

'NCDs responsible for 27 pc of deaths'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deaths due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, mellitus, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, heart diseases and stroke are increasing in an alarming rate across the world, whereas these diseases are responsible for 27 percent of the deaths in Bangladesh, speakers at a press conference said yesterday.

EMINENCE, a non-government organisation, organised the press conference at the National Press Club in the city.

With a view to preventing the onset of NCDs, EMINENCE with the support of World Health Organisation (WHO) is going to launch an 11-month project for the garments workers.

Risk factors for developing these kinds of diseases have been identified as unhealthy dietary, behaviour, lack of physical activity and habit of both smoking and non-smoking tobacco, speakers at the press conference said.

Speaking as the chief guest, lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder said this project would really be helpful to create awareness among the garment workers for leading a hygienic life, as most of them don't know about the non-communicable diseases.

He also urged the media to play an active role in creating awareness among the people.

Dr M Mostafa Zaman, national professional officer of WHO, stressed the need for addressing the use of tobacco, changing food habit, doing more physical exercises and walking in open space with a view to preventing the NCDs.

Prof Hosne Ara Tahmina of Directorate of Health Services, Dr AM Zakir Hossain, adviser to EMINENCE, and Dr Shamim H Talukder, chief executive, were also present.

Army officials seek help from all in arresting BDR rebels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

As part of the 'Operation Rebel Hunt', army officials held a coordination meeting with the civil administration and the media people yesterday.

They sought cooperation from all sections of people in gathering information about fugitive BDR jawans who fled the BDR headquarters after the mutiny.

The officials also said that no innocent persons will be harassed as information about them would be verified before arresting the rebels.

At the meeting held at Rajshahi deputy commissioner's conference room, a coordination cell has been formed with representatives from the Armed forces, civil administration and the police.

Lt Col Mashiur Rahman, Lt Col Kawsar, Lt Col Mizan, Maj Reaz Ahmed, Maj Akamul and Capt ANM Foysal were present at the meeting chaired by Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner Shefaul Karim.

M Shahabuddin Khan, superintendent of police in Rajshahi, Mokhlesur Rahman, deputy commissioner (headquarters) of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, and Upazila Nirbahi Officers were also present.

The army officials said many BDR jawans went into hiding across the country after looting huge arms and ammunition from Pilkhana BDR headquarters after the mutiny.

They sought information leading to the arrest of fugitive BDR jawans so that the culprits cannot engage in subversive activities or any terrorist outfits cannot use them for their benefit.

\$14.98m project to ensure justice at grassroots level

METRO DESK

The government of Bangladesh and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) yesterday signed an agreement to implement a new technical assistance project in the country aiming to strengthen the justice system at the grass-roots level through village courts, says a UNDP release.

The 'Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh' project, jointly funded by the government, European Commission (EC) and UNDP, will improve access to justice for disadvantaged and marginalised groups as well as to promote and protect human rights.

It will strengthen the village court system primarily in 500 selected union parishads across the country which will enable people at the grass-roots level to seek legal reme-

dies in a transparent and affordable manner for matters that fall under the jurisdiction of the courts.

Improved access to justice mechanisms at the local level will have particular impact on the empowerment of women, poor and disadvantaged groups. The project will also strengthen the local government bodies making them more responsive to local needs.

The total value of the project amounts to approximately \$14.98 million (approximately Tk 103 crore) with \$0.73 million (approximately Tk 50 lakh) contributed by the government, \$13.62 million (approximately Tk 93.4 crore) by EC and \$1.3 million (approximately Tk 8.9 crore) by UNDP.

Resident Representative of UNDP Robert Juhkam said: "I believe that this project will significantly help poor people at the grass-roots level obtain

fair and easily accessible justice. It will contribute to the peaceful resolution of disputes between parties leading to local development and improvements in people's daily lives."

"The commitment of the government of Bangladesh and the strong support of the EC are clearly evidenced by this initiative, and our joint efforts will ultimately translate into improved capabilities of union parishads, legal practitioners and citizens to claim and deliver justice in a timely manner."

