

World Population Day today

UNB, Dhaka

World Population Day will be observed today with the objective to raise awareness about population-related issues.

The theme of this year is "Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights". And the slogan is "One billion adolescents, the right to health, information and services."

Although the day is observed worldwide on July 11 every year, Bangladesh will observe the day on Saturday considering the weekly holiday on July 11.

On this occasion, UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Ahmed Obaid and UNFPA Country Representative Suneeta Mukherjee gave separate messages stressing the need for providing knowledge, choices and opportunities to the adolescents.

"We must support adolescents to achieve their dreams for a better life. If

they are prepared with knowledge, choices and opportunities, they can live healthy and productive lives and contribute to a more stable world," said UNFPA chief Thoraya Ahmed Obaid.

The day's programme will begin with a rally from National Press Club at 9.00am on Saturday, which will end at National Museum after parading different roads. Later, a discussion will be held. State Minister for Youth and Sports will attend the occasion as chief guest.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) in collaboration with UNFPA will bring another rally from National Swimming Complex in Mirpur at 4pm. BGMEA President Quazi Moniruzzaman will lead the rally.

United Nations Association of Bangladesh will organise a symposium on 'UN Population Initiatives and Developing Countries' at Scout Bhaban at 5:30pm today.

JUJA ultimatum to VC

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University Journalists' Association (JUJA) gave a 24-hour ultimatum to the vice-chancellor yesterday to meet their demands.

The demands are reopening of the JUJA office and handing it over to the elected committee.

They also demanded punishment to those involved in occupying the office and assaulting the JUJA president on Monday night.

Backed by JCD, some JU correspondents of different dailies attacked the JUJA office at around 10.00pm and broke its lock.

They also assaulted JUJA President SM Jakirul Islam and put the office under lock and key.

On Wednesday evening, Proctor Salimullah Khan sealed the JUJA office at Teacher-Student Center (TSC) without taking any initiative to solve the problem.

The attackers also announced a new JUJA committee with Akram Khan of the Inqilab as its president and Sirajul Islam Siraz of the Dinkal as secretary and wiped off the names of elected president and secretary from the board.

The executive committee of JUJA was elected on February 2 this year.

Last year, the JUJA executive committee had expelled Siraz for his alleged involvement in anti-social activities on the campus.

Jahangirnagar University Sangskritik Jote, Bangladesh



Law Minister Moudud Ahmed and other participants at a discussion marking the 2nd death anniversary of former Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury. The Sylhet Division Development Council organised the discussion at the National Press Club yesterday.

Tk 43 lakh anomalies in 10 overseas Biman stations

UNB, Dhaka

Ten out of 22 overseas stations of Biman have Tk 43.18 lakh financial irregularities in their operation.

An official audit report, placed in the parliament on Tuesday, revealed the irregularities and misdeeds. The audit conducted for the period from July 1999 to June 2001 detected 26 cases of 'serious irregularities and losses' by Biman officials and staff in those stations.

Yangon, Abu Dhabi, Kathmandu, Frankfurt, New Delhi, Singapore, Mumbai, Dubai, New York and London are the branches plagued by corruption, the report revealed.

The comptroller and auditor

general presented graft cases in 2000-01 fiscal's audit report and recommended realising the money from officials and staff concerned.

By drawing unauthorised daily allowances and foreign allowances, the station officials and staff of Frankfurt, New Delhi, Singapore, Mumbai, Dubai and New York stations caused a loss of Tk 16.35 lakh.

In New York, the airline counted a loss of Tk 8.54 by paying additional cargo handling charges.

Bypassing the rules, Biman officials in Kathmandu misappropriated Tk 4.10 lakh as education allowances.

Irregularities of Tk 2.92 lakh were reported in New Delhi,

Dubai, New York, Kathmandu and Abu Dhabi where the staff paid unauthorised utility bills.

Biman office did not provide budget allocations and accounts to them for actual expenditure for 22 outposts for fiscal 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, the auditors also said.

Biman authorities realised Tk 5.71 crore during 1999-2000 fiscal following their audit objections. However, nothing could be realised in fiscal 2000-2001, auditors claimed.

Gross irregularities in the airline involving 1148 pending audit claims totalling a loss of Tk 213.54 crore to the government exchequer were recorded since 1972.



Dhaka Ainjibi Samity formed a human chain in the city yesterday demanding withdrawal of provision of mandatory submission of income tax return for the lawyers.

