

Strengthen homestead food output for nutrition security

Experts tell HKI seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food and nutrition experts at a seminar yesterday suggested strengthening homestead food production programme in order to ensure food and nutrition security for the poor people in rural areas.

It is also important to improve market access for the producers by strengthening their linkage with market chains and to promote better management of farming practices by training farmers and extension agencies through transfer of scientific technology, they said.

Homestead food production helps communities establish homestead gardens and to cultivate fruits and vegetables rich in vitamin A and other micronutrients. Eggs, poultry and other animal foods, which support the body's ability to utilise micronutrients, are also integrated into the programme.

Helen Keller International (HKI),

Beautyfication of TSC DU to cancel deal with GP

Dhaka University (DU) authorities yesterday decided to cancel the 30-year partnership agreement between the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) and Grameenphone (GP).

The university syndicate, the highest decision making body, took the decision following students' demand for cancelling the deal.

The authorities of TSC and GP signed the partnership agreement on June 16 for the beautification, modernisation and maintenance of TSC cafeteria and its surrounding areas.

DU Treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad said, "Some objections have come from the students that the agreement with the multinational company is against the interest of the university and some conditions are unacceptable. So, the authorities have taken the decision to cancel the deal".

In the 30-year partnership agreement, a 10-year deal was included to enhance network strength on the campus.

After the signing of the agreement, leaders and activists of different student bodies, mainly the left-leaning student organisations, were staging demonstrations on the campus demanding its cancellation.

Earlier, the DU syndicate approved the decision of signing the agreement.

Ex-JP MP Kamran arrested

Former Jatiya Party lawmaker Kamran Hossain Chowdhury was arrested from his Gulshan residence in the city yesterday in connection with a cheating case.

Gulshan police said they arrested Kamran following an arrest warrant issued by a Rajbari court.

According to the police, the court issued the order as one of his cheques was dishonoured.

The police also produced Kamran before the court that sent him to jail.

The EOI should include:

- A brief organizational profile; and
- Documentary evidence in support of relevant experience in implementing community based health programmes.

The interested organizations are requested to send hard copies of their EOIs to the Director - Finance, Procurement and IT, Chars Livelihoods Programme, Rural Development Academy (RDA) Campus, Sherpur, Bogra-5842 and soft copies to info@clp-bangladesh.org no later than July 8, 2008. Detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) will be sent to the short listed organizations only for submitting technical and financial proposals.

CLP reserves the right to cancel the whole process or to reject all or any EOI without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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Bangladesh organised the seminar styled 'Field, Food and Family' at a city hotel marking its 30 years in Bangladesh.

"We live mostly on carbohydrate... we need not only quantity, but also quality foods. Supplementary foods, therefore, is more important. More homestead gardening could be an answer to it," said Agriculture Adviser Dr CS Karim at the concluding session of the daylong seminar.

Speaking as the chief guest, the adviser said production of fruits, vegetables and animals can also help the poor earn some money if market access is created for them.

Access to food and the purchasing power of people are important factors for food security, he said, adding that the budget support for safety net programme is also important.

World Food Programme (WFP) Country Director Edward Kallon said that despite impressive food production over the years, access to adequate food and nutritional security remains a major challenge to achieve food security in Bangladesh.

This is because of lack of purchasing power of the poor, consumption of unbalanced diet, lack of awareness and inappropriate cultural practices, he said, adding that nearly half of the children under five are underweight and 22

percent of children are born with low birth weight in Bangladesh.

HKI President and Chief Executive Officer Kathy Spanh said it is very important to look at the issues of nutrition when food prices have already doubled, leaving the poor under precarious conditions.

The seminar recommended creating demand for a more diverse diet at the household level by developing and conducting a national social marketing campaign on the benefits of consuming rice along with other foods like potato, maize, vegetables, fruits and pulses daily.

It is important to scale up livelihood programmes coupled with nutrition education in both urban and rural areas in order to improve social safety net and coping ability of the poor families, he added.

At the concluding session, WFP signed a memorandum of understanding with HKI Bangladesh to consolidate their efforts in fighting against hunger and malnutrition using innovative approaches to combat inter-generational malnutrition that is costing the nation \$2.29 billion in productivity loss per year.

Health Adviser Dr AMM Shawkat Ali inaugurated the seminar, while HKI Bangladesh Country Director Chantell Witten, Food and Agriculture Organisation Representative in Bangladesh Ad Spikers and journalist Ataus Samad also spoke.



