

DPDC starts journey July 1

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC), a newly created entity in the power sector, will start its journey on July 1 taking over the entire operation of the existing Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa) on June 30.

Official sources said the DPDC will work as the responsible organisation for electricity distribution in the areas where Desa is now operating.

The DPDC's emergence from July 1 as a new entity in the power sector was approved by the Council of Advisers of the caretaker government on Sunday.

In the process, Desa, an 18-year-old power distribution outfit for the capital and its adjoining areas, will be dissolved.

The DPDC was created in 2005 during the previous BNP-led alliance government as a public limited

company (PLC) to be operated as an independent corporate body in line with the power sector reform programme.

After success of the Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco), the government created the DPDC replacing the Desa, which has turned out to be an ailing organisation in the public sector due to its inefficiency.

But the DPDC could not come into operation because of opposition from the trade unions and pending cases. However, the DPDC's way was cleared by the court as it ruled out the cases filed by some Desa officials.

The DPDC is now moving fast with the court verdict to appoint its staff and start its function by taking over Desa's entire distribution assets.

DPDC Managing Director Ataul Masud told UNB that the government has approved an organogram

of 2,896 manpower for his organisation against Desa's about 3,063 staff.

He said the DPDC is absorbing the efficient staff from Desa while some fresh blood will also be appointed to run the organisation with a new corporate culture.

However, the DPDC will initially not take over the liabilities of Desa, which will be not less than Tk 8,000 crore.

A committee is now working to determine the assets and liabilities of Desa. On completion of the task, the government will decide the liability issue.

Desa is blamed for poor performance and corruption as its system loss has been the highest among the power sector entities.

Sources said a meeting was held on Sunday at the Power Ministry to review the DPDC's preparations to take over charge from Desa.

Cadet missing after falling from ship

CU CORRESPONDENT

A cadet went missing in the sea after he fell off a ship at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port yesterday morning.

The cadet was identified as Saeed Hasan, 19, son of Captain Mohammad Azizul Hasan, former technical director of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC).

Sources said Saeed was getting on the Captains' Room of the Panama Flag Carrier MV Precious at around 9:30am, but he fell off in the sea slipping the staircases since the sea was turbulent.

Official of local agent of the ship - Prominent Shipping Line - Mohammad Harun said the master of the ship threw life jacket to Saeed, but he could not catch the jacket for the rough tides.

Immediately after the accident, a rescue team of the Port, Bangladesh Navy and Coast Guard began searching in the sea but could not trace him till 4:30pm, Harun added.

Saeed joined the ship only 25 days ago as a cadet, he added.

Woman, 4 others held for running Yaba business in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested a woman and four others including a former ward commissioner of Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) for running Yaba business.

Four Yaba tablets were also seized from the possession of the woman.

The law enforcers, in the guise of buyers, went to the Alpine Restaurant at Chouhatta area at 4:30pm, and began discussion about a deal for Yaba with the middle aged woman who introduced her as Mahmuda Rahman hailing from Tungibari of Munshiganj.

As she guessed some thing wrong during the discussion, Mahmuda all on a sudden took two tablets in her mouth and tried in vain to flee the scene.

Rab men caught her instantly and on interrogation she confessed her involvement with the drug net in Sylhet.

Accompanying the woman, the law enforcers went to Hotel Hilltown at Telihara area and recovered four tablets from her room.

Rab also arrested former ward commissioner Oliur Rahman Sohel, who along with three others were staying in the room.

They are Malek Ahmed Suja and Nizam Uddin of Kolapara at Sheikhghat, and Habibur Rahman of Kona Para village under Osmaninagar Police Station.

A bottle of foreign liquor was also seized from there.

Mahmuda claimed that Sohel and others had been with her in running the Yaba business in Sylhet for long.

Naming an influential official of Sylhet, she said some organised people are also involved in drug business.

Quizzing of the arrestees was going on as of filing this report.

