

Zinc treatment to save lives of 50000 children a year

Experts tell int'l confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zinc treatment could save the lives of about 50,000 children in Bangladesh and 400,000 children worldwide every year, said the speakers at the inaugural session of a two-day conference titled 'Scaling Up Zinc-The Way Forward' yesterday.

The fourth international conference has been jointly organised by International Centre for

Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) and Directorate General of Health Services, at Sasakawa Auditorium with a view to highlighting the importance of zinc in reducing child death as a treatment of childhood diarrhoea.

Considering the importance of zinc treatment for childhood diarrhoea, health ministry has revised its policy guidelines and has included zinc treatment as the

second golden rule, right after Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS), said Health Adviser Major General (retd) ASM Matiur Rahman while speaking as chief guest.

"If the zinc treatment could successfully scaled up, this would substantially contribute towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) that aims at reducing mortality of children aged under five by two-thirds by the year 2015 and

Bangladesh is committed to achieving this goal," he added.

Zinc reduces the length and severity of diarrhoea and ensures quicker recovery, the speakers said, adding that it boosts a child's immune system and thus make future episodes of diarrhoea less likely for at least three months following the treatment.

It should be given as soon as diarrhoea illness episode starts and should be continued to complete the full course of 10 days, they added.

Speaking as special guest Director General of Health Shahjahan Biswas said zinc treatment should be scaled up at policy, community and household level and it needs to be incorporated in nutrition strategy of the country.

"Zinc is a milestone in Bangladesh and across the globe in diarrhoeal treatment. It reduces duration of diarrhoea by 52 percent among children," said National Prof M R Khan.

The project 'Scaling up Zinc Treatment for Young Children with Diarrhoea' aims at providing zinc treatment to all children in Bangladesh aged between six months and five years when they suffer from diarrhoeal illness, regardless of their socio economic status, he said, adding that to make it available to people of any socio economic status zinc must be affordable.

ICDDR,B Executive Director Prof David A Sack chaired the session while Principal Investigator of the project Scaling up Zinc Treatment for Young Children with Diarrhoea (SUZY) Dr Charles P Larson delivered the welcome note.



PHOTO: STAR

Health Adviser Maj Gen (retd) ASM Matiur Rahman speaks at the inaugural session of a two-day conference titled 'Scaling Up Zinc-The Way Forward' as the chief guest at Sasakawa auditorium of ICDDR,B in the city yesterday.

Solar energy plant to be set up in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A solar energy plant will be set up in Khulna at a cost of Tk five crore with the financial assistance of European Union (EU).

The solar plant, when installed, will resolve power crisis to a great extent, said a press release issued yesterday by Khulna City Corporation (KCC).

Earlier, KCC held a meeting at the Nagar Bhaban with city Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman in the chair.

Editor of Dainik Purbanchal Liaquat Ali presented a keynote paper on solar power plants at the meeting. He placed a proposal

before city Mayor in this regard in view of his experience gathered from his recent visit to such solar power plants in Germany.

Meanwhile, Brimarheaven University of Germany and European Union have expressed their intention to provide technical and financial supports respectively for setting up the plant, said the city Mayor.

The plant will be handed over to KCC after 30 months of its installation. A five-member EU team is expected to visit Khulna on May 31 to attend a meeting in this regard, the city Mayor added.

Ramendu, Muneer made Ad Assoc president, secy

The Advertising Agencies Association of Bangladesh (AAAB) has elected a new executive committee for the next two years with Ramendu Majumdar (Expressions) as president and Muneer Ahmed Khan (Unitrend) as general secretary, says a press release.

Other office-bearers are: Aly Zaker (Asiatic McL)- vice-president, Fahima Choudhury (Ogilvy & Mather)- assistant general secretary, and Zahurul Haq (United)- treasurer.

Samrat Das Gupta (Grey) and Sarah Ali (Bitopi) were elected members.

