

70pc of expecting mothers suffer from anaemia

Experts tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for raising awareness among the people in controlling communicable and non-communicable diseases including malnutrition problem.

The sensitisation workshop titled 'Health education and promotion with stakeholders and journalists' was organised by Bangladesh Centre for Communication Programme (BCCP) at a city hotel.

Bureau of Health Education, Directorate General of Health Services and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare supported the

workshop.

Experts presented different papers on the facts and impacts of communicable and non-communicable diseases including malnutrition.

While presenting the papers, they said although nutrition situation has improved slightly in the country, the rate of malnutrition is still high.

More than 58 percent children under five are underweight while 70 percent of expecting mothers have been suffering from anaemia, they added.

The speakers said the outbreak of different communicable diseases has come down through

strong campaign and immunisation programme, but new communicable diseases like Avian Influenza, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and HIV/AIDS have spread as new challenge.

Besides, non-communicable diseases like cancer, diabetes and heart ailment are also increasing sharply, they added.

The speakers said media can play an important role by providing information on how to prevent the diseases by raising awareness in this regard.

Dr Mostafa Zaman of WHO, Prof Mahfuzur Rahman of NIPSOM and Biman Kumar Saha of National

Nutrition Programme presented the keynote papers.

Health Secretary AKM Zafarullah Khan spoke as chief guest while Nur Mohammad, deputy chief and programme manager of the Bureau of Health Education, delivered the welcome address.

Joint Secretary Dr Anwar Hossain Munshi, President of the National Press Club Shaikat Mahmood, Director General of DGHs Prof Mohammad Abul Faiz and Additional Director General Prof Hosne Ara Tahmin, and BCCP Director Mohammad Shahjahan were also present on the occasion.



Members of Khela Ghar place wreaths at the portrait of Sangbad Editor Bazul Rahman at a function to pay tribute to him at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Bangladesh attaches top priority to ties with Islamic states: Iftekhar

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said that Bangladesh attaches great priority to relations with Islamic states.

"Indeed it is a major pillar of our foreign policy for which there is enthusiastic support among our people," Iftekhar told newsmen prior to his departure for Dakar, Senegal yesterday evening to attend the OIC Foreign Ministers' meeting beginning today.

He added that the foreign ministers' meeting, which will be followed by a summit of the Islamic Heads of Government taking place at a "critical juncture of the history of the Ummah, which is faced with many challenges."

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will lead the Bangladesh delegation at the summit to be held on March 13-14.

Suggesting several measures at the forthcoming summit, the adviser said, the role of the OIC should be reformed and modernised and the Ummah must forge greater political unity in addressing contemporary issues.

He also said that the huge material resources in its possession must be used to bring greater economic benefits to the poorer Muslim countries and the manpower resources of the Islamic world must be appropriately utilised for common interest.

Iftekhar also added that last year a total of 8,32,000 Bangladeshi workers went abroad with employment, mostly to other Muslim countries. And they have sent a record US\$ 6.5 billion as remittances.

We shall use this forum to discuss with leaderships of host countries of our expatriate manpower as to how to advance and ensure their welfare and use this very useful resource for mutual benefit," the adviser added.

Indian Visa Centre closed today, tomorrow

Indian Visa Application Centre will remain closed today and tomorrow, says a press release.

No application for visa will be received during the period in the centre.



National University Acting Vice-chancellor Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan speaks at a view exchange meeting at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is acting registrar Prof Sher Mohammad and on right is Dr Abu Raihan.

Commonwealth Day today

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh will observe the Commonwealth Day today holding a national seminar on environment in line with the theme of the day this year "the environment our future."

Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser for environment and forest Barrister Raja Devashis Roy will attend the seminar at Cirdap Auditorium at 10:00am.

"It is vital to protect our environment against the degradation and destruction caused by human beings. A clean and safe environment enables us to lead healthy and productive lives," the Commonwealth Secretariat in a statement said listing a number of reasons, which affect the environment, and suggesting the remedies.