Agriculture Adviser Dr CS Karim speaks at a seminar at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday while HKI President and Chief Executive Officer Kathy Spanh looks on.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

No appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 35.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sathkira and lowest 24.2 degrees Celsius at Maizdee Court.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:13am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.7	26.5	80	67
Chittagong	31.5	25.8	73	83
Rajshahi	34.8	26.6	84	70
Khulna	34.0	26.8	77	70
Barisal	33.0	26.4	80	73
Sylhet	34.8	25.2	75	57
Cox's Bazar	32.2	25.5	71	75

SSC results tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Results of the 2008 Secondary School Certificate (SSC), SSC vocational and Dakhil examinations under seven education boards, Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) and Madrasa Education Board will be published tomorrow at all examination centres concurrently.

The heads of the educational institutions will collect the result sheets from the secretary of the respective examination centres.

The examinees can collect their results from their institutions/examination centres at 5:00pm.

Besides, examinees having Grameenphone (GP), Banglalink, Aktel, CityCell, TeleTalk and Warid connections can receive their results this year through short message services (SMS). To receive the result, a student has to type the first three letters of the respective boards (like Dhaka=DHA), give a space and type roll number and then send it to 2777.

Candidates having GP and Aktel connections can register their names earlier to get their results automatically just after publication of the results.

To register, candidates have to type RES-spaces-first three letters of their respective boards-spaces-roll numbers and then send them to 2777.

An agreement was signed between Intermediate and Secondary Education Boards Bangladesh and Wintel Limited, a mobile phone content provider, to publish the results through mobile phone SMS services, says a press release.

Besides, SSC and Dakhil examinees can also get their results by logging on to the website and SSC (vocational) to

No result will be available at the respective education boards, education ministry or newspaper offices, the release added.

This year a total of 10,13,301 students appeared in the exams at 1,837 centres across the country.

Of them, 7,47,545 students -- 3,83,770 male and 3,63,775 female -- appeared for the SSC exams under seven education boards, 1,83,381 took Dakhil exams under the Madrasa Education Board and 82,375 sat for the SSC vocational exams under the BTEB.

Death anniversary

Today is the second death anniversary of Col (ret'd) Akbar Hossain, Bir Pratik, a former minister, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil and mezban will be held at his village home at Sharifpur under Lakhsham upazila in Comilla.

A discussion will also be held at Comilla district BNP office at 5:00pm.

Gofur Beluch

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Gofur Beluch, a footballer and former coach of Brothers Union, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at the club pavilion after Zohr prayers.

Officials of the club, players and his admirers are requested to attend the programme.

Dr Najeer Ahmed

Today is the 15th death anniversary of Dr Najeer Ahmed, founding vice chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and Chaudanga district Awami League leader, says a press release.

On the occasion, a commemoration meeting and doa mahfil will be held at his Chaudanga residence.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of him departed soul.

Sheikh Md Nazir Hossain

Today is the first death anniversary of Sheikh Md Nazir Hossain, former head master of Zamirata High School in Sirajganj, says a press release.

On the occasion, special prayers will be held at his village home and at Banani (Nam Village, Building 8, Flat C/2) in the city.

Relatives, admirers and his former students are requested to attend the programmes and pray for peace of his departed soul.

'CG has no secret deal with any political party'

UNB, Dhaka

The caretaker government made it clear that it has no 'secret understanding' with any political party.

The categorical statement from government side came as the new-generation Progressive Democratic Party (PDP), wanted clarification over the speculations particularly involving government's negotiations with Awami League.

Speaking at a post-dialogue joint press briefing at the CA's office, PDP Convenor Dr Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi said they asked openly at the dialogue about people's perception that the present interim government has 'understanding' with a certain political party, indicating Awami League.

He quoted Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed as having told them that "the caretaker government has no secret discussion with any political party".

Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, who acts as government spokesperson in the ongoing series dialogue, told reporters at the brief-

ing that they want to clearly state that the present government wants to advance following the roadmap, involving all political parties in reflection of the government's principles.

"We want to create a level playing field for healthy competition of political parties in the election."

To a question about specific government principles, he mentioned reform of electoral rules, roadmap, giving attention to people's demands for attaining the key objective of holding meaningful election, qualitative change in politics, and ensuring post-election stability.

Indicating threat of some major political parties to boycott or resist elections, Qureshi said participation of voters is the only yardstick for election, not matter whether any political party participates or not.

