Local residents under the banner of Nongar Khelaghar Asar form a human chain at Arambagh playground in the city yesterday opposing the Bangladesh Football Federation plan to make the playground a training complex.

PHOTO: STAR

Ensure security of life, ease city traffic jam

Urges JS committee

UNB, *Dhaka*

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Government Assurances at a meeting yesterday stressed the importance of taking pragmatic steps for reducing the difference between people's expectations and achievements to implement the government's 'Charter of Changes'.

The meeting suggested improving the standard of public life, ensuring their overall security by improving the law and order situation, and coordinated efforts for reducing traffic congestions in the city.

The meeting, held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with committee chairman Md Fazle Rabbi in the chair, discussed the implementation of the assurances made by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Housing and Public Works Ministry in the seventh, eighth and ninth parliaments.

The Housing and Public Works Ministry was directed for implementing its assurances soon.

Committee members Md Abdul Quddus, Khaled Mahmud Chowdhury and Rasheda Begum Hira took part in the meeting.

The secretaries of the ministries concerned and other senior officials were also present.

5000 babies born with clubfoot a yr

Say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 5000 babies are born with clubfoot every year in the country, said the experts while talking to this correspondent on the sideline of the second day of a three-day workshop that began in the city on Sunday.

The disease can be easily treated with simple methods but often remains untreated for lack of awareness among the parents and doctors, they added.

The experts said clubfoot is a birth defect of foot which compels the child to walk on his/her ankle.

It leads to disability if left untreated, they said.

The speakers said at least one to two babies are born with clubfoot in every 1000 births in the United States.

Although the exact cause of the defect is still unknown, genetic reason is involved to some extent, they added.

The Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) in collaboration with the International Committee for the Red Cross and the Special Fund for the Disabled organised the workshop titled 'Clubfoot and Ponseti Method' at the CRP conference hall at Mirpur.

The workshop that ends today was designed to popularise ponseti method, a non-surgical and cheaper method of clubfoot treatment in the country.

Australian trainers Dr Angela Evans and Dr Paul Wade joined the CRP expert Dr ATM Abdur Razzak to conduct the training workshop.

Razzak, also the convener of the workshop, said Dr Ignacio Ponseti of Australia pioneered the non-surgical treatment of clubfoot in 1950 which is reported to be successful in 95 percent cases.

Non-surgical method of clubfoot correction involves simple process of plastering and specially made braces to manipulate the feet bones in appropriate position, he added.

Razzak said many children become disabled from clubfoot in the country for lack of awareness and treatment facilities.

Disability can be easily prevented if steps are taken to correct clubfoot at an early stage, even right after birth, he added.

Most clubfeet are corrected within four to six casting sessions, he pointed out.

Razzak said the purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness about clubfoot and to train doctors, nurses and therapists for the treatment of the disease.

JCD activist assaulted by BCL men at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Zahurul Haque Hall at Dhaka University beat up an activist of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on the campus yesterday.

Campus sources said BCL men beat up Ilias Khan Emon, office secretary of Zahurul Haque Hall unit of JCD, on central library premises at noon.

Emon was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with injuries on head and face.

JCD leaders alleged that Atique, a student of Institute of Education and Research and a BCL activist of Zahurul Haq Hall and some others, swept on Emon, leaving him critically injured.

THEFT OF BANK CHEQUE

Shop employee beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A shop employee was beaten to death by the owner of a neighboring shop and his men at Mirhazirbagh in the city's Jatrabari area last night for stealing a bank cheque and trying to draw money with that.

The dead was identified as Al-Amin, 27, an employee of a vegetable shop in the area.

Police said Al-Amin stole a cheque for Tk 55000 on Sunday and sent one Anwar with the cheque to draw the money from the account of Ramzan, owner of Ramzan Steel House in the area, from the Sadarghat Branch of Bank Asia.

As the bank officials asked Ramzan about the transaction, he told them that the cheque had been stolen.

When asked, Anwar said that Al-Amin had sent him.

After learning about the plot, Ramzan and his employees caught Al-Amin in the area at around 8:00pm and severely beat him up, leaving him dead on the spot.

AHSANULLAH MURDER

Convict with death sentence dies

A CORRESPONDENT, *Gazipur*

Ratan alias Chhoto Ratan, 28, a convict with death sentence in former Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master murder case, died yesterday.

Kashimpur Central Jail authorities sent him to Gazipur Sadar Hospital as he fell ill in the morning where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Ratan had been detained in Kashimpur Central Jail for about five years.

His body was handed over to his relatives following an autopsy at Gazipur Sadar Hospital.

Traders of Nilkhet Islamia Market stage a demonstration against the attack on the market by the hired men of a developer company trying to occupy the market. (Story on page 16)

PHOTO: STAR

Notice for Lottery of Share Allotment for Grameenphone Ltd. IPO

It gives us immense pleasure to announce that the lottery for allotment of Initial Public Offering (IPO) Shares of Grameenphone Ltd. will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 10:30 am at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC), Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

Our valued share applicants are cordially invited to attend the event.

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To know Branch Code* (for all Mobile subscribers):

Go to the message option of your handset → Message
Type GP give a space then type Bank code give another space and type the first four letters of the branch name → GP 10 MIRP
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Send to **4636** → 4636

Registered Subscribers will get their Lottery result after publication through return SMS

- Bank & Branch code and Lottery result would also be available at www.grameenphone.com
- Result will be available only after Lottery is over

*Charge, VAT and conditions apply

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WFP assures Bangladesh of more food aid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Food Programme (WFP) has assured Bangladesh of providing more food assistance for social safety net programmes to help the poor.

