

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY OBSERVED

'Eliminate discrimination against nurses'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the nurses are an integral part of the healthcare team, they must be provided with better facilities in order to improve healthcare service, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

They also called for eliminating discrimination against them.

World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Directorate of Nursing (DNS) organised the discussion at the Engineers Institute of Bangladesh (IEB) auditorium to mark the International Nurses Day 2008.

The speakers said nurses are very much neglected and it is a must to provide them with better education to develop their skills.

The shortage of specialised paediatric, psychiatric, oncology, orthopaedic and trauma nurses has become an acute problem as the country lacks the system to produce specialised nurses, they

said, adding that currently the nurse to people ratio in the country is 1 to 6342.

Highlighting the present scenario of nursing service, the speakers said that internationally it is recognised that nurse to patient ratio should be 1:4, whereas it is seen that the ratio becomes 1 to 50 or 70 in the evening and night shift due to the shortage of nurses, which creates an obstacle to better healthcare service.

Calling for recruitment of more nurses, they said more posts for nursing supervisors should also be created as there are only 833 posts of nursing supervisors to supervise 15,000 nurses.

The nursing society also urged the government to amend the 30-year-old nurse recruitment policy and set up a Nursing Commission in this regard.

"The existing salary discrimination should be removed for the development of this sector and at

the same time posts for Community Nursing should be created," said Deputy Director of the Directorate of Nursing Services Renuka Bala Roy.

WHO Country Representative Duangvedi Sungkhobol said some 2,000 new nurses have been coming out of the institutions every year. But it is insignificant compared to that of the rush of the patients to the hospitals.

Additional Secretary of the health ministry Md Abul Kalam Azad attended the discussion as the chief guest and Director of the Directorate of Nursing Services Shamsun Nahar was also present.

Some 62 nurses were awarded gold medal for their outstanding performance this year.

Every year the world observes the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the pioneer of modern nursing, as the International Nurses Day.

Govt to import rice from India despite bumper Boro production

Says food adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The government will import rice from neighbouring India despite bumper Boro production in the country this season, said Food and Disaster Management Adviser Dr AMM Shawkat Ali.

"If necessary, the government will procure rice beyond the target in this Boro season," he told journalists while answering to questions at a meeting on Boro paddy procurement and food situation at Bogra Circuit House yesterday.

The adviser said though price of rice have increased in the international markets, Bangladesh is importing rice from India at \$430 per metric tonnes as per contract.

He also said steps have been taken to use the godowns of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) to meet the space crisis in godowns.

Responding to the observations of rice mill owners and businessmen that they face problems for power cuts, the adviser said government has already taken measures to ensure uninterrupted power supply for rice mills.

Bogra Deputy Commissioner Humayun Kabir presided over the meeting while Divisional Commissioner Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan, Bogra District Rice Mill Owners Association President Aminul Haque spoke.

GRAFT CASES AGAINST QUADER

ACC seeks stay of HC order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed three petitions with the Supreme Court, seeking stay of the High Court (HC) order that halted proceedings of three corruption cases against Awami League leader and former state minister Obaidul Quader.

After a hearing, chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice MA Matin asked the ACC to file regular leave to appeals by May 18.

The chamber judge also fixed May 18 as that date for hearing of the appeals before the regular bench of the Appellate Division.

On April 28, the High Court stayed for one month the proceedings of three corruption cases following three quashment petitions filed by Obaidul Quader. The court also issued a rule asking the ACC to explain why the proceedings of the cases would not be quashed.

The corruption cases were filed by ACC Deputy Director Ashrafur Islam on September 30 last year.

It was stated in the cases that Obaidul Quader during his tenure as the state minister for youth and sports affairs and chairman of the National Sports Council (NSC) took Tk 38 lakh, 57 lakh and 47 lakh in bribes from different organisations through NSC director Habibur Rahman.

Advocate M Enayetur Rahim, counsel for Quader, said that the cases are now pending with three special judge courts set up at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex.

Bir Muktijoddha Mancha launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of freedom fighters yesterday launched a new organisation titled 'Bir Muktijoddha Mancha' at the National Press Club in the city.

"A new opportunity has come to freedom fighters to get united under one umbrella forgetting all disputes and divisions of the past," said Abul Kalam Azad, chief coordinator of the organisation.

He said most of the freedom fighters' organisations could not serve the interests of the freedom fighters.

Maj Gen (ret'd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, chief adviser of the platform, said, "If the government does not take initiative to try the war criminals, we will make arrangements to try them."

"Bangladesh cannot develop if her brave sons are not given due honour," said Ibrahim who is also the chief of Bangladesh Kalyan Party.

He urged the government to form a fact-finding committee to identify the war criminals and anti-liberation war elements and try them under special tribunal.

Sadek Ahmed Khan, convener of Bir Muktijoddha Mancha of Dhaka unit,

Shahidul Haq and Amir Hossain Mollah also spoke on the occasion.

Community pry teachers demand pay hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Community primary teachers submitted a memorandum to the Chief Adviser's office yesterday demanding payment of 100 per cent of salary by the government.

