



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Shikshak-Karmachari Oikya Parishad marches towards Prime Minister's Office yesterday from Central Shaheed Minar to submit a memorandum.

Govt to set up 2540 more primary schools

BSS, Dhaka

The government has stepped up efforts to expand primary education by building more schools and providing required facilities within the next one year.

A project has been undertaken to construct 2,540 new primary schools and renovate 96 existing ones to expand facilities for education and also to develop its standard, Primary and Mass Education Ministry sources said.

Besides, the government has launched a "School Feeding" programme in cooperation with the World Food Programme to attract more children to the classroom, curtailing the number of drop-out.

Under this programme, the sources said, 800,000 schoolgoing children in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Panchagarh districts and slum areas of Dhaka City will get biscuits during their tiffin period.

Government, registered madrassahs, community and satellite schools were brought under the programme, the sources said. An average 40 pairs of furniture were supplied to 6,750 schools last year to create a befitting academic atmosphere for the children. Besides, tubewells and latrines were installed on 6,000 school premises.

The government has also completed the construction and renovation works of 5,860 schools side by side with repairing and expanding 1,506 schools and 3,502 schools respectively during the last two years under the 19 projects. The government has also set up 1,626 satellite schools, the source said.

Survey on Jamuna Bridge-Bogra rail link to start in Dec

BSS, Dhaka

The field survey on construction of the planned 66 kms Jamuna Bridge-Jamtail-Bogra rail link will start next month.

Communications ministry sources yesterday said the new rail line, which would cost Tk 715 crore, would be constructed as part of the government plans to establish direct rail link between the western railway and the eastern zone.

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda at an inter-ministerial meeting said the government would construct the rail link on priority basis. The government would spend Tk 505 crore for the project from its own fund, while the rest Tk 210 crore will come from donors and agencies.

Once the project is implemented, the costly train ferry service at Teestamukh Ghat and Bahadurabad Ghat would not be required, railway sources said.

World Diabetes Day today

50 lakh suffer from diabetes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 50 lakh people of the country suffer from diabetes, half of whom are unaware of the disease, said the physicians yesterday at a press conference on the eve of the World Diabetes Day today.

"Creation of awareness and early detection of diabetes is of paramount importance to prevent this perennial disease," said Prof A K Azad Khan, secretary general of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh which organised the conference at the BIRDEM hospital.

Only 15 to 20 percent of the diabetic patients have so far been brought under diabetic care coverage, he said while presenting a statistics on the disease.

Prof Azad said at present there are around 18 crore of diabetic patients all over the world, six times higher than 3 crore in 1985.

It is apprehended that the number will rise up to 30 crore by the year 2025 if the disease is allowed to increase at the present rate, he added.

Prof Azad said deficit of a hormone called insulin in human body and the consequent rise of glucose in blood is called diabetes.

"Urbanisation, fast food culture, lack of physical exercise, overweight, fat, and smoking are some of the major causes that eventually result in diabetes," he added.

"More intake of calorie means more prospect of diabetes," said Prof A R Khan, chief consultant physician of BIRDEM and treasurer of the association.

Kidney is the foremost human

organ that suffers complications or become damaged because of diabetes, he said.

"Uncontrolled diabetes accounts for 35 percent of total renal failure or damage each year in the country," Prof Khan added.

He said out of 18 crore diabetic patients across the world, kidneys of six crore are affected by diabetes.

In addition to BIRDEM diabetic care, 17 centres of National Healthcare

Network and 48 affiliated associations provide diabetes care across the country.

The affiliated associations take care of four lakh diabetic patients.

There are 3 lakh diabetic patients registered with the BIRDEM which spent more than Tk 22 crore to distribute insulin and other medicine free of cost in fiscal 2001-02.

This year the slogan of World Diabetes Day is "Diabetes could cost

your kidneys: Act now."

To mark the day, the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh will bring out a procession from Shishu Academy to BIRDEM, organise a children's painting competition and publish special supplement in newspapers.

Novo Nordisk, a diabetes care company, will also hold rally, distribute posters and leaflets, organise lecture for patients, and donate insulin to observe the day.



PHOTO: STAR

Prof AK Azad Khan, Secretary General of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, speaks at a press conference at the BIRDEM Hospital in the city yesterday on the occasion of the World Diabetes Day today.



Dry weather to prevail

UNB, Dhaka

Dry weather will prevail over the country and light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of northern and central part of the country during early morning till 6 pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 32.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and Sitakunda and the lowest 16.0 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:13 pm today and rises at 6:13 am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature In Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.7	20.5	63	60
Chittagong	32.8	19.7	67	58
Rajshahi	29.5	18.4	70	81
Khulna	30.5	19.5	79	77
Barisal	30.5	18.6	99	91
Sylhet	30.4	17.8	68	70
Cox's Bazar	--	21.0	70	--

1377 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,377 people, including four identified criminals, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours till 6am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered five firearms, two other weapons and 12 bullets and filed a case against one man under the Arms Act.



Congratulations

Angelica Tani Das, a student of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, has secured first position in the 2003 examination of bachelor's degree course in architecture, says a press release.

She was placed on the Dean's List of Honour as she attained CGPA of 3.88 out of 4.

Angelica is the only child of Ethel M Das and Joel S Das.