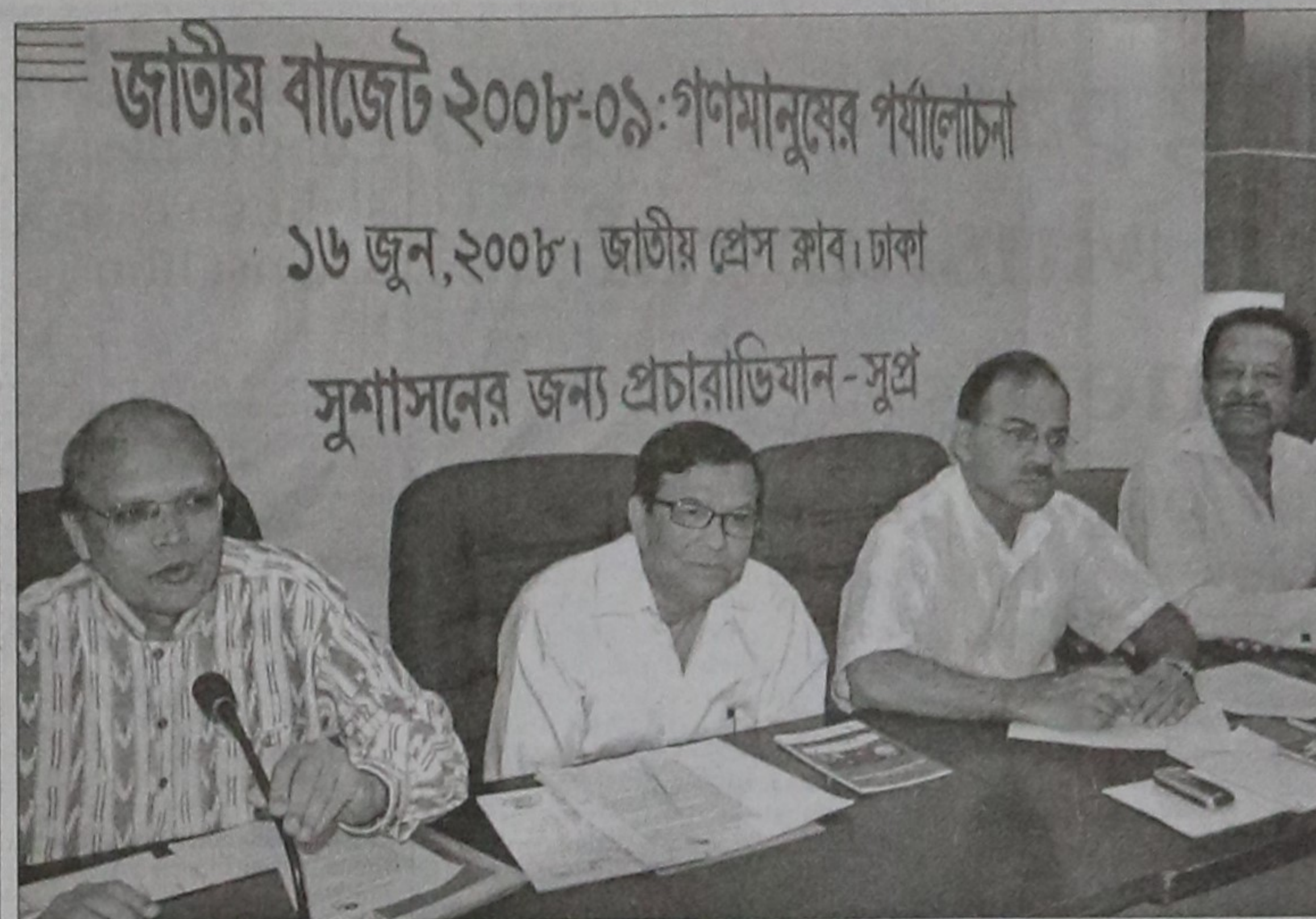
Law adviser leaves for Mexico to attend workshop

UNB, Dhaka

Law Adviser AF Hassan Arif left for Mexico yesterday to attend a workshop on 'Non-conviction Based Asset Recovery' beginning at Cancun today.

