver and seven bullets hidden under the ground at Shantinagar in the city and arrested three suspected drug peddlers.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab members first arrested the three suspected drug peddlers who told the elite force about the contraband items, sources said.

Later, the Rab members dug out the Phensidyl bottles, arms and ammunition from under the ground at two places at Circuit House Road at around 8:00pm.

CA to visit Khulna tomorrow

UNB, Khulna

Chief Adviser to the caretaker government Fakhruddin Ahmed will visit Khulna tomorrow.

He will exchange views with the district administration officials and civil society members during his visit, sources said.

He will return to the capital at 4:30pm the same day.

Fake zinc fertiliser factory unearthed

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) unearthed a fake zinc fertiliser factory at Pagar in Tongi and arrested two people on Thursday night.

They also seized 10 tons of white zinc fertiliser from the factory.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab members raided a house in Alarkal area of Pagar and found sacks of white zinc fertilizer, Rab sources said.

Abdus Salam, 32, one of the owners of the factory, and his uncle Nazrul Islam, 40, were arrested.

Two PBCP men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Joint forces yesterday arrested two listed criminals and activists of outlawed Purbanga Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) in Tarash upazila of Sirajganj district.

The arrestees are Tasir Uddin, 35, also a member of Deshigram Union Parishad and Delowar Hossain, 45, of Paikora village in the upazila.

Tipped off, the joint forces raided Paikora village at around 7:00am and arrested the two from a house.

Forest adviser visits Madhupur Eco Park site

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Forest and Environment Adviser Dr CS Karim yesterday visited the Eco Park site at Madhupur upazila in Tangail.

He also attended a view exchange meeting at the Upazila auditorium over the Eco Park project and the controversial construction of its boundary wall.

The speakers pointed out the merits and demerits of the Eco Park project.

The adviser assured the indigenous leaders that the Eco Park project in Madhupur would be implemented after ensuring the interests and rights of the local indigenous people.

Chief Forest Conserver Mohammad Osman Gani, Assistant Forest Conserver Ali Kabir Haidar, Tangail Deputy Commissioner (DC) Akhtar Ali Sarkar, Tangail Superintend of Police (SP) Maruf Hassan, Divisional Forest Officer Abdullah-al-Mamun, Modhupur Upazila Nirbahi Officer SM Faizul Rahman and Major Toufique attended the meeting.

Train derails in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

Train movement on Dhaka-Chittagong route remained suspended for two hours as a bogie of a special train derailed at a place between Laksam junction and Nauti railway station yesterday.

The Chittagong-bound train from Dhaka, carrying goods-laden containers, remained stranded for two hours as one of its bogies went out of the track at about 11:30am.

Several other trains on the route were also stranded at different places due to the derailment.

Train movement on the route resumed at about 1:30 pm.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 21st edition of BBC Bangladesh Sanglap, jointly organised by BBC World Service Trust and BBC Bangla Service, will be held at the auditorium of Parjatan Motel in Bogra at 5:45pm today.

Awami League Organising Secretary Mahmudur Rahman Manna, former BNP lawmaker GM Siraj, Editor of the daily Karotoa Mozammel Haque Lulu and Executive Director of TMSS Prof Hosne-Ara Begum will feature the four-member panel for this week's Sanglap.

PHONE BILL ARREARS

9 ex-MPs from Khulna, Narail sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Senior Accounts Officer of Khulna Divisional Office of T&T Board filed nine separate cases with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on Thursday against nine former lawmakers of Khulna and Narail for not paying a sum of around Tk 13 lakh as outstanding telephone bills.

Of them, five were former lawmakers of Awami League while four others belong to BNP.

After receiving the petitions, the court fixed April 8 as the date for hearing and passed an order to produce the accused on that day.

The court also issued summons against all the accused.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Admission seekers sit for 'Kha' unit admission test of Jagannath University on Dhaka University campus yesterday.

WEATHER TODAY

Temperature may rise

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country during the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

There are also chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind at one or two places over Rajshahi, Khulna, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said, adding that day temperature may rise slightly.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 31.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and Teknaf and the lowest of 10.2 degrees at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:06pm today and rises at 6:12am tomorrow.

The 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	30.3	15.0	42	30
Chittagong	31.3	16.0	51	38
Rajshahi	30.5	12.8	71	52
Khulna	30.5	15.3	59	43
Banar	30.5	13.5	64	44
Sylhet	31.1	14.5	49	36
Cox's Bazar	30.8	17.0	53	43

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Citizens' Rights Movement will hold a discussion on sustainable economy. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Exhibition

Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh organises the 1st International Cable TV Exhibition 2007. Venue: Bashundhara City Hall. Time: 11:30am.

Lake cleaning campaign

Baridhara Society organises a lake cleaning campaign to save the lake from further pollution. Venue: Baridhara Lake Side Park. Time: 11:00am.

Prize giving ceremony

The prize giving ceremony of Banglalink

Chhokka Contest will be held. Venue: Tiger's Den. Time: 11:00am.

Science fair

Scholastica Pvt. Ltd. organises a Science Fair. Venue: Scholastica's Uttara Campus. Time: 9:00am.

Workshop

Habitat Council Bangladesh organises a workshop titled 'Habitat rights of the urban poor'. Venue: Billia office. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

World Bank and East West University (EWU) jointly organise a seminar on 'Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and beyond'. Venue: EWU auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Project Five-O, Bangladesh will hold a discussion on the occasion of International Women's Day. Venue: Topkapi, 134 Gulshan Avenue. Time: 7:00pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central

Regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

'Mysterious' fire destroys documents on Nature court premises

UNB, Natore

Valuable documents and files of the district administration were gutted in a fire that broke out at the police barracks on the district court premises in Natore on Thursday night.

Even the on-duty court police were not aware as to when the fire actually started.

Receiving information yesterday morning, Deputy Commissioner and Police Super visited the spot.

Police said the files and other documents of the DC's office were kept at the unused barracks of the court police for lack of accommodation in the record room of the district administration.

Nothing could be known about the origin of the blaze.

Additional District Magistrate Raunak Mahmud has been given the responsibility to investigate the incident. Police also asked its Detective Branch to probe the matter.

Police Super Rezaul Karim termed the fire incident "mysterious" as a number of files on criminals were kept at the barracks.