

Another day dawns for the thousands living in Dhaka's streets and parks, unable to afford a roof over their heads. World Habitat Day is being observed today, but the many meetings and conferences are not enough to change the lot of those living out in the open every day.

World Habitat Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Habitat Day is being observed in the country today. The day is observed every year

in all the countries of the world as per the decision of the United Nations, says a press

The government has taken up elaborate programmes to observe the day in a befitting manner.

Bangladesh Bastibasi Union has taken up a month-long programme to mark the occasion. These included meetings, rallies and processions throughout the country including the capital city Dhaka. The union will form a human

chain at Muktangon in the city at 4.00pm today demanding of the government to build houses for slum dwellers and not to evict them without providing alternative accommodation. In a statement, union President

Mohiuddin Ahmed and General Secretary Abdur Rashid Khan urged the authorities concerned

and take housing projects for them on an urgent basis.

World Space Week inaugurated

The World Space Week 2003 was inaugurated on Saturday at the Mirpur Bangla High School the auditorium at Section-II in the city, says a press

Bangladesh Astronomical Society vice president and the former Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Dr. AKM Aminul Haque pre-Bangladesh Astronomical Society

General Secretary and the Coordinator of World Space Week in Bangladesh FR Sarker addressed the meeting. The Treasurer of Bangladesh Astronomical Society Dr. Mobarak Ali Akand, Mirpur Bangla High School Headmaster Sved Abdul Kaium, and Science Teacher and Adviser of the Science Club of Mirpur Bangla High School Siba Ranjan Datta and two students. Master Amit and Master



Child artistes perform at a cultural function at the Shishu Academy auditorium yesterday in observance of the Child Rights Week-2003. Bangladesh Shishu Odhikar Forum, an NGO, organised the event.

Govt claims success in food sector

The country achieved a remarkable success in the food sector during the last two years of the present government with efficient management and ensured food safety.

The government has restored discipline in the food sector bringing dynamism to food procurement, distribution, transportation, stock and import activities to fulfil one of the basic needs of the people.

The government has implemented a massive development programme to renovate and reconstruct godowns in 2001-'02 and 2202-'03 fiscals aiming at strengthening food security, food ministry

WEATHER TO DAY

Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by tempo-

rary gusty wind is likely at many places over Dhaka. Raishahi and

Sylhet and a few places over Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divi-

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country

Highest temperature 36.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

The sun sets in the capital at 5:41pm today and rises at

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

25.5

23.8

25.6

24.0

25.8

Customs and Excise Intelligence personnel in a joint drive seized huge

quantities of contraband medicines worth some Tk 2 crore from a

Biman flight from Karachi at the Zia International Airport yesterday.

Temperature

in Celsius

sions with moderately heavy falls at places till 6pm today.

at Kutubdia and the lowest 22 6 degree at Savedour

35.0

29.6

32.4

33.0

during the period, Met Office said.

major cities and towns yesterday were:

5:52am tomorrow.

City/Town

Dhaka

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Barisal

With the implementation of the development work, the stock capacity of the godowns now reached nearly 15.48 lakh tonnes, they said. Besides, the government provided farmers with the highest price assistance to ensure fair price of

In the current season, the government procured 7,50,413 tonnes of Boro till August, they added.

The government has brought dynamism in food distribution under several development and targetoriented programmes including food for education, training programme for self-employment and food assistance programme to

percentage

Morning Evening

71

87

83

83

and planning different food-based welfare activities distributed 12.13 lakh tonnes of foodgrains in 2001-

ters and other calamities.

02 and 7.92 lakh tonnes in 2002-03, ministry sources said. Regarding food import through private sector, the government took various steps to keep prices of foodgrains stable across the coun-

save the people from natural disas-

ing as a stock holder in monitoring

The food ministry which is work-

try, the sources said. Reduction in bank LC margin and regulatory duty, and withdrawal of other taxes and fees on import of foodgrains helped the private sector to contribute to a lot during the crisis

Some 29.66 lakh tonnes of foodgrains had been imported through the private sector during 2002-03, they added.

The government sold 3,88,635 lakh tonnes of foodgrains in the Open Market Sale (OMS) at fair prices among the poor consumers that would help keep market price stable in 2002-03.

Sources said the present government has also attained a success in transportation of foodgrains. The rate of godown shortfall

reduced to 0.14 per cent in 2001-02 and 2002-03, sources said.

"Development partners of Bangladesh also expressed satisfaction at improvement of transportation and reduction of food deficit, the ministry sources said.