Acting Head of the EC Delegation Charles Whiteley said: "I am delighted that the EC is joining forces with the UNDP and the government of Bangladesh to ensure that citizens gain access to swift, effective and fair justice at the village level. It is vital that those from disadvantaged groups are afforded proper access to the courts."



Members of the Global Xchange Team-79 pose for photograph with British High Commissioner Stephen Evans at an experience sharing and certificate distribution ceremony at the British Council auditorium in the city on Sunday. Secretary to the Ministry of Youth and Sports Ehsan U Fattah was also present. Global Xchange is a youth programme organised by the British Council and Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) in partnership with Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) and Nagorik Uddyog.

BDR MUTINY

'Form all-party committee to resolve crisis'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should form an all-party national-level committee to resolve the crisis arising from the mutiny by Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

"Otherwise, the people will doubt about the government's intention," said former law minister Moudud Ahmed at the discussion organised by Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Muktiyuddher Projonmo at Bangladesh Photojournalist Association auditorium in the city yesterday.

"We are ready to cooperate if the government calls on us to join the concerted efforts to resolve the issue," said Moudud, also a standing

committee member of BNP.

It is a national crisis and all the political parties should put their heads together and work unitedly to resolve it, said BNP central committee member Sama Obaid.

Moudud further said the government should have allowed the army to intervene in the very beginning and it could have 'saved many lives'.

Wasting time on negotiations with the rebels has facilitated many culprits to escape the scene, he added.

Freedom fighter Ismail Hossain Bengal, Gias Uddin Mridha and Abul Hossain of Jatiyatabadi Muktiyuddha Dal also spoke at the discussion chaired by Abu Al Yusuf Khan, president of Jatiyatabadi Muktiyuddher Projonmo.

HC asks govt to unfreeze frozen bank accounts of Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the government to unfreeze all the five frozen bank accounts of former law minister and BNP leader Moudud Ahmed.

An HC bench of Justice Mir Hasmat Ali and Justice Shamim Hasnain passed the order upon a writ petition filed by Moudud.

Earlier on January 22, the HC bench allowed Moudud to withdraw Tk 5 lakh a month from one of his frozen accounts at IFIC Bank and to deposit money in his savings account with the same bank and withdraw money from it.

On March 5, 2007, following the directives of the National Board of Revenue, five bank accounts of the former law minister were frozen in connection with tax evasion case.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed moved the writ petition.

Three cops arrested on charges of rape in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

Three police constables were arrested from Dampara Police Lines on Tuesday afternoon on charges of raping an indigenous girl.

The arrestees were identified as constables Sukriti Chakma and Udayan Chakma of Special Armed Force and Basu Kumar Chakma of Range Reserve Force of district police.

However, the police could not arrest four other accused Prashad Garo, Komol Chakma, Sanjay Chakma and Roby Chakma -- all are local people.

Sources said Prasad and Komol abducted the 17-year-old girl when she was going to Ameen Centre for shopping by a rickshaw on February 28 evening.

They took her to a house at Eidgaon area and they and Sanjoy and Roby violated her, said Double-Mooring Zone Assistant Commissioner Nirmal Chakrabarty of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

The three constables also raped her at the house the next day, he added.

Maternal uncle of the girl rescued her from the house with the help of locals and the police and filed a case.

Fire in two chemical stores

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Valuables of two chemical stores were gutted in a fire at Hatkhola in the city yesterday.

Fire brigade sources said the fire gutted chemicals stored at the shops on the first floor of a ten-storey building at Delwar Complex of Hatkhola in Tikatuli.

On receiving information, firefighters rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire after an hour-long effort.

JICA seminar on oral healthcare

METRO DESK

A seminar on 'Model project for an improvement on oral healthcare in rural area in Bangladesh' was held at the conference room of Chandina Upazila Parishad Office in Comilla yesterday.

Hokkaido University of Japan organised the seminar with the support of Directorate General of Health Service, and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), says a press release.

Lawmaker Prof Md Ali Ashraf was present on the occasion as the chief guest while Eichiro Chi, senior representative of JICA Bangladesh, and Dr Fazlur Rahman, UHFPO, Chandina, were present as special guests.

