

Allocate more budgetary funds for local govts

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Governance Advocacy Forum (GAF), a coalition of non-government organisations, yesterday demanded of the government to increase budgetary allocation for local government institutions.

They also urged the government to give more power to local government representatives to use the fund and remove the interference of MPs in local governments.

The demands were made at a post-budget press conference on 'Proposed national budget and local governments:

Expectations of root level people, reality and responsibilities' which was held at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

The speakers said accountability and transparency should be established at the local government level to ensure proper utilisation of fund proposed in the budget.

Prof MM Akash and a teacher Meer Nahid Mahmud of economics department at Dhaka University analysed the budget while Mohsin Ali, executive director of Wave Foundation, moderated the conference.

Prof Akash said this year's allocation for local governments is higher than last

year, but not enough.

"We want to see further increase in the allocation," he added.

Prof Akash said the provision in the act on local governments making MPs advisers of upazila parishads should be cancelled to make the local governments effective.

He said steps should be taken to ensure accountability and transparency of local governments by removing bureaucratic complexity.

He also urged the government to implement its commitment of preparing development plan from the local level from the next fiscal year.



Chief of Army Staff General Md Abdul Mubeen presents Battalion Senior Under Officer SM Hasnat Ferdous with the 'Sword of Honour' at the President's Parade at Bhatyari in Chittagong yesterday.

'Remain prepared even for supreme sacrifice'

METRO DESK

A total of 73 Cadets formally passed out of the Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA) at a glittering ceremony at Bhatyari in Chittagong yesterday.

Among them, 61 Cadets, including five female Cadets, were from 60th BMA Long Course while seven were from the 31st BMA Special Course.

To mark the occasion, the President's Parade was also held at the Academy.

Chief of Army Staff General Md Abdul Mubeen reviewed the smartly turned-out parade and took salute at the impressive march past as the chief guest. He also distributed prizes among the cadets who demonstrated excellent performance during the training.

Battalion Senior Under Officer SM Hasnat Ferdous was adjudged the best all-round cadet in the 60th BMA Long Course and awarded with the coveted 'Sword of Honour' while Gentleman Cadet Company Senior Under Officer (CSUO) Wasim Akram received the 'Chief of Army Staff's (CAS) Gold Medal' for his outstanding performance in military subjects.

The cadets formally took oath and were adorned with the rank badges by their respective parents and guardians.

Addressing the officer-designates, the Chief of Army Staff said, "Sacred responsibility of safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of motherland has been imposed on you from this day."

He called upon them to remain prepared even for the supreme sacrifice for safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of the country.

Scouting course for English medium schools ends today

METRO DESK

The eight-day 9th Extension Scouting Scout Unit Leader Basic Course for English Medium Schools will end at the National Scout Training Centre at Mouchak in Gazipur today.

The event will conclude with the investiture of teachers from Scholastica, Sunnysdale, South Breeze, Future Foundation, Rajuk Uttara School and College, Dhaka Residential Model College, Oxford International, YWCA School and College, and Centre for Services in Information on Disability (CSID) as Scout Leaders, says a press release.

A total of 24 trainees shall be sworn in by the Course Leader Dhana Lal Muhuri, leader trainer. With 14 women participating, this is the first course ever in the history of Bangladesh Scouts to have more women trainees than men.

It is expected that after this course scouting activities shall be extended extensively in the English medium schools, lagging way behind other schools in Bangladesh, which is the sixth largest scouting country in the world with nearly one million scouts and adult leaders.

Similar courses may be arranged in the near future depending on the interest of people concerned, said Bangladesh Scouts National Commissioner (Extension Scouting and Foundation) Prof Nizamuddin Ahmed.

Extension Scouting is looking to commence scouting in schools run by NGOs, schools for children with special needs, housing areas, large apartment buildings, and areas that lack scouting activities.

Interested organisations have been requested to contact Bangladesh Scouts Headquarters at Kakrail.



Members of Karmojibi Nari form a human chain at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding introduction of rationing system for workers as per the election pledge of the ruling Awami League.

FAST UNTO DEATH 10 diploma doctors fall sick

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the third consecutive day of hunger strike yesterday, 10 diploma doctors of Bangladesh Diploma Medical Association fell sick.

