

COMMUNITY CLINICS

Efficient management vital to ensure health services

WHO Regional Director tells consultation meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Efficient coordination and management for community clinics are important to ensure health services using the Primary Health Care approach, said South East Asia Regional Director of World Health Organisation (WHO) Dr Samlee Plianbangchang.

At the inaugural session of a three day long regional consultation meeting on 'Primary Health Care (PHC) Approach in Emergencies' held at a local hotel in the capital yesterday, he applauded the government's Community Clinic programme that aims to take primary health care to the doorstep of people.

At the same time he talked on PHC approach in emergencies that includes

universal equity, community participation, intersectoral collaboration and use of appropriate technology.

Drawing the example of cyclone Sidr that hit Bangladesh in 2008, he said it led to an estimated 10,000 deaths. The number of people affected was about 2 million and 600,000 people had to be evacuated. The losses were estimated at about \$1.7 billion.

So, 'cost effective' emergency management efforts should be strengthened by adopting Primary Health Care approach, he added.

Seeking WHO's support to run the community clinics effectively, health secretary Prof Dr Syed Modasser Ali as the chief guest said all the community health care providers would be recruited from the community.

"The community health care providers should be female so that they can provide ante natal and post natal service to the mothers and can assist the mothers in safe delivery referring to the nearby healthcare centres," he said.

Pointing to the media criticism on his speech on community health care provider recruitment in Gopalganj, the adviser said that media should not focus on individual word. They have to understand the philosophy of the speech.

Prof Dr Moazzem Hossain, director, disease control, Humayun Kabir, secretary of health ministry, Prof Dr Shah Monir Hossain, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services were present at the meeting.



Commuters suffer a long traffic jam on the road from Gulshan 1 to 2 in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



UNICEF Executive Director Dr Anthony Lake calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite in New York on Monday.

Unicef chief lauds PM

UNB, New York

UNICEF Executive Director Dr Anthony Lake called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite here on Monday afternoon.

During the meeting, the UNICEF executive director congratulated her for Bangladesh's achievement of winning MDG-4 award in recognition to the success in reducing child mortality in the country.

In response, the prime minister said Bangladesh, as the current president of the UNICEF Executive Board, looks forward to working closely with Dr Lake.

Hasina recalled UNICEF contributions since independence of Bangladesh in addressing the challenges relating to children.

Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters after the meeting.

Ambassador at-large M Ziauddin, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister M A Karim and Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad were present at the meeting.

SQ Chowdhury criticises war crimes trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP Standing Committee Member Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury here at a press conference yesterday evening demanded to bring back those 195 Pakistan soldiers and identified war criminals who were released in accordance with Delhi Agreement violating the constitution for trial in 1973.

He also demanded trial of Dr Kamal Hossain, the then foreign minister of Bangladesh, who signed in the agreement and also of the people who helped the then Pakistan government as auxiliary force by doing job during the nine months in 1971.

"Try them first and then take decision about others," said SQ Chowdhury who is one of the suspects against whom allegation of crimes against humanity during the Liberation War has long been raised.

Chowdhury arranged the press conference at his Good's Hills residence in the city's Rahmatganj area at around 8.30pm.

Mass transport planned on Gazipur-Sadarghat route

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is working on developing a mass transport system with specialised rapid bus service facility stretching from Gazipur to Sadarghat.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank will finance the project, officials said yesterday.

The disclosure came at a workshop organised by Roads and Highways Department (RHD) at a city hotel to discuss the inception report on a pilot project to develop Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line between Tongi and Gazipur.

BRT is an articulated, comfortable and rapid bus service that runs on a dedicated lane of the existing roads.

The RHD will start implementation of the 18-kilometre Tongi-Joydevpur BRT project by 2012 and complete it by the end of the following year mainly with finance from ADB, said Md Aminur Rahman, project director of Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Corridor Project (GDSTC).

The government is also working on another BRT (line-3) from Uttara to Sadarghat.

SM Salehuddin, additional executive director of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board, told The Daily Star the pre-feasibility of the BRT-3 is done and it will be implemented with finance from the World Bank.

"Consultant and project director of the Uttara-Sadarghat BRT have been appointed," said Salehuddin.

