

Citizens' rally today to create awareness of air-pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A citizens' rally will be held today at 10 am in front of the National Museum to create public awareness about air pollution and other civic hazards.

All conscious citizens and members of various civic forums have been requested to attend the rally to make it a success.

In this connection, eminent litterateur Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed has urged the city dwellers to make united efforts to get rid of all sorts of pollution to make the city a better

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Korea Week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food Festival Mouth-watering festival of Korean Foods opens on November 9 at the Ambassador's residence of the Republic of Korea.

Film Festival Korean Film Festival, now being held in the city at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium at 75 Mohakhali, comes to an end today.

Today's screening schedule is as follows: Oseam Hermitage (Religious drama) at 11:00; The day a pig fell into a wall (Melodrama) at 13:40; Stairways of Heaven (Melodrama) at 16:10 and Oseam Hermitage at 18:50.

Art Show An exhibition of Korean painting by Prof. Loo Doo-shik is now being held at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The show remains open from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. till November 13.

SEE ALSO CULTURE PAGE FOR DETAILS

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 9		5-15 pm
Nov 10	6-10 am	

Prayer Timings		
Nov 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-30
Juma	12-45	1-20
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-23	5-30
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and senior ministers of the cabinet offer fatiha at the mazar of president Ziaur Rahman Wednesday on the occasion of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

2b in developing countries without food security

UNFPA releases State of the World Population 2001

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An estimated two billion people in the developing countries already lack food security and the world would have to double food production and improve distribution for its nearly eight billion people expected by 2025.

This was stated in the "State of the World Population 2001" released by UNFPA at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Use of water has grown six times over the past 70 years. By 2050, about 4.5 billion people will be living in countries which cannot meet people's daily requirement of water, it said.

The UNFPA document, globally

released on Wednesday, stated that air pollution kills nearly three million people every year and called for urgent actions to control harmful emissions.

Densely populated and rapidly growing mega-cities in developing countries expose their population to air pollution far beyond the WHO-recommended levels, it said.

UNFPA called for promoting women's social, economic and political participation and gender equity. It urged governments to invest more on health and education, strengthen civil society institutions and reduce pressure on natural resources.

It stressed wider access to reproductive health services including family planning, safe

motherhood and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS.

"Current resources for reproductive health and population programmes are well below the \$17 billion the ICPD (International conference on Population and Development) agreed would be needed in 2000. While developing countries are providing most of the two thirds share of needed resources, support from international donors was less than half the \$5.7 billion called for in 2000," the UNFPA document said.

Calling for implementation of the ICPD recommendations, UNFPA said ICPD would help

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Antics of PM's APS irk BNP stalwarts

STAR REPORT

An Assistant Private Secretary (APS) to the Prime Minister is so powerful that he can get top bureaucrats and officials transferred and others appointed at various levels in the administration, sources alleged.

He operates with the help of a group of young BNP men who sits at an office in a posh area in the city.

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office claimed that transfers, promotions and appointments take place as per the list provided by the APS and after his "clearance". The person has been attached to Khaleda Zia for over ten years now.

The sources said the recent changes in some posts of secretaries of different ministries, transfers and appointments were done as per the list of the APS.

The changes angered several senior ministers as they were not consulted or even informed earlier.

Senior BNP leaders holding important portfolios in the cabinet are very much annoyed at this.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, some of them said they would meet the prime minister together and suggest her to call an emergency extended meeting of the BNP National Executive Committee to discuss the situation.

They said they can not discharge their official duties smoothly due to the APS because officials holding important posts are being changed without them.

They said the image of the government will be tarnished and the administration will become hostile if this is not stopped immediately.

They said majority of the ministers, BNP leaders and MPs have become very much annoyed at the activities of the APS and the group of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Income tax returns rise by 15pc this year

RAFIQ HASAN

A total of 4,09,538 income tax returns have been submitted this fiscal year, which is 15 per cent higher than last year's figure, according to sources in the Internal Resource Division.

The number of income tax returns submitted last year (fiscal) was 3,56,503.

The sources, however, said although the number of returns increased this year, tax collection might not rise accordingly.

The last date for submission of returns is September 30 but the time limit this year was extended by one month due to the general election.

The returns were submitted in 15 income tax zones in the country with the highest 63,000 returns in Rajshahi zone.

People who failed to submit returns within the stipulated time would be fined Tk 500 for the first month and thereafter Tk 250 for each month, accord-

ing to rules.

Tax officials said the number of returns submitted this year was higher because of the government's efforts to expand the income tax network and bring more people under it.

Government officials also submitted returns but they are not required to pay income tax. The amount would be adjusted with government funds.

Many individuals submitted returns but they might not have to pay tax because their earnings are less than the taxable amount.

On the other hand, many wealthy people take advantage of self-assessment system of tax, not showing their actual income, a senior official said.

"It is very difficult to catch them because according to rules, tax officials cannot question any figure if it is 15 per cent higher than the previous year's income," he pointed out. Tax officials should have powers to question the figures whenever suspicion arises, he felt.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Road accidents kill four in Mymensingh

UNB, Mymensingh

Four people were killed and 22 others injured in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway and Mymensingh-Netrakona road yesterday.

Two of the deceased were identified as Shahin, 18, and Kamal, 22.

Police said driver of a passenger bus lost control over the steering and the vehicle dashed a roadside tea-stall at about 8:00 am near Trishal bus stand on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

Two unidentified people died on the spot while Shahin succumbed to injuries on way to Trishal Upazila Health Complex.

Of the injured, Rina, 30, Amena, 30, and Kamal, 22, were shifted to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Nat'l Revolution and Solidarity Day observed

UNB, Dhaka

The National Revolution and Solidarity Day was observed on Wednesday at state level.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, along with her party leaders and cabinet colleagues, placed wreath at the mazar of president Ziaur Rahman, the champion of the political changeover through sepye-people uprising this day in 1975.

Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar and Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui also placed wreaths at the mazar.

Hasina at Pirojpur public rally Ruling party patronising large-scale terrorism

UNB, Pirojpur

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday brought charges of patronising large-scale terrorism by the ruling party saying that democracy is no more safe under the present "terrorist government".

"Law and order is on the verge of collapse due to massive terrorism perpetrated by the ruling party cadres," she said addressing a public meeting here yesterday noon.

Hasina said the government, which had come to power through

a rigged election resorted to terrorism and torture on the opposition and minority groups. "Fall of this tyrant government is now only a matter of time."

She felt public life was not safe under the present government as she alleged that over 500 women of the minority community were tortured by the ruling party men.

The Awami League chief, who is now on a six-day tour of southern districts, said the government on one hand was speaking against terrorism and on the other unleashing terrorism on the people.



Fakhruddin Ahmed

Fakhruddin to be buried in Toronto

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Late Fakhruddin Ahmed, former secretary of the ministry of foreign affairs, will be buried in Toronto, Canada, as his body could not be flown into the country as scheduled earlier due to non-availability of flights.

Family sources said the Biman flight that was scheduled to reach Dhaka yesterday carrying the body of the deceased was cancelled after developing mechanical faults at a New York airport.

Fakhruddin Ahmed died of cancer on November 2 at his daughter's house in Pittsburgh, USA. He was 70.

"The deceased will now be buried in Toronto, where he had long been living," Professor Salahuddin Ahmed, elder brother of the deceased told The Daily Star yesterday.

Ahmed was based in Toronto in recent times but went to Pittsburgh for treatment where his daughter is a practicing physician.

Family sources said the decision to bury him in Toronto was prompted by the possibility of further delay in burial due to non-availability of flights and due to the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8



Policewomen watch students of the Eden University College leave the campus yesterday after the authorities ordered evacuation of the halls following clash between rival political activists on Wednesday night.

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