

Ensure safe future for mother, child

Tariqul tells publication ceremony

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Tariqul Islam yesterday called upon all to work unitedly towards ensuring a safe future for mother and child.

The minister made the call while speaking at the publication ceremony of "Ma-O-Shishu", a compilation of special features on the condition of mother and child of Bangladesh, at the Press Information Department (PID) here.

The book was jointly published by PID and UNICEF.

The minister said the present government has taken various pragmatic steps to ensure better future for mother and child.

"As a poor country, Bangladesh has been facing various problems due to rapid growth of population," he said adding, "We, irrespective of all opinions, should work together to address these problems."

Information Secretary

Nazmul Alam Siddiqui, Chief Communication and Information Officer of UNICEF Naseem-ur-Rahman, Joint-Secretary and Project Director Mizanur Rahman Majumder also spoke at the function, chaired by Principal Information Officer (PIO) Khandaker Manirul Alam.

Nazmul Alam Siddiqui said the book depicts a complete picture of mother and child and "it would help us take a pragmatic workplan."

Naseem-ur-Rahman said we should take steps to publish this type of book every year to know the real condition of the mother and child of Bangladesh.

Mizanur Rahman said the book, with 33 features, 25 pictures and six cartoons, will be a permanent source of information about health, security and development of mother and child.

Journalists and high officials took part in the discussion.

AL demands withdrawal of BADC engr's dismissal order

DU CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Mohammad Abdul Jalil, MP, has demanded the withdrawal of dismissal order on 525 engineers of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC).

In a statement yesterday, he termed the dismissal order as inhuman and said it is a repression of the alliance government on innocent people.

Abdul Jalil said family members of the dismissed engineers would face serious economic hardship as the prospect of new job market is very bleak.

He also criticised the government for price-hike of daily essentials which has created an unbearable situation for the common people.

SKOP protests govt move to downsize manpower

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) at meeting yesterday condemned the government's move to downsize the manpower from its various organisations, says a press release.

Terming the move imprudent, the SKOP leaders said such a decision by the government would bring sufferings to thousands of workers and create anarchy in the industrial sector as well.

They urged the government to refrain from either selling or closing down 12 industrial units and three corporations.

Presided over by Safiuddin Ahmed, the meeting was addressed by Doctor Wajedul Islam Khan, Abdul Kader Hawlader, Advocate Delwar Hossain Khan and Abdullah Sarkar.



Children greet Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina with flowers when she arrived at the Institute of Engineers to inaugurate the council of Sechchasebak League.

Philatelic assoc silver jubilee programme concludes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The week-long silver jubilee celebration and philatelic exhibition of Bangladesh National Philatelic Association (BNPA) ended yesterday.

Syed Margub Murshed, chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, attended the closing ceremony as chief guest, held at the Dhaka General Post Office (GPO).

BNPA President Prof. Kazi Shariful Alam presided.

Margub Murshed gave away prizes among four winners from the junior group who exhibited their stamps. A total of 17 students of different schools took part in the exhibition.

Certificates were also given to the senior participants who are renowned philatelists. Thirty-four philatelists exhibited their best collections.

Prof. Shariful Alam said the association, formed in 1978, has organised 20 philatelic exhibitions in the last 25 years. It also holds auction of stamps every month.

The association organised a philatelic exhibition, workshop, reception to renowned philatelist Abdus Salam, museum tour, auction and quiz programme to mark its silver jubilee.

Over 20 thousand stamps were put on display in the exhibition.

Amendment to Drug Control Act demanded

RU students submit memo to health minister

RU Correspondent

Students of chemistry, applied chemistry and bio-chemistry departments of Rajshahi University yesterday demonstrated on the campus demanding an amendment of the 'disputed' section 13 (1) of the Drug (Control) Ordinance 1982.

The students under the banner of 'Movement for amendment of medicine policy' also handed over a memorandum to Vice-Chancellor Prof Faisal Islam Faruki for sending it to the health minister.

In the memorandum, they requested the health minister for immediate amendment of the ordinance which has been creating problems for them in the job market.

Receiving the memorandum at his office, the vice-chancellor assured the students that he himself would meet the minister and apprise him of their problems.

Earlier, the students took out a silent procession on the campus and formed a human chain in front of the administrative building in support of their demand.

Alimul new envoy to Germany

BSS, Dhaka

The government has decided to appoint Alimul Haque, at present additional Foreign Secretary, as ambassador of Bangladesh to the Federal Republic of Germany.

A career diplomat, Alimul Haque was Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan from March, 2000 to May, 2003.

He also performed various diplomatic assignments in Bangladesh Permanent Missions in New York and Geneva as well as Bangladesh Missions in Muscat, Beijing, Pretoria and New Delhi, a foreign office press release said.

