

## What's on today....

**Discussion:** Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will hold a discussion meeting to mark the National Mourning Day. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 5pm.

**Discussion meeting:** Dakhin Bangla Jubo Kalyan Samity will hold a discussion meeting on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Venue: National Press Club, Ramna. Time: 5:00 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Discussion:** On 'Media: Challenges in the 21st century', organised by PIB-Sohel Samad Memorial Trust. Venue: PIB auditorium. Time: 11 am.

**Seminar:** On MBA programme of Victoria University, Australia, organised by BETS Victoria Limited. Venue: BETS centre, House-55, Road-4A, Dhanmondi. Time: 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm to 8 pm.

## Weather

### Rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Barisal, Khulna and Sylhet divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period. Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.7 degree Celsius was recorded at Chuadanga and the lowest of 24.3 degree at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.18 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.40 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town   | Temperature in Celsius | Humidity in percentage |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|             | Max                    | Min                    |
| Dhaka       | 32.6                   | 27.8                   |
| Chittagong  | 30.5                   | 25.2                   |
| Rajshahi    | 33.4                   | 26.8                   |
| Khulna      | 32.0                   | 27.0                   |
| Barisal     | 31.0                   | 26.0                   |
| Sylhet      | 33.3                   | 26.5                   |
| Cox's Bazar | 27.4                   | 24.5                   |

### BGMEA

From page 1

National Garments Workers Federation organised the rally at Muktangan and brought out mourning procession which paraded different city streets.

It called for an hour-long work abstention in all garment factories on September 2 protesting the deaths of 12 workers. Speakers at the rally alleged that the accident occurred due to negligence of the owners and inaction of the government.

They said although around 200 garment workers died in accidents since 1990, the government did not take any initiative to improve the working conditions at the factories.

The rally was addressed by federation leaders Parnil Begum, Amirul Haq Amin, Alamgir Shikder, Shahida Sarker and Razia Begum.

Another faction of the federation separately held a rally and brought out mourning procession in the city.

The rally was presided over by Sabana Rahman and addressed by A M Foz Hossain, Kabir Hossain, Shakhawat Hossain, Nazma Akhter and Subarna.

### BDR-BSF

From page 1

member team while Indian side led by BSF 52 No Battalion Commanding Officer Bhagaban Singh.

At the meeting BSF claimed one of their members, Ranajit Singh, who suffered bullet wounds during exchange of fire, died today.

A BDR high official gave the information during a recess of the meeting at about 8:00 pm.

"But the BSF would not admit that they gunned down Bangladesh national Nazrul Islam, 32, in Munglabari area at Burimari frontier, 95 km off the town, on Sunday," he said preferring anonymity.

Meanwhile, activities of northern region's second-largest landport, Burimari, remained suspended, following the rising tensions.

Hundreds of trucks carrying imports, including perishable items, stranded inside Indian territories failing to cross the border through the transit point.

The bordering people were apprehending flare-ups any moment in view of the imbroglio.

বাংলাদেশ দান গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, গাজীপুর

Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Gazipur

Telephone: 9333098 Fax: 9350122

Email: brrir@brrir.com

International Competitive Bidding

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Tender Notice

No 6(2000-2001)

Credit No. 2815-BD

IFB No. P-441/2000

Date: 20-08-2000

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of the **Agricultural Research Management Project (ARMP)**. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract(s) for procurement of Laboratory Equipment, Apparatus and Glassware (Package G11 & 12) worth about Tk 40 lac.
- Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Laboratory Equipment, Apparatus and Glassware for Agricultural Research Management Project (ARMP) at Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Gazipur 1701.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Project Director, ARMP (BRRI Part), Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Gazipur 1701. Phone: 9350125, Fax: 880-2-9350122.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the undersigned and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk 600.00 (taka six hundred only) or US\$ 12 (twelve), [either in cash or in Pay Order or Bank Draft from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh]. Bidders document will be available from 01-09-2000 at Accounts Section of BRRI. Bidders are requested to be present in a pre-bid conference on 26-09-2000 at 2 PM.
- The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods (SBD) (including Corrigendum No. 1 dated October 6, 1996). The Sample Forms (except Price Schedules) of the SBD are also unchanged.
- Bids must be delivered to the office of the undersigned on or before 03:00 PM on 12-10-2000 and must be accompanied by a security of 2% in the form and manner detailed in the instruction to bidders.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 03:15 PM on 12-10-2000 at the offices of Project Director, ARMP (BRRI Part) Gazipur 1701.