Meanwhile, the government has earned foreign currency of 64,781.28 US dollars and 21,700 euros by transporting 6.08 lakh tonnes of foodgrains from Raishahi division and unloading 4.06 lakh tonnes at Chittagong and Mongla sea ports in 2001-02.

Members of the delegations of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPA) visited the Central Shaheed Minar vesterday.

Obituary Alhaj Rashida Begum, wife of late Alhaj A M Ziauddin, founder of Alpana Plaza, passed away on October 4 at the age of 82, says a press release.

the Science Laboratory Mosque after Maghrib prayers and buried at their family graveyard at Shat Raoza in old town. Dhaka. Her qulkhwani will be held today, October 6 after Maghrib prayers at

her residence at "Bashati Green"

Her namaz-e-janaza was held at

House No: 43, Road No: 4-A (New), Dhanmondi, Dhaka. Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend and pray for the salvation of the

departed soul.

Anwara Begum

Anwara Begum, mother of noted artist Farida Zaman, died at her Chittagong residence on October 2 at the age of 72, says a press release

She had been suffering from heart ailment and diabetes since

She left behind one son, nine daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death. Her husband was a high official of National Security Intelligence

(NSI) department. Her two daughters Dr Rasheda Akhter Delu and Dr Jahanara Arzu work in BIRDEM Hospital.

She was the mother-in-law of well-known artist Mohammad Abul Hashem Khan, professor of the nstitute of Fine Arts of Dhaka

Anwara Begum was buried at her family graveyard at Sachiyakhali

village in Faridganj upazila. Her gulkhwani was held at her village home on October 4

President hosts reception for Hindu community representatives

UNB, Dhaka

President Prof Dr Iajuddin held a reception for the representatives of the Hindu community at Bangabhaban vesterday on the occasion of their greatest religious festival, Durga Puja.

President lajuddin and his wife Prof Dr Anwara Begum greeted the eminent personalities and wished them peace and prosperity.

The guests included politicians, educationists, lawyers, physicians, freedom fighters, artistes, litterateurs, journalists, businessmen, government officials and ambassadors.

'Ensure land rights for food security'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must ensure food security of the common people through ensuring land rights, said a

It said the rural people are deprived of their right to food due to land grabbing by the influential members of the society.

The study was conducted by Foodfirst Information and Action Network (FIAN), an international organisation working in Bangladesh. The lack of political will and

widespread corruption are the main reasons behind the violation of the right to food of the vulnerable peosaid Michaela Magrel, a member of the FIAN while presenting the study report at Dhaka Reporters Auditorium (DRU) yesterday.

The study also found that conflictng laws and inappropriate land documents are also responsible for land grabbing by the unscrupulous

It said on many occasions, the actual victims have to face false cases while there is no prosecution against the real culprits.

Divided into three groups, FIAN study teams comprising members from different countries, visited Tangail, Moulvi Bazar, Faridour, Pabna, Noakhali, Khulna, Satkhira and Patuakhali districts and investigated cases of land rights violation.

Khorshed Alam, FIAN Bangladesh, and Sabina Papst of FIAN International, also spoke on the occasion.

Mohora Water Supply Project foundation to be laid in Ctg today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The foundation stone of Mohora Water Supply Project (MWSP) in the port city will be laid today.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to lay the foundation stone at Kalurghat under Chandgaon thana as

LĞRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury will be present on the occasion.

The TK 197.70 crore project, to be financed by the government, was approved at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on September 16, sources said.

At a meeting with the members of the local press here on Saturday, Md Azizur Rahman, chairman of the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), Chittagong said work on the nstallation of the project would start soon and it would be completed by within four years.

"Since the government is financing the project, formalities like appointment of consultant and approval of the project design would not take much time," he added.

The chairman said on completion of the project with the production capacity of two crore gallons of water er day, the daily production of WASA

Chittagong would be raised to over 5.50 crore gallons per day.

At present Chittagong WASA through its Mohora Water Treatment Plant (MWTP) and deep tube-wells produces some 3.70 crore gallons of water per day as against the city dwellers' daily need of over 11 crore gallons resulting in an acute crisis of

The chairman said the government is financing the project as an expansion of existing Mohora Water Treatment Plant (MWTP) due to failure of WASA, Chittagong to get financial assistance from the Japanese Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) for the project when it was titled as MWTF

Khaleda goes to Feni today

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia arrives here today to lay the foundation stone of the country's first Computer

The institute will be built on 1.5 acres of land at a cost of Tk 24.13 crore at Malipur in the town.