Representatives from 20 countries will attend the three-day practitioners' workshop.

The adviser is expected to return home on June 24.



Dr Atiur Rahman speaks at a discussion on the proposed budget at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left are Lt Gen (Retd) Mahbubur Rahman, Col (Retd) Faruk Khan and Abdul Mannan. Campaign for Good Governance organised the discussion. (Story on Star Business B3).

Plant more fruit trees to meet nutrition demand: Adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Adviser Dr CS Karim yesterday called for plantation of more fruit trees to meet the nutrition demand of the people and help earn foreign exchanges by exporting fruits.

Asking agricultural scientists to develop quality fruits instead of just big sized ones and encourage plantation of non-traditional fruits, he said the forest department, which plants huge trees every year, can focus on planting fruit trees on roadsides.

Emergency obstetric care services at Narsingdi health complex

Safe Motherhood Promotion Project (SMPP) on Saturday launched its 'Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care (C-EmOC)' services at Raipura Upazila Health Complex (UHC) in Narsingdi, says a press release.

The SMPP is being implemented by the health and family welfare ministry in the district since July 2006.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) provides technical assistance to the health ministry for the implementation of the project.

Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Prof MA Faiz formally inaugurated the C-EmOC service.

With inauguration of the project, caesarian section services, including treatment of other obstetric complications, will be provided to the rural poor women.

Raipura is the biggest upazila in the country consisting of 24 unions having with a population of more than five lakh. For many years, it was a crying need for people of the area to get life-saving emergency services available locally.

An operation theatre (OT) of Raipura UHC has been renovated and necessary equipment were provided with the support of JICA.

In addition, SMPP supported CARE Bangladesh to facilitate community mobilisation programme at Raipura.

Community people have become more aware of the importance of safe motherhood and created 'community support system' to prevent maternal and neonatal deaths in their locality through ensuring emergency referral and providing financial assistance to poor pregnant women.

The SMPP officials said Raipura upazila can demonstrate a good example of how to save lives of women and newborns in collaboration with the health ministry, local government and community.

BSMMU liftman, Ansar member arrested on rape charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police arrested a liftman of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and an Ansar member on charges of violating a woman on the rooftop of a building of the institution early yesterday.

The arrestees are liftman Mujibar Rahman, 25, and Ansar member Manjurul Islam, 28.

Shahbagh police arrested the two after the victim filed a case. The police said the 34-year-old woman came to Dhaka from Dhamrai on Sunday morning to visit a book fair at Aziz Cooperative Market at Shahbagh.

At night, she along with her male companion took shelter on the seventh floor of C Block building of the university.

But the liftman and the Ansar member took her to the top of the building and raped her after beating her male companion, the police said.

The police sent the victim to One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

US chapter of BNP demands release of Khaleda, sons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The USA chapter of BNP staged demonstrations in Jackson Heights and in front of the United Nations headquarters in New York on Sunday demanding immediate release of the party chairperson Khaleda Zia and her two sons.

According to a report of News World, BNP Vice President Mominul Haque chaired a rally in front of Jackson Heights while Hetal Uddin, Shahadat Hossain, Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan, Rafiqul Molla and Sharif Ahmed Laskar also spoke.



Prof Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad speaks at a dialogue on 'Proposed Budget for 2008-2009: MDGs and Reality of Poverty Eradication' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is Shishir Shil while on his left are Md Abdus Shahid and Dr Alauddin. People's Forum on MDG (PFM) organised the dialogue (Story on Star Business B3)

Children's art contest today

Helen Keller International (HKI) Bangladesh and Bangladesh Shishu Academy will jointly organise a children's art competition today celebrating the 30 years of HKI in the country, says a press release.

