

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.

programmes, he added. 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.

"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.

B Chy hints at forming unity with 14-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said they might form programme-based unity with Awami League-led 14-party coalition. "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 at Patnitala Upazila in Nawgaon.

29 field-level officials leave for Japan today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of 29 field-level administrative officials are leaving Dhaka today on a three-week visit to Japan. During their stay, the team members will attend a number of seminars, symposiums and visit some institutions to have first hand knowledge about local government system in Japan.

Speaking on the occasion Jica Resident Representative in Dhaka Akio Arai said the visit is very important as upon their return the participants will be able to apply their knowledge of Japanese local government system in their respective fields. President of Jica Alumni Association Bangladesh Ajmal Chowdhury urged the participants to keenly observe the Japanese development model and apply those in Bangladesh perspective.

'Establish right to reproductive health of women'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday underscored the need for raising awareness to establish the rights to reproductive health of women as human rights. They also called for changing social attitude towards women to safeguard reproductive health rights. 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 World Population Day.



LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan speaks at a press conference at the conference room of the ministry in the city yesterday.

7 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

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.

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 Upazila Parishad here yesterday.

Bodies of Nazrul Islam and 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 yesterday. 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.



Dr Halida Hanum Akhter, director general of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, speaks at a press conference on World Population Day at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

DU economics dept initiatives to provide quality edn

DU CORRESPONDENT

Authorities of the Department of Economics of Dhaka University (DU) have taken up various initiatives, including student scholarships, computer laboratory and multi-media centre, in a bid to provide quality education to the students and to ensure their bright future. Authorities said they have managed 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 scholarships worth Tk 12,000.

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 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.

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 yesterday at Padma General Hospital in the city after two months of fighting for life.

US envoy visits Dhakeshwari temple

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador in Bangladesh Patricia A Butenis yesterday visited 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.

WEATHER TODAY

Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

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."

'Develop forum of inclusive edn'

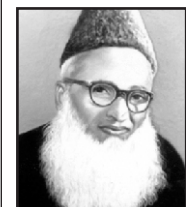
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday 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 in the city. Inclusive education means a community 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 speakers said.

work on this issue effectively and in 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.

Today is the death anniversary of Abdul Wahab Khan, former Speaker of Pakistan National Assembly, says a press release. On the occasion, a milad and milad mahfil will be held on Thursday at Barisal Gorastan Madrasa in Barisal after Esha prayers. Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to pray for salvation of his departed soul.

Death anniversary



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DHAKA TODAY event listings including Symposium, Film screening, Seminar, and Rotary meet with details on time and venue.

Voter list updating

FROM PAGE 1

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 updating 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 names.

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 entered 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 a must.

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 qulkhwani. 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



Qulkhwani of Maissa Karim, only daughter of Iftekhar and Nasrine R Karim, will be held at Azad Mosque in Gulshan after Asr prayers today, says a press release. Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the Qulkhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul. Maissa passed away peacefully in her sleep on July 5 at Trinity Hospice in London at the age of 31.