

Programme to boost FP next month

By Special Correspondent

The government will organise a fortnight-long programme next month to give a big thrust to population control activities.

The aim of the programme, styled the 'Family Planning Fortnight 1993', is to prepare for the challenges posed by an ever-growing population by building up family planning (FP) as a social movement.

The authorities concerned in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are now busy preparing for the fortnight, to be observed countrywide from December 6.

We will not keep ourselves confined to seminars and workshops — the fortnight, the first of its kind, will be an action-oriented programme to activate family planning at the field level," said an official.

The programme is a part of the government's special drive to achieve the targets of Fourth Five Year Plan (1990-95) in FP activities that include reduction of the population growth rate to 1.8 per cent.

The existing growth rate is 2.03 — we will need a big thrust as well as concerted efforts if we have to achieve the target by June '95," said an authoritative source in the ministry.

The major objectives of the fortnight are to determine fu-

ture plan and policy of the FP programmes, to involve the whole nation in the movement and to improve services at all levels through improvement of the service providers skills.

During the fortnight all clinics and service centres throughout the country will provide special FP services.

Promotion of clinical contraception, including sterilisation and IUD, will be emphasised during the fortnight since there have been little progress in these methods.

Informed sources said that while the success in the non-clinical contraception is satisfactory, the achievement in the clinical method has been only 50 to 60 per cent of the target.

At least 50 clinics at the Thana Health Complexes will arrange special sterilisation camps while all the Family Welfare centres and clinics will conduct special IUD programmes. Satellite clinics will also be set up during the fortnight which will offer special services for FP and maternal and child health care.

Workshops and orientation meetings will be arranged at the thana and union levels where local MPs and people's representatives will be involved.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia offering munja after inaugurating the newly-established Securities and Exchange Commission at the Jiban Bima Tower in the city yesterday. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam and State Minister for Finance M Mozbar Rahman are also seen. — PID photo

USAID chief greets Saifur

The chief of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Brian Atwood congratulated Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman on his election as the Chairman of the Board of World Bank group and the IMF, reports UNB.

In a recent letter to the Finance Minister Atwood praised Bangladesh's achievements in rice production, family planning and economic growth.

He also appreciated Saifur's work to balance budget, increase revenues, reform the financial sector, liberalise the economy and provide conditions necessary for sustainable development.

The USAID chief termed the Finance Minister's election the recognition of his vision and leadership.

Atwood also showed keen interest in further development of Bangladesh, said an official handout yesterday.

PM: capital market

From Page 1 Col 7 to development.

The inauguration ceremony was also addressed by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, State Minister for Finance Mozbar Rahman and Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed. SEC Chairman Sultan-us-Zaman Khan welcomed the guests for gracing the occasion.

Terminating the establishment of the SEC as an epoch-making step in the development of the country's capital market, the Prime Minister said that the commission would create dynamism in the expanding market economy.

She underlined the need for ensuring the involvement of the representatives of the stock exchange in the SEC, hoping that all concerned would work unitedly to develop the capital market.

An organised and active capital market plays a crucial role in economic development, Begum Zia said, while noting that the expansion of the securities market was dependent on the wider participation of the people and other related institutions.

She regretted that the private sector, which plays a key role in developing the capital market, was neglected immediately after independence.

Pledging to initiate all necessary steps to activate the capital market, Begum Zia said her government seeks to create a favourable investment climate and would encourage all types of savings and investments.

The Prime Minister noted that the government had already initiated a series of steps towards developing a market economy.

The inaugural function was attended by, among others, cabinet members, diplomats, senior government officials, representatives of donor agencies, bank officials, leading businessmen and industrialists, and members of the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

State Minister for Finance Mozbar Rahman hoped that in the near future the capital market would gain momentum.

He said the government had already taken a number of steps to streamline the operations of the market economy, including steps towards privatisation.

deregulation, repatriation of investments and profit of foreign investors, reducing the interest rates on savings instruments and also withdrawing the requirement to seek permission to float bonus and right shares.

Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed noted that the capital market can play a pivotal role in capital formation and in the proper use of internal resources. He said that the SEC has a vital role to play in the development of the country's capital market, which could help to attain a self-reliant economy.

Earlier, in his welcoming address, the SEC Chairman pointed out that revitalisation of the capital market is an integral part of the reform measures already initiated by the government in the banking, monetary and fiscal sectors.

He also appreciated the keen personal interest taken by the Finance Minister in setting up the SEC.

Investments in the field of commerce and industry have not yet been impressive, he said, due to the lack of knowledge about the benefits of share market investment, erroneous concepts about the share business as well as an absence of strong legal and institutional structures to safeguard investors' interest.

The commission is expected to alleviate these conditions to some extent," he added.