WFP Deputy Director Staffan de Mistura gave the assurance during a meeting with Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque in the city yesterday, says a food ministry press release.

The minister said the government had to spend a huge amount of money on social safety nets for the vulnerable people, which ultimately hamper other development activities.

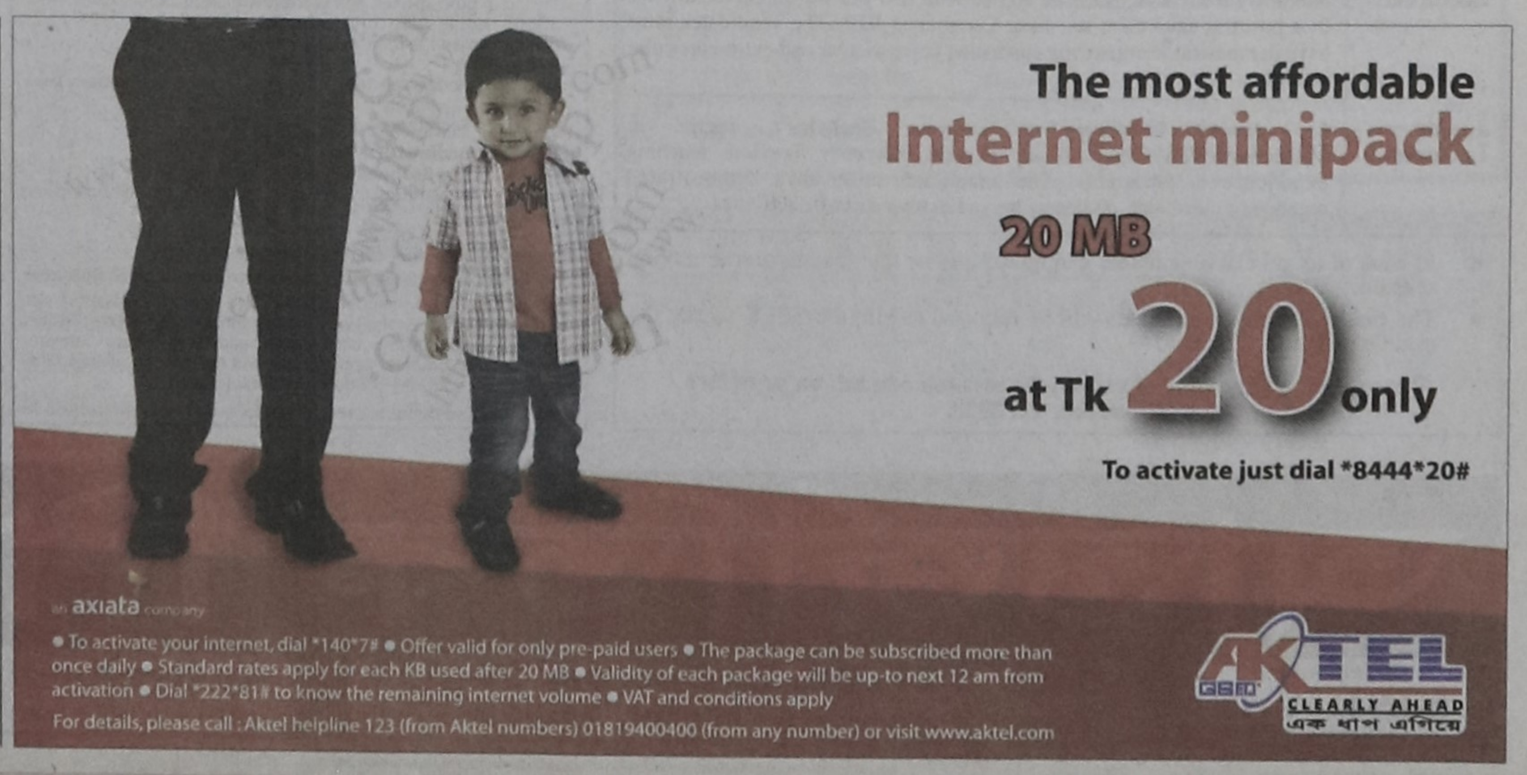
In the current year, the government has set a target to provide food grains of 26 lakh metric tones under social safety programmes such as vulnerable group feeding, vulnerable group development, test relief and food for work, he added.

"As a huge amount of money is being spent on social safety programmes, other development activities are hampered. If the development partners come forward with food aid, we could invest our money in other sectors such as education and health," Razzaque told the WFP official.

He also said rice production in the country is now marginally surplus, but wheat production has decreased significantly. At present, annual wheat production is around 10 lakh metric tones.

"So, you could provide us with wheat aid," said an official of the food ministry quoting the minister as saying.

WFP food aid has come down to around 60,000 metric tones this year, which was up to 3 lakh metric tones a few years ago.

In response, WFP Deputy Director Staffan de Mistura asked the minister to prepare a report on the status of the social safety net programmes and assured him of more food assistance.

Food Secretary Mokhlesur Rahman, WFP Country Representative John Aylief and Executive Director Office Chief of Staff Lauren Landis were present at the meeting.