WORLD POPULATION DAY TODAY

'Contain high birth rate to get benefit of dev'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All development efforts of the government will be nullified and people will be deprived of the benefits of development programmes if the high birth rate in the country is not controlled, said Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday.

"Controlling high birth rate, therefore, is a great challenge for us," he said at a press briefing at the Secretariat on the eve of the World

Population Day today. This year the theme of the day is

The minister said population of the country will reach 25 crore in 2085 if it takes 10 years more to ensure 'Replacement Level Fertility' (RLF) where only mother or her daughter will have fertility.

The government has targeted 2010 to reduce the present Total Fertility Rate (TFR) from 3.0 to 2.1 with various reproduction-related

DU economics

dept initiatives

Authorities of the Department of

Economics of Dhaka University (DU)

have taken up various initiatives,

computer laboratory and multi-media

centre, in a bid to provide quality

education to the students and to

Authorities said they have man-

aged student scholarships worth Tk

13 lakh for poor and brilliant students

of the department on their own

efforts. With the amount about 100

students will be provided yearly

Authorities established a com-

Chairman of the department

Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed said this

while talking to the journalists at a

meet the press programme at the

He said the department has

introduced computer literacy course

as both credit and non-credit course

for the honours first year students so

that students are not to suffer to

compete the job market after com-

media centre to provide more

quality education to the students.

refurbished the seminar room and

took up some more initiatives to

US envoy visits

He said they set up a multi-

puter laboratory with more than 52

computers, where students can

browse Internet and make photo-

scholarships worth Tk 12,000.

copies at minimum cost.

department yesterday.

pleting their graduation.

facilitate the students.

temple

to provide

quality edn

DU CORRESPONDENT

ensure their bright future.

If the goal is achieved, population of the country will reach 17 crore 20 lakh by 2020 and 21 crore by 2060 when the population growth will reach at a stable position, the minister said.

"But if the country takes 10 years more to achieve the RLF, the population will reach 25 crore in 2085." he

The minister said the world population will reach 1300 crore in 2067, the adverse impact of which will be mainly felt in the developing

"It will be then hard for the governments of the developing countries to meet the basic needs of people," he said, suggesting that all must work together to prevent such population growth.

The minister said a notable part of the young people in the country marry at an early age, which is why the rate of maternal and child moral-

"It is only social awareness and education that can lead to formation of planned family," he added.

The minister said as per government target 72 percent people will get various family planning devices, 75 percent mothers will have healthcare during pregnancy, 50 percent will have safe delivery apart from bringing the total fertility rate to 2.1, maternal mortality rate to 2.4 and newly born child mortality rate to 20 by 2010.

Asked if the government has any specific programme for the poor people who are the major victims of population growth, the minister said there are Family Welfare Assistants who go door to door in the villages across the country and deliver service on family planning.

Responding to another question he said the rural clerics do not issue fatwas anymore on the use of contraceptives as they are now aware

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7 killed in road accidents

METROPOLÍTAN/NEWS

B Chy hints at

forming unity

with 14-party

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza

Chowdhury yesterday said they

might form programme-based unity

with Awami League-led 14-party

"Programme-based unity may be

made with 14-party coalition if

leaders of 14 party agree to take

stern measures against corruption

from the first day of new government

and settle all corruption-related

cases by one year," said

Badruddoza while addressing a rally

He also called for taking action

against the syndicate responsible

for price hike of essentials including

BDB Secretary General Major

(Retd) Abdul Mannan, Joint

Secretary Firoj M Hasan,

Organising Secretary Mahi B

Chowdhury and local BDB leaders

29 field-level

officials leave

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

three-week visit to Japan.

tem in Japan.

vesterdav

Programme 2006'.