'Nationalise jobs of non-govt primary teachers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Non-Government Primary Teachers Association (BNGPTA) yesterday urged the government to nationalise their jobs by August 10.

Addressing a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity, BNGPTA leaders also threatened to launch a non-stop agitation from August 12 if the demand is not met by that time.

The agitation programme includes wearing of black badge from August 12 to 14, work abstention from August 16 to 21, submission of memorandum to upazila nirbahi officer on August 27, to deputy commissioner on September 7 and to different donor agencies on September 18.

If those programmes fail to

realise their demand, the non-government teachers will stage sit-in and hunger strike at Central Shaheed Minar from October 7 to 9.

BNGPTA leaders said nationalisation of the jobs of non-government primary teachers was an election-pledge of the four-party alliance, but after the formation of the government they started avoiding the issue.

Recently, the ruling party rejected a proposal at the parliament to nationalise the job of non-government primary teachers, they added.

"Though we perform the same job as is done by the government primary teachers, our salary is too little in comparison to them", Monsur Ali, secretary general of BNGPTA said.

Advisor to BNGPTA Tofazzal Hossain said a government primary teacher gets almost Tk six to seven thousand as salary but we get only about Tk 2 thousand. It is very difficult to maintain our family with this meagre amount when the price of daily essentials is increasing alarmingly, he added.

The BNGPTA leaders also called for providing current facilities of non-government primary teachers to community primary school teachers.

They also protested the formation of the welfare trust as it was formed without discussing them.

Golam Mustafa, president, Forkan Ali and Habibur Rahman, vice-presidents, and Abdus Sattar, joint secretary of the organisation were present.

Arms factory unearthed in Ctg: 2 arrested

UNB, Chittagong

Police unearthed an arms-making factory and arrested two people from a village here yesterday.

They also recovered some arms and arms-making equipment from the scene, police said.

On a tip-off, police raided the house of Kafiluddin at Chalitatali village in Baizid Bostami Thana at about 2.00am.

The recovered arms and materials including two LGs, two barrels, six springs, three triggers, one grinding machine (arms finishing machine) and

two combination players.

The law enforcers also arrested Kafiluddin and Anwar Hossain Manik, 20, of Hamidpur village in the thana.

A case was filed with police under Arms Act.

Meanwhile, police arrested 1,422 people, including two listed criminals, from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

They also recovered 17 fire-arms, nine other weapons and 2,514 rounds of bullet and filed six cases against 20 people under the Arms Act, said a press release.

Collision of trucks kills 2 in Sherpur

UNB, Bogra

A head-on collision between two trucks on Dhaka-Bogra highway in Sherpur upazila left two people killed and two others injured yesterday.

Witnesses said a Dhaka-bound truck hit the other truck coming from opposite direction in Chhonka area at about 10.00am. Babu, 22, and Jahangir, 22, of Panchbibhi upazila in Joypurhat district died on the spot.

The injured people Dudu Mollah, 40, and Mamun Dewan, 22, of the upazila -- were admitted to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital.

DUJA election today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The election of Dhaka University Journalists' Association (DUJA) will be held at its office at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) today.

Thirty DUJA members will cast votes to elect a nine-member executive committee for one year. Shahabul Haque Sabu of the Ittefaq and Kabir Ahmed Khan of the Ajker Kagoj are contesting for the post of DUJA president while Muhammad Jakaria of the Inqilab and Tareque Murtuza of the Manabjabin are the main contenders for the post of general secretary.

Tareq Al Naser, former DUJA president, will act as chief election commissioner while Torun Sarker, former DUJA president and Sharifuzzaman Pintu, former general secretary, will conduct the election.

Teenage boy killed in attack in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

A teenage boy was killed and his friend injured in an attack at Goambagicha in the town on Wednesday evening.

The dead was identified as Ripon, 18, son of Hakim Miah of village Chanpur in Sadar upazila.

Witnesses said a gang of criminals swooped on Ripon and his friend Russell when they were passing through the area. They stabbed Ripon indiscriminately, leaving him dead.

The reason behind the killing could not be known.

The gang also stabbed Russell, 18, son of Abu Mia of the same village, as he tried to resist them.

Police arrested one Manir Hossain in this connection.

Debate workshop begins in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

A two-day debate workshop began at the Ispahani Public School and College auditorium in Chittagong city yesterday.

Dristi, a debate and cultural organisation, arranged the workshop. Former president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Farid Ahmed Chowdhury inaugurated the workshop while Dristi President and Principal of Gems English Medium School Hasina Reza Soma presided.

