

World Population Data predicts

Bangladesh to be 7th most populated nation by 2010

Bangladesh, presently holding the ninth position in the status of world population with its 124.7 million people, will seize the seventh position in 2010, reports UNB.

Weather

No change in temp

Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at many places over Dhaka, Sylhet and Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The country's highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and Chuadanga and the lowest 23.2 degrees at Teknaf and Satkhira.

Table with 3 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max/Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning/Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Beating at BLRI

Condition of injured JU students deteriorate

Condition of two students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) who injured their eyes in an attack by some unidentified persons on June 15 at Savar deteriorated further.



M A Kashem elected new chairman of NSU foundation

M A Kashem, a founder member of the North South University Foundation has been unanimously elected the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Foundation at its 7th annual general meeting held recently for a period of two years, says a press release.

Tense situation in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, July 3: Recruitment of new labour sardars by retrenching the old ones at the BCIC buffer stock godown at Mahendranagar here created a tense situation in the area, reports UNB.

Medical specialists in Dhaka do not feel that a larger number of people will go to India for treatment with opening of Dhaka-Calcutta direct bus service, reports UNB.



Shyampur BNP unit led by Sadek Hossain Khoka brought out a procession at Demra yesterday protesting the 'false statements' against BNP leader and deputy leader of opposition in parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury and Tarek Rahman. Star photo

JCD's call to oust 'autocratic' government

Leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of opposition BNP yesterday urged the student community for a vigorous countrywide movement to oust the 'autocratic' government.

Addressing the rally, JCD vice-president Monjur Elahi alleged that the ruling Awami League since assuming power in 1996 began their repression on the JCD activists through arrests and filing of false cases against them.

Seminar on anthropology begins at JU

A two-day seminar on different issues of anthropology began at Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday.

JS body calls for implementation of projects to protect Ashuganj port

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources Ministry yesterday called for implementation of the projects for protection of Ashuganj port, Bhairab power tower and such other vital installations from river erosion on priority basis, reports UNB.

The committee meeting with Abdul Momin in the chair discussed the projects for river training and protection of vital areas and towns from river erosion included in the current year's budget.

It suggested the government to take adequate steps for protection of flood prone areas from flooding.

A report of the sub-committee that inspected the CERP works of Kolapara thana of Patuakhali district was placed in the meeting.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razaque, M Anwarul Islam, MA Bari, Sharfuddin Ahmad, Oli Ahmed, Harun-ur-Rashid, Dr Habibur Rahman and Golam Siraj were present in the meeting.

Tk 38.85 crore BAU budget

MYMENSINGH, July 3: The Finance Committee of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) has forwarded with recommendations a budget of Taka 38.85 crore to the Syndicate for approval for 1999-2000 fiscal year, reports BSS.

The Finance Committee in a meeting under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Dr Muhammad Hussain prepared the budget for 1999-2000 fiscal year in accordance with the ceiling fixed by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

According to the press release issued by the treasurer Md Idris Ali, of the total income Taka 36.35 crore, will come from the University Grants Commission as government allocation while Taka two crore will be generated from the university's own resources.

Of the expenditure, Taka 30.75 crore has been proposed for salaries and pensions for teachers, officers and employees. Taka 3.10 crore for educational assistance and Taka five crore for maintenance and other expenditures.

APB newsmen observe token hunger strike

Leading intellectuals, chairman Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Ministry and journalists of the country yesterday expressed their solidarity with the newsmen of APB news agency, who staged token hunger strike at the National Press Club to protest against whimsical actions of the employers, reports BSS.

APB unit of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) organised the 9 AM to 5 PM hunger strike to press their demands. The demands of the aggrieved journalists include immediate reopening of the news agency, withdrawal of orders transferring four journalists to non-journalistic job, payment of four months' arrears and upholding the dignity of the journalists, DUJ press release said.

Representatives of different professional groups, speaking on the occasion, cautioned BEXIMCO authorities, the owners of the agency, against their evil design. Journalist union leaders declared that the country's journalist community would resist the mischievous plan of the owners of APB to make 'non-journalists' out of the journalists.