He identified the priority areas for the commission as: removing procedural and bureaucratic bottlenecks to the development of the capital market; attracting greater investments; ensuring payment of due dividends; making the stock exchange more transparent; and taking up promotional activities.

He also pledged to hold close consultations with all concerned, especially the private sector, with a view to solving the problems of the capital market.

Later, SEC plaques were presented to the Prime Minister, Finance Minister, State Minister for Finance and the Finance Secretary.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia then went on to unveil the plaque at the SEC office.

BIWTA expects Tk 11.40 cr from lease of ghats

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has fixed a target to earn Taka 11.40 crore by leasing out 232 ghats in the country in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The income in this sector during the fiscal years 1992-93 and 1991-92 were Taka 9.86 and 7.83 crore respectively.

This was stated in the 24th meeting of the standing parliamentary committee on the Ministry of Shipping held here yesterday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan with Shipping Minister M K Anwar in the chair.

The meeting also discussed the overall activities of the organisation and progress of implementation of its various projects.

The meeting was informed that out of about 1400 launch ghats the BIWTA was now extending passengers facilities, including pontoon and waiting shed at 250 ghats. The meeting was also told that under the third inland water transport development project, about one hundred launch ghats — mostly in the rural areas — would be revamped.

It was informed in the meeting that an inland river port would be established at Noapara under Jessore district on the bank of the river Bhairab to provide transit facilities of different merchandise, including food grains, jute goods, cement and other construction materials catering to the needs of the south-western district of the country.

In the first phase, two pontoons and one jetty would be provided for the port at a cost of Taka 97 lakh which would generate an yearly income to the tune of about Taka 31 lakh for the BIWTA.

The meeting was informed that the BIWTA was now maintaining about six thousand kilometres of river route in the country. The meeting also discussed different aspects of the development of Chandpur river port, dredging of Kushiara and other rivers, construction of a launch ghat on the Kushiara river at the other side of Sherpur, establishment of an inland container port near Dhaka and other development projects under the BIWTA.

Shipping Secretary Waliul Islam, Chairman of the BIWTA M G Kibria and senior officials of the ministry concerned and its subordinate organisations were present.

Akhtaruzzaman

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murder of a Dhaka businessman Humayun Zahir last April, has been in hiding for the past several months to escape arrest.

Police raided different places to nab Akhtaruzzaman but could not yet trace him.

The tribunal has heard 16 witnesses so far in favour of the petitioner and the respondent was asked to appear before the court on November 13 to defend himself. But the respondent did not appear before the court.

Now the tribunal has ordered the respondent Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury to appear personally before the court on November 17 to defend himself.

The world fails to end

KIEV, Nov 14: Ukrainian police announced on Sunday that the 'end of the world' prophesied by the Great White Brotherhood cult had produced an anti-climax, with no incidents reported, reports Reuter.

Today is off. The end of the world is hereby cancelled," Deputy Interior Ministry Valenty Nedrehaylo said by telephone after 12 am (1000 GMT), the deadline by which police said any unusual events were to occur.

A few hundred people gathered outside 11th century St Sofia Cathedral, but there were no incidents.

Police last week detained the cult's two main leaders. But the pair insisted in detention that the mass 'resurrection' of the cult's 'living god' Marina Tsvygun, and nearly 150,000 followers would go ahead without them.

"The sun is shining and the brothers and sisters are in prison in good health", Nedrehaylo said.

Prokrichi

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ordination Committee and secretary general of the PROKRICHI, told this correspondent last evening. "The agitating officials and professionals, since 1981, had been asserting establishment of a democratic, accountable administration based on professionalism and equality among the government cadres.

The Pay and Service Commission (P & SC) published a report in December 1977 recommending 28 functional cadres for the country based on equality of pay, status and promotion prospects.

The PROKRICHI, a federation of engineers, agriculturists and doctors, was constituted in February 1978.

The Midnight File

Israel to continue talks with PLO

JERUSALEM, Nov 14: Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said today that Israel was determined to go on talking to the PLO now that the organisation had denounced five PLO members for killing a Jewish settler. The talks, on implementing a troop pull-out in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, are due to resume in Cairo on Monday. Under a September 13 peace agreement, the withdrawal will begin in December, reports Reuter.

Benazir meets Rabbani

ISLAMABAD, Nov 14: Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto urged Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani here today to mediate an end to current factional fighting in Afghanistan. During a meeting with Rabbani, she expressed Pakistan's deep concern over the hostilities, state-run television said. Rabbani, who was received on arrival here earlier in the day by Pakistan's newly elected President Farooq Ahmed Leghari, is due to leave for Egypt tomorrow, reports AFP.

Two hurt as roof of school canteen collapses in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two employees of the Willes Little Flower School were seriously hurt yesterday when a crane being used at an adjacent construction site fell on the tin roof of the school compound.

