

40 pc children born with low birth weights

UNB, Dhaka Although Bangladesh has made considerable progress in combating malnutrition, 40 percent children in the country are born with low birth weights because of malnutrition of their mothers. They often continue to suffer from malnutrition through the first two years of their lives, the most critical years from a nutrition perspective, which denies them the chance of a better life and denies Bangladesh of human resources that the country deserves and needs.



PHOTO: STAR
Kate Pittard, a saxophonist and vocalist from San Francisco, perform at a jazz musical evening at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday.

This was disclosed at a workshop, jointly organised by the Bangladesh government, the SAVE the Children (UK) and the World Bank here recently, said a press release yesterday.

The workshop was followed by a number of meetings to discuss ways of improving both coordination and quality of work being done in this area, the release added.

The participants at the workshop agreed on a common set of recommendations for the coming year, which include working together to analyse the impact of past and current projects, strengthen project monitoring and evaluation and increase consultations with communities.

Agreements for the longer term include developing a larger version and revised plan of action for nutrition in Bangladesh, increasing linkage between nutrition and general health interventions, and coordinating various nutrition interventions.

The participants also agreed that they must proceed riding on the successes of previous experiences and learn from their shortcomings to help Bangladesh strengthen its nutrition interventions for the future.

Eight muggers get three years in Habiganj

UNB, Habiganj

A speedy trial court yesterday convicted eight youths and sentenced them to three years' rigorous imprisonment for mugging in 2003.

The court also fined the convicts -- Kashem Chowdhury, Raju Chowdhury, Shankar Dasgupta and his brother Samiron Dasgupta, Md Abdur Rahman and his brother Md Saidur Rahman, and Md Dulal Miah and his brother Jalal Miah -- Tk 2,000 each, in default, to suffer one month more rigorous imprisonment.

The case history in brief: the convicts attacked trader Mizanur Rahman Shamim of Nasratpur area in the town and took away Tk 30,000, a gold chain and a wrist-watch from him on November 10, 2003.

Later, Shamim's brother filed a case against 11 people.

After examining the records and 17 witnesses, the judge handed down the verdict.

GP donates computers to schools

The GrameenPhone has donated 10 computers to Schools Online Bangladesh and six computers to Obaidullah Memorial High School, says a press release.

Ola Ree, managing director of GrameenPhone, handed over the computers to Sharif Ullah Bahar, the headmaster of Obaidullah Memorial High School, and Abu Rayhan Al-Beeroonee, head of country programme, Schools Online Bangladesh, at a simple ceremony at the GP office recently.

"GrameenPhone always makes an effort to fulfil its corporate social responsibility by assisting people in arts, sports and humanitarian projects. We welcome this opportunity to assist these rural schools and schools with underprivileged children with these computers," said Ola Ree.

The Schools Online originated in the USA and has programmes in over 500 schools in 36 countries, empowering students worldwide with access to information and communication resources.

Obaidullah Memorial High School is located near Maijdee in Noakhali. Apart from the normal academic curriculum, it has recently started two vocational training programmes, one in dress-making, and the other in computer literacy.



PHOTO: PID
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speaks at the inaugural ceremony of a three-day Deputy Commissioners' conference at the Secretariat yesterday.

Dissolution of 52 Sylhet JCD ward committees demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists under the banner of 'Common members of JCD' yesterday demanded immediate dissolution of the newly formed 52 Ward Committees.

At an emergency press conference at the Sylhet Press Club yesterday, they said the committees are dominated by listed criminals some of whom are still in jail custody while others are serving different jail terms after being convicted in criminal cases.

Besides, some others are still at large as they are wanted by police for their alleged involvement in criminal cases like murder and robbery, they added.

The JCD leaders said the presidents and secretaries of district and city units made a strong protest on December 31 when the ward committees were announced by the central committee.

They announced a week-long agitation programme in the district to press home their demand.

Chowdhury Mohammad Suhel, a student of Sylhet Law College, read out a statement while Joydev Chakravarty, Arpan Ghosh, Mainul Haque Siddiquee and Aminul Islam Saju spoke at the conference.

UNB joins Asian Photo Pool

UNB, Dhaka

In its continuous search of ways to add value to the services being provided to its subscribers, the UNB has joined the Asian Photo Pool Service as its latest member.

The Asian Photo Pool Service, a valuable picture resource centre, was created by the Australian Associated Press (AAP) in 2002 as a means by which Asian news agencies might share news and sports pictures with each other for use in their respective territories.

The other participating news agencies in the Pool are Xinhua, Yonhap, PTI, Antara and Bernama.

4,365 Bangladeshis languishing in jails abroad

UNB, Dhaka

Some 4,365 Bangladeshis are now in foreign prisons and deportation camps, parliament was told yesterday.

Of them, 3,012 are in prisons and 1,353 in deportation camps, said State Minister for Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Qamrul Islam, replying to a call attention notice raised by Shahjahan Chowdhury (Jamaat-Chittagong).

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The assistance is given through Bangladesh missions where there is one and in absence of such a mission, the support is given through IOMF, he said.

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29 madrassah teachers, students fall sick

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Nearly 29 teachers and students of a residential madrassah at Shroil area in the city fell sick in last three days, creating panic among the inmates.

Many of the students have already left the Zamia Rahmania Madrassah in fear although the madrassah authorities have employed a physician for their treatment.

Dr Zamilur Rahman, who is attending the patients, has assured that there is nothing to be alarmed as it is a viral fever.

Chief Health Officer of Rajshahi City Corporation Dr Rizvi Sultan yesterday visited the madrassah and said the sudden cold wave might have caused the fever.

Over 1,600 held, two firearms recovered

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,689 more people, including one identified criminal, on various charges during their ongoing countrywide drive in last 24 hours till 6.00am yesterday.

The law enforcers also recovered two firearms, one other weapon and 27 rounds of bullet and filed two cases against three people under the Arms Act, said a police headquarