

Drik appointed as WAN-IFRA representative in Bangladesh

METRO DESK

The World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) has appointed Drik Picture Library Ltd, the leading picture and news agency of Bangladesh, as its representative in the country, in a move to bring WAN-IFRA's services closer to local publishers.

As each country in the Indian subcontinent displays unique characteristics and challenges, the representation will help address specific needs of Bangladesh's publishers and will include local media events and training.

"We are very happy to appoint Drik Picture Library as our representative in Bangladesh", said Magdum Mohamed, managing director of WAN-IFRA South Asia.

"Our relations with Dr Shahidul Alam, managing director of Drik Picture Library, go back more than eight years, and we share some common ideas of what needs to be done to help improve the media industry in Bangladesh".

"Drik has found a natural partner in WAN-IFRA", said Dr Shahidul Alam. "Drik's pioneering role in new media and ICT creates a clear path for the partnership to utilise the dynamism in Asian media and propel it to new heights".

This year, WAN-IFRA will organise its 20th annual South Asian Conference, WAN-IFRA India 2012, on September 26-27 in Pune, India (<http://www.wan-ifra.org/india2012>).

The conference will address challenges and opportunities for news publishers and provide a direction to the future of the news publishing industry in the region.



Suffering from "food poisoning", some workers of Yagi Bangladesh Ltd, a garments factory in the city's outskirts Ashulia, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Over 100 RMG workers fall sick after having dinner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 100 workers of a ready-made garment factory in Ashulia, a suburb of the city, fell sick after having dinner served by the factory authorities early yesterday.

Mostly female, a total of 53 workers were admitted to different clinics and hospitals including Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Badrul Alam, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station.

Talking to The Daily Star, he said more than 100 workers of Yagi Bangladesh Garments Limited, a Japan-owned ready-made garment factory at Jamgara, started vomiting immediately after taking the dinner supplied by the factory management around 12:00am.

Around 450 workers, who were working in the nightshift ahead of yesterday's holiday on the occasion of International Mother Language Day, had dinner bought from Hotel Rajdip at Jamgora around 11:30pm, the factory authorities said.

The workers were served lentils, chicken and rice.

The authorities of the factory visited different hospitals and clinics to see the ailing workers. They also collected the food sample for test.

COUPLE MURDER Journalists' protest today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several journalist organisations including Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalist (BFUJ), Jatiya Press Club and Dhaka Reporters' Unity will hold a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city today demanding arrest and punishment to killers of the journalist couple.

Besides, rallies will also be organised in different districts across country at the same time today, said a press release.

It was decided at a joint meeting on February 18 where leaders of all the journalist bodies expressed grave concern over the delay in arresting the killers and unravelling the mystery.

Sagar Sarwar, news editor of private television channel Maasranga, and his wife Meherun Runi, a senior reporter of another private television channel ATN Bangla, were killed early February 11 at their rented flat in the city's West Rajabazar.

PM for use of Bangla in digital technology

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has voiced her strong commitment for taking the country ahead keeping pace with the innovation of new technologies and their application in a globalised world, saying that her government wants to establish a knowledge-based society.

Sheikh Hasina urged all to establish a prosperous, peaceful and non-communal Bangladesh upholding the spirit of 'Amar Ekushey' (immortal 21st).

"So, we're giving special emphasis on the use of the mother language in digital technology," she said while inaugurating an SMS programme in Bangla from her official residence Gonobhaban yesterday.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Raziuddin Ahmed Raju, State Minister for Science and Technology Yeafesh Osman were also present on the occasion.

'A2I' national project Director M Nazrul Islam Khan gave the welcome speech while Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Chairman Maj Gen (ret'd) Zia Ahmed spoke on the occasion. 'Support to Digital Bangladesh' (A2I)

programme of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) with the financial support from the UNDP organised the function.

The premier said the installation of full-fledged Bangla key pads in mobile phone sets of all brands has been made mandatory.

The government has imposed a ban on the import of new mobile phone sets without Bangla key pads after January 31, 2012.

Mentioning different steps taken by her government to facilitate mobile phone services in the country, Hasina said the Awami League government in its previous term freed the country from monopoly business in providing mobile phone service.

She said the present government has already initiated moves to provide e-services through mobile phones.

People are now able to pay water, electricity and gas bills through mobile phones.

She also said her government has established district web portals incorporating the necessary information in all the 64 districts.

Hasina also mentioned that the government has set up 4,501 union information and service centres to ensure the availability of e-services.

SCBA polls Mar 21, 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day annual election of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for its 14 executive posts including president and secretary will be held on March 21 and 22.

A total of 3,829 lawyers of the Supreme Court have registered as voters in the country's major bar association polls.

The executive committee of the association will fix the schedule for its polls on March 1, SCBA Secretary Bodruddoza Badal told The Daily Star yesterday.

According to sources, the main contest would take place between the panel of ruling Awami League-backed Bangladesh Sammilita Ainjibi Samannay Parishad (BSASP) and BNP-backed Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum (BJAF).

Both the forums would finalise their panels within the next few days, sources said.

The lawyers considered as BSASP's probable candidates for the position of president are Rakanuddin Mahmud, Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury, Abdul Baset Majumder, Anisul Huq and Abdul Matin Khasru.

Likewise, BSASP lawyers Momtaj Uddin Ahmed Mehedi, Rabiul Alam Budu, Azaharullah Bhuiyan and Sheikh Awasfur Rahman Bulu are aspiring contestants for the post of SCBA's secretary.

Meanwhile, possible BJAF candidates running for president are Khandaker Mahbub Hossain, the incumbent president of SCBA and Zainul Abedin.

Incumbent Secretary Bodruddoza Badal, Ruhul Quddus Kazal, Helal Uddin Mollah, Munir Sharif, Akbar Amin Babul, Golam Md Chowdhury Alal, Fahima Nasrin Munni and a few others will contest from BJAF for the post of secretary, according to sources.

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