According to the statement, pollutants in the air can damage the ozone layer, which protects the earth from the harmful rays of the sun.

Climate change can bring about more extreme weather like hurricanes and cyclones, as well as floods and droughts, and the increase in sea levels, which is threatening islands and low-lying coastal areas.

NU to introduce grading system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Acting Vice-chancellor of National University (NU) Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan yesterday said they have taken a decision to introduce grading system which will be effective from 2007-08 session.

Speaking at a view-exchange meeting at the National Press Club in the city, he said the University Grants Commission (UGC) has agreed to allocate Tk 5 crore for the training of the teachers of NU-affiliated colleges.

"We have set up a complain box on the premises of NU where anyone can submit complaints against any officials or employees," he pointed out while reading out his vision paper.

Prof Rashidul said steps have also been taken to stop question leakage and stern action will be taken if anyone found involved in it.

He however said it is very difficult to root out corruption from NU as the university has to control 1700 affiliated colleges and 10 lakh students.

Earlier, the VC came under fire on the issue of the sponsor of the meeting.

At one stage, he had to admit that he took the sponsorship of an educational consultancy firm for arranging the meeting.

"I am a teacher with business background. I took the sponsorship of BSB Foundation to save the university fund," he added.

"We took the sponsorship not to give any facilities to the foundation," he said.

BSB Foundation-run Cambrian College Canada is one of the 56 foreign university branches declared illegal by the UGC.

At the meeting, allegation of human trafficking in the name of education against the chief of BSB Foundation and Cambrian College Canada was also raised.

WFP to continue support in food supply

UNB, Dhaka

Representative of the World Food Programme (WFP) Douglas Broderick said that his organisation would continue support to partner Bangladesh in satisfying its food requirements.

The WFP Representative made the assurance when he paid a farewell call on Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury at Foreign Ministry yesterday morning.

Iftekhar thanked Douglas Broderick for his personal support and cooperation.

Speaking to the media later the adviser said, "The World Food Programme stood by us in the post-cyclone and Sidr period when we needed them. Today we are looking to a bumper boro production. There is no option but to become self-sufficient in food."

ATTEMPT TO MURDER Commissioner gets 6 months RI in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A court here yesterday sentenced Khulna City Corporation (KCC) ward commissioner Sheikh Abul Kalam to six months rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fined him Tk 1,000, in default, to suffer one month more RI in an attempt to murder case.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shamim Azad delivered the judgement in presence of the accused.

The prosecution story in brief is that Kalam, also a BNP leader, and two of his associates made an attempt to kill farmer Munshi Ruhul Amin on December 14 in 2004 and snatched Tk 2,000 from him.

This incident occurred over a land dispute.

Amin lodged an FIR with Khulna police as complainant on December 17 the same year naming Kalam as an accused.

SI Masudur Rahman of Khulna Police Station, who investigated the case, submitted the charge sheet to court on January 11 in 2005.

The court recorded statements of five prosecution witnesses during the trial.

\$35m WB project for handicapped, vulnerable children

BSS, Dhaka

The World Bank (WB) has proposed taking up of a five-year long programme, costing US\$ 35 million benefiting the handicapped and vulnerable children in Bangladesh.

WB Country Director Xian Zhu made the offer when he met the special assistant to the chief adviser in charge of social welfare, post and telecommunication ministry Brig Gen (ret'd) MA Malek at his secretariat office yesterday.

The project aims at raising and developing the standard of services at the government and the NGO sector for the handicapped, and vulnerable children, widening the scope of services for the welfare and rehabilitation of these deprived people.

It also aims at preparing policies befitting the time in light of the international charter by developing the partnership between the government and the NGOs. Besides, it aims at raising the capabilities of the social welfare ministry and the organisations under it, said a release of the ministry.

The special assistant said it would not be possible to achieve the desired

national prosperity if the deprived children and the handicaps are not included in the development works.