The hunger strike until death started on Monday on the Central Shaheed Minar premises to realise their five-point demand including the implementation of government's order for the post of Deputy Assistant Community Medical Officer.

As the previous post of Medical Assistant was not harmonious with their profession, the government issued the order which has been lingering since last 13 years at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), says a press release of the association.

Meanwhile a DGHS press release, signed by Abul Bashir Mohammad Khosru, acting director of administration, on behalf of the DG, said a team was sent to the medical assistants who are in strike to discuss the issue, but they did not pay any heed to it.

DBBL donates Tk 2 cr for OGSB hospital

METRO DESK

Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB) is establishing a modern hospital along with an academic institute at Mirpur in the city, says a press release.

Initially a four-storied building with 150-bed capacity will be constructed and subsequently it will be a 10-storied 300-bed hospital and institution for reproductive and child health.

The Board of Directors of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited sanctioned Tk 2 crore as donation for construction of the 4th floor which will be specially dedicated to sick and vulnerable children only.

A discussion was organised by OGSB on the hospital premises on June 23. OGSB President Prof Dr Sayeba Akhter presided over the meeting.

Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque was present as the chief guest.

Sayem Ahmed, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of DBBL, handed over the commitment letter of donating Tk 2 crore to the health minister.

CU student found dead in hall room

CU CORRESPONDENT

A student of Chittagong University (CU) was found dead in his room at F Rahman Hall yesterday afternoon.

The student identified as Mohammad Abul Hasan, fourth year student of Sociology Department, committed suicide by hanging himself from GI wire used for drying clothes.

Hasan is the son of Abdus Sattar Mridha of village Uttar Gorai under Bakerganj upazila in Barisal.

Sources said students of third floor of the hall smelt a strong stench coming out from Hasan's room and found it locked from inside at around 12.30pm yesterday.

They saw through the window that the body of Hasan was hanging from the wire. They informed the matter to the hall management who called the police.

Later, police recovered the decomposed body breaking open the door and a suicidal note of Hasan from the room at around 1.30pm.

"I am a mental patient. I tried to commit suicide several times, but failed. None is responsible for my death," said Hathazari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Ismail quoting the note.

The note also read that Hasan requested the university authorities to send his body to his village home and provide Tk 5,500 with the body, Ismail said, adding that there was address of his village home and phone numbers of his relative and friends.

The body decomposed as he might have committed suicide

on Monday night, he said.

The body has been sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) morgue for autopsy.

An unnatural death (UD) case was filed.

Symposium on Thai Edn June 27-28

METRO DESK

A two-day symposium on educational progress in Thailand will be held in the city on June 27-28.

A three-member team headed by Dr Kasama Varavarn, secretary general of the Thai Ministry of Education, will share its experience with Bangladeshi officials, academics and policymakers.

Dr QK Ahmed, co-chair of the Education Policy Committee, will inaugurate the symposium at the Lake Shore Hotel in Gulshan on Saturday.

Brac University Institute of Educational Development, jointly with Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and Campaign for Popular Education, (CAMPE) will host the event, says a press release.

Members of the Education Policy Committee and parliamentary standing committee on the two education ministries, officials, academics and development partner representatives have been invited.

6-hr transport strike observed in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

The Transport Owners and Workers Unity Council yesterday observed a six-hour strike here yesterday blaming supporters of Awami League lawmaker Sarah Begum Kabari for attacking buses during her procession on Tuesday.

The strike continued from 6:00am to 12:00noon causing serious sufferings to the passengers.

Hundreds of passengers including students, service holders and others had to wait for hour for bus amid intense heat. Many went to Dhaka hiring CNG-run autorickshaw and taxicab with exorbitant fares.

Dhaka-Narayanganj train was over crowded as the bus remained off the road during the strike.

Miscreants attacked a bus procession of Kabari on Tuesday at Chasara at around 2:00pm and ransacked 10 to 12 buses while it was going to Dhaka on the occasion of the 60th founding anniversary of Awami League.

Kabari blamed Awami League leader Shamim Osman for the incident which he denied.

President of Narayanganj Minibus Owners' Unity Moktar Hossain and managing director of Bandhan Paribahan Ibrahim Chengis said they called the strike to protest the ransacking of buses by the supporters of Kabari.

