

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

'Disabled-friendly technology needed to mainstream them'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Adviser Dr M M Azizul Islam yesterday said disabled-friendly technology would have to be introduced to incorporate people with disabilities into the mainstream of development.

China Friendship Conference Centre. The three-day conference was organised jointly by National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) and APDF in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Welfare.

participants, 114 were people with disabilities. A total of 44 papers were presented during three plenary and 12 concurrent sessions.

Two killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Two children of a family were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Madanpur busstand in Narayanjan yesterday.

Outlawed party leader arrested

UNB, Rajbari

An outlawed party leader was arrested with two firearms, 11 rounds of bullet and one cartridge at Saurai village in Pangsha upazila on Thursday.

Qulkhwani of Bazlur Rahman held

BSS, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of Bazlur Rahman, eminent journalist and editor of the daily Sangbad, was held at his Ramra residence in the city after Asra prayers yesterday.

Bazlur Rahman passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Tuesday night. Speaker Barrister Jamir Uddin Sircar, Adviser for Health and Family Welfare Dr AMM Shawkat Ali, Acting President of Awami League (AL) Zillur Rahman, AL Presidium Members Tofail Ahmed, Abdur Razzak, Amir Hossain Amu and Suranjit Sengupta, AL Organising Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Mostofa Jamal Haider of Jatiya Party, former AL lawmaker Col (ret'd) Faruk Khan, former adviser of caretaker government Geeti Ara Safiya Chowdhury, CPD Chairman Rahman Sobhan, Barrister Amirul Islam, Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, Editor of The Daily Financial Express Mozammel Hossain and Executive Editor of the daily Sangbad Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul attended the qulkhwani.



Maj Gen (ret'd) CR Dutta, right, Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, Bir Uttam, 2nd from right, and Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafulah, left, present a crest to Maj Gen (ret'd) BG Gupta at Liberation War Museum auditorium in the city yesterday.

Pneumonia major killer of children in Bangladesh

BSS, Dhaka

Pneumonia has been claiming the highest number of child lives in the country, despite a remarkable progress in under-five child survival for immunization and oral saline over the last three decades, pediatricians and health scientists said here yesterday.

"Pneumonia is still the leading cause of childhood deaths in Bangladesh," Steve Luby, agency head of Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), US Embassy in Dhaka, told a symposium.

but this number has come down by 75 percent over the last three decades. "There is a 90 percent reduction alone in diarrhoea-specific deaths over last 30 years," he said referring to the statistics of the latest Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS).

He said Bangladesh is one of the three to four developing countries heading successfully towards achieving millennium development goals (MDGs). Steve Luby referred to the findings of a three-year community and hospital-based surveillance in urban Dhaka ended in 2007 and said meningitis, pneumonia, severe pneumonia and very severe pneumonia were common causes of child illnesses. He also said streptococcus, and influenza are important paediatric pathogens in Bangladesh.

He also expressed hope that the World Health Organization (WHO) would soon recommend alternative antibiotics of ampicillin and penicillin for such treatments at a low cost. Prof Talukder underscored the need for popularising breastfeeding further among mothers from all

walks of life. The children who are not breastfed are four times susceptible to infection than the breastfed children, he pointed out and added that breastfeeding could be one of the best means to prevent child mortality.

Prof Manzoor Hussain said the BSPID has been formed to work as a catalyst to groom specialised paediatricians and train general practitioners across the country to treat emerging and re-emerging infections among children.

The incidence and prevalence of infectious diseases among children are very high, despite successful running of the extended programme for immunization (EPI).

The emerging infection diseases such as niph virus and HIV/AIDS need specialised persons to deal with," he said, adding that the DSPID would work as an umbrella organisation to help the doctors who want to develop their career as infectious disease paediatricians.

A total of 125 doctors have already joined in BSPID for the purpose, he added. According to Unicef statistics, under-five child mortality mostly results from neonatal mortality, which makes up 55 percent of such deaths in Bangladesh. More than 120,000 neonates die within four weeks of their birth every year and most of these deaths occur at homes, where 90 percent of deliveries take place without proper safety. Malnutrition and lack of health education are seen two other factors killing children.