for Japan today

A team of 29 field-level administrative

officials are leaving Dhaka today on a

During their stay, the team mem-

bers will attend a number of semi-

nars, symposiums and visit some

institutions to have first hand knowl-

edge about local government sys-

The tour takes place under a

orogramme titled 'Japan South

West Asia Youth Friendship

As part of its technical co-

operation with developing countries

since 1991 Japan International Co-

operation Agency (Jica) has so far

trained up a total of 354 profession-

als in the fields of teaching, social

welfare, medical service and local

The participants were accorded

reception at a pre-departure

Speaking on the occasion Jica

Resident Representative in Dhaka

Akio Arai said the visit is very impor-

tant as upon their return the participants will be able to apply their

knowledge of Japanese local gov-

ernment system in their respective

President of Jica Alumni

Association Bangladesh Ajmal

Chowdhury urged the participants

to keenly observe the Japanese

development model and apply

First Secretary of Japanese

Embassy in Dhaka Koji Nitta said

from their visit not only the partici-

pants will be benefited but also the

Japanese people who do not have

the opportunity to come to

Bangladesh can have ideas about

biggest donor, Additional Secretary

to establishment ministry Abdus

Sabur said the two countries can be

benefited by exchanging experi-

ence in their specialised fields.

Establish right

to reproductive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

human rights.

health of women'

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday

underscored the need for raising

awareness to establish the rights to

reproductive health of women as

social attitude towards women to

The Health Rights Project

Population Services and Training

Centre (PSTC), in association with

the daily Samakal organised the

roundtable on 'Reproductive health

rights of women' at the National

Press Club in the city to mark the

Halida Hanum Akhter, director

general of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, said

enjoying reproductive health means

having a safe sex life, the right to

information and the freedom to take

She pointed out that about one-

fifth of married teenage girls in the

country are forced to conceive

against their consent and most of

them have no knowledge about

various sexual diseases, including

raise awareness among people to

eliminate social prejudice against

reproductive health so that women

can take decisions on their own on

They also criticised the media,

particularly the electronic media, for

showing advertisements where

women are treated as a commodity.

Samakal, Rokeya Sultana of

JNFPA, Dr Julia Ahmed of

Bangladesh Women Health

Coalition, Milon Bikash Pal of

PSTC, Ranjan Karmakar of Steps

Towards Development, Dr

Makhduma Nargis Ratna of

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Dr

Rawshan Ara also spoke at the

roundtable moderated by Nitai Kanti

Das of Health Rights Project

Abed Khan, editor of the

The speakers urged the media to

decision on family planning.

HIV/AIDS.

such issues.

Presenting a keynote paper, Dr

World Population Day.

safeguard reproductive health rights.

They also called for changing

Terming Japan Bangladesh's

Bangladesh people and culture.

those in Bangladesh perspective.

ceremony at Brac Centre in the city

at Patnitala Upazila in Nawgaon.

fuel and fertilisers.

also addressed.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

coalition.

At least seven people, including a college teacher, were killed and six others injured in separate road accidents in Mymensingh, Khulna and Chittagong yesterday and on Sunday night.

Our correspondent from Mymensingh reports: At least four people, including a young woman, were killed and four others injured seriously in a road accident at Digarkanda bypass intersection on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Sadar upazila on Sunday night.

The dead were identified as Rafizuddin, 35, Abdur Rashid, 50, Sohel, 13, and Khaleda Begum, 35.

The accident took place when a passenger tempo bound for Churkhai Bazar from district town collided head-on with a truck coming from opposite direction leaving two on the spot, police said. Two others succumbed to their injuries on the way to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

Of the injured Helal Uddin 25 Harun, 30, Fazlu, 30, and Jesmin, 22, were admitted to MMCH in critical condition.

