



Prof Anisuzzaman speaks at a regional dialogue on 'National Election 2007: Civil society initiative for accountable development' at Narayanganj yesterday. Sitting from left are Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of CPD, Toimur Alam Khondoker, chairman of BRTC, Afzal Hossain, former member of parliament, Selina Hayat Iy, chairman of Narayanganj Pourashava, and Fazlul Haque, president of BKMEA. The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), the Prothom Alo, The Daily Star and Channel I jointly organised the event.

65pc watch television  
Survey reveals

Sixty-five percent of people aged 15 and above watch television at least once a week, according to a recent survey by ACNielsen, a market research and information company.

The reach of the media was studied through Bangladesh Media and Demographic Survey on about 15,000 people in both urban and rural areas, says a press release.

"Overall, the television viewership has increased by 34 percentage point in the last ten years due to various satellite channels. The radio listenership has also increased to 24 percent in 2006 from 22 percent in the last year," Dr Khalid Hasan, managing director of ACNielsen Bangladesh, quoted from the survey results.

The survey also found that the ownership of television has changed tremendously, which has reflected in the lifestyle of mass people. At present, 41 percent of the households have television, whereas only 8 percent owned television in 1995.

The report of the Bangladesh Media and Demographic Survey 2006 was launched at Brac Centre Inn in Dhaka recently.

Dr Khalid Hasan, managing director, and SA Taha, client service director of ACNielsen Bangladesh, explained the various changes of the media exposure while Satish D Belani, director, operations, ACNielsen India, demonstrated the software used in the survey.

Representatives from the media agencies and national and multinational companies were present at the programme.

PM shocked at loss of lives in India

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has expressed deep shock at the loss of many lives in bomb blasts at Malegaon in Maharashtra of India on Friday.

In a message to Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, Khaleda yesterday said "We express our total solidarity with the people and the government of India, as you try cope with the consequences of this unfolding tragedy".

"We strongly condemn this act of violence and we are confident that they will be brought to justice."

AL, KSJL clash in Tangail: 10 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between the Awami League (AL) and Krishak Sramik Janata League (KSJL) in Tangail town yesterday evening.

Activists of both the warring groups also vandalised about 10 shops and seven vehicles during the half-hour-long clash.

Witnesses said the clash erupted when two processions of the two parties came face to face in Old Bus Stand area at around 6:00pm.

Tangail district unit of AL took out a procession from its office in support of today's hartal. On the other hand, Krishak Sramik Janata League took out the other procession to welcome Jukta Front launched in Dhaka yesterday.

The clash spread to Kalibari and Victoria Road areas, leaving 10 people injured. Among the injured are Joint Secretary of Tangail AL Advocate Zoaherul Islam Zoaher, Juba League activists Khairuzzaman Milton and Zakir Hossain and Chhatra Andolon leader Mohammad Manik. Chhatra Andolon is the student wing of Krishak Sramik Janata League.

The activists of the Krishak Sramik Janata League also damaged a showroom of motorcycles, owned by AL leader Sirajul Haque Khan Alamgir.

Later, the police resorted to baton charge to bring the situation under control.

Additional police forces were deployed at different points as tension was prevailing in the town following the clashes.

NUF protests PM's remarks about election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly formed National Unity Front (NUF) yesterday protested the prime minister's recent remarks about holding election, saying that people of the country would reject any election like February 15, 1996.

The NUF at its liaison committee meeting urged the government to shun confrontational politics and meet the demand for electoral reforms to pave the way for a free and fair election.

The contradictory statement by prime minister and BNP secretary general on holding next election have created doubt and confusion among people, the meeting said.

Condemning the police action on 14-party leaders and obstruction to NUF procession on Wednesday, the NUF leaders said no election will be held under the present election commission.

NUF Member Secretary Abdur Rouf presided over the meeting.



Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Jote takes out a procession from Mukhtangan in the city yesterday protesting the killing of a jute mill worker in Khulna on Thursday and demanding payment of salary arrears to workers.

Killing of worker in Khulna protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Jote yesterday staged a demonstration at city's Mukhtangan protesting killing of the worker in Khulna.

The speakers at a rally demanded judicial investigation into the incident of police fire on the agitating jute mill workers,

compensation to the dead and injured workers and their families and to pay the arrears of the workers.

Presided over by worker leader MA Berek, the speakers said wages of the jute mill workers remain unpaid for several months though the salaries of the high officials are regularly paid.

9 British visa seekers handed over to police

UNB, Dhaka

Nine Bangladeshis seeking British visa were handed over to police by British immigration officials here after detecting alleged forgery in the past six weeks.

The nature of forgery was varied, starting from submitting false bank draft to substitution of photos and fake passports and other documents. One of the arrested applicants was suspected as human trafficker, the HC source said.

Director of Immigration at the British High Commission Bharat Joshi told UNB that these were serious cases of "fraudulence". But he would not comment on individual cases.

"We're closely working with the police (special branch) here to detect visa applicants with forged documents which contravene both Bangladeshi and British laws," Joshi said.

Some dubious agents lurking in dark places are engaged in the visa business and offering bad advice to visa-seekers for exorbitant amounts of money, the sources said.

According to statistics of the British Immigration here, about 25 per cent of all applications use forged documentation.



CARE President Gayle in city

UNB, Dhaka

President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CARE USA Dr Helene D Gayle arrived here yesterday on a five-day official visit.