Leather Liton gets 28 yrs in arms case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced listed criminal Harunur Rashid alias 'Leather Liton' to 28 years' rigorous imprisonment for possessing firearms and ammunition.

Judge Mohammad Rezaul Islam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 handed down the verdict after cross-examination of seven prosecution witnesses.

Liton was tried in absentia. The punishment of the fugitive will be effective from the day of his arrest or surrender, the judge said.

Leather Liton, son of Awami League leader Torab Ali detained in connection with the Pikhana carnage, was arrested with a revolver and five rounds of bullets at South Plaza of Jatuya Sangsad Bhaban on December 21, 2001.

But he was later released on bail and went into hiding.

6 cheated migrant workers return

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six Bangladeshis who were promised travel to Greece, but were left in Afghanistan by the cheats around ten months back, have been brought back home on Tuesday.

The returnees are Shamsul Haque, Alfaz, Sabuj, Tofazzal, Nurul Amin and Saidur who returned home with the assistance of International Red Cross Committee and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, said a press release.

After the brokers left them in Afghanistan, the local police arrested them and put them behind the bars.

During a visit to the jail, a delegation of the International Red Cross Committee came to know about their fate.

The delegation then sent a message to the Bangladesh

Red Crescent Society, which passed it to the families of the arrestees.

Upon requests of the families to the Red Crescent Society to bring them back, it contacted the ministries of home and foreign affairs in Bangladesh and the International Red Cross Committee.

The Committee in Afghanistan in consultation with the Afghan authorities released the victims about a month back and provided them with shelter at its guest room.

Finally, the six Bangladeshis returned home on Tuesday. Officials of the International Red Cross Committee and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society welcomed them at the Zia International Airport and handed them over to their family members.



M Ehsanul Haque, managing director of Prime Bank Limited, hands over a cheque for Tk 7.20 lakh to Prof Harun-or-Rashid, pro-vice chancellor of Dhaka University, to buy a generator for uninterrupted electricity supply for the students of Development Studies Department of Dhaka University at a ceremony at the university recently. The bank gave the money as a part of its corporate social responsibilities. Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman, third from left, Social Science Faculty Dean Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam, extreme right, and Development Studies Department Chairman Dr Tayebur Rahman were present on the occasion.

Bangladeshis now may sit for MRCP exam in Dhaka

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladeshi doctors, who were until now required to visit the UK to appear at MRCP examination, could now take part in the world standard professional test sitting in Dhaka, the Post Graduate Doctors Association said in a statement yesterday.

The statement asked the intending doctors to visit www.mrcp.org for the application forms and online registration, saying they could apply for the test from June 5 to July 3 for the Part I written examination while the examination date was September 22, 2009.

The opening date for the

part II written examination for Membership of the Royal Colleges of Physicians (MRCP, UK) is August 28 and the closing date for application is September 25 while the examinations will be held on November 25 and 26, 2009.

The applicants could appear in the examination paying an amount of British Pound 521 (approximately Tk 55,000) for each part while examinations of both the parts would be held at the British Council in the city.

"The arrangement would now offer our doctors to attain the world class professional excellence staying in the country. This would help regain the people's trust and

save a huge foreign currency," Secretary General of Post Graduate Doctors' Association Rakibul Islam Litu said.

He said earlier one had to spend about Tk 4 lakh to appear at the examination in London while under the current system they would now need to spend only about Tk 55,000.

MRCP is a postgraduate medical diploma and the Federation of the Medical Royal Colleges of Britain runs the examinations. The three Royal Colleges of Physicians share this common three-part assessment in general medicine, which consists of two written parts and one clinical examination.



Sayem Ahmed, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of DBBL, hands over the commitment letter of donating Tk 2 crore to Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque for construction of the 4th floor of OGSB hospital.

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ADVANCED
DEVELOPMENT
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ADVANCED CENTRE : 176 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan North, Dhaka-1212
Phone: 8815323, 8811923, 9884746, 9896455, 8813042, 8813046, 8813047, 8821692, 8821749, 8821988, 9861434, 9864745
Mobile: 01819-558022, 01819-222303, 01819-558024, 01819-226567, 01819-558023, 01819-226568, 01819-558015, 01819-226569
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Fax: 88-02-8610788 E-mail: info@advanced-bd.com, marketing@advanced-bd.com Web: www.advanced-bd.com