

## INSTALLATION OF SOLAR POWER SYSTEM Move to make it easier, cost-effective

UNB, Dhaka

The government is likely to take initiative to make the installation of solar power system easier and cost effective in urban areas so people could cope with the mounting power crisis.

Sources said the government is eager to simplify solar power equipment import and offer special bank loan for its import and installation.

Commerce Minister Lt Col (Retd) Faruk Khan and chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Power and Energy Ministry Maj Gen (Retd) Subid Ali Bhuiyan have already shared government plan for withdrawal of tax on solar panel equipment.

The formal announcement about the decision might come from a meeting scheduled to be held at the Ministry of Power today, sources said.

Grameen Shakti, which has already introduced the solar power system in the country's rural areas, recently came up with a proposal to bring the country's urban areas under the solar system on small-scale in the face of growing electricity crisis.

"The government is considering the proposal positively and it's planning to withdraw duty and VAT on import of solar power equipment so people can easily install solar panels," Managing

Director of Grameen Shakti Dipal Chandra Barua said.

Dipal said, "Our representatives will be present at today's meeting at the ministry as there'll be discussion on how the solar system can be made easier and popular in urban areas as done in villages. He said the meeting may take decision on duty cut for the import of solar panel and other equipment.

Sharing his plan to bring the urban areas under solar power system, Dipal said it would initially be introduced in Dhaka city and if it is found successful then the plan would be expanded in other cities and towns where demand for power is high.

He said there would be nearly a dozen of packages, ranging from Tk 60,000 to 1,40,000, for those interested to install solar power system. He, however, said they would provide maintenance services for three years to their clients.

He said electric bulb, television, computer, ceiling fan and water pump can be made operational from the solar power under different packages to be offered to clients. "We've already talked to Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr Atiur Rahman and he expressed his interest in it," he said.

## TIPAIMUKH DAM Sylhet students' council protest programmes begin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students' Action Council for Sylhet Division Development yesterday announced a 15-day programme to protest the construction of Tipaimukh dam in Borak river in Manipur, India.

It called on the government to take all-out steps to persuade India to stop construction of the dam, saying that it will have serious impacts on the environment, leaving a third of the country under the threat of desertification.

The 15-day programme, including view exchange meeting, human chain, submission of memorandum to the government, will begin today, said Sylhet Division Development Action Council President Advocate Abed Raja at a press conference at Dhaka University Journalists' Association office.

Reading out a written speech, Students' Action Council President Ehsanul Haque Jasim called on the political parties to unitedly protest the construction of the dam and demand compensation from India for the damage caused to the ecology of the country by the Farakka barrage.

He also warned that the Tipaimukh dam would have greater impacts on the environment than the Farakka barrage and contribute to drought and floods.

Student leaders Md Alamgir, Khaleda Jasmine Mithila, Irine Sultana Poly, A Basit and Mohidul Islam were present at the press conference.

## Roundtable on ties with Singapore May 25

UNB, Dhaka

The first BIPSS-ISAS roundtable dialogue on Singapore-Bangladesh Relations will be held in Singapore on May 25.

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) and Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS, Singapore) will jointly organise the roundtable, said a press release.

BIPSS President Major General (Retd) ANM Muniruzzaman will lead a four-member Bangladesh delegation.

The roundtable agenda includes a wide range of issues that are of interest for both the countries.

Both the institutes will present papers (each institute will present four papers) on domestic economic developments (of respective countries), regional security architecture, evolving regional relations in South and Southeast Asia and future of regional groupings in South and Southeast Asia.

The roundtable will also review past and existing relations between Bangladesh and Singapore.

The roundtable dialogue will essentially play a major role in strengthening Singapore-Bangladesh relations and furthering regional cooperation.

This will be a yearly event at Track II level and the 2nd Singapore-Bangladesh roundtable will be hosted in Bangladesh in 2010.



PHOTO: STAR

Two women try to protect themselves from heavy rain with a polythene sheet while travelling in a rickshaw in Narayanganj town yesterday.



Prof Sohrab Ali speaks at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium yesterday. On his right is Dr Rakibul Islam Litu and on his left is Dr Jahangir Alam. Post Graduate Doctors' Association organised the press conference to express their gratitude to the Royal College of Physicians, UK, for giving permission to set up a centre of the Royal College in the country.

## 'Take effective steps to curb crimes'

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
N'GANJ

Members of the law and order committee in Narayanganj yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over unabated extortion, drug peddling and land grabbing in the district.

They urged the administration and police to take effective steps against these crimes.

The meeting was held at conference room of deputy commissioner yesterday.

Narayanganj municipality Mayor Dr Selina Hayat Ivy,

lawmakers Gofam Dastagir Gazi and Nazrul Islam Babu, Ruppangj upazila Chairman Md Shahjahan Bhuiyan, vice president of Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industries Manzurul Haque, Narayanganj Sadar upazila Chairman Advocate Abdul Kalam Azad Biswas, BKMEA Director GM Faruq, Narayanganj Press Club President Ruman Reza, and Police Superintendent Biswas Afzal Hossain spoke at the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Md Shamsur Rahman presided over the meeting.

## Centre of Royal College of Physicians to be set up in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Post Graduate Doctors' Association yesterday expressed its gratitude to the Royal College of Physicians, UK, for giving permission to set up a centre of the Royal College in the country.

The centre would facilitate Bangladeshi students to obtain internationally recognised degrees from the country, Association leaders said at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

Terming it a milestone in the medical education, they said the medical students would be able to sit for the MRCP (first part) exams in September.

It would also be cost-effective for the students, they said and thanked the health ministry and the British Council for playing an important role in obtaining the approval from the Royal College.

The Royal College of Physicians has centres in 28 countries from where medical professionals can obtain MRCP, MRCS, MRCOG and MFDS degrees, they added.

Association leaders Prof Sohrab Ali, Dr Rakibul Islam Litu, Tareq Ahmed Parvez, Dr Jahangir Alam and Dr Syed Imamul Haque spoke at the press conference.

## Research grant for CARE Bangladesh

METRO DESK

Oxford University and Care UK have recently approved CARE Bangladesh a combined research grant amount of £ 67,430 (Tk 7.22 million) for three years.

A qualitative and quantitative research will be conducted on key areas of Care's economic development work, private sector engagement, supply chain compliance interventions, women and girls empowerment, and effects of sanitary pad distribution, says a press release.

Rangpur, Gaibandha, Nilphamari and Sunamganj are the probable geographic areas for research. The studies will be published in the esteemed Harvard Business Review and in different academic and non-academic journals.

## Steps to be taken to form pay structure for teachers: Nahid

BSS, Dhaka

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid has said initiatives would be taken to form a salary structure and enhance the dignity of the teachers.

Describing teachers as the tool for nation building, he said they should be devoted to their profession, an official handout said.

The education minister was addressing the concluding function of the 14-day training course of the 50th batch of CPD training under Teaching Quality Improvement in Secondary Education Project at the auditorium of Teachers' Training College in the city yesterday.

Director General of the Department of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Prof Noman-Ur-Rashid, Project Director Md Nazrul Islam, and trainees, among others, addressed the function with principal of the college Prof

Taslina Begum in the chair.

Nahid said the government would provide textbooks free of cost to the secondary level students alongside primary students next year.

The education minister said steps would be taken to ensure admission of all children to schools by 2011.

## STAMFORD UNIVERSITY Classes begin May 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The classes of summer 2009 of Stamford University Bangladesh will begin on May 23, says a press release.

The last date of registration for the newly admitted students is May 21.

For more detail students are requested to contact Dhanmondi or Siddeshwari campus of the university.

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