

Plan to modernise Ctg port, expand dock facilities

BSS, Chittagong

The authorities have undertaken plans for renovation and expansion of the dry dock and modernisation of the Chittagong port to take forward the decision of giving port transit to neighbouring countries.

Initiatives have also been taken to build new dockyards under public-private partnership (PPP) to deal with additional ships which will arrive at the port following the transit facilities.

Chittagong Dry Dock Limited Managing Director Engineer Enamul Baki told BSS that the seventh meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industries ministry underscored the need for renovation of the dry dock and observed that it would be able to make a huge contribution to the national economy.

sub-committee visited the Chittagong Dockyard on November 23 and presented its report to the standing committee on December 31 with recommendations for modernisation of the dry dock.

The meeting recommended balancing, modernisation, renovation and expansion (BMRE) of the dry dock to make it a modern industry and setting up a new dry dock.

The project to be implemented to this end under PPP at a cost of Tk 200 crore would generate employment for around 4,000 people.

Enamul Baki said the container handling is increasing in the port by 10 percent every year. Besides, the Chittagong port activities would increase, if transit is offered to India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and China.

Currently, about 2,000 ships arrive at the Chittagong port a year, and some 800

additional ships will arrive following transit facilities.

Sources said that after renovation and expansion of the dock, Chittagong Dry Dock would be able to build and export modern ships of 10,000 to 15,000-metric-ton capacity.

Enamul Baki said the dry dock is being developed so that it can make contribution keeping pace with the present government's Vision-2021.

After renovation of 25-year-old machinery, the dry dock would have similar standards like the ones in Singapore and Colombo, he added.

In May 1975, the then government of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had decided to build a shipyard at Patenga for construction of quality sea vessels. It was approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne), Enamul said.



Jago Bangladesh, an organisation dedicated to sensitising people to various social issues, forms a human chain at Muktagang in the city yesterday demanding setting up of a house rent guideline commission.

Ban religion-based politics

Demand RU teachers

A CORRESPONDENT, RU

Several hundred teachers under the banner of Progressive Teachers Society (PTS) of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday demanded that religion-based politics be banned in the country.

Earlier, they brought out a procession on the campus protesting the killing of BCL activist Faruk Hossain and the bloody attack of Shibir cadres on BCL men on February 9.

Later, the teachers organised a rally on the Sabas Bangladesh premises. They called on the government and the RU authorities to impose a ban on the politics of Jamaat-Shibir to stop the politics of killings.

Demanding immediate trial of war criminals, PTS steering committee member Prof Jalal Uddin said Jamaat and Shibir cadres are trying to destabilise the country as the government is going to try the war criminals.

Faruk. They also demanded a fair investigation into the killing immediately. PTS steering committee member Prof Antazul M Haque, Prof Zehadul Karim, Prof Mizan Uddin, Prof Chitta Ranjan Saha Mishra, Prof Moly Kumar Bhowmik, Prof Shamsuddin Elias, Prof Dulal Chandra Bishwas, Prof Ananda Kumar Saha, Mustak Ahmed and Hasibul Alam Proshan spoke at the rally.

The teachers of the society called on the countrymen to be united against the anti-liberation forces and demanded immediate punishment to the killers of

Breastfeeding until 6 months can cut risk of anaemia

UNB, Dhaka

Specialist physicians at a seminar in the city yesterday emphasised taking a life cycle comprehensive approach on nutrition interventions for reducing anaemia among under-2 children and their mothers.

They also said exclusive breastfeeding until six months of age could keep their babies free from anaemia.

The Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN) organised the seminar titled 'Evidence based interventions in nutrition' at its auditorium.

Health and Family Welfare Secretary Shaikh Altaf Ali was the chief guest at the seminar, chaired by IPHN director Prof Fatima Parveen Chowdhury.

Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, senior scientist and head of nutrition programme, ICDDR,B, presented a keynote paper on 'Evidence-based multiple micronutrient powder supplementation'.