NAT'L TV SCHOOL DEBATE

Rangpur Cadet College becomes champion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rangpur Cadet College became the champion while Shaheed Bir Uttam Lieutenant Anwar Girls College runner-up in the 10th National Television School Debate, said a press release on Thursday. Motijheel Government Boys High School and Bir Shrestha Nur Mohammad Rifles Public School secured third and fourth position respectively. Khaled, Munzir and Galib were the debaters of the champion team while the runner-up team included Nafisa Hasan Basma, Sarabon Tohura and Masrura Mariam Oishi. Galib was adjudged the best debater. The final round of the debate titled 'Independence will be meaningful if a successful Bangladesh free from corruption is achieved' was held at the TV auditorium of Rampura in the city on Wednesday. A total of 62 educational institutions took part in the competition.

Obituary



Ashraful Haq Jami, a computer engineer and CEO of Leadssoft, passed away due to treatment related complications at a hospital in the USA on Thursday night, says a press release.

Jami, son of late Prof M Shamsul Haq and Begum Anowara Haq, is survived by his wife and two sons.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held in Maryland, USA and he will be buried there.

His eldest brother is M Anwarul Haq, director of public affairs and communications of Brac. His other brother is a software engineer of Radio Shack in Dallas, USA.

A doa mahfil will be held at his elder brother's residence at A-7, Bhabhi Castle, Road No-30 (Old), Dhanmondi after Maghrib prayers today.

Rosy Begum

Rosy Begum, founding president of Sanjuktta (Mahila Parishad) (SMP) and executive member of Bangladesh Sanjuktta Sramik Federation (BSSF), passed away at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) yesterday at the age of 52, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death. She was buried at Azimpur graveyard after namaz-e-janeza at Victoria Park Jame Mosque premises after Maghrib prayers.

AKM Nurunnabi Chowdhury

AKM Nurunnabi Chowdhury, former director general of Bangladesh Institute of Management (BIM) and son of former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Dr Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury, passed away due to heart attack at Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 61.

He left behind his wife Prof Khaleda Khanam, former whip of Jatiya Sangsad, a son and two daughters to mourn his death. He will be buried after return of his eldest daughter from USA.

Govinda Paul

Govinda Paul, a lyricist and politician, passed away in Dhaka early yesterday at the age of 53.

He left behind his mother, one son and a daughter to mourn his death. Paul suffered chest pain at midnight and then he was taken to the DMCH, where on the duty doctor declared him dead.

Wabidul Islam Lal

Wabidul Islam Lal, vice-president of Rajshahi City BNP and former president of Rajshahi Jubo Dal, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital on Thursday night at the age of 55.

He left behind his wife, two sons, mother and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. He was buried at city Kadiganj graveyard after namaz-e-janeza at Shah Mukdum Darga Mazar.

Rajshahi City Corporation Acting Mayor Rezaun Nabi Duda, BNP Rajshahi district unit President Azizur Rahman and Jubo Dal leader Mufizul Islam in separate statements expressed deep shocked at his death.



Awami League leaders place wreaths on the coffin of former lawmaker Advocate M Shamsul Haque in front of the party office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. Shamsul Haque died of old-age complications at Birdem Hospital on Thursday.

Ex-lawmaker Shamsul Haque laid to rest

UNB, Dhaka

Former lawmaker Advocate M Shamsul Haque, who died of old-age complications at Birdem Hospital on Thursday, was laid to rest at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

Earlier, his namaz-e-janaza was held at south plaza of Jatiya Sangsad at 3:00pm.

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar, Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui and former chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain, among others, attended the janaza.

The speaker and the deputy speaker placed wreaths on the coffin of the deceased.

Wreaths were also placed on the coffin on behalf of former leader of parliament and former leader of the opposition in parliament.

Death anniversary

Today is the 24th death anniversary of Comrade Tajul Islam, says a press release.

On the occasion, leaders and workers of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will place wreaths to his portrait and on the temporary altar to pay tribute to the comrade at CPB office. A memorial meeting will also be held.

Tajul Islam was injured seriously by the attack of hooligans patronised by the autocratic government for bringing out a procession supporting a hartal in 1984. He succumbed to his injury soon after taken to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Ruhul Amin Kaisar

Today is the 33rd death anniversary of Ruhul Amin Kaisar, founder general secretary of Bangladesh Sramik Federation (BSSF), says a press release.

On the occasion, a reminiscence meeting and doa mahfil will be held at the federation office (23/2, Topkhana Road) at 3:00pm.

Central leaders of the federation will speak in the reminiscence meeting.

KL to launch world's first anti-piracy canine unit

UNB, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia will launch the world's first anti-piracy canine unit to fight compact disc piracy, an industry watchdog said yesterday.