APE Alumni Assoc meeting

The Alumni Association of Applied Physics and Electronics (APE) Department of Dhaka University will hold a general meeting to form its executive committee on August 1, says a press release.

The convening committee of the association invites all the ex-students of the department to be a member and attend the meeting beginning at the TSC Cafeteria, DU, at 10.00am.

Membership forms are available at the department (1.00pm to 2.00pm) and at the meeting.

For details, interested persons can write to the following e-mail addresses: letter2issa@yahoo.com; ahmedul@bjitbd.com; sazzad@udhaka.net; monir@petrobangla.org; info@promiti.com; and core@bdcom.com.

1242 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,242 people including four listed criminals during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

DU student pushed down from bus

DU CORRESPONDENT

A student of Dhaka University (DU) was injured when a bus helper pushed him down from the bus he was travelling in near the Fazul Haque Hall yesterday.

Azad, a resident student of Amar Ekushey Hall, was coming from Mirpur by a Gulistan-bound bus. He requested the driver to stop the bus in front of the Fazul Haque Hall, but the bus helper pushed him onto the road instead.

Protesting the incident, agitated

students of the Ekushey Hall gathered on the road and damaged a bus.

They demanded restrictions on movement of heavy vehicles on the road and punishment of the driver and helper.

The DU students have long been demanding that the road from High Court Mazar to Banga Bazaar be made off-limits to heavy vehicles as a number of students were injured in bus accidents there.

Additional police were deployed to avoid any untoward incident.



Students of cadet colleges who secured GPA-5 in the SSC examinations this year pose with their principals at a meet-the-press programme at Dhaka Cantonment Officers' Club yesterday.

139 cadet college students secure GPA-5

BSS, Dhaka

Cadet college students who secured GPA-5 in the SSC examinations this year and the principals met the media for the first time at Dhaka Cantonment Officers' Club yesterday.

The Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) arranged the meeting to introduce the meritorious students and project the educational activities of the colleges.

A total of 139 students of 10 cadet colleges obtained GPA-5 (A+).

Of them, 42 students are from

Mirzapur Cadet College (MCC), 32 students from Pabna Cadet College (PCC) and 32 students from Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College (MGCC).

Chairman of the Cadet College Governing Body and Adjutant General of Bangladesh Army Major General Jafaruddin Ahmed and ISPR Director Lt. Col. Mohammad Nazrul Islam were also present.

Principals of the cadet colleges welcomed their students with flowers.

MCC principal Rafiqul Islam said the government has been providing support for only science and arts disciplines in the cadet colleges, but introduction of commerce subjects would be considered at the next governing body meeting.

He also said establishment of more girls' cadet colleges depends on the government decision.

Most cadets attributed their success to their principals, teachers, college staff and parents.

Farhana, a student of Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College, said she wants to be a teacher and scientist like Prof. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal.

Asif Arefin of Pabna Cadet College aspires to become an aeronautical engineer.

Over 2,000 Indian sarees recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Coast Guard personnel recovered 2,113 Indian sarees worth about Tk 22 lakh in Chittagong city on Saturday night.

A Coast Guard patrol team found the sarees in a truck abandoned by a gang of smugglers near Reazuddin Bazar.

The gang fled the scene after sensing the presence of Coast Guard men, says a press release.

Seminar on professional challenges

MBA Club of North South University (NSU) organised a seminar on 'Professional challenges of business executives: Role of NSU' on its campus on Saturday, says a press release.

The purpose of the seminar was to learn from professionals and business leaders about the skills necessary for MBA graduates to achieve success in their career.

The curriculum of NSU MBA programme and the kind of training students are getting at NSU were also highlighted at the seminar.

The speakers underscored the importance of long-term collaboration between industry and university.

The guest speakers were Managing Director of Bank Asia Syed Anisul Huq, Managing Director of Prime Bank Shah Md Nurul Alam, Deputy Managing Director of Dhaka Bank Khandaker Fazle Rashid and Senior Executive Vice-President of Southeast Bank Syed Imtiaz Hasib.

NSU Vice-Chancellor Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi and Dean of the School of Business Dr ANM Meshquat Uddin also spoke at the seminar.

Sitakunda Poursava budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Tk 9.15 crore budget of Sitakunda Poursava for the fiscal 2003-2004 was announced here on Saturday.

Sitakunda Poursava Chairman Md Abul Kalam Azad announced the budget at a meeting. Engineer LK Siddiqui MP was present.

In his speech, the chairman sought cooperation from all for implementation of the budget.

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Jute Lutfur Rahman Khan Azad yesterday asked the officials concerned to buy improved variety of jute to ensure high standard of jute products in earning more foreign exchange for economic uplift.

"Jute plays a significant role in fetching foreign currency and contributing a lot to the development of country's economy," he said while addressing the all projects heads of state-owned jute mills at BJMC auditorium here.

Azad urged them to come forward to make all State Owned Enterprise (SOE) a profitable concern by maintaining good management.

Secretary of the ministry A S M Abdul Halim and acting chairman of the BJMC Mohammad Mojibur Rahman were present.

The state minister warned

against any malpractice in the procurement drive of jute and said stern action would be taken if any official/employee was found dishonesty in purchasing jute.

He also said no jute mills under the SOE would run as losing concern in future.

Meat festival at Nandan

Nandan Mega Shop at Gulshan has arranged a meat festival which will continue till August 8, says a press release.

Nandan is offering different types of fresh beef and mutton items. On every purchase of meat worth Tk 700, the customer will receive 500 grams of Radhuni pagol rice of Dinajpur, 40 grams of turmeric, 40 grams of chilli and 40 grams of coriander free.



Keraniganj Garments Traders and Shop Owners' Samabaya Samity forms a human chain in Aganagar yesterday demanding punishment to the killers of Delwar Hossain.

DHAKA TODAY

Painting show

A painting show by Mohammad Yunus will be inaugurated by eminent artist Syed Jahangir. It will be followed by a Bonsai display by artist Jahira Hussain. Venue: House-25, Road-10, Sector-9, Uttara. Time: 6.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American feature film titled 'Roman Holiday'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Memorial lecture

Bangla Academy organises a solo lecture on the occasion of the first death anniversary of Syed Ali Ahsan, a noted scholar and educationist. Venue: Seminar room of the academy. Time: 11.00am.

IER celebration

The special education department of the Institute of Education and Research (IER) of Dhaka University organises a function to celebrate its first decade of establishment with

Vice-Chancellor Prof S M A Faiz as chief guest. Venue: IER auditorium. Time: 11.00am.

Seminar

A seminar on 'Health services of Bangladesh and present government', organised by Awami League, will be held with Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim, MP and former health minister, as chief guest. Venue: CIRDP auditorium, Tophkana Road. Time: 3.00pm.

Meeting

The monthly general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will be held. A paper on 'Contemporary world: Human crisis and its solution' will be presented by Prof Aminul Islam of Dhaka University. Venue: Old secretariat road. Time: 5.00pm.

Lions meeting

The first meeting of the board of

directors of the Lions Club Of Dhaka South will be held. Venue: Panthapath Uttar Dhanmondi. Time: 7.00pm.

AGM

The annual general meeting of the Coalition for the Urban Poor will be held. Venue: WVA auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.00am

DHAKA TOMORROW

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a feature film titled 'Before the rain'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Council

The central council 2003 of Bangladesh Krishak League will be held with Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: Mohanagar Natyamancha, Gulistan. Time: 10.00am.

Lottery

The draw of Shishu Swasthya Foundation, Bangladesh lottery will be held with State Minister for fuel and mineral resources Mosharrar Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Foundation office, Mirpur Section-2. Time: 5.00pm.

Childpex-2003

The inaugural ceremony of a three-day postage exhibition titled 'Childpex-2003', organised by Philatelists' Association of Bangladesh, will be held with Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: GPO auditorium. Time: 11.00am.

Discussion

A discussion on 'Science in history', organised by the Organisation for spreading the light of science and civilisation among the people, will be held. Venue: Atomic Energy Commission. Time: 3.00pm.



Hasanul Haq Inu of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

JSD places 11-point demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) at a press conference yesterday placed 11-point demand including separation of judiciary from the executive, formation of a bicameral parliament, scrapping of Official Secrecy Acts, formation of independent anti-corruption commission and establishment of women's rights.

JSD General Secretary Syed Jafar Sajjad read out the written statement at the press conference at the National Press Club while President Hasanul Hoque Inu replied to different questions of journalists.

The JSD leaders demanded women's seats at every district in

the lower house through direct election.

They also urged the government to cancel Gram Sarkar and hold elections to Union parishads and upazila parishads immediately.

Demanding removal of 'war criminals' from the cabinet they urged the government to ban politics based on religion.

They called upon the government to set up gas based industry and stop move to export gas without meeting internal demand at least for 50 years.

Shirin Akther, Nazmul Hoque Pradhan and Advocate Habibur Rahman Khan were present.



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions and at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6pm today.

The day's temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and the lowest 24.7 degree at Teknaf.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:44pm today and rises at 5:26 am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.8	26.8	74	64
Chittagong	32.5	26.4	74	77
Rajshahi	31.7	26.5	80	77
Khulna	31.8	26.1	90	-
Barisal	30.6	26.4	94	83
Sylhet	35.0	25.8	66	60
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.0	74	93