Altaf said the government would take special steps to ensure absolute breastfeeding through full operation of all community clinics across the country.

"A total of 20,000 health workers will attend some 24 lakh of pregnant mothers at the community clinics every year and they will closely disseminate information for creating awareness for breastfeeding."

He urged the people to refrain from taking chemical or artificial nutrient powder and take their nutrition through regular foods, which are collected from the nature. "Nutrition is an integral part of health system," Altaf said.

Physicians, representatives of NGOs and officials from ministries concerned attended the seminar.

SSC EXAMS

72 more students expelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 72 students and an invigilator were expelled for adopting unfair means at different examination centres across the country yesterday during the English First Paper Exam of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and its equivalent examinations.

Besides, 2,882 candidates were absent.

Among the expelled students, 41 are from Technical Education Board, one from Madrasa Education Board, four from Jessore Board, six from Rajshahi board, three from Comilla Boards and two each from Dinajpur, Barisal and Chittagong boards, according to the education ministry control room.

Md Nasir Uddin, an invigilator, was expelled from Narsingdi ARKT College under the Technical Education Board.

The number of absentees was 579 in Madrasa Board, 588 in Dhaka, 402 in Technical, 338 in Jessore, 138 in Chittagong, 179 in Comilla, 273 in Rajshahi, 126 in Barisal, 83 in Sylhet and 176 in Dinajpur Board, the statistics said.

But there was no report of disturbance in any centres across the country. The English Second Paper examination will be held tomorrow.

The month-long SSC, Dakhil and SSC vocational examinations for 2010 started on February 11. Eight education boards, one madrasa education board and one technical education board are conducting the examinations.

Build yourselves as skilled citizens

Dilip urges students

BSS, Dhaka

Industries Minister Dilip Barua yesterday called upon the students to build themselves as competent and skilled citizens aimed at making an industrially-enriched 'Digital Bangladesh'.

Dilip Barua was addressing a discussion on 'the role of students to free the society from terrorism' on the occasion of 17th the founding anniversary of Bangladesh Chhtra Andolon at the Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium.

Eminent journalist Syed Abul Maksud, Prof Dr Jahirul Islam, Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal Politburo member Abu Ahmed Shahabuddin, Dr Ekhlashur Rahman, Nurul Haq Mehedi and Nur-us-Safa also spoke at the discussion with Kanak Barua in the chair.

2 agri officials held while taking bribe

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) caught two people, including the upazila agriculture officer, red-handed at Tala in Satkhira yesterday while they were taking bribe for giving license to sell pesticides.

The detainees were identified as Upazila Agriculture Officer Shankar Kumar Majumder and Bikash Chandra Roy, PPM of the office. The officers demanded bribe from Sheikh Traders and Alamgir Traders for giving them license for selling pesticides, ACC Deputy Director Manjur Morshed said.

When the traders contacted ACC, the anti-graft body set a trap and caught the agriculture officials red-handed from the upazila agriculture office while they were taking Tk 2,500 as bribe from the traders at around 1:50pm.

The six-member ACC team also found about Tk 31,000 from Shankar Kumar Majumder who could not say anything about the source of the money.



PHOTO: PID

A delegation of Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation calls on Information and Cultural Minister Abul Kalam Azad at his office in the city yesterday.

Call to create awareness about benefits of breastfeeding

BSS, Dhaka

Minister for Information and Cultural Affairs Abul Kalam Azad yesterday stressed coordinated efforts for creating awareness among the mass people about the benefit of breastfeeding.

The minister said this while a four-member delegation of Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation called on him at his office here yesterday, said an official press release.

He said, "We have to work in a coordinated manner for proper nursing of pregnant mothers and normal growth of children."

Led by ICDDR,B scientist AKM Iqbal Kabir requested Azad for undertaking necessary initiatives to aware the people against the anti-breastfeeding campaign.

Information Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, General

Secretary of Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation Prof Sofia Khatun, director of the foundation Farzana Ishrawat and Dr Khurshid Talukder was also present on the occasion.

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