She will visit CARE programmes focusing on HIV and AIDS prevention, agriculture market development and empowerment of women, says a press release.

Dr Gayle's first trip to Bangladesh is a part of series country office visits to familiarise herself with CARE's work around the world and inform her future plans for the organisation.

She will return to the United States on September 13.

Sensitise people to HIV/AIDS  
Shamsul urges media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday underscored the need for inclusion of reproductive health issues and HIV/AIDS in the national textbook curriculum to create awareness among people about them.

He said the media has also a crucial role to play to sensitise people across the country about reproductive health and HIV/AIDS issues.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at a workshop titled 'Reproductive health, gender issues and HIV/AIDS at the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) in the city.

The sensitisation workshop for media personnel was organised jointly by the Department of Mass Communication (DMC) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The information minister said the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the country still remains low than any other neighbouring countries due to strong adherence of the people to social and religious values.

Presiding over the workshop Abdul Mannan, director general of DMC, said the workshop has been organised under a project styled 'Advocacy on reproductive health and gender issues through DMC' to enrich the knowledge of journalists so that they can produce effective report and increase public awareness.

Pornchai Suchitta, UNFPA repre-

sentative to Bangladesh, and Major General (Retd) Motiur Rahman, chairman of the Technical Committee on National AIDS Committee (NAC), also addressed the inaugural session.

Later speaking at the working session, experts reiterated the need for population control through family planning and the role of media in this connection.

Nurul Ameen, assistant country representative of UNFPA, said the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) in the country is 58 percent and women are found to conceive very frequently only for having son.

"Change of mindset is crucial for bringing change in human behaviour," he added.

Emphasising the role of mass media, Nikesh Amit, national

programme officer of UNFPA, said change of behaviour takes place after several stages.

Mass media can play a supportive role along with interactive, interpersonal and group discussion, he added.

The speakers asked for advocating the women and youth as different studies show that among the victims of sexual diseases, 50 percent are women and 50 percent are youth aged between 12 and 24.

They also asked for involving religious leaders in advocacy programme to create public awareness.

They also expressed concern over the growing risk of AIDS as the country is surrounded by AIDS-affected neighbours and the number of drug addicts is increasing alarmingly.

Exams postponed

All examinations of Dhaka University (DU) under course system scheduled to be held tomorrow have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says a DU press release yesterday.

Fresh date of the postponed examinations will be announced soon.

Meanwhile, UNB adds: All examinations under National University (NU) scheduled for today have been re-scheduled

due to unavoidable circumstances.

According to the new schedule examinations of second year honours-2005 will be held on October 7 while examinations of BSc honours in Computer Science Part-3 on September 11 and examinations of MBM first year 2nd term and 2nd year 5th term on September 19.

Schedule of other examinations will remain unchanged, said an NU release.



Kader Siddiqui, president of Krishak Sramik Janata League, and ASM Abdur Rob, coordinator of Unity for Political Reforms, discuss a point at the launching ceremony of Jukta Front at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

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- The second semester is taught at ICDDR, B, Dhaka, where the students receive access to their many facilities including library, laboratories and field sites.

**Fees:**

- The programme is financed by BRAC and other donors. Total cost of the programme is approximately Taka 12 lakhs per student, which includes tuition, food & accommodation, and other academic costs.
- Admission is need-blind. Successful Bangladeshi candidates will receive financial aid amounting to 90% of the total cost. The aid may be increased in case of students in financial hardships.

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The MPH is particularly suited to individuals who wish to build or further enhance their career in public health or allied areas. Candidates fulfilling the following criteria are eligible to apply:

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- Proficiency in English (written and spoken): A minimum TOEFL score of 250 on computer-based test or IELTS of 6.5 is desirable.
- At least 2 years experience in health related work.
- Computer literacy is must; skill in using data analysis software will be an advantage.
- Candidates must also attend (i) a written test (in Logical Reasoning, Basic Arithmetic, General Knowledge and English), (ii) Group interview and (iii) Individual interview.

**Application deadline:**  
October 5, 2006. Only short listed candidates will be called for written test and interview. Application forms may be downloaded from the website or collected from BRAC University Admissions Office. For further inquiries please visit [www.bracuniversity.ac.bd](http://www.bracuniversity.ac.bd) or call 9881265 Ext: 4164. Applications should include completed *application form, detailed CV, and 2 copies of recent passport size photographs*. Please mention "MPH programme 2007-08" on top of the envelope.

Applications should be sent to: Dr. Shahaduz Zaman, Coordinator, MPH Programme, School of Public Health, BRAC University, 66 Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka 1212. Email: [zaman.s@bracuniversity.ac.bd](mailto:zaman.s@bracuniversity.ac.bd) (preferred in pdf format)

**Govt. Laboratory High School, Dhaka**  
To celebrate the up-coming reunion, a preparatory meeting will take place at Dhanmondi, House # 11B, Road # 14 (new), Atashee Appt. (flat E-1) on 16 September, Saturday, 6.30 PM. Interested all are requested to attend the meeting.

Contact:  
Kona (Lab #68): 0189-239531  
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Masum (Lab #81): 01715-057070  
Rubel (Lab #91): 0189-232428

MD. Sajjad Hussain (Lab #64)  
Convener  
Reunion Preparatory Committee 2007

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