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NID programme extended for a day

By Staff Correspondent
The fourth National Immunisation Day (NID) will be observed tomorrow and also the day after throughout the country.

About two crore children under five will be given polio vaccine and Vitamin-A doses from 8 am to 4 pm on the days as part of a national, regional and global objective of eradicating polio by the year 2000.

Speaking at a press briefing on NID yesterday, Minister for Health and Family Welfare Salauddin Yusuf said, "We have fixed the dates after holding

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Make tomorrow's hartal a success: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the people to protest the 'black agreement' on the CHT by making tomorrow's country-wide dawn-to-dusk hartal a success, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, she asked the people to stand against the CHT agreement signed by the subservient government against the country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and the constitution.

Begum Zia said the government

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Bill to be placed in next JS session Death penalty proposed for rail, road barricade

By Mizan Ali

Obstructing rail, road and waterway communications is a criminal offence under a proposed bill, seeking a maximum punishment of death sentence for this.

A bill in this regard will be placed before the Jatiya Sangsad in its next session.

The draft bill, titled Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children and Anti-Terrorism Bill, was approved by the cabinet about three weeks ago.

The bill, prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs, seeks to replace the Women and Children Repression Act, 1995. All pending cases under the Act will be disposed of according to the provisions of the proposed bill, it passed by the Sangsad.

The bill says, "Death penalty or life imprisonment or rigorous imprisonment (RI) ranging from seven to 14 years may be awarded to anyone found guilty

of 'extortion'.
"Of obstructing rail, road and waterway communication, setting fire to installation of power and telecommunication, moveable and immovable property of government, autonomous, non-government organisations and embassies.

"Of creating anarchy at public places, industries, organisations, terminals.
And "of planning to create obstacles or interfering in the invitation, distribution of tender forms of institutions."

Investigation of cases filed under the proposed bill will have to be completed within 60 days of the report on offence or order of the magistrate. The court may, however, extend the time limit by 30 days in the first phase and another 30 days in the next phase.

Any person directly accused of any offence under the bill

will not be granted bail during the investigation period.

Courts constituted under the bill will complete trial of the cases within 120 days of receipt of those.

The bill further says, a maximum punishment of death penalty or life imprisonment with a fine of Tk one lakh may be awarded to anyone found guilty of attempting to kill or of killing a child or woman with explosive materials.

"A maximum of seven years and a minimum of three years RI with a fine of Tk 50,000 may be awarded to anyone for attempting to throw explosive material on a woman or a child even if the person is not physically or mentally affected."

About crimes relating to trafficking of women and children, abduction of women, rape and dowry the bill says, "Death

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Brazilian soccer legend Pele points at his photograph printed on a giant credit card unveiled before the start of the France '98 soccer World Cup draw in Marseille, southern France, yesterday. (Details on page-10) — AP/UNB photo

Bangalee settlers stage protest march at Khagrachhari

From Shehab Ahmed KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 5: Hundreds of Bangalee settlers staged a march in the town today protesting last week's agreement between the government and the PCJSS aimed at ending decades of insurgency in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The demonstrators paraded different streets of the town, denouncing the accord and expressing concern over their future. The demonstration was led by leaders of the Sarbadaliya Oikya Parishad, a BNP led organisation opposing the accord.

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Raja Tridiv Roy greets Hasina, Shantu Larma

Raja Tridiv Roy, a former Chakma chief, has congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the historic peace accord between the government and the PCJSS, reports BSS.

The former Chakma chief also hailed JP Larma for signing the accord.

In a message from Islamabad, Pakistan Raja Tridiv Roy expressed the hope that sincere implementation of the peace accord would undoubtedly contribute towards progress and prosperity of the whole Bangladesh.

Solaiman couldn't be buried at Intellectuals' Graveyard

Krishak Samik Party president ASM Solaiman who died on Thursday could not be buried at Mirpur Intellectuals' graveyard in the face of stiff opposition by local people, reports UNB.

But later, he was buried at his village home at Firozpur under Sonargaon thana in Naryanganj district.

A former minister of the Dr Muek cabinet during liberation war in 1971, 76-year-old

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Autocracy ended this day in '90

By Staff Correspondent

Democracy Day will be observed in the country today.

On this day in 1990, the then autocratic ruler H M Ershad was forced to step down in the face of a mass upsurge.

General Ershad had resigned in the afternoon of the December 6, 1990.

The then Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as took over power as President and supervised the country's first ever free and fair general election on February 27, 1991 held under a non-party caretaker government. BNP was voted to power and Awami League to the seat of the main opposition.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed in a message on the occasion urged all irrespective of party affiliations to come forward with sincerity to bring an end to the prevailing situation in the country.

"Sincere cooperation of all including the political parties are needed for continuation of hard earned democracy and for giving it a permanent institutional shape," he said.

Shahabuddin said all national problems should be discussed in parliament and it was the constitutional responsibility of members of both the ruling and the opposition parties to make the parliament effective. Otherwise, the President said, the democratic process would be severely hampered.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, December 6, which is being observed as 'democracy

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Where have the fishes gone?

By Staff Correspondent

Where have all the fishes gone? Residents of Dhanmondi are asking this question as some 15.27 crore gallons of the lake water are being pumped out.

The Fisheries Department claimed they have so far netted some 400 kilograms of telapia fish from the lake in the city. But workmen and residents observing the department's fishing activities said there was hardly any fish in the 50-acre stretch of the lake water.

Fishermen said they were getting almost nothing with their fine nets. "In one haul there isn't even a kilogram of fish," said a fisherman trying to catch the last remaining fish before all the water is pumped out with the progress of the Dhanmondi lake development project.

Fisheries Department officials blamed deposits of sudge and clay on the lake bed for

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Dhaka to become megacity within a few years

The Dhaka city with a population of 8.8 million will not qualify as a megacity for a few more years, according to a study of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), reports BSS.

The ADB said, Asia will have 20 cities with populations of more than 10 million by 2025. However, Dhaka city will have the fastest growth — nearly 4 per cent — but with a population of 8.8 million only a megacity for a few more years."

Infant mortality rate in Dhaka is likely to be 108 in 1,000 people next year. — By I. Bhat, Bangkok, Karachi and New Delhi will officially

See Page 12 Col 4

PM lays foundation stone Power from barge mounted plant likely by Aug '98

KHULNA, Dec 5: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today laid the foundation stone of the country's first private barge mounted power plant here expressing the hope that it would supply power to the national grid by August next year, reports UNB.

The 108-megawatt power plant of the Khulna Power Company is being installed at Goalpara on the bank of river Bhairab.

The Khulna power project is being run by three companies — Wartsila New Sulzer Diesel Power Development, Summit Industrial and Mercantile Corporation, and United Enterprise and Company. The total project cost is US dollar 100-105 million.

Official sources said in Bangladesh, the per capita electricity generation is only 95 KWH and only 16 per cent of the country's population have access to electricity.

In order to increase access to electricity and advance economic development, the government decided to add significant power generation capacity over next several years.

According to the 1996 Private Power Generation Policy, such expansion will require investment of some 6.6 billion US dollars between 1996 to 2005, the official sources said.

Addressing on the occasion, the prime minister said, "It was a tough decision as the country has no experience to generate power in the private sector. This step would encourage further

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