The teachers also gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city to form a human chain to press home their five-point demand, but the police did not allow them to do so.

Later, a meeting of Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers Association strongly protested the police action as the human chain was their scheduled programme.

The meeting was held at the association's central office, with its president Mohammad Habibul Ahsan Bablu in the chair.

The community primary teachers also demanded implementation of a government plan to raise the payment of its part as per the national pay scale by May 30. Otherwise, they would announce tougher programme on June 15, the association leaders said.

Other demands include providing higher pay scale for the head-

master and trained teachers, full house rent, medical fees and festival allowance.

Association president Habibul Ahsan, secretary general Hafizur Rahman, Ramzan Ali Mondol, Oliullah Hawlader, Sagorika, Rafiq and Atiqur Rahman submitted the memorandum to the Chief Adviser's office, says a press release.



Sabihuddin joins ASA as deputy president

Former secretary and ambassador Sabihuddin Ahmed has joined ASA as deputy president recently, says a press release.

He served as secretary of the Ministry of Forest and Environments and some key positions in different ministries. He was also the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the UK and ambassador to Sweden.

Selim Al-Deen, Tapan Bagchi win Gemcon literary awards

Eminent playwright Selim Al-Deen and Tapan Bagchi have been awarded Gemcon Literary Award and Gemcon Young Literary Award 2008 respectively, says a press release.

Selim Al-Deen was awarded for his play 'Shwarnobol' and Tapan Bagchi for his manuscript 'Shesh Drishyer Age'.

Meherunnessa, wife of late Selim Al-Deen, received the Gemcon Literary Award, which carries Tk 2 lakh, a crest and a certificate.

Tapan Bagchi received Tk 25,000, a crest and a certificate. Kazi Shahed Ahmed, chairman of Gemcon Group, gave away the awards at a ceremony at Sheraton Hotel in the city on May 10.

The Gemcon award jury included poet Belal Chowdhury, Prof Bishwajit Ghosh and Prof Syed Monzoorul Islam from Bangladesh and writers Kinnar Roy and Avijit Sen from West Bengal, India.

Kazi Nabil Ahmed, vice chairman of Gemcon Group, spoke on the occasion.



Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus and Health Adviser Dr AMM Shawkat Ali inaugurate Grameen GC Eye Hospital in Bogra yesterday.

GRAMEEN GC EYE HOSPITAL INAUGURATED

Plan to upgrade healthcare services for poor people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus yesterday unveiled a plan of Grameen Healthcare Services Ltd to set up a medical college hospital and research institute of international standard in the country to upgrade the healthcare services for poor people.

Dr Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank and chairman of Grameen Healthcare Services,

said this at the inauguration of Grameen GC Eye Hospital in Bogra. Health and Family Welfare Adviser Dr AMM Shawkat Ali attended the ceremony as the chief guest.

Grameen Healthcare Trust will sign a contract with Saudi-German Hospital authorities today under which a 50-bed hospital will be set up initially, Dr Yunus said, adding that the Grameen units will be strengthened further to ensure healthcare for all.

He said the eye hospital started its activities on November 1 last year with an aim to perform cataract surgery on 10,000 patients a year.

Grameen Healthcare Services has been running this eye hospital in cooperation with the Green Children Foundation of the US.

Lauding the activities of Grameen Healthcare Services Ltd, AMM Shawkat Ali said he would extend all-out cooperation towards its activities.

Six injured in JCD factional clash at DU hall

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least six activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of BNP, were injured during a factional clash at Haji Mohammad Muhsin Hall of Dhaka University (DU) last night.

Hall sources said a group of JCD activists loyal to Sultan Salauddin Tuku, acting president of DU JCD, attacked some activists loyal to Saiful Islam Feroz, general secretary of DU JCD, at the hall at around 9:00pm.

Later, both the groups armed with iron rods, machetes and sticks chased each other at the hall corridors for about half an hour, the sources added.

Injured activists Palash, Tusher, Shaheed, Emon, Mahfuz and Shrabon were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Later, critically injured Palash was shifted to the Labaid Hospital.

The sources said Palash fell from the second floor of the hall building during the clash.

They said yesterday's incident was a sequel to clashes between two groups on May 6 when Feroz group chased Tuku group activists out of hall.

IDB president calls on CA

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting Islamic Development Bank (IDB) President Dr Ahmad Mohammed Ali made a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday and discussed implementation of 130 million US dollar project for setting up multi-purpose cyclone shelters and schools in Sidr-hit areas.

An anonymous philanthropist earlier donated 130 million US dollar and wished that the fund should be spent through the IDB in constructing cyclone shelters and schools in Sidr-affected areas.

The IDB prepared a project, styled as 'Fael Khair programme', to make successful use of the fund according to the desire of the unnamed philanthropist.

During the meeting, Dr Ali said the programme will start immediately as all necessary formalities, including setting up of a project office, are in progress.

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Programme Schedule:

Dhaka

Open day : 16th May 2008, 10.30 am - 5.30 pm
(For individual counseling appointment required)

Venue : Bangladesh Liaison Office, London Metropolitan University

For further information and appointments:

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