Dr NH Choudhury  
Project Director, ARMP (BRRI Part)  
BRRI, Gazipur 1701

# Country's population to cross 21cr in 2025

Experts on demographic dynamics at a discussion in the city yesterday evening urged the government to give special attention to women and fertility rate as Bangladesh population is likely to cross the mark of 21 crore in 2025, reports BSS.

They said the population boom will greatly deteriorate quality of life in the urban areas and the need for reproductive and preventive health care will be felt more seriously than ever before.

The world's population is

growing at the rate of 7.6 crores every year and according to UN projections, the global population will be 782 crores in 2025. It is estimated that Bangladesh's population would reach 21 crore in 2025 with more than 60 per cent people living in the urban areas.

Health secretary Syed Alamgir Forrouk Chowdhury, additional secretary Dhiraj Kumar Nath, leader of the US-AID team working with urban family health partnership (UFHP) Jay Anderson, chief of

party of UFHP project Dr Ahmed Al-Kabir addressed the discussion titled 'NGO programme review ceremony' at the Winter Garden of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

The population experts informed that since inception in August 1997, the UFHP has been growing and gradually adding more initiatives targeted to Bangladesh's under-served urban people.

They said that from the next month UFHP will be covering 85 municipal bodies with 146

static clinics, 59 evening shift clinics, 108 upgraded satellite clinics and 441 satellite teams in operation.

In July this year UFHP's contacts per month reached 500,000 plus from 27,000 contacts per month at the programs inception in August 1997.

The UFHP entrepreneurs lauded the experts, individuals and organisations who have dedicated their efforts to improve family health and tried their best to reduce fertility in the country.

## Foreign aid

From page 1

cal. About 1254 million dollars has been disbursed during the period.

During the last decade, Bangladesh emerged as a trade dependent nation from aid dependence," said Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) while commenting on the situation.

"It is an welcoming sign to (have reduced aid dependence). At the same time, it is obvious that because of the cutback in global resource flow, Bangladesh's share would also go down. Nevertheless, having said that, it is also true that Bangladesh still needs in-vestible surplus, the demand for which is very high.

"And the domestic and national investment rates are not high enough to meet this demand adequately. So that the country has to fall back particularly on foreign investment and aid. The current nature of FDI is such that it has little impact on balance of payment as the international oil and gas companies are bringing in capital machinery and not cash."

"So the demand for foreign aid still remains high for underwriting capital investments in various projects. The absorptive capacity has also been below the satisfactory level, which is reflected in the bulging pipeline. Inability of the country to timely and efficiently utilise committed aid may have negative impact on future aid commitment potentials."

"One has to figure out whether it is a domestic governance failure or it is because of the unsustainable cross conditionalities by donors," concluded Dr. Bhattacharya.

"The CPD executive director, who has to figure out whether it is a domestic governance failure or it is because of the unsustainable cross conditionalities by donors," concluded Dr. Bhattacharya.

## Triple murder

From page 1

Neighbours said that they had complained to the landlady on several occasions that the tenants at the ground floor were "very rowdy" and made noise at late night. The landlady could not be reached for her comment.

Detective Branch police also visited the spot and talked to local people in this regard. This was the third triple murder in the city in five months. Earlier, one triple murder took place at Mohakhali on April five and another at Dayaganj on May 11.

## Peace corps

From page 12

Volunteers in different places in Bangladesh including Teachers Training Centres and in NGOs.