The art competition with the theme 'Field, food and family' will be held at the Shishu Academy Art Gallery at 2:30pm.

More than 500 children from various schools in Dhaka city are expected to take part in the competition.

The purpose of the event is to involve children in unfolding their creativity around some of HKI's core focal points -- food production, nutrition and women empowerment.

Chantell Witten, country director of HKI Bangladesh, will be present as the chief guest and distribute prizes and certificates among the winners and participants.

The Daily Star, ntv and the Janakantha are the media partners of the event.

RU Motihar Hall reconstruction begins

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) authorities formally began the reconstruction work of the Motihar Hall yesterday.

Acting RU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Mammunul Keramat inaugurated the reconstruction work.

Acting Registrar Prof Muhammad Shafi, Students Adviser Prof Faridul Islam Pintu and Proctor Enamul Haque were present during the inaugural session.

Campus sources said the reconstruction work would cost around Tk 13 crore. The university authorities allocated Tk 1.4 crore for the work in the last fiscal year.

The reconstruction work of the four-stored hall would complete in 2010.

RU authorities declared the hall 'rejected' in 2006 and disallowed students for staying.

EC workshop on SCC polls tomorrow

UNB, Sylhet

Election Commission will organise a workshop at the DC office tomorrow for the candidates interested to contest the upcoming Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) election for the posts of mayor and ward commissioners.

The daylong workshop is aimed at making them aware about new nomination forms and electoral code of conduct as per the policy under the Local Government (city corporation) Ordinance 2008.

Chief Election Commissioner Dr ATM Shamsul Huda, Election Commissioners Mohammad Sohul Hossain and Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakawat Hossain will attend the workshop, official sources said.

List of seven for two VC posts finalised

UNB, Dhaka

A government-assigned Search Committee yesterday finalised a list of seven people in two panels for the appointment of vice-chancellors of National University and Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University.

A statement by the Press Information Department said the committee finalised the list at a meeting at the Ministry of Education.

The meeting decided that the ministry would submit the list to the chief adviser soon, the statement said.

A total of 325 applications have so far been received for the vacant posts of vice-chancellors in seven

Khoka promises land for water pump

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka yesterday announced that a plot of land would be allocated for setting up a water-pump at Ward No 48 (Hazaribagh area) in the city for supplying of pure drinking water.

He said a modern community centre would also be constructed in the ward for holding social and familial ceremonies.

He made this announcement while addressing as the chief guest at a meeting on the occasion of inaugurating a newly built Surjer Hasi Clinic at Gajmohol area of Hazaribagh.

universities, it said.

Education Adviser Hossain Zilur Rahman was present at the meeting with Committee Co-chairman Prof Wahid Uddin Mahmud in the chair.

Education Secretary Md Montajul Islam and committee members Md Farashuddin, Prof Dr Ehsanul Haq, Dr Nuruddin Ahmed, Dr Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Prof Dr S M Bulbul were present.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on June 23.

