

Koica to assist BOU edn through web

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) will provide US \$2.7 million for implementing a web-based learning system in Bangladesh Open University (BOU).

The project titled "Establishment of ICT and Web-based Learning System in Bangladesh Open University" will be jointly implemented with the government.

An agreement to this respect was signed yesterday between Koica and Economic Relations Division (ERD).



Alamgir, Kamal new BFUNPW president, secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Alamgir Hossain Khan of The Daily Ittefaq and Md Kamal Uddin of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) were elected president and secretary general of Bangladesh Federal Union of Newspaper Press Workers (BFUNPW) yesterday.

They were elected for the year 2011-2013 at its biennial meeting held at the BSS office, said a press release.

Other office-bearers are Senior Vice President: Md Abul Hashem, Vice Presidents: Md Golam Sarwar Azad, Md Fazlul Haq, Md Ilias, Abdul Mannan, Md Liakat Ali and Md Ataur Rahman, Joint Secretaries General: Md Rafiqul Islam, Md Abu Kawsar and Md Mezbahur Rahman, Organising Secretary: Manirul Islam Bhuiyan, Office Secretary: Md Jane Alam, Publicity Secretary: Golam Sarwar-A Alam, Sports and Cultural Secretary: Md Ali Khan Apu and Treasurer: Md Tajammel Haq.

Earlier, Secretary General Abul Hashem submitted the annual and audit reports at the meeting.

US embassy closed May 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The American Embassy, including the consular section and the American centre with Archer K Blood American Centre Library and the student advising centre, will keep closed on May 29, on the occasion of Memorial Day, an American national holiday.

Emergency services for American citizens will be available. The duty officer can be called at 885-5500, says a press release.



Devotees greet with garland Bishop Moses M Costa, the newly appointed bishop of Chittagong Roman Catholic Diocese, upon his arrival at the Cathedral Church in Patharghata of the port city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Installation of new Ctg bishop today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The installation ceremony of Bishop Moses M Costa, the newly appointed bishop of Chittagong Roman Catholic Diocese, will be held in Chittagong city today.

Hundreds of Christian devotees gave a warm reception in a ceremony to the new bishop on his arrival at the Cathedral Church in Patharghata area yesterday morning.

Coadjutor Archbishop of Dhaka Arch Patrick D'Rozario, Rev Subrato Howlader, a number of priests, nuns, and brothers were present at the ceremony.

A colourful procession was brought out from St Placid's High School immediately after the bishop arrived around 4:00pm.

The procession, participated by a number of devotees and the bishop, paraded different streets and ended at the Cathedral Church.

Chittagong city Mayor Manjur Alam, parliamentarians, and bishops from different diocese of Bangladesh would attend today's installation ceremony around 10:00am.

Vatican Ambassador to Dhaka Joseph Marino is scheduled to hand over the appointment letter to the new bishop at the ceremony, says a press release.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 'Reinstate secularism'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders Forum (SCF), a platform of commanders who led the country's liberation war, yesterday placed a three-point demand including insertion of a provision in the constitution banning religion-based party.

Leaders of SCF placed the demand while meeting with the parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The two other demands are: keeping secularism in the republic's charter as the state policy by scrapping the provision of Islam being the state religion, and dropping the phrase "Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim" from the constitution.

Emerging from the hour-long meeting, SCF Vice-Chairman Maj Gen (retd) KM Safiullah told reporters that they have favoured a constitutional reform in the light of the spirit of the country's original charter of 1972.

Presided over by Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, chairperson of the special committee, several members welcomed SCF's recommendations on the constitutional amendment, said meeting source.

Earlier the left parties including Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Workers Party of Bangladesh, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesher Sammyabadi Dal, and Ganotantri Party also placed similar recommendations to the special committee while meeting with it at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Talking to reporters, war hero KM Safiullah said, "Bangladesh won independence through bloodshed and rejecting the two-nation theory. We did not gain independence on the basis of religion. Therefore, our constitution should bear the character of secularism where the state will give equal priority to all its religions."

Planning Minister and SCF Chairperson AK Khandker, SCF Vice-Chairman Abu Osman Chowdhury, and General Secretary Harun-Ar Rashid, among others, were present at the meeting.

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Vitamin A campaign May 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Vitamin A Plus Campaign on May 29 will cover two lakh children aged between six and 11 months, for the first time, to help them prevent Nyctalopia (night blindness).

Children of this age group of Comilla, Moulvibazar, Gopalganj, Barisal, Shatkira, Rajshahi and Barisal City Corporation will be provided with a blue vitamin A capsule, said Health Adviser Syed Modasser Ali yesterday.

Another 1.90 crore children, aged one to five years, would be provided with red vitamin A capsule. Deworming tablets would also be administered to 1.70 crore children aged between two and five years through 1.4 lakh permanent and mobile centres, he said.

He was speaking at a press conference in the city's Jatiya Press Club.

Modasser said it is possible to reduce

contagious diseases and prevalence of diarrhoea by improving the level of vitamin A among children.

Messages encouraging mothers to exclusively breastfeed their children for the first six months would also be disseminated at the campaign, he added.

Speaking at the conference, Prof Fatima Parveen Chowdhury, director of Institute of Public Health Nutrition, said vitamin A supplementation twice a year proved cost effective in countries where infant mortality is high.

She also said the campaign saves the lives of 30,000 children and reduces prevalence of different diseases.

Despite immense success, four per cent children are left out of coverage, which should not be, said the speakers.

State Minister Dr Captain (retd) Mozibur Rahman Fakir also spoke.

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