The bodies were sent to MMCH morgue for autopsy. Our Staff Correspondent from

Khulna reports: Two people, including a college teacher, were killed in a road accident in front of Phultala Unazila Parishad here vesterday The dead were identified as

Nazrul Islam Gazi, 35, a teacher of Alaipur College under Rupsha upazila and businessman Md Siddiqur Rahman, 50. Witnesses said they were run

over by a Khulna-bound passenger bus while they were crossing the road riding a motorcycle. Police seized the bus and motor-

cycle but driver and helper of the bus managed to escape. Transport services on Khulna-

Jessore highway remained suspended until 3:00pm as angry mob put up barricades protesting the

Siddiqur Rahman are still lying in the Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) morgue for autopsy. Our Correspondent from

Chittagong says: One young girl was killed and two others were injured in a road accident on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway vesterday. The accident occurred at around

9.30am when a Chittagong-bound microbus collided head-on with a Volvo bus coming from opposite direction at Kalshidighir Par area under Chandanaish upazila.

Microbus passenger Taslima, 17, daughter of Abul Kasem of Keranihat of Satkania, was killed on the spot while two others were

The injured identified as Gura Mia, 55, of Rashidnagar of Cox's Bazaar, and Ohidul Alam, 21, of Chakaria, were rushed to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

'Develop forum of inclusive edn' work on this issue effectively and in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop vesterday stressed the need for developing a common understanding and a forum of inclusive education to gather experience and knowledge in order to ensure education for all.

Unesco and the Institute of Education and Research (IER) jointly organised the workshop on 'Child-Friendly and Inclusive Education' at the Planning Academy

Inclusive education means a ommunity setting where all children regardless of their diversity in gender, race, class, religion, ethnicity, economic and social position and special needs or disability would be included in the regular education programme, the speak-

They said the education policies in the country tried to incorporate various issues such as nondiscrimination towards children with disability, but there is no clear indication to facilitate or develop guidelines to introduce inclusive educa-

Prof Nazmul Hag of IER said the targeted children of the programme include disadvantaged group, working children, orphans, indigenous children and physically challenged children.

"Inclusive education looks into how to transform education systems in order to remove the barriers that prevent pupils from participating fully in education. It examines how the educational provisions can be

modified to make education relevant to all.

Changing the teachers' and community's attitude teacher training, curriculum development, parental motivation, local capacity building, community involvement and resource mobilisation are a must to overcome the obstacles to inclusive education, the speakers recommended.

Unesco Dhaka has initiated an Inclusive Education Core Group (IECG) that comprises experts and practitioners in different levels to a participatory way. Director of IER Salma Akhter

chaired the programme while Unesco Representative Wolfgang Volmann spoke as the chief guest.

Programme Specialist of Unesco Dhaka Ichiro Miyazawa launched a toolkit to create a child-friendly and inclusive environment.

Executive Director of the Centre for Mass Education in Science (CMES) Dr Muhammad Ibrahim and Assistant Professor of IER Tariq Hassan also spoke.

Symposium

United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) organises a symposium on 'Population-growth and challenges of the MDGs in Bangladesh' Venue: Scout Bhaban, Kakrail. Time:

Seminar Nuplex, a company, will hold a seminar

on 'Alkyd Resin and Amino Resin for application in ink'. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 9:30am.

insurance in the context of

North South University organises a seminar on 'Potentiality of flood

Bangladesh'. Venue: Hotel Sarina.

Film screening Ontorjatra, a film by Tareque and

Catherine Masud, will be screened Venue: British Council Auditorium. Time: 5:00pm and 7:00pm.

Award giving ceremony

Meher Kabir Science Literature Award 2005 will be handed over to Prof Quazi Jaker Hossain. Venue: Bangla Academy seminar room. Time: 11:00am.

Rotary meet

The weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Motijheel will be held. Venue: Hotel Orchard Plaza. Time: 5:30pm.

Voter list updating

have no scope to examine the authenticity of the applications," a district election officer told The Daily Star yesterday. Besides, more or less one lakh

assistant officials, who will be recruited by July 20, will face enormous difficulties in accomplishing the task in 20 days. During the EC's previous attempt to prepare a fresh voter list, about 2.75 lakh manpower were employed and three months were afforded to get the job done, after which the EC also published a draft list, said election officials.