After the foundation laying ceremony Khaleda Zia is scheduled to fly to Chittagong.

Film show

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

Environment workshop

The inaugural session of a training workshop on 'Preparation of Dhaka City State of Environment Report', organised jointly by Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies and UNEP, will be held with Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj as chief guest. Venue: LGED auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 3.30pm.

Water conference

The inaugural session of an international conference on the impact of Farakka Barrage on the management of water resources, organised by the Institute of Water Modelling, will be held with Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: BIAM auditorium, New Eskaton. Time: 9.30am.

DRU meeting

An extended meeting of the membership scrutinising committee of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) will be held. Venue: DRU office, Topkhana Road. Time: 11.00am.

Walkathon

In observance of World Habitat Day, a colourful walkathon, organised by Rehabilitation and Development Organisation for Landless (RADOL) and Nari Uddog Kendra (NUK), will be held with Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas to inaugurate as chief guest. Venue: National Shishu Park. Time:

Cultural week The inaugural ceremony of a

cultural week titled 'Protivar Annweshane', organised by Dhaka Christian Chhatra Kalyan Sangha, will be held with renowned cultural personality Kabari Sarwar as chief guest. Venue: Church Community Centre, Tejgaon. Time: 9.00am.

Meeting

A meeting of the executive committee of Dhaka-based Chattagram Samity will be held. Venue: Chattagram Bhaban, Topkhana Road. Time: 6.30pm.

Rally Visamuktaviswa Andolon

organises a rally to hand over a memorandum Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Secretary General Denis Marshall. Venue: Osmani Udyan. Time: 10.00am. Children's rally

On the occasion of International

Children's Day and Child Rights Week, Bangladesh Retired Police Officers Welfare Association organises a children's rally and discussion. Venue: Rajarbagh Telecom auditorium. Time: 10.30am.

Human chain Bangladesh Islami Chhatrasena

the river-linking project of India. Venue: In front of High Court Bhaban. Time: 9.00am. Free clinic

will form a human chain to protest

The inaugural ceremony of free Friday Clinic, organised by Lions Club of Dhaka Aryan City, will be held. Venue: Rampura Junior Ideal School auditorum, Banasree. Time: 11.00am

Malaysian food festival held

BSS, Chittagong

A two-day 'Malaysian Food and Cultural Festival' was held at Ichamati Hall at Hotel Agrabad here on Saturday. Tourism Malaysia, Malaysia

Airlines and Hotel Agrabad have jointly organised the festival Area Manager of Malaysia Airlines Mohammad Anuar Bin

Mat Piah inaugurated the festival. Earlier, organisers at a press conference said the core aim of the festival is to work together for the promotion of tourism in both

countries through increasing

people-to-people contact. Mohammad Anuar Bin Mat Piah and Kabirul Anam Khan of Malaysia Airlines, Chief Executive of Hotel Agrabad H M Hakim Ali

and Zulhelmi Mohammad of Tourism Malaysia spoke at the press conference. Anuar said Bangladesh and

Malaysia could be benefited immensely if the two countries would be able to extract vast potentials exist in their tourism He said Malaysia Airlines would consider in future to intro-

duce flight operation from

Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport which will depends on business prospect. H M Hakim Ali said the

Malaysia Airlines, Tourism Malaysia and Hotel Agrabad authorities have agreed to work closely in future to promote tourism in both the countries.



State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman inaugurated a nine-month 'painting restoration and conservation training workshop' at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy yesterday.

Dr Kamal shocked STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain and General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik yesterday expressed their profound shock at the death of Enayetur Rahman, a member of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and former general secretary of the Dhaka University Central Student Union

In a statement, they also expressed their sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of the

Enayetur Rahman breathed his last on Saturday.

Death anniversary The third death



(DUCSU).

MA Rouf, former Chairman of the Bangladesh Muktijoddah Sangsad and ormer Secretary and former Chief Engineer of PWD, will be observed

The first death

anniversary of

Razia Sultana

Razu, former

Assistant Editor

of econo-

anniversary of

today, says a press release. On the occasion, a prayer for the departed soul will be held today at 3/5, Block-F, Lalmatia in the city

Razia Sultana Razu

after Asr prayers.

political magazine Arthayan, will be observed today. She died on this day last year of a cardiac arrest. Razia was the wife of

Arthavon editor Masud Mustafiz. A milad mahfil and discussion will be held today at the Arthayan office, 34, Bijoy Nagar and at the Mohammadpur residence after Asr