Chittagong bureau chief of The Daily Star Nurul Alam and Principal of Sunshine Grammar School Safia Rahman were present as special guests.

A total of 350 debaters from 21 educational institutions of the port city are taking part in the workshop.

Speakers at the inaugural session laid emphasis on the extra-curriculum activities like debate side by side the academic activities.

The trainers will focus on the techniques of presentation, use of microphone, various models of debate and preparing script.

On the concluding day of the workshop, the managing director of The Pubokone Limited Jasim Uddin will distribute certificates among the participants.

Tk 19 lakh, 300 mts wheat allocated for victims of natural calamities

UNB, Dhaka

The government has allotted Tk 19 lakh for 38 districts and 300 mts of wheat for six districts affected in recent different natural calamities, including flash flood.

The allocation was given at a monitoring meeting on flood held at the conference room of Relief Ministry yesterday with Disaster Management and Relief Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf in the chair. Relief Secretary BMM Mozharul Haq and high officials were present.

As per allocation, each of the 38 districts will receive Tk 50,000 and each of the six districts 50 mts of wheat, a PID handout said.

The districts are Chandpur, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Feni, Khagrachhari, Bandarban, Rangamati, Chittagong, Habiganj, Comilla, Cox's Bazar, Gaibandha, Sherpur, Tangail, Netrokona, Jamalpur, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Manikganj, Sirajganj, Rajbari,

Faridpur, Kishoreganj, Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bhola, Panchagarh, Bogra, Pabna, Narayanganj, Munsiganj, Mymensingh, Kushtia, Madaripur and Noakhali.

JCD activists beat up JU student

JU CORRESPONDENT

A group of JCD activists beat up a student of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday following a row over a seat in the university bus.

Kiron, a final year student of archaeology department, was beaten up as he refused to give his seat to a JCD leader, Sirazul Islam Siraz.

At around 7.30pm, Siraz along with other JCD cadres attacked Kiron and injured him seriously.

He was rushed to the university medical center and given first aid.

DHAKA
TODAY

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen two films titled 'Adventure of Pluto Nash' and 'A passage to India'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Movie show

Bishwa Sahitya Kendra will screen a movie titled 'The Ten Commandments', directed by C B Demille. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra auditorium, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 5.00pm.

Musical evening

Sarva Sree, the first carnatic music centre in the country, presents an evening of South Indian classical music with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Shaheed Zia auditorium of National Museum. Time: 5.30pm.

BSCIC fair

The inaugural ceremony of a four-day 'Monsoon Fair', organised by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), will be held with Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nazami as chief guest. Venue: BSCIC Bhaban, Motijheel. Time: 10.00am.

Certificate giving ceremony

The certificate giving ceremony of Prachyanat School of Acting and Design will be held. It will be followed by a performance of Dwijendralal Roy's 'Shajahan' directed by Shakhawat Hossain Rezvi. Venue: Natmandal of Dhaka University. Time: 5.00pm.

Symposium

In observance of World Population Day, the United Nations Association of Bangladesh organises a symposium on UN population initiatives and developing countries. Venue: Scout Bhaban, Kakrail. Time: 5.30pm.

Rally

Jatiya Shishu Kishore Sangathan Amra Kuri organises a rally and discussion to observe World Population Day. Venue: Shishu Academy premises. Time: 11.00am.

Tree plantation

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon organises a tree plantation programme. Venue: Around the pond at Osmani Uddyan. Time: 10.00am.

Blood donation

Quantum Foundation organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Rampura Super Market. Time: 4.00pm.

Award giving ceremony

Women Entrepreneurs' Association, Bangladesh organises an award giving ceremony on 'Honouring the Empowerment of Women' with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as chief guest. Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall. Time: 11.00am.

Workshop

Physiotherapy department of Gono Bishwabidyalay organises a workshop on Physical evaluation and physical diagnosis of knee conditions. Venue: Gono Swasthya Nagar Hospital, Dhanmondi. Time: 9.30am.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'The Gathering Storm'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Drama

Swapna, a cultural organisation, will stage a drama titled 'Ekti Swarnaghatito Durgahatana'. Venue: Natmandal of Dhaka University. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

Rally

In observance of World Population Day, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund will hold a rally. Venue: National Swimming Complex, Mirpur-2. Time: 4.00pm.

Display

The British Council organises a five-day long display on law courses available in the United Kingdom. Venue: British Council Library, Fuller Road. Time: 10.00am to 6.00pm.