

BIRTH REGISTRATION PROGRAMME

DCC lacks manpower, logistics to do the job properly

MAHTABI ZAMAN

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has registered a total of 2,92,576 people under the birth registration programme as of last month while over 14 lakh applicants are yet to be registered.

Out of the registered people, 1,80 lakh received birth registration certificates as of March.

"According to Birth and Death Registration Act 2004, a birth registration certificate will have to be issued within 15 days of submitting the application, but we cannot help it due to shortage of manpower and logistics," said Chief Health Officer Colonel Dr Md Showkat Ali.

According to an estimate, the total population under the city corporation is 1.5 crore.

To achieve the target by this year, the Corporation is required to register 40 thousand birth certificates daily, but it can register only 2000 to 2500 certificates everyday on an average, said an official of this programme.

"DCC is doing the work dividing its area into 10 zones. Each zone has only one computer and one person for data entry," he added.

"We are managing the problem by delivering certificates to those who are in need of them urgently," said the chief health officer, adding that the Corporation has proposed

for more manpower and more logistic support to the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives.

The ministry has replied its inability to increase manpower but agreed to provide logistic support soon with the support of the Unicef and Plan Bangladesh who have been assisting the programme since its inception, he said.

According to the Act, all people of the country should be brought under birth registration within two years since it became effective on July 3, 2006.

Under the Act, the last date for free birth registration of people of all ages was July 2, 2008.

However, the time for free birth registration of people below 18 years

has been extended to December 31 to make the universal birth registration programme successful by 2008.

At a function at Osmani Memorial Hall on July 3, LGRD and Cooperatives Adviser Mohammad Anwarul Iqbal said people above 18 years will have to pay Tk 50 for registration.

"But DCC is yet to receive any directive in this regard, and this has created a backlog in this programme," said Colonel Showkat.

While visiting different offices of the Corporation, it was found that

the employees are taking Tk 50 from people for registration although they are yet to receive any written order in this regard.

According to Birth and Death Registration Act 2004, a birth registration certificate will be needed to get 16 facilities.

These include obtaining driving license and passport, marriage registration, admission in school and employment in any organisation, voter enlistment, land registration, opening bank account, for import export business, getting connection of gas, water, telephone, electricity, tax identification number, tender license, trade license, and national ID card.



An open manhole, now under water, in front of Mohammadpur Bihari Camp in the city poses danger to pedestrians and commuters, but the authorities remain indifferent. Local people have put up a bamboo in the manhole to make the people aware of the danger.



The health directorate takes out a colourful procession in the city yesterday to mark the World Population Day.

'Reject anti-liberation elements in polls'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders Forum (SCF), a platform of the sector commanders who led the country's independence war, has appealed to all to reject the anti-liberation elements in the upcoming local government polls.

In a statement on Thursday, the Forum leaders said, "As local government election is near at the door, we are appealing to all to reject the anti-liberation war elements contesting the elections."

The SCF also formed an eight-member sub-committee led by artist Qayyum Chowdhury to strengthen its ongoing movement against the anti-liberation elements.

The sub-committee will arrange exhibitions of painting and poster across the country to mobilise public opinion for the trial of war

criminals.

Maj Gen (ret) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury and M Hamid will act as co-coordinator and member-secretary of the sub-committee.

Robbery in city

UNB, Dhaka

A gang of robbers looted valuables worth about Tk 3 lakh from the house of a former civil officer of the Air Force at East Manikdi in city's Cantonment area early yesterday.

The police said the gang entered the house of Nurul Islam after breaking open window grilles at around 4:00am and held the family members hostage at gunpoint.

Later, they decamped with valuables, including five tolas of gold ornaments.

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