

PM assures all-out support for research

Inaugurates new Medical Research Council building

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her government's pledge to extend all out support for research.

"Basically, Bangladesh is far behind in research. It's not possible to reach the optimum level in any sector without research. We'll provide all sorts of cooperation for research," she said while inaugurating the Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) building at Mohakhali in the city.

About the allocation for research works, Hasina said the researchers would just have to inform the government about their activities and the fund they need, and the government would allocate the fund.

"We don't suffer from dillydallying in releasing funds. This government is with you; we'll do whatever is needed," she told the researchers.

Hasina also urged the private sector to come forward in funding the research activities. In this regard, she said the pharmaceutical companies could invest in the medical research sector and the ultimate result of such investment would bring more profit for them.

The prime minister also called upon the physicians to expedite basic research activities in the country's health sector to provide quality



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates Bangladesh Medical Research Council building at Mohakhali in the city yesterday.

Photo: PID

healthcare to the people.

"Now we need to improve the quality of health services along with expansion of medicare facilities across the country and that's why we need to put emphasis on research activities," she said.

Suggesting the physicians

to try to prevent diseases instead of providing treatment after the disease, Hasina underscored the need for strengthening basic research in the health sector to improve the quality of healthcare facilities alongside its extension.

She also emphasised

determining the actual need of the health workers and their necessary skills, method of treatments and amount of medicine through research in a particular area to ensure maximum utilisation of limited national resources.

She requested the physi-

cians not to be confined only to identifying diseases and innovative treatment methods but they should also try to improve the medical and health system and ensure its better use through proper restructuring of the system.

Referring to Bangladesh's

successes in eliminating small pox, polio and cholera, she urged the physicians to carry out research on malaria, kala-azar, filariasis and dengue.

About the community clinics, she said her government has already resumed activities of 9,722 community clinics, out of 18,000.

She said the process is on to recruit 13,500 community health providers for those clinics. Besides, the present government appointed 3,551 on ad hoc basis to resolve the crisis of physicians while 800 other physicians will get appointment soon through the 28th BCS examinations.

Giving details, Hasina said her government has already recruited 6,391 health assistants and 1,445 nurses while the process is at the final stage to appoint 301 more nurses.

Mentioning the inadequate number of nurses, she directed the authorities concerned to appoint more nurses providing them with international standard education.

Earlier, the prime minister opened the newly constructed BMRC building by unveiling the inaugural plaque.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Prof Dr AFM Ruhul Huq and Prime Minister's adviser Prof Dr Syed Modasser Ali were the special guests at the function, chaired by BMRC Chairman Prof Dr Mahmudul Hassan.

SSC TEST

Body to probe question leakage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ministry of education yesterday formed a three-member probe committee to investigate the allegation of question paper leakage of the test examination of School Secondary Certificate (SSC) exam spread in Dhaka and outside, says an official handout.

The members of the committee are AKM Jakir Hossain Bhuiyan, deputy secretary of the ministry of education, a representative of director general of the directorate of secondary and higher education, and a deputy exam controller of the board of intermediate and secondary education of Dhaka.

The committee will look into the flaws of the distribution of the question papers and submit its report by seven working days.

The allegation of question paper leakage of the test examination was first raised in some schools in Comilla on last Saturday and then in some schools in the city and Bhola in the last three to four days ago.

Four Ctg factories fined for pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined four factories Tk 47 lakh for polluting sea and river through discharging liquid wastages for years in Chittagong.

A DoE team led by Director (Enforcement) Munir Chowdhury penalised Mak Paper and Board Mills at Bayezid Bostami industrial area, and Seamark (BD) Ltd, Ifco Foods and Imam Buttons Industries Ltd at Sagorika industrial area.

Mak Paper was running without DoE clearance and effluent treatment plant (ETP) for 19 years while Seamark and Ifco for nine years, said Munir Chowdhury.

Imam Buttons was discharging the wastages for 15 years without setting ETP, despite having DoE clearance, he added.

Munir said untreated liquid wastages, around 150,000 cubic-metre, from the industries find their ways to the River Karnaphuli and the Bay through drains and canals.

Mak Paper was fined Tk 33.04 lakh, Seamark Tk 7.70 lakh, Imam Button Tk 5.41 lakh and Ifco Tk 1.66 lakh.

The industries were asked to set up ETP immediately and the DoE clearance of Imam Button was cancelled, said the director.

Meanwhile, the team realised Tk 68 thousand from N Mohammad Plastic at Muradpur as arrears renewal fee. The industry was running without DoE clearance for 14 years, said Munir.

World Standards Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) observed World Standards Day amid various programmes across the country yesterday.

Posters, festoons and banners highlighting BSTI services marked the day countrywide, says a press release.

The theme of the 41st world standards day this year is "standards make the world accessible for all".

BSTI also arranged discussions at divisional cities including one at its office in the capital with top businesspersons and government officials.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua, the chief guest at the discussion in the capital, said there is no alternative to modernising BSTI to expand export of country's products.

BSTI Director General AK Fazlul Ahad said the theme of this year's world standards day is time-befitting.

With the speeches of president, prime minister, industries minister and industries ministry secretary, special supplements were published in different dailies and special programmes were broadcast on radios and televisions marking the day.

More zebra crossings demanded for safe, easy walk in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists and development workers yesterday demanded more zebra crossings in the streets of Dhaka for safe and easier commuting.

Their demands came at a human chain organised by Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) in front of the Dhanmondi Government Boys High School in the city, says a press release.

Although the government has decided to impose 24-hour jail for people not using foot over bridges, the authorities should realise that these bridges are not suitable for many senior citizens, women, children and people with disabilities.

Zebra crossings need to be brought back

to ensure safe passage of the pedestrians, they said.

The organisers noted that nearly 60 percent of commuting in the city takes place on foot. However, privileges for pedestrians remain unconsidered when transportation plans and policies are formulated.

Dhaka is probably the only city in the world where there are no zebra crossings despite the huge number of pedestrians, they said, adding that pavements and pedestrian zones must be commutable and easily accessible.

Poba Programme Officer Toufiqur Rahman Sentu, Nirapad Development Foundation Chairman Ibnul Syed Rana and WBB Trust Project Coordinator Aminul Islam Sujon, among others, spoke at the programme.

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Berger Paints Contributes to Autistic Children: Program held at Savar Factory

As a responsible corporate citizen, Berger Paints continued to spread its hand for the second time as it contributed to the welfare of the autistic and differently challenged children of Bangladesh. On 14th October 2010, in an event organized at the Berger's Dhaka Factory located in Nabinagar, Savar, financial and other material aids were handed over to seven different well-known organizations in Bangladesh. SEID Trust, Scholars Special School, Tauri Foundation, Society for the Welfare of Autistic Children (SWAC), Autism Welfare Foundation (AWF), Concern Services for Disabled (CSD) and Dipayoy were the recipient organizations for Berger's contribution 2010.

Ms. Rupali Chowdhury, Managing Director, Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited, handed over cheques and other materials to the authorities of the welfare organizations. Mr. Abdul Khalek, Director - Finance and Company Secretary, Mr. Mohsin Habib Chowdhury - General Manager (Sales & Marketing) and other high officials of Berger Paints also attended the ceremony.

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