

## 15000 women die a yr Pregnancy related complications

UNB, Dhaka

Every year 12 to 15 thousand women die in the country due to pregnancy related complications despite hectic efforts to reduce the maternal mortality rate (MMR).

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Representative Suneeta Mukherjee stated this at a press briefing on UNFPA-funded project 'Strengthening Health Programme through Advocacy' here yesterday.

South-South Centre, Bangladesh organised the press briefing.

Mukherjee underscored the need for reducing the total fertility rate (TFR) at 3.3.

Although contraceptive prevalence rate rose to 58 per cent from 44 per cent in last few years the dropout rate is still high, about 50 per cent, she said.

The causes include high boy-child preference, non-adoption of permanent method after getting the desired family size and non-use of contraceptives by males.

Director of South-South Centre, Bangladesh Jalaluddin Ahmed and Executive Director of Partners in Population and Development (PPD) Dr Timothee Gandaho also spoke at the press briefing.

The Centre is a focal point of PPD, an inter-governmental alliance of 16 developing countries.

## BNP programmes on Independence Day

UNB, Dhaka

BNP has taken up elaborate programmes to observe the Independence and National Day 2002.

The 11-day programme will begin at Ramna Batafam today at 4 pm. Party secretary general and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will be present there as chief guest.

Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal and Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskriti Sangstha (JASAS) will hold separate programmes to-

## 2 asst proctors appointed at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University authorities appointed two assistant proctors on Tuesday following resignation of two others in the last six days.

The newly appointed assistant proctors are Sharif Uddin, lecturer of Mathematics, and Saleh Ahmad Khan, an assistant professor of Botany.

Assistant proctors Mohammad Ali Akand of Botany and Shyamal Chandra Das of Pharmacy submitted their resignation letters to the vice-chancellor on March 13 and 16 respectively showing personal reason.



Suneeta Mukherjee, UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh, speaking at a briefing session for the newsmen on a project titled 'Strengthening Reproductive Health Programme Through Advocacy' at a city restaurant yesterday. Dr Jalaluddin Ahmed, Director of the South-South Centre, is on her right and Dr Timothee Gandaho, Executive Director of the Partners in Population and Development, on her left.

## Govt to recruit women drivers soon

BSS, Dhaka

The government is considering to recruit women drivers in running city bus service of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) soon.

"We will actively consider to recruit women drivers in the government run BRTC bus services during the time of our next recruitment," State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmed said this as chief guest at a function here on Tuesday night.

The function was organised by the non-government organisation, For You For Ever (FYFE), marking its first effort to train up ten disadvantaged women of the country at LGED Bhaban. FYFE Chairperson Rehana Siddiqi presided.

Chairman of BRTC Toimur Alam Khondoker and former ILO

abidullah Hossain Siddiqi spoke on the occasion. LGRD Secretary AYBI Siddiqi and Chief Engineer of LGED Shahidul Hasan also attended the function.

The FYFE, which is dedicated

to uplift the lives of unemployed youths, disadvantaged women and destitute children, distributed learner certificates to ten youths after their three-month training on driving at BRTC training centre at Gazipur.

Salahuddin said that the government wanted to bring women, who constitute almost half of the total population, to the mainstream of economic activities in the country. As part of government's good wishes, women drivers would get due consideration from the government, he said.

**Dr Iajaz Ahmed passes away**

BSS, Dhaka

Dr Iajaz Ahmed Khan, Associate Professor of the Orthopaedics Hospital, died of cancer at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital here yesterday evening at the age of 52, family sources said.

Dr Iajaz is survived by his wife and two daughters.

The first namaj-e-janaza of Dr Iajaz will be held at Orthopaedic Hospital at 11 am and second after Zohr prayers at Mohammadpur Jame Masjid. He will be buried at Tajmahal Road Graveyard.

Qulkhwani will be held on Saturday at his 22/23 Babar Road residence after Asr prayers.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain expressed his deep shock at the death of Dr Iajaz.

"But now the newspapers and the journalists are being attacked

## Concert in Bangladesh today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

'Jiboner Joyogon', a six-day programme organised by the Liberation War Museum, begins in the city today with the presentation of a musical concert titled 'Concert in Bangladesh' at Osmany Memorial Auditorium.

The museum arranged the programme in observance of the 31st Independence Day and its sixth founding anniversary.

Sponsored by Pepsi, the concert will begin at 6.30pm.

In the concert popular singers of the country will perform the same numbers from the famous musical performance 'Concert for Bangladesh' held at Madison Square Garden in the USA on August 1, 1971.

George Harrison and Pandit Ravi Shankar organised the benefit concert to help the Bengali refugees during the Liberation War of 1971.

## Photo exhibition begins in Ctg tomorrow

BSS, Chittagong

A three-day joint photo exhibition of photo journalists Mostafizur Rahman and artist Sawkat Zahan will begin at the Chittagong Press Club auditorium here tomorrow.

Around 25 photos and 25 art works will be displayed in the exhibition.

It will remain open to public till March 24.

**M A Sattar**



Alhaj M A Sattar, a member of the Executive Committee of Bangladesh Corrugated Carton & Accessories Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BCCMEA), died on March 14 at the age of 51, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife and two sons.

He was buried at Mirpur Intellectuals' graveyard. A milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers on Friday at House No-1, Road No-5, Kalyanpur.

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