According to the Manual for Voter Registration and Preparation of a Voter List published by the EC, enumerators should go from door to door and collect information about prospective voters using only one type of form. The supervisors should then examine the information collected by the enumerators by going from door to door again and assistant registration officers should

also examine at least random ten percent of the collected information. Then a draft voter list should be published for people's inspection and for inviting claims and objections about it. The updating authori-

ties then should settle the claims

and objections. Then the final voter list should be published. Legal and election experts are

saying that the same procedure should be followed by the EC in the current task of updating the existing voter list. But the EC's latest procedure for undating the voter list although

incorporates door to door visits, it has no provision for examining the information provided in the applications for inclusions or deletions of The assistant officials will be the

final authorities regarding inclusions and deletions of names and they will have to visit many areas within 20 days to complete the task.

The EC already wasted six

months ignoring the January 4 High Court directives that had asked the EC to update the existing voter list. Even after the May 23 Supreme Court verdict, the EC initiated a procedure that empowered the EC

officials to update the voter list sitting in the offices of different local governments, but the procedure completely failed to get response from the people in the last 10 days. The election officials said the task may suffer from shortage of

manpower as only about a lakh

assistant officials will be recruited across the country and they will have to distribute and collect at least four types of forms for inclusions and deletions of names. Apart from manpower shortage.

the people will not be entitled to scrutinise whether any fake voter is enlisted, and prospective voters will not get the chance to inspect whether their own names are enlisted correctly as the EC remains rigid on its position not to publish a draft list The chief election commissioner

(CEC) on Sunday again declared that the EC will not publish a draft voter list although the election officials said the EC should decide to publish a draft list.

Apart from the legal experts who observed that the entire procedure will become illegal again unless a draft voter list is published. Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed on Sunday also said publication of a draft list is

But the CEC on Sunday claimed that the procedure initiated by the EC does not require publishing of a draft voter list.

BORDER INCIDENTS Indian HC concerned over media reports

UNB, Dhaka

The Indian High Commission here expressed concern over "continuing incorrect and sensational reports" in the local media blaming the BSF for various incidents along India-Bangladesh border.

In a press release, the High Commission referred to a UNB report of June 30 regarding the abduction of women by the BSF and said the report "is particularly distressing in its patent falsehood, bias and malicious intent." Giving its version of the incident,

the High Commission said on June 27 the BSF troops from border outpost (BOP) Charbhadra observed seven Bangladeshi women trespass into Indian territory near border pillar 158/1-S.

"However, when these womer were almost a kilometre inside the Indian territory, they could no longer be given the benefit of doubt as having strayed unintentionally, and were, accordingly, apprehended by the BSF," the release said.

It said identities of these womer as Bangladeshi nationals were confirmed upon questioning. "It was discovered that two of these

seven women had crossed illegally with the intention of smuggling, another two women wanted medical treatment and the remaining three were carrying about 20kgs of scrap to sell in a local market in India." The release said all the seven

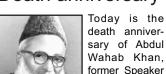
Bangladeshi women were handed over by the BSF to Jalangi police station in Murshidabad district (West Bengal) on the same day for egal action On June 29, it said a letter from

BDR Company Commander of BDR BOP Chilmari was received asking for a flag meeting and return of above Bangladeshi nationals. "The BSF agreed to hold a flag meeting on June 30 but no response to this offer was received from the BDR," the release said.

"It is, therefore, a blatant fabrication to assert as has been done by the UNB news item-that the BSF kidnapped seven Bangladeshi women.'

"Also, at no stage did the BSF enter the Bangladeshi territory. In fact, all the seven Bangladeshi women were apprehended deep inside the Indian territory," the release added.

Death anniversary



of Pakistan National Assembly, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held on Thursday at Barisal Gorastan Madrasa in Barisal

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to pray for salvation of his departed soul.