The Motion Picture Association (MPA) said it had donated the two Labradors, Paddy and Manny, to the ministry of domestic and consumer affairs and they would make their first public appearance on Monday when they would be used to sniff out CDs and DVDs.

"Malaysia is the first country to take up the challenge to test the capability of working dogs and we have discovered that using dogs to battle piracy can greatly assist enforcement efforts," a senior industry official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Last year, two black Labradors, Lucky and Flo, were brought in by the US-based MPA which investigates piracy for major movie companies.

The pair, who were not part of a specific unit, were so successful that piracy syndicates placed a bounty on their heads. They helped Malaysia sniff out fake music and movie discs worth millions of ringgit.

"Paddy and Manny will now have to live up to their seniors' reputation," the official said.

The new dogs are trained to detect polycarbonate and other chemicals used in optical discs. They either freeze or sit when they sniff the chemicals.

Losses to the MPA studios due to worldwide Internet piracy amounted to 6.1 billion dollars in 2005.

Of that, about 2.4 billion dollars was lost to bootlegging, 1.4 billion to illegal copying and 2.3 billion to Internet piracy.

As a regional breakdown, approximately 1.2 billion dollars were losses from piracy across the Asia-Pacific, while the US accounted for 1.3 billion.



CM Shafi Sami, Jahurul Islam

Gulshan Society executives

CM Shafi Sami, former adviser to the caretaker government, and Jahurul Islam Chowdhury, a businessman, have been elected president and general secretary of Gulshan Society for 2008-09, says a press release.

Shafi Sami will replace incumbent President of the Society Dr Akbar Ali Khan, who is also the chairman of the Regulatory Reforms Commission.

Other office-bearers of the executive committee are: Quamrul Islam Siddique, Delwar H Dulal and Prof Salma Rahman -- vice presidents; Anhar A Chowdhury -- treasurer; Dr Md Wahiduzzaman, Maizuddin Ahmed and Shirin Shila -- joint secretaries; and Habibur Rahman -- joint treasurer.

Abdul Matin gets Matribhasha Padak

The Tamuddin Majlis has awarded the 'Matribhasha Padak 2008' to ABM Abdul Matin for his significant contributions to historic Language Movement, says a press release.

Matribhasha Padak has been instituted by Tamuddin Majlis since 2000 when the Unesco decided to observe February 21 as International Mother Language Day.

Matin was the convener of Munshiganj (Bikrampur) Sarbodalio Rashtrabhasha Committee in 1952.

He suffered imprisonment several times in connection with the language movement.

Before joining the government service, Matin served the then Pakistan Observer and the Sangbad.



Former students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology pose for photograph at a reunion of the '91 batch on the campus yesterday. Buet Club '91 organised the programme.

Prof Tamim to attend confce on renewable energy in USA

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser's Special Assistant for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Prof M Tamim leaves for the USA today to attend a conference titled 'Washington International Renewable Energy 2008'.

Seventy-five ministerial-level representatives from different countries are likely to participate in the conference, organised jointly by American Council on Renewable Energy and an organisation of 14 international businesses dealing with renewable energy.

The first and second conferences on renewable energy were held in Germany and China in 2004 and 2005 respectively with the participation of world leaders.

Thailand lifts currency controls

AFP, Bangkok

The Bank of Thailand said yesterday it will lift the remaining currency controls imposed by the previous military regime, marking a sharp shift in economic policy.

Central bank governor Tarisa Watanagase told reporters that the rules, imposed in December 2006, would stop being effective from Monday.

"The central bank decided to lift the capital controls because of the improving economic situation and the balance in capital inflows and outflows," she said.

The capital controls were imposed by the military regime that toppled former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, in a bid to curb the Thai baht's rise against the dollar.

nearly one and a half years of self-imposed exile. Finance Minister Surapong Suebwonglee said Thursday that he might consult with Thaksin on the capital controls, but it was not known if the two had actually discussed the issue.

The capital controls required 30 percent of all incoming investments to be held by financial institutions for up to one year.

But the controls spooked foreign investors, who saw the regulations as a steep tax on equity investments, and caused the biggest one-day drop in the Thai stock market in late 2006, involving losses worth 23 billion dollars.

Many exemptions were later made to the currency rules, but the general 30-per cent requirement had remained in place until now.

The military regime had hoped the controls would slow the baht's gains against the dollar.