Syed Abul Hossain, communications minister, present at the workshop as chief guest, said the government is set to sign the concession agreement with the private investor of Dhaka Elevated Expressway (DEE) this December and start the construction work by early next year.

The Tongi-Joydevpur BRT will be a pilot project out of six routes identified by the consultant of GDSTC on the fringe of Dhaka city.

The ADB has allocated one million US dollars under Project Preparatory Technical Assistance to identify the best suitable routes for BRT, officials said.

HC keeps Rajuk boss, 6 top officials standing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday kept seven government high officials including the Rajuk chairman and Kushtia deputy commissioner (DC) standing before it for defying its orders.

Kushtia DC Abdul Mannan was kept standing on the court's dock from 11:00am to 4:00pm, with an hour's lunch break, for violating its order asking to stop sand extraction from river Gorain in the district.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain kept him and other officials standing.

The court also asked Mannan to appear before it this morning (Wednesday) in connection with the contempt of court petition filed by one Anwarul Haque Masum, a contractor in the district.

During Mannan's five-hour-long standing at the dock, the court kept him just there without allowing him to talk while it heard the other cases.

Apart from the DC of Kushtia, the contemner officials are Rajuk Chairman Md Nurul Huda, Dhaka Medical College Hospital Director Brig Gen Shahidul Haque Mallik, its Director Khizir Ahmed and Deputy Director Khalilur Rahman, Director General of the Directorate General of Health Service (DGHS) Shah Monir Hossain and Senior Assistant Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Family Planning Shawkat Rashid Jong.

However the court exempted them, as they offered "unconditional apologies" to it, and promised through their counsels not to ignore its orders in future.

The six were standing before the court for about an hour.

Brig Gen Shahidul Haque Mallik, Shah Monir Hossain and Shawkat Rashid Jong appeared before the court as per its earlier order in connection with contempt petition filed by one Belal Hossain and others.

The plaintiffs filed the petition on May 31 this year, as the DMCH authorities did not appoint them as its class-III employee despite an earlier HC order to do so.

The Rajuk chief and other officials faced the contempt charges, as they violated the court order to provide the petitioner Mizanur Rahman, a construction contractor of Dhaka City Corporation, with relevant papers.

Undisclosed Tk 923 crore invested last fiscal

Finance minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of Tk 923 crore undisclosed money was legalised last fiscal 2009-10 through investing in share market, setting up new industries and fixing, modernisation and renovation of old industries, Finance Minister AMA Muhith told the House yesterday.

In scripted answers to lawmakers' queries, the minister said there were scopes for legalising undisclosed money by investing them in four sectors.

But no investment was made in one of the four sectors -- purchasing flats or houses, he said. The finance minister said a process is underway to formulate a policy to award tax cards to top ten tax payers in each category of individual and company.

On finalising the policy, names of ten indi-

viduals and ten companies who will give highest amount of tax will be published and they will be awarded tax cards from the current fiscal, Muhith said.

Explaining the existing provision to encourage highest tax payers, he said top three tax payers are given awards in district/city corporation levels.

He said two individuals who are paying tax for long time are also awarded in district/city corporations.

So, no separate lists of highest tax payers in both individual and company are prepared at present in national level.

On behalf of the finance minister, who is now in USA, Information

Minister Abul Kalam Azad replied to the lawmakers' supplementary queries in parliament.

One dies in pro-AL workers clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A Sramik League leader was killed and at least 10 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups of the ruling party activists over share of business at Chandra area of Kaliakoir upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Belal Hossain, 50, leader of Kaliakoir Transport Sramik League. The injured were receiving treatment at Upazila Health Complex.

Activists of Kaliakoir Transport Workers' Union brought out procession at Kaliakoir bazaar in the morning to protest the killing. They also blocked Dhaka-Tangail highway halting traffic movement for about two hours.

Witnesses and police sources said some Chhatra League workers of Kaliakoir Bazaar had

been renting out 15 buses to Niagra Textile Ltd at Chandra area for transporting its workers.

When the buses reached the factory gate around 8:00am, a group of about 20 workers of Sramik League, led by Chhoto Shahid, obstructed the buses.