The election was held at the annual general meeting of AAAB at Adcomm office on Saturday.

The meeting also discussed ways and means to make AAAB an effective body to safeguard the interests of the advertising agencies and establish professional business ethics for overall development of this industry.

Pro-AL DU teachers hail Hasina's homecoming

DU CORRESPONDENT

A total of 122 pro-Awami League (AL) teachers yesterday congratulated AL President Sheikh Hasina on her "courageous role in protecting fundamental rights and constitutional rights" and welcomed her homecoming.

In a joint statement they urged the caretaker government to arrange foolproof security for Hasina.

The signatories include Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Md Hossain Monsur, Prof Mohammad Samad, Prof Anwar Hossain, Prof Dr Harun-or-Rashid, Prof Ashraf Uddin Chowdhury, Prof Dr Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman, Prof Sadeka Halim and Dr Md Rahmatullah.

Rabindra mela tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first ever 'Electronic Rabindra Mela' will be held tomorrow in the city.

Channel i will organise the daylong programme at its Tejgaon office marking the 146th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore.

Country's leading personalities in different sectors will attend the fair featuring varieties of programmes, including book exhibition, photography, paintings and fashion trend of Rabindranath.

A cultural programme will also follow where noted Rabindra singers will perform. Channel I will telecast the fair live.

Addressing a live press conference at Channel I's Shiddheswari office in the city, Poet Asad Chowdhury said the multidimensional quality of Tagore is well-known to all and Channel I has taken the initiative to portray various aspects of Rabindranath by organising the fair.

Abdur Rahman, head of media centre, Faridur Reza Sagor, managing director, and Shahidul Alam Sachchu, programme producer of Channel I also spoke at the press conference hosted by Apu Mahfuz, Channel I news presenter.

Two top govt officials transferred

UNB, Dhaka

Post and Telecommunications Secretary Mia Mustaque Ahmed and Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation Chairman Sheikh Khurshid Alam have been transferred and given new postings, as part of the ongoing reshuffles in the interim administration.

Mustaque has been made Privatisation Commission member while Khurshid appointed acting secretary of the Post and Telecommunications Ministry, according to an official announcement yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Poet Asad Chowdhury addresses a press conference at the Shiddheswari office of Channel i in the city yesterday. On his right is Shahidul Alam Sachchu and on his left are Faridur Reza Sagor and Abdur Rahman.

'Retain residential character of Dhanmondi'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents of Dhanmondi in the city yesterday urged the caretaker government for taking a comprehensive plan to retain residential character of the area.

At a press conference under the banner of 'Dhanmondi Paribesh Andolon Jote' at the National Press Club, they called for stopping further construction of commercial structures in the area.

They also demanded relocation of redundant educational institutions, community centres, hospitals and diagnostic centres in other parts of the city.

Speaking at the programme eminent journalist Syed Abul Maksud said a total of 200 educational institutions, 24 coaching centres, 12 shopping malls, 24 hospitals, 56 clinics and 32 diagnostic centres have been set up in the area which have seriously damaged the residential character of the area.

These institutions are ultimately causing traffic jam and creating sound pollution in the neighbourhood, he added.

Commenting on educational institutions Maksud said, "On an average, at least two people and a car

come with one students causing serious traffic congestion in the area."

Along with legislation to stop building of commercial structure in the area, landowners should also be made aware of regaining the residential character of the area, he observed.

"If landowners do not rent their houses, no commercial structure can be set up here," he added.

Comparing the condition of Dhaka city with other capitals of the world, former diplomat Waliur

Rahman said no capital was developed in such a haphazard way.

Convener of Dhanmondi Paribesh Andolon Jote Dr Sultana Alam, Vice-chairman of ATN Bangla and President of Bari Malik Samity Dhanmondi Sarkar Firoz, former chairman of Water Development Board Mashrur Huq Siddiqui and General Secretary of Nagorik Sanghati Sharifuzzaman Sharif were present on the occasion.

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