Mst Hazera Khatun, upazila nirbahi officer of Chandina, chaired the seminar.

The purpose of the seminar was to have common understanding on the project and to ensure collaborative structures among health and education officials for effective execution of the project.

Prof MA Hannan, principal, Sapporo Dental College and Hospital, made a presentation on fundamental requirement for oral healthcare while Dr Shuichi Takinami, project manager and associate professor of Hokkaido University, presented the concept and action plan of the project.

Dr O Honda of Hokkaido University presented a paper on contents of oral healthcare at Mohichali and Prof Khurshiduzzaman of Dhaka Dental College and Hospital spoke on method and expected effectiveness of toothbrush instruction (TBI).

BLAST AT GAZIPUR SP OFFICE

Militants placed on 3-day remand

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Militants Mamunur Rashid and Mamun, who exploded bombs at the office of Gazipur police super, were placed on a fresh three-day remand when they were produced before a court yesterday after a 10-day remand in two terms.

Another three female militants Mina Begum, Marzia Begum and Nurjahan, who were arrested along with Mamun, were sent to the Gazipur jail when they were produced before the court after a 10-day remand in two terms.

Investigation Officer Sub-inspector Madan Bonik produced the arrested militants before the court with a prayer for a five-day remand for the two male militants in another case, but the court granted them a three-day remand.

On February 20, Tongi police arrested the militants along with arms and ammunition at Khotail area in Tangi with the help of local people.

In the afternoon on the day, militant Mamun exploded a bomb during a press conference at the office of the police super, leaving 13 people injured.

Work on new voter ID card begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Work on new voter ID card with photograph began here yesterday.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda formally inaugurated the work at Baliati Jaminder Bari in Satoria.

Election Commissioners Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakawat Hossain and Md Sohul Hossain, EC Secretary Humayun Kabir, Director of the Project Brig Gen (ret'd) Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury and lawmaker Jahid Malek Swapan were present at the inaugural ceremony.



Bangladesh Services Limited

(A Public Limited Company)

1, Minto Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Invitation for Proposals

Notice Inviting Proposals from Hotel Management Companies for Management of the Hotel of Bangladesh Services Limited (presently Dhaka Sheraton Hotel) under (a) Direct Operation & Management or (b) Franchise Arrangement.

Sealed proposals in 2 (two) separate envelopes, one containing "Technical Proposal" and other containing "Financial Offer" are hereby invited by Bangladesh Services Limited (BSL) from Hotel Management Companies of international repute for Management of the Hotel of Bangladesh Services Limited (presently managed by Sheraton Overseas Management Corporation as Dhaka Sheraton Hotel) under (a) Direct Operation & Management or (b) Franchise Arrangement.

2. The companies who are willing to operate and manage the hotel under Direct Operation & Management must fulfill the following eligibility criteria for their participation in the bid:

(a) Should have experience in Direct Operation and Management of at least 10 (ten) Hotels of 5 or 4 star at present. Certificate(s) from the Parent Company in this regard need to be submitted along with the Technical Proposal.

(b) Submit Consent letter from the Parent Company addressed to the Secretary, Bangladesh Services Limited, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh that they are willing to Operate and Manage the Hotel of Bangladesh Services Limited with their Brand (mentioning their star status 5 or 4 star) for at least 10 (ten) years along with the Technical Proposal.

(c) Submit a Confirmation letter along with the Technical Proposal from the Parent Company addressed to the Secretary, Bangladesh Services Limited, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh to the effect that the Brand which is being offered is now in Operation and Management in more than one country.

(d) Submit a Confirmation letter along with the Technical Proposal from the Parent Company addressed to the Secretary, Bangladesh Services Limited, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh to the effect that the Hotel will be in full operation with the new Brand from 01 June 2009.

(e) All Certificate(s)/Consent letter/Confirmation letter mentioned in Sl. No. 2(a-d) should be issued not before 5 March 2009.