Schneider said the Peace Corps Volunteers are working to promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples they serve and to promote a better understanding of other people on the part of the Americans.

Since the founding of the Peace Corps by late President John F Kennedy in 1961, it has been able to send as many as 1,55,000 Volunteers and trainees to different part of the world. Currently, there are some 7000 Volunteers, 61 per cent of whom are females.

Michael Bedford, Country Director of the Peace Corps in Bangladesh and John Kincannon, Director of USIS were present at the news conference, which was also attended by some Peace Corps Volunteers.

Among them, Kathryn Laplante, Raney Rayos and Don Mayer, who are working in Bangladesh after having completed their studies in the US, spoke briefly about their work with different organisations. They said they found their work very enjoyable and rewarding and would be taking their cultural experience back to the US to relate to and narrate to their friends and neighbours.

The Volunteers said they were able to empathise with the people of Bangladesh by getting to work closely with them. Each of the Volunteers receive an allowance of 80 US dollars for meeting their food and living costs. One Volunteer said the money was sufficient as they lived in the same conditions as the locals did.

The Peace Corps Director and his wife are both former Peace Corps Volunteers and worked previously in El Salvador.

Mark Schneider said that of the 7000 Volunteers working now in 76 countries, the largest segment of nearly 38 per cent worked in the field of education, 28 per cent in the field of health while the third largest segment was engaged in the field of environment.

"We hope that understanding and cultural inter-exchange between Bangladesh and the United States would increase in the days ahead with the growing participation of American Peace Corps Volunteers in Bangladesh," said Schneider.

# PM: Political killings

From page 1

perience of joint election in 1991. But, she said, if there is any potential and pro-liberation candidate in a constituency, Awami League may consider it.

Asked her comments on the High Court judgement against Ershad, the Prime Minister said the case was filed against him during Begun Zia's government and the judgement of the lower court was also given during her rule. Later, the High Court gave its judgement on the appeal.

After the High Court's verdict, she said Khaleeda Zia, Gollam Azam and others had rushed to Ershad's house to console him and signed agreement.

Asked whether she would take any fresh initiative to sit with her opponents, the Prime Minister referred to her previous letters and telephone calls to the opposition leader and said she did not receive any response.

In reply to a question about amendment of the constitutional provision relating to women's reserved seats in parliament, she said without the opposition's support, amendment with two-thirds majority is not possible.

She said the opposition once returned to parliament to protect their seats, red passports and salaries. "Let them come again for a day to give vote" to amend the constitution for continuation of women's reserved seats.

About the killing of BNP leader Habibur Rahman Mandal, Hasina wondered why BNP did not allow her wife to file case against the killers.

In this context, she said the opposition leader did not seek trial of the killers of her husband, nor filed any case. Similarly Mandal's wife was not allowed to file case. "Is it the policy of BNP?"

The Prime Minister questioned: "who were behind the Uddi killing and journalist's killing in Jessore and the killing in Khulna?"

She deplored that whenever the police arrest the killers, opposition parties bring allegation of political harassment and threatens to unseat the government.

About the rise in oil and gas prices, Hasina said the oil price was increased with the rise of oil price at the international market.

She admitted that some unscrupulous people, including bus owners, take advantage of this normal increase of oil price and exacerbate the plight of common man. She said necessary instructions were given to take actions against it.

About devaluation of currency, Hasina said it is necessary to adjust the currency value line with foreign currency to keep the economy going. Such

adjustment of currency takes place not only here in Bangladesh, but in neighboring countries as well.

She said in the month of Bhadra, there may be slight increase in the prices of some essentials, which is quite obvious, but remains within the limit.

About law and order situation, the Prime Minister said if the killers are not punished, the killing spree would continue. It is unfortunate that in this country the self-confessed killers were not only given indulgence, but also rewarded.

Quoting a newspaper report, she said another terrorist staged murder at Rugganj after getting balls.

Hasina did not rule out the idea that inefficiency in the police and other departments might create scope for terrorists to get balls.

Referring to the Public Safety Act, she said: "Rate of crimes came down after the enactment of the PSA. But certain amendments to the Act again made it easier for the terrorists to get balls."

She observed: "Inefficiency is everywhere... it needs to be remedied in each sector."

Replying to a query on traffic jam in the Dhaka city, the Prime Minister attributed increasing population and transports for the chaotic situation.

The government has planned to construct several fly-overs and widen the roads to ease the traffic congestion, she said.

About the World Bank financing of fly-overs, Hasina said there is difference of estimation between the government and the World Bank for the construction of fly-overs.

Besides, the World Bank wants to finance only two fly-overs while the government requires four or five, she said adding that the government also has a plan to introduce mono railway in the city.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed and PM's Press Secretary Jawadul Karim were present during the exchange of views.

On a question about her planned meeting with Pakistan military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf in New York on the sidelines of the UN Millennium Summit, Hasina said she stands for peace and stability in South Asia.

Asked whether she hopes to chair the next NAM summit expected in October next year, she replied: "Inshallah, I want your cooperation to get re-elected."

Hasina sought constructive criticism from newspaper, "avoiding the news that misguide the nation."

"Detect our flaws, and at the same time, write what we have done in last four years and how far we are sincere to resolve problems," she told the editors.

## Film festival in aid of acid-burnt victims

MBM students of Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) have organised a two-day film festival to raise fund for the acid-burnt people, says a press release.

Four films will be screened daily during the festival beginning on September 1.

"Patch Adams", "Life is Beautiful", "A Perfect Storm" and "Patriot" will be shown on the first day and "Me, Myself and Irene", "Gladiator", "Notting Hill" and "Matrix" will be screened the next day at 10:30 am, 3 pm, 5 pm and 7 pm respectively.

The proceeds from the sale of tickets will be donated to the Prothom Alo's fund for the Acid-Burnt People. Tickets will be available before the show at BIBM premises, Mirpur-2.

## Priyanka blessed with a son

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: Priyanka Gandhi, scion of India's most celebrated political dynasty, gave birth to a boy today, officials said, reports Reuters.

Gandhi, daughter of the Italian-born Sonia Gandhi who heads the main opposition Congress party, delivered her first-born at a city hospital.

## Ershad

From page 1

Party and its front organisations are not being allowed to bring out procession or hold rally.

JP sources said police barred JP from bringing out a torch procession yesterday in support of today's hartal.

Joint Office Secretary of JP Abul Kalam Azad termed the police action as undemocratic and asked the government to withdraw the law enforcers from the office premises.

## UD cases

From page 1

of Sumriti Rani's husband, Chandan Kumar.

"Almost 85 per cent of all the cases of woman and child repression are settled out of court," the ASP said.

ASP M A Abdul Aziz said poverty is the main reason behind the victims' relatives never getting justice. In most cases, poor families of the victims are lured to withdraw charges against the culprits.

"The poor father or mother sees up to Tk 20,000 or 30,000 cash to withdraw the case. On the other hand, if they want to seek justice, all they see is years of hassles; so they opt for the cash and try to forget their pain of losing a beloved one," said Aziz.



All Party Student Unity staged a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting the price hike of fuel, oil and gas. — Star photo

## CU Anthropology Dept students continue boycott of classes

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 29: The students of Anthropology Department of Chittagong University (CU) today also continued boycotting classes and agitation programme demanding natural justice to three students who got locked inside a hall room.

One male and two female 2nd year students of the department got locked inside a partitioned room of the department hall on Saturday. Though they were rescued few minutes later, the incident roused sensation on the campus on Sunday which forced the authority to form a team of three teachers to look into the matter.

The agitation of the students of Anthropology Department was triggered when the proctor of the university slapped the male student and rebuked the female students for this untoward incident.

The students demanded justice to erase stigma on the students who got locked.

