



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), Nohole 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 Motur 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 Bhuyian and Elahi Newaz Shaju and News Editor of Ekushey TV Shah Alamgir were present in the workshop.

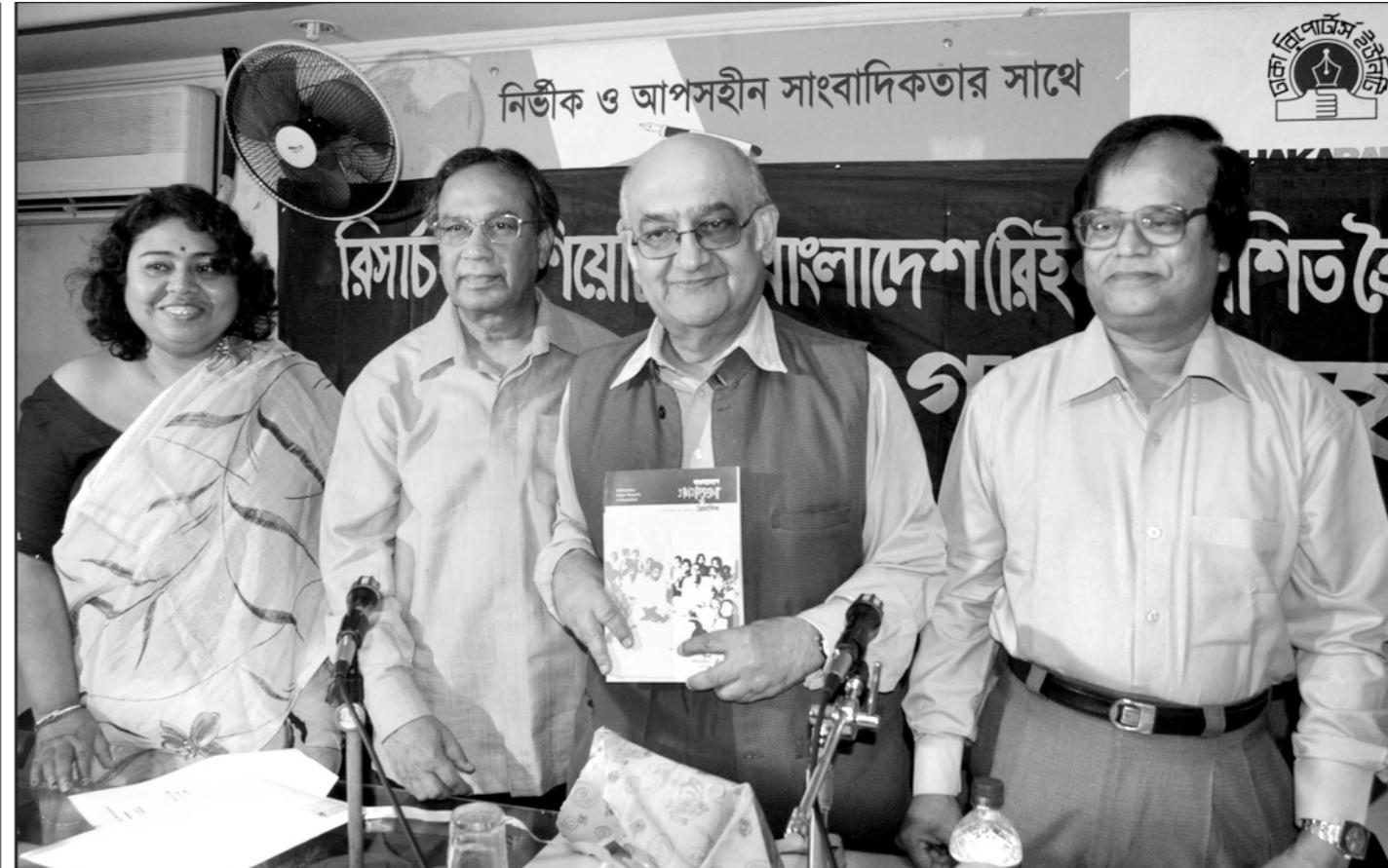


PHOTO: STAR

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.

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.

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.

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

MA Khaleque Sheikh

Today is the 7th death anniversary of Shamsunnahar Khan, wife of Ata Uddin Khan, a former minister and founder of Dhaka 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.

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.

The prize giving ceremony of Banglalink

Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandakar and Lt Col (retd) Muhammad Lutful Haq launch a book titled 'Swadhinata Juddher Birattasuchak Khetab' at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday. Lutful Haq is the author of the book published by Magnum Opus.

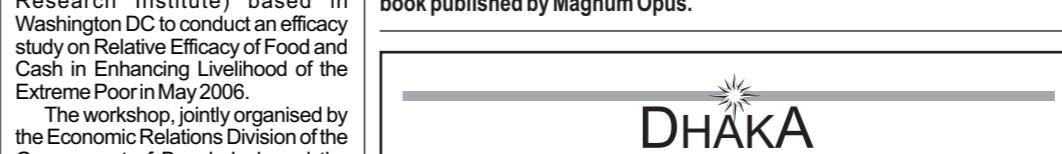


PHOTO: STAR

'Mysterious' fire destroys documents on Natore 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.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Chhokha 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.

Exhibition

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

Workshop

Habitat Council Bangladesh organises a workshop titled 'Habitat rights of the urban poor'. Venue: Billa 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

Centre for Strategic and Peace Studies will hold a discussion on 'Terrorism in the 21st century: Bangladeshi perspective'. Venue: BISS auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Rotary Dhaka Central

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