Reunion of street children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

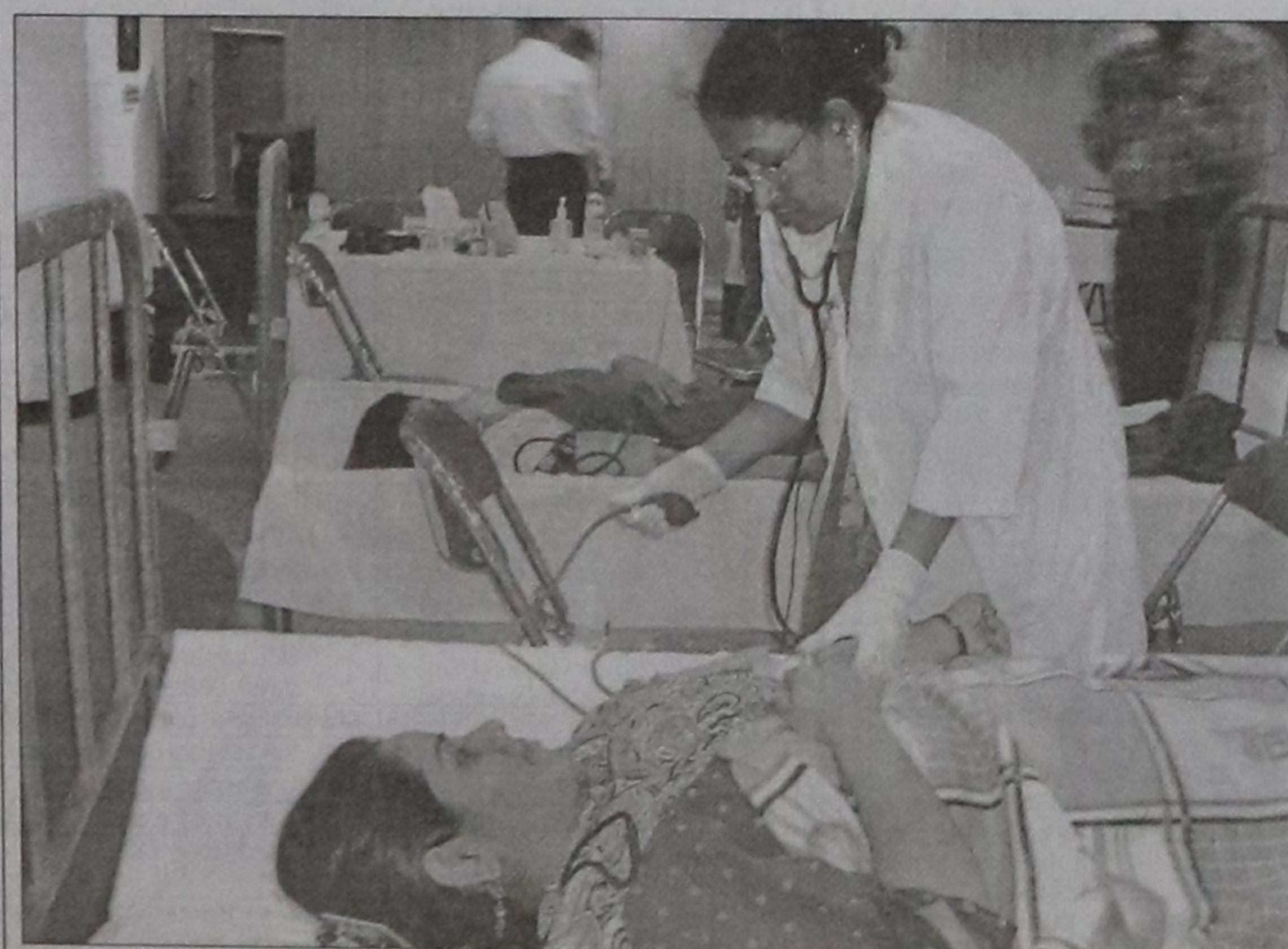
Assistance For Slum Dwellers (ASD) and Plan Bangladesh jointly organised an annual reunion of street children at Social Service Department auditorium in the city yesterday.

ASD Executive Director Shihab Uddin Ahmed presided over the reunion while Social Service Department Director General Abdul Naser Chowdhury and Plan Bangladesh Country Director Edward Thomas addressed the programme.

They said lakhs of children in the city remain stay in the streets from dawn to dusk despite torture. Some of them earn money and others were scolded, they added.

They urged all to come forward with a commitment to assist the deprived street children.

Drama artistes Azizul Hakim, Faisal and Bonny Mirza and singer Alam Ara Minu attended the programme to inspire the street children.



Chevron Bangladesh organises a blood donation campaign at Radius Centre in Bay's Galleria at Gulshan Avenue in the city on June 12 on the occasion of the World Blood Donor Day in collaboration with Chevron Dhaka Medical Team and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. Forty-two Chevron employees donated their blood. A similar event was held in March.

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