3. The companies who are willing to operate and manage the hotel under Franchise Arrangement must fulfill the following eligibility criteria for their participation in the bid:

(a) Should have minimum 5 years experience in Operation and Management of at least 1(one) 5 or 4 star Brand Hotel under Franchise Arrangement. Certificate(s) from the Franchiser of the Brand in this regard issued in favour of the participating company need to be submitted along with the Technical Proposal.

(b) Should have at least one renowned 5 or 4 star Brand Hotel under Franchise Arrangement in Operation and Management at present. Certificate(s) from the Franchiser of the Brand in this regard issued in favour of the participating company need to be submitted along with the Technical Proposal.

(c) Submit Consent letter from the Franchiser of the Brand addressed to the Secretary, Bangladesh Services Limited, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh that they are willing to Franchise their Brand (mentioning their star status 5 or 4 star) for at least 10 (ten) years for the Hotel of Bangladesh Services Limited along with the Technical Proposal.

(d) Submit a Confirmation letter along with the Technical Proposal from the Franchiser of the Brand addressed to the Secretary, Bangladesh Services Limited, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh to the effect that the Brand which is being offered for the Hotel of BSL is now in Operation and Management in more than one country.

(e) Submit a Confirmation letter along with the Technical Proposal from the Franchiser of the Brand addressed to the Secretary, Bangladesh Services Limited, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh to the effect that the Hotel will be in full Operation with the new Brand from 01 June 2009.

(f) All Certificate(s)/Consent letter/Confirmation letter mentioned in Sl. No. 3(a-e) should be issued not before 5 March 2009.

4. The companies who are willing to Operate and Manage the hotel under Direct Operation & Management must fulfill the eligibility criteria mentioned in Sl. No. 2 above failing which the proposals will be considered as disqualified.

5. The companies who are willing to Operate and Manage the hotel under Franchise Arrangement must fulfill the eligibility criteria mentioned in Sl. No. 3 above failing which the proposals will be considered as disqualified.

6. Documents including Notice Inviting Proposals, Background Information and brief of the Hotel, Details of Rooms, Food & Beverage Outlets and Banquet Outlets of the Hotel (Annex-A), Instructions to Hotel Management Companies, Terms and Conditions for Direct Operation & Management, Format for Technical Details for Direct Operation & Management (Annex-B), Format for Financial Offer for Direct Operation & Management (Annex-C), Terms and Conditions for Franchise Arrangement, Format for Technical Details for Franchise Arrangement (Annex-D), Format for Financial Offer for Franchise Arrangement (Annex-E), General Terms and Conditions for Direct Operation & Management or Franchise Arrangement will be available from the Office of the undersigned, during office hours (0900 to 1700 BST) on all working days from 5 March 2009 to 24 March 2009 and will also be available in the website of BSL (<http://www.bsl.gov.bd>) under the caption "Document Inviting Proposals" simultaneously.

7. The Technical Proposal and the Financial Offer must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes for both the categories under (a) Direct Operation & Management or (b) Franchise Arrangement.

8. The envelope of the Technical Proposal should contain the original Technical Proposal plus one duplicate copy. The Financial Offer should be submitted in original only. The Technical Proposal and Financial Offer will be received in the Office of the undersigned by 1630 hours BST of 25 March 2009. The Technical Proposals shall be opened at 1700 hours BST on the same day and place in presence of the representatives of the participating companies (if any). Financial Offer of only those companies shall be opened subsequently who would qualify in the evaluation of their Technical Proposal.

9. The companies who are willing to Operate and Manage the Hotel under Direct Operation & Management are requested to follow the Terms and Conditions for submission of the Proposal(s) under Direct Operation & Management to Operate and Manage the Hotel of Bangladesh Services Limited (BSL).

10. The companies who are willing to Operate and Manage the Hotel under Franchise Arrangement are requested to follow the Terms and Conditions for submission of the Proposal(s) under Franchise Arrangement to Operate and Manage the Hotel of Bangladesh Services Limited (BSL).

11. The General Terms & Conditions for submission of the Proposal(s) are common for both the categories under (a) Direct Operation & Management or (b) Franchise Arrangement.

12. The authority reserves the right to reject all Proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Secretary  
Bangladesh Services Limited

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