As the drivers tried to drive into the factory, the group beat them up.

Informed about the matter, another group of 50 to 60 activists, lead by Baro Shahid, launched a counter attack. Both the groups were locked in chase and counter chase resulting in the clash, which ultimately killed Belal.

A police team from Kaliakoir Police Station reached the spot and clubbed the feuding groups to bring the situation under control.

The body of the deceased was sent to Gazipur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT TO STUDENTS HC seeks report on ban progress

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) in a ruling yesterday directed the government to submit a report within two weeks on its progress on the incidents of corporal punishment to students of Motiheel Ideal School and College in Dhaka.

An HC bench of Justice Md Imman Ali and Justice Obaidul Hasan yesterday passed the order after human rights organizations Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) yesterday brought a report published in the daily Sangbad, to its notice.

Earlier on September 27, the same court gave a similar ruling regarding incidents in schools across the country between March and July this year.

The daily, on September 27, reported that children of the institution had their hair cut forcibly while being made to kneel-down and being subjected to penalties termed 'kneel-down' (sitting with head touching knees) and 'crack-down' (lying on the floor with their heads touching knees) as corporal punishment.

The bench also observed that unannounced and random visits should be held by school inspectors to ensure that schools maintain a 'healthy and conducive educational atmosphere'.

The petitioners argued that corporal punishments including canning, beating and chaining students are violation of fundamental rights guaranteed under the constitution and international human rights treaties.

The court fixed October 14 for hearing the matter.

3 criminals using DB identities held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch personnel yesterday arrested three men who used to cheat people with fake DB identities, handcuffs and police sticker at South Sayadabad in the city.

The criminals -- Motaleb Hossain alias Don, 37, Enamul Huq alias Enam, 46, and Jasim Uddin, 45 -- used to make fraud arrests of businessmen in disguise of detective police and realise money from them.

At a DB office press briefing, officials said the criminals, arrested with a microbus, managed the handcuffs from the city's Polwell Market where police equipment and uniform are available for sale.

DB (south) Deputy Commissioner Monirul Islam said several criminal gangs at Sayadabad are doing the same crime, and detectives are trying to arrest the other gangs active in the city.

3 muggers hurt in gunfights with Rab, police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three alleged muggers sustained bullet wounds in two separate gunfights between law enforcers and criminals in the capital's Agargaon and Gendaria early yesterday.

Sumon, 22, and Jamal Hossain, 24, received bullets in a gun battle with the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-2) at Agargaon while Faisal, 23, was bullet wounded in another gunfight with Gendaria police.

A gang of plainclothes Rab men challenged a gang of five muggers for their suspicious movement at Agargaon at about 12:45am, Rab said.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the criminals opened fire on Rab members forcing them to retaliate with gunshots that left Sumon and Jamal bullet injured in their legs.

Three other criminals of the gang, however, managed to flee during the fight. Two firearms were recovered from the spot, Rab added.

Suman and Jamal were admitted to Pongu Hospital. Faisal was fleeing after snatching valuables from a pedestrian at gunpoint near Gendaria graveyard around 4:00am, police said.

When the victim cried out for help, police chased Faisal. At one stage, he opened fire at the law enforcers forcing them to retaliate. Faisal received bullet wound in his leg, police added. He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Bangladesh Services Limited
(Owner of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel)
1 Mintto Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
Ph: +88 02 8330001, Ext-4401, Fax: +88 02 8330142
www.bsl.gov.bd

ADDENDUM TO THE NOTICE REQUESTING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

The following addendum is included as para No. 8 in the Notice Requesting Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of Consulting Firm(s) for rendering services for the selection and appointment of an internationally reputed Hotel Management Company of 5-Star brand for operation and management of the Hotel of Bangladesh Services Limited (BSL) published on 22 September 2010 vide Memo No. BSL-104/2010/847 dated 21 September 2010 in The Daily Star, The Daily Ittefaq and the website of Bangladesh Services Ltd.:

"8. The authority reserves the right to relax/waive any of the conditions mentioned in para 2, if it deems fit in the interest of the company."

Secretary
Bangladesh Services Limited
Ph: +88 02 8330001, Ext-4403
E-mail: bsl.secretary@sheraton-dhaka.com