In the light of this reality the government is implementing different programmes, attaching priority to the improvement of these neglected group of people, he added.

The government is encouraging participation of the NGOs in this programmes, Malek said adding the government would also welcome the development partners in these programmes.

The WB country director observed that if the handicapped

and deprived children remain neglected, they would become a burden to the nation and the society.

If helped to become a productive manpower they could also be able to contribute in national development, he noted.

The WB country director praised the government's role in different programmes in this regard. Describing the WB as one of the partners in Bangladesh's development activities, he expressed his sincere desire to expand the bank's partnership further in social safety programmes.

Expand bilateral trade Iajuddin tells new Philippine envoy

BSS, Dhaka

Newly appointed Ambassador of the Philippines to Bangladesh Zenaida Tacorda Rabago presented her credentials to President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Welcoming the envoy, Iajuddin said that the present government is committed to further strengthening relations between the two countries.

He also appreciated the Philippine support during and after the liberation war.

He said there is a huge scope between the two countries in expanding bilateral trade further for the mutual benefits.

He expressed his happiness for establishing joint economic and technical cooperation committee to expand trade and economic cooperation between the two countries and said the commission would help boost trade and economic cooperation further.

He briefed the ambassador about the present investment climate in Bangladesh and various facilities existing for foreign investors and said that Philippine investors could take benefits by investing in different sectors including tourism.

He said the Philippine people could be benefited using different Bangladeshi goods including pharmaceutical products and requested the envoy for cooperation in granting duty free access of Bangladeshi products to the Philippine market.

Iajuddin also apprised the ambassador of present political situation and preparation for next general elections in a free, fair and credible manner by December.

He suggested Bangladesh and the Philippines should introduce education linkage programme between universities of the two countries.

The new Philippine envoy termed the current relations between Bangladesh and the Philippines as excellent and expressed hope that the two countries share similar views on many international issues.

Zenaida Tacorda Rabago hoped that two countries would work closely in promoting international peace, security and development

in the days to come.

She also sought cooperation from Bangladesh, an active member of the OIC ministerial committee on the issue of Mindanao, in implementing peace agreement on southern Philippines.

The envoy also thanked Bangladesh for providing training to the members of the Philippine armed forces at Defense Services Command and Staff College.