They believe that presently minimum 60 percent voters want to participate in the elections ahead as they got the people's pulse during talks with people across the country.

"People are election-oriented," he said.

Replying to a question, Qureshi said an election would be acceptable if majority voters participate and cast vote, "notwithstanding any major political party participates or not".

The newly floated party's chief caretaker government on its strong steps to hold local government elections and favoured holding all the local polls, including upazila elections, before election to parliament.

He pointed out that it had been noticed in the past that political parties before parliamentary elections had pledged to hold local elections, particularly upazila election, but after election forming government backtracked on it.

Regarding the PDP proposals like an additional 100 national seats and change in permanent allocation of election symbols, Zillur said they want to proceed discussing with all the proposals and new ideas.

DU urges mayor to remove electronic billboard

DU CORRESPONDENT

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University (DU) Prof SMA Faiz yesterday sent a letter to Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Saadeque Hossain Khoka urging him to remove the electronic billboard set up at Shahbagh intersection to raise awareness about voter registration.

In the letter, Prof Faiz mentioned that continuous screening of advertisements on the billboard attracts the attention of pedestrians and drivers, which may lead to accident anytime.

"I think the mayor also agreed on the issue during our conversation over telephone," Prof Faiz told The Daily Star.

The billboard, sponsored by nine international development partners and the UNDP, was inaugurated on May 13 by the then British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury.

Training on research methodology

A week-long training course on research methodology will be started at Dhaka University (DU) today, says a press release.

Centre for Advanced Studies in Social Science of DU and Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought (BIIT) jointly organised the course at 401, Lecture Theatre of the university.

50 pry students fall sick after taking deworming tablets

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Over 50 students of a primary school at Kalkini fell sick yesterday after taking deworming tablets distributed by Kalkini Upazila Health Complex in Madaripur.

The tablets called 'Vermox' were distributed among over 400 students of Shikarmangal Government Primary School at around 12:00 noon, witnesses said.

As the students started falling ill after taking the tablets, the school authorities informed the Upazila Nirbahi Officer who immediately sent a medical team from the health complex to the school.

Later, another team from Madaripur Sadar Hospital arrived

at the school after the condition of students deteriorated.

Of them, 17 students were admitted to Upazila Health Complex while 24 others recovered from illness after receiving treatment from the medical team.

Later, more students were taken to the health complex, raising the number to 53.

Headmaster Beluchi Biswas said the deworming tablets were given to students of other schools in the upazila but none of them fell sick.

Upazila Health and Planning Officer Abdur Rouf said the tablets were not date-expired and that the students were affected by mass hysteria, a kind of mass psychogenic illness.

Listed criminal killed in gunfight with Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A listed criminal was killed in a gunfight with members of the Rapid Action Battalion at Tongi early yesterday.

The dead, Mahbubur Rahman alias Bhuiyan Babu, was a top criminal of Tongi area and wanted in 13 cases including three for murder.

According to Rab-1 officials, one of their patrol teams gave signal to a private car to halt near Munnu gate area at about 2:00am. But the criminals who were in the car tried to flee ignor-

ing the signal.

"When the Rab members chased the gang, they opened fire at the members of the elite force, prompting them to retaliate," said the officials.

They said Babu received bullets during the "shootout" while his accomplices managed to flee, leaving the car.

The Rab men later found the bullet-hit body of Babu inside the car and sent it to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

They seized the car and recovered a pistol, a shotgun and four cocktails from it.

Career Opportunity

Christian Service Society (CSS) is a humanitarian NGO working in Bangladesh since 1972. It has a wide range of development programs i.e. 200 bed General Hospital, Primary Health Care, HIV/AIDS Program, Safe Drinking Water, Nine Orphanages, Vocational Training Institute, Formal & Non-Formal School, Training and Resource Center, Fisheries, Agriculture, Small and Medium Enterprise Development and Micro Credit throughout Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna division.