Begum Khurshid Chowdhury

Today is the second death anniversary of Begum Khurshid Chowdhury, wife of former president late Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, says a press release.

On the occasion. Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at Nagbari in Tangail. All have been requested to pray

for salvation of her departed soul.

Ali Azam

Today is the eighth death anniversary of Ali Azam, son of Prof Muhammad Ali Akbar, a book trader and proprietor of Jewel Library, says On the occasion, a milad and doa

mahfil will be held and food to be distributed among the destitute at his residence at 38, Vojohory Shaha Street, Narinda in the city.

Food will also be distributed at different orphanages and Azimpur new graveyard.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Farid Uddin Ahmed, former additional secretary and Principal Information Officer (PIO), will be held at the Nation Press Club in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

All have been requested to attend the gulkhwani

Farid, also an associate member of the National Press Club. was killed when a speedy train hit him at

Khilkhet in the city on July 8.

Maissa Karim



lftekhar and Nasrine R Karim, will be held at Azad Mosque in Gulshan after Asr prayers Friends, relatives and admirers

Qulkhwani of

are requested to attend the Qulkhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Maissa passed away peacefully her sleep on July 5 at Trinity Hospice in London at the age of 31.

Udjapan Parishad, Mohanagar Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad.

leaders of Bangladesh Puja Sarbojanin Puja Committee and Puja Udjapan Parishad Chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT US Ambassador in Bangladesh Patricia A Butenis yesterday visited

Dhakeshwari

Dhakeshwari Mandir, the historic temple of the Hindu community in the city and exchanged views with the leaders of the community on minority issues in the country. The priest of the national temple

Pradip Kumar Chakravarti and others welcomed the Ambassador at around 10:30am, said a press release Butenis visited different structures of the temple and talked to the

Adviser Major General (Retd) CR Dutt Biruttam, its president Chittaranjan Sarker and Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikva Parishad General Secretary Dr Nim Chandra Bhowmic were also present during the visit.

Death threat for withdrawal of case

2nd victim of May 14 attack dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT A director of a recruiting agency has received death threats from a group of extortionists demanding immediate withdrawal of a murder

Dr Halida Hanum Akhter, director general of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, speaks at a press confer-

ence on World Population Day at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

case against them. The extortionists, who are the members of Joy's group, one of the 23 most wanted criminals of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, have been threatening the director of Turki Associated Limited, a manpower recruiting agency, at

Hatirpool to kill him if he does not withdraw the case in short time. "Jov. who runs the underworld from a neighbouring country, threatened to kill me within seven days if we do not withdraw the case

instantly", added Jahangir Alam, the director of the agency.

One person was killed and at

least five others were injured on the spot when Joy's members stormed into the manpower office and sprayed bullets at the clients

and officials on May 14. The agency officials said Joy's goons attacked, as they were not

given Tk 5 crore as extortion. Meanwhile, Shahjalal, 22, one of the injured in the bullet attack, succumbed to his injuries vesterday at Padma General Hospital in the city after two months of fighting

Shahjalal, a relative of one of the clients of Turki Associates, was hit with bullet by the extortionists when he accompanied Ali to the office to see him off on the day of

the incident. The Turki Associates filed a case in this connection with Ramna

Humidity in

Police Station on May 15.



Light to moderate rain likely

6:00pm today.

5:19am tomorrow.

major cities and towns yesterday were:

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met office said in a forecast. It said that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over

Highest temperature 32.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dinajpur and Sayedpur and lowest 24.8 degree Celsius at Jessore. The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

in Celsius percentage Max Morning Evening Dhaka 30.0 25.2 Chittagong 29.0 25.5 Rajshahi 28.7 26.6 93 92 84 29.6 25.5 94 Khulna Barisal 30.2 26.0 96 71 Sylhet 31.8 26.7 83 Cox's Bazar 100 100 26.8 25.2

Temperature

Seminar