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Obituary

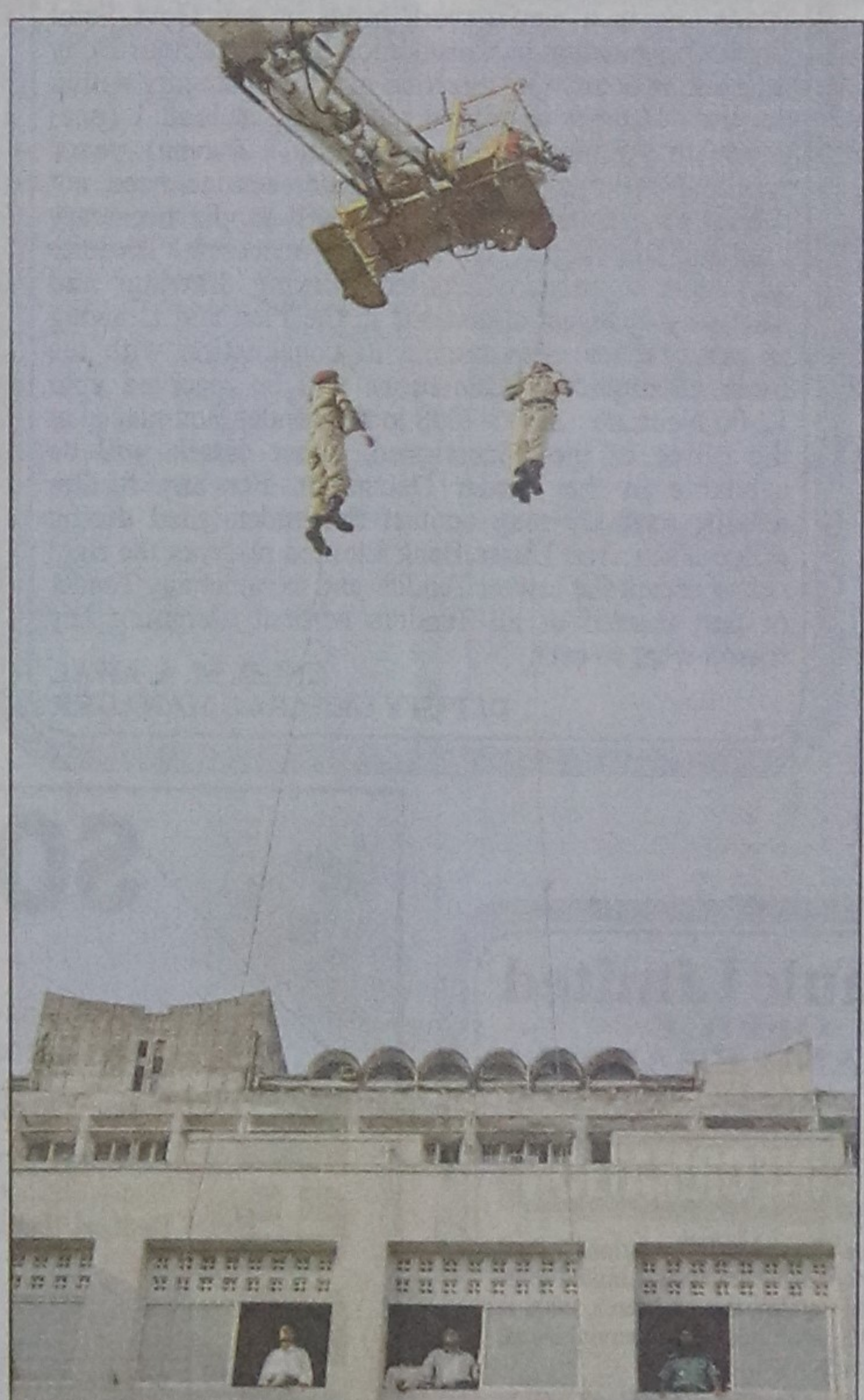


Founder of Shahjahan Memorial Trust and wife of late Mr. Shahjahan Bhuiyan (Erstwhile E.P.C.S) Mrs. Salma Bhuiyan expired on 08-03-2008 at 09am at Apollo Hospital Ltd., Dhaka (Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Illahe Rajeun). She was 78.

Namaje Janaza of the deceased will be held on Monday the 10th of March 2008 after Asar prayer at the Dhanmondi Eidgah Mosque. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join the Namaze Janaza and pray for the salvation of the departed soul. She will be buried at Banani Graveyard after the Namaze Janaza.

She has left behind 1 son, 4 daughters, and a number of grand children to mourn her death.

Son and Daughters of late Mrs. Salma Bhuiyan on behalf of the family.



Members of Fire Service and Civil Defence demonstrate at Secretariat in the city yesterday to raise awareness among mass people about what to do during fire incidents.



Berger Paints and Youngone Sign MoU

Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited, the absolute market leader in Bangladesh paint industry, and Youngone, one of the leading foreign investors in Bangladesh, signed an MoU in an auspicious moment at Berger House on March 04, 2008. With this arrangement, Berger Paints will provide special prices, services and solutions to Youngone.

Abdul Khalek, Director - Finance and Company Secretary from Berger Paints (BD) Limited and Engr. Mohd. Ashadullah, Executive Director from Youngone signed the MoU on behalf of respective company. Among others Mohsin Habib Chowdhury, GM - Sales & Marketing, A K M Sadeque Nawaj, Marketing Manager and Imranul Kabir, Manager - Industrial & Marine from Berger and Arif M Habib Ullah Khan-Director, Administration, and Abu Nasar Md. Ataulah-Deputy Manager, Commercial from Youngone were also present.

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