1. Director - Administration
Qualification: MBA/Masters.
5 years of working experience.
Salary: Negotiable
2. Director- International Affairs
Qualification: Masters in English.
Strong in English. Good Knowledge of computer programs.
Salary: Negotiable
3. Director- Finance
Qualification: MBA/CAcc/Masters.
5 years of working experience.
Salary: Negotiable
4. Director-Micro-Credit Program
Qualification: MBA/CAcc/Masters.
5 years of experience in a senior position of Micro Credit Program.
Salary: Negotiable
5. Director-Education
Qualification: Masters/B.Ed/ M.Ed.
5 years of working experience.
Salary: Negotiable
6. Medical Officer
Qualification: MBBS/PGT on Pediatrics/Gynecology/General Surgery will be preferred.
Salary: BDT 14,000-16,000
7. Program Manager- HIV/AIDS
Qualification: MBBS/MPH/ Masters.
Experience in HIV/AIDS program.
Salary: BDT 18,000-20,000
8. Program Officer-HIV/AIDS
Qualification: MBA/MA/Graduate.
Experience in the relevant field.
Salary: BDT 8,000-10,000
9. Assistant Program Officer cum Facilitator
Qualification: M.A /Graduate.
Experience in the relevant field.
Salary: BDT 6,000-7,000
10. Staff Nurse
Qualification: 4 years Diploma in Nursing. Experience in working in any Maternity clinic/Operation theater will be preferred.
Salary: BDT 6,000-7,000
11. Zonal Manager - MCP
Qualification: Masters.
7 years of working experience in Micro Credit Program.
Salary: BDT 12,000-15,000
12. Monitoring Officer - MCP
Qualification: Masters.
3 years of working experience in Micro Credit Program.
Salary: BDT 8,000-10,000
13. Principal (Rev. Paul's High School)
Qualification: Masters with B.Ed / M.Ed. / 7 years of experience on Teaching and School Management Control.
Salary: BDT 12,000-16,000
14. Information Coordinator
Qualification: 'O' level/Graduate.
Strong in English. Good Knowledge of computer programs.
Salary: BDT 10,000-12,000
15. Finance & Monitoring Officer
Qualification: M.Com in Accounting/CAcc. Computer literate. Experience in relevant field will be preferred.
Salary: BDT 10,000-12,000
16. Audit Officer
Qualification: Graduate with CA.cc/ Masters in Commerce.
3 years experience in auditing.
Salary: BDT 10,000-12,000
17. Engineer-Construction
Qualification: B. Sc in Civil Engineering. Experience in the relevant field.
Salary: BDT 12,000-15,000

ALL POSITIONS ARE KHULNA BASED.

* Good benefits i.e. Provident Fund, Gratuity, Medical & Education Assistance and Festival Bonus.

* If you know motorcycle and/or car driving and valid license please mention.

* The position applied for should be mentioned on the top of the envelope.

* Apply with CV, a recent passport size photograph, phone/mobile number & Expected Salary by 10th July, 08. To CSS, P.O Box- 11077, Uttara Post Office, Dhaka- 1230 or CSS, House-15, Road-31, Sector-7 Uttara, Dhaka-1230 or E-Mail to hrd@cssbd.org.

Two rice-laden trucks seized, five arrested in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of the joint forces yesterday seized two trucks laden with government relief rice and arrested four employees of a rice godown and a truck driver at Chaktai, one of the commercial hubs in Chittagong.

The rice-laden trucks were being sent to Dighinala upazila in Khagrachhari as relief for distribution among the hilly people, sources said.

Identity of four arrestees out of five could be ascertained till filing of this report at 8.45pm yesterday. They are Kamal Uddin, Babul Chowdhury and Jalal Uddin, employees of one Musa Sowdagar's godown at New Chaktai, and truck driver Mofizur Rahman.

On information, a team of joint forces rushed to the spot at around 8.00pm and seized the trucks loaded with 201 sacks of rice and arrested the five from there. The owner of the godown, however, fled the scene.

Assistant Commissioner (detective branch) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police Naimul Hasan admitted the seizure and arrests, but he could not give details of the rice.

Another source, however, said the rice in question was part of over 400 metric tonnes of rice the joint forces team seized on April 24 from the dumping yard of Chittagong City Corporation, while a large quantity of rice in good condition was being dumped there as 'inedible'.

The government of Pakistan in December 2007 donated the rice as food aid for Sidr victims. A total of around 2,500 metric tonnes of rice in 110 containers were donated.

Of them, 25 containers of rice, weighing around 451 metric tonnes, were found wet and reported to be giving out bad odour. The authorities then decided to dump the 25 affected containers, declaring the rice 'inedible'.

DHAKA TODAY

Convocation
The first convocation of Eastern University will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 10:30am.

Department launching
The launching ceremony of Department of Real State of Daffodil International University (DIU) will be held. Venue: DIU auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

Discussion
National Garment Workers Federation organises a discussion on expectation of garment workers in the proposed national budget. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.