They described the efforts of the owners of the news agency to rob journalists of their professional identity as 'terrorism of sorts' and resolved to resist such designs. They called for reunification of the union to protect the dignity of the profession.



Journalists of APB, a BEXIMCO media-owned news agency, observed a token hunger strike at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday in support of their various demands. — Star photo

Delhi seeking corridor

among India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Myanmar and China with the objective of economic upliftment and transportation of the people of these countries.

Past-army chief and BNP leader Mahbubur Rahman said India needs the corridor for its own economic, political and military interests. It mainly wants safe transportation of its military supply through Bangladesh in the name of transit. He ruled out giving corridor to India for the security interest of Bangladesh.

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) president MH Rahman said, in principle, nobody is against transit but there is difference about its modality and implementation. 'We have to decide on transit on the basis of our geo-economic and national security concerns. Transit and port facilities can be given to anyone if it does not hamper our economic interest and state security.'

He said corridor cannot be given to India in the name of transit and it cannot take place between two countries. The modality should be prepared on a regional basis and as a pre-condition of transit India should allow Bangladesh to use its all enclaves without any restrictions.

Abul Kalam Azad MP of the ruling Awami League stressed the need for minimum consensus on national issues and said transit should be on the basis of multilateral modality, but not merely between two countries.

He said all, irrespective of party and opinion, should unite on the question of sovereignty so that our sovereignty can't be affected. 'As a citizen my main concern is whether our independence and sovereignty are being sacrificed while taking any important decision that relates to national interest.'

'It is very unfortunate that we are sharply getting divided day by day. Even academicians, intellectuals and technically sound people often give their views on vital issues depending on their political identity. This is very dangerous for the nation,' he said and urged them to give correct views considering national interest, first.

BNP leader Oli Ahmed MP said there is no mention of transit route through Tamabil both in the Asian Highway of ESCAP and Trans-Asian Railway of UN. Both the UN and ESCAP proposed the transit route through Chittagong-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf to Myanmar. The main conception of Asian Highway is to establish capital to capital links, connections to major industrial belts, connections to main seaports and connection to main roads and railways.

He said BNP, when it was in power, categorically told India that Bangladesh will not provide corridor facility to India and completely ruled out the proposal. He said the India-Bangladesh-India route came up for debate after the Awami League came to power.

Oli Ahmed said transit through Tamabil route is not at all viable from any perspective because the distance will increase by at least 114 miles, and moreover transit by this route is extremely risky.

He said the discussion on transit issue during the BNP regime was held between ESCAP and the Roads and Highways Department only and it was never put at any higher level or in the cabinet. 'No minister can give the permission of corridor or transit to anyone because it's a highly sensitive issue,' he said responding to allegations that he gave permission for transit.

Former minister Moniruzzaman said big and powerful countries are imposing many illogical formulas on small countries in the name of globalisation. The transit issue in Bangladesh is such an imposition by India. Globalisation should be held on the basis of equity.

'We shall not have the transit ... Bangladesh will be affected if it goes with India, either on transit or corridor,' he said and advised all not to compare Europe and globalisation with Bangladesh and the region.

Former foreign secretary Reaz Rahman said India has been looking for a corridor through Bangladesh after its big set back in the war with China in 1962.

'India's main threat is China not Pakistan. The north-eastern region is very crucial for India because from a geo-political and military perspective and that is why India is urgently trying to settle the issues in its seven-sister states,' he said and added that transit is very important for India but not for Bangladesh.

The meeting was also addressed among others by Sh. Abdul Hannan, Obaidul Rahman, Aminul Islam, Rezauddin Ahmed, Amanullah Kabir, Justice (Retd) Habibul Islam Bhuiyan and Dr Aftab Ahmed.

'As we have no weakness in dealing with the terrorists, we are striving hard to stamp out terrorism without fear and favour,' the minister said this while inaugurating Rangunia Thana Bhaban, some 48 km off here this afternoon.

Rangunia Thana Bhaban opens

CHITTAGONG, July 3: Minister for Home, Post and Telecommunications Mohammad Nasim said here today that a huge number of outlaws and terrorists were surrendering in response to the call of the government as it has launched Jihad (crusade) against the terrorists to ensure peace and security of the common, reports BSS.