Meanwhile, a press release of Chittagong University authority today said that the students got locked for being callous and not being alert and nothing wrong happened there.

The press release also said that the authority concerned will consider the demands of the students and quoting Pro-VC Abu Yusuf Alam called upon the students to join their classes immediately.

## Inclusion of mother's name made compulsory for identification

By Staff Correspondent

Writing the name of mother along with father's name for identification of a person, has been made compulsory by the government, said an official hand out.

The Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) in a press release welcomed the decision and said that the organisation had filed a writ seeking the provision for writing names of both the parents while introducing a person on June 6 last year.

The high court had issued a rule on the secretaries of the ministries of home and law and on the DG of immigration. The government decision was announced when the writ was waiting for its hearing in the High Court, said Alina Khan of BSEHR.

Bangladesh students studying abroad face problems since their personal records do not include mother's name.

Immigration and Naturalisation Services in Europe and North America ask for names of both the parents in the medical and school certificates. Immigration authorities in Arab countries also demand both the names.

## Trader mugged in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Aug 29: Muggers snatched 18 tolas of gold and 300 tolas of silver in broad daylight from a trader from near the bus stand here today, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said a group of snatchers abducted trader Badsha Mia when he was getting on a bus bound for Aricha and took him to the roof top of Sabed Ali market and robbed his cash, gold and silver. Badsha of Charigram village in Bogra district came from Dhaka and made a halt here to sell gold and silver.



Rebeka Soren, sister of the slain tribal leader Alfred Soren, speaking at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. She demanded exemplary punishment to the killers of her brother. ADAB President Khushi Kabir was also present at the press conference. — Star photo

## 3 arrested with firearm in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 29: Three youths carrying a revolver and three bullets were arrested from Munshikhola in Pagla at midnight on Monday.

The arrested were identified as Dipak Biswas, 20, Liton Das, 23, and Shafiqullah alias Chanchal, 21.

According to the police, the three were travelling in an autorickshaw.

A patrol team of Fatullah thana intercepted them and recovered the firearm from their possession.

## Spl directive to curb crimes

The parliamentary standing committee on Home Ministry meeting yesterday issued special directive to the law enforcing agencies to curb with iron hands crimes, which have increased in the recent past, reports UNB.

While reviewing the law and order situation, the meeting felt that incidents of terrorism, secret killing, extortion, mugging, dacoity, stealing and armed clash have increased threatening security of life and property of the people. Law enforcing agencies must curb such incidents.

Presided over by committee chairman Mohammad Sayedul Haq the meeting was attended by Abdus Shahid, SM Mostafa Rashide, Tajul Islam, Jinnat Hossain, Khondakar Delwar Hossain, Sadeq Hossain and Hafizuddin Ahmed.

Because of Bangladesh's emerging international profile, the Prime Minister's visit is also expected to generate interest among Democrats and Republicans although it takes place prior to the US presidential polls, due in November.

She will be accorded a warm reception in Washington amid a growing expectation among US companies to sign what they would like to call "mutually beneficial agreements", particularly in the oil and gas sector.

Keeping in mind next year's national election, the Prime Minister is learnt to be doing her 'homework' before making any commitment in Washington.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Hasina leaves for New York on September 3 to attend the Millennium Summit of the United Nations. Over 100 heads of state or government will be in New York for the mega-event from September 6 to 8.

Among others, Sheikh Hasina will hold meetings with the King of Jordan, Emir of Qatar, Presidents of Columbia and South Africa, Prime Minister of India and the Chief Executive of Pakistan, sources said.

## Obituary

Al-Haj Shafiqur Rahman died of a cardiac arrest at his residence in the city on August 26. He was 74, says a press release.

He had served as the General Manager of Karnaphuli Paper and Rayon Mill and retired as the Technical Director of BCIC. He has been awarded by the mill authority for his contribution in the invention of cellophane and Rayon Fibre from Bamboo. He left behind his wife, one son, five daughters and a host of relatives and admirers.