The mishap occurred at around 8.45 in the morning when a crane filled with building material, at a nine-storeyed Eastern Housing Limited construction site along the western boundary of the school, at Kakrail in the city, collapsed and fell on the school canteen.

Eastern Housing Limited is constructing a nine-storeyed apartment building on the western side of the school's boundary at Kakrail in the city.

However, none of the students, appearing at their annual examinations, were present near the canteen area at the time of the collapse. The examinations started at 8 am yesterday.

Credit insurance

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ance for lending money for big private sector investment and termed it as 'unhealthy thinking'.

Referring to a front-page news report, headlined 'Banks shy to invest for lack of risk cover,' published in the November 13 issue of The Daily Star, the minister said "I was disturbed by looking at this report, where a banker, in an interview, sought insurance from the government for lending for investment in the private sector."

He said the banks should cover their own risk because they are the ones who are lending the money, which they should do judiciously anyway.

The Finance Minister was also critical about the performance of the financial sector. "The banking sector has to be further improved," he said. "Their investment shyness still persists, but we are trying to remove it."

New banks

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source said it is still a very remote possibility.

He said one of the depositors of the BCI has filed a case for appointment of a receiver and the court will appoint a liquidator to assess the inventory of the assets and liabilities of the BCI. After taking the inventory, the investors may apply to the High Court for turning it into a bank after fulfilling necessary conditions.

Ansar firing

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out of the train, his colleague rushed to his help, firing his rifle, witnesses said.

"The Ansars kept on firing even when they jumped on the train which was going to Kamalapur station after a three-minute break," said Ali Akbar, a witness.

When the train left, hundreds of people from the nearby Ashkona village went on a rampage at the Airport railway station. The mob broke all the windowpanes of the newly-built station building.

Station Master M A Bari said that scores of passengers of the Mahanagar Express and the inter-city Jamuna train were injured when those two trains were passing through the station.

The Upakul Express was late for sometime as it waited at the Cantonment railway station when the mob was demonstrating on the railway tracks, the station master said.

However, over one hundred riot policemen from the Uttara, Cantonment and Gulshan police stations rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control.

Some passengers said that many people travel on the trains without tickets. The Ansars and ticket checkers often allow them to travel after taking bribe, they added.

The two Ansars — Montu Mia and Rafiqul Islam — both aged 22, were taken into custody by Kamalapur Railway police. They might be produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate today.

Murder cases were lodged with the Railway police against the two culprits.

20 lawyers join AL

Some 20 lawyers, led by former General Secretary of Dhaka Ainjibi Samity and NAP (M) central leader Advocate AKM Shamsuddin Ahmed, have joined Awami League, reports UNB.

Falu Miah

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Falu Miah, his hair grown grey and without a number of teeth, was wearing a chequered lungi and a coffee coloured shirt when he appeared in court.

He has not seen any of his relatives for a long time now, nor does he know whether any of his kith or kin is still alive. He has no information about the whereabouts of his wife whom he last saw in mid-1973.

When Judge Abdus Salam took up the matter, PP Abdur Razzak Khan told the court that three dacoity cases have been filed against Falu Miah, of which only one has been disposed of.

Khan said for reasons unknown to the prosecution, the accused was in jail although his term of punishment in the one solitary case ended in 1986. As per the jail report, two other cases, also for dacoity, filed against him in 1972, are still pending and he was never produced in court for those cases, the PP said.

Judge Abdus Salam asked for an account of the government money spent all these years for his upkeep.

PP Khan said the authorities would have no objection if anyone was willing to take Falu Miah.

Advocate Eliza Aziz of the Bangladesh Human Rights Enforcement Society said her organisation was ready to care for Falu Miah.

The judge asked her to seek Falu Miah's consent.

Later the judge allowed Falu Miah out on bail for Taka 12,000.

He is expected to come out of the Central Jail today, court sources said.

Meanwhile the judge fixed November 24 for the next hearing of the pending cases against Falu Miah and directed the Superintendent of Police, Dhaka to ensure that the relevant case documents lying with the respective thanas are produced.

"My parents were killed by Pak bahini (army) on the 25th of March, 1971 and my only brother later died of ailments," he told newsmen from the court dock. When asked what he would do if released, a tearful Falu Miah said: "I have no place to go."

Falu Miah was picked up by some people from near the Mirpur mazar one evening in August 1972 where he had gone as a porter carrying someone's luggage. Thereafter he was taken to the Savar thana, beaten up severely for several days.

He refused to make any false confession, whereupon he was sent to the Central Jail by the Savar police. And there he has lived ever since.

Degree results

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Course with a pass percentage of 57.65.

Manirul Huq Khan of Kazi Azimuddin College in Gazipur stood first in the B A pass examinations securing 680 marks. He was followed by Asaduzzaman (private) with 655 marks and KM Enayet Hossain of SK College, Gopalganj with 651 marks.

Saiful Islam of Nasirabad College, Mymensingh stood first among the Science students securing 622 marks. Amina Farhad (Roll-45884) from the same college stood second securing 614 marks while Seema Ejaj Ali (Roll-45896) was placed in the third position with 602 marks.

The detailed results have already been sent to respective colleges and centres for display. The results will not be hung at the University Administrative Building.

Dhaka still silent over US Peace Corps

The US Peace Corps is planning to divert its planned assistance to Bangladesh of about Tk 20 million dollars to other countries due to the government's indecision to okay its programmes.

Officials of the American voluntary organisation told PROBE News Agency in Washington that it was likely to abandon the programme because the Bangladesh government was yet to decide on allowing its activities in the country.

The Washington-based organisation had extensive negotiations with relevant officials of the Bangladesh government and the matter of assistance in the country's development programmes was almost finalised about a year ago.

The negotiations followed a visit to Bangladesh in 1991 of former Peace Corps chief Paul Douglas Conoverdale who discussed the matter with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. The programme was to be started with English language training for teachers and later expanded to health, family planning and agriculture sectors.

The BNP government, having just come to power then, preferred to take time to decide on the sensitive issue. The US side, too, suggested that attempts at first be made to smooth out political opposition to the programme.

A cabinet meeting discussed a proposal of the Foreign Ministry in this regard on September 16 last, but refrained from taking any decision to allow the activities in Bangladesh of the Peace Corps in the face of opposition from several ministers.

Peace Corps officials in Washington were reluctant to disclose the exact amount of assistance that could be extended to Bangladesh, but a competent source said that it would be around 20 million dollars.

The organisation extends direct assistance to developing countries for child health and education, agriculture, poverty alleviation, environmental protection, social development as well as development project planning and implementation.

A total of 280 million dollars has been allocated for the Peace Corps budget which will be increased to 300 million dollars in 1994.

The Peace Corps officials told PROBE that it did not participate in development programmes of any country without the specific recommendation and permission of the concerned government.

Earlier, on July 13, 1978, the United States and Bangladesh signed an accord in Washington during the Zia regime on the Peace Corps activities in Bangladesh, but this was not implemented due to strong opposition from politicians.

DUJA threatens to boycott BCL ((M-I)

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka University Journalists' Association (DUJA) has threatened to refrain from covering the news of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) from November 18 unless action was taken by Nov 17 against a central member of the organisation for misbehaving with a member of the association.

Hamid Nasir Chhattha, a bitter Sharif foe and leader of the PML splinter group PML-Junejo, a partner in the ruling coalition, has predicted large-scale defections from Sharif's party.

Bhutto and Sharif had been victims of the Eighth Amendment, used against them by former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Observers said that, with her ally in the highest slot, Bhutto would have a level ground to implement socio-economic promises she made to the electorate in the October 6 general election.

Leghari's election was also likely to minimise chances of political confrontation and power feuds.

Bhutto now controls two arms of the country's ruling triumvirate, while the third pillar — the powerful military — remained neutral in the presidential contest and is yet to comment on Leghari's elevation.

The President is also the supreme commander of the armed forces and wields the power to appoint chiefs of the three services.

Leghari's win gives Bhutto's PPP the presidency for the first time in some 16 years.

He was also the first elected politician to hold the office of President since late Chaudhury Fazal Elahi, who served until General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq toppled the PPP government of her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was later executed.

Dangers over: Leghari

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to curtail presidential powers, particularly a discretionary authority to dissolve the National Assembly introduced by late military ruler General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

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A father (L) with the help of a policeman escorts his daughter away from the square outside the St Sofia Cathedral in Kiev, Ukraine Saturday. The daughter is a member of the 'White Brotherhood' religious cult. — AFP photo

12 feared dead in Chinese plane crash

BEIJING, Nov 14: Up to 12 people were feared dead and more than 30 injured when a China Northern Airlines plane crashed near the northwestern city of Urumqi, it was reported today, says AFP.

Two or three passengers died on impact when flight CJ 6901 crashed near a small village at 2.56 pm (0656 GMT) Saturday as it approached Urumqi Airport, an aviation official said by telephone from the capital of Xinjiang province.

But, he added, many more passengers may have subsequently succumbed to their injuries in hospital.

Hazratbal crisis deepens: JKLF march today

SRINAGAR, Nov 14: Four men fled from Hazratbal as a Kashmir leader spearheading protests against the army siege of the mosque today ruled out further talks to end the standoff at the holy shrine, reports AFP.

An Indian army commander in charge of the siege of Hazratbal identified three of the alleged escapees as Muslim militants and the fourth as a civilian, adding that two of them had fled the barricaded shrine late Saturday night.

All four surrendered to soldiers surrounding the mosque and three of them were being interrogated.

The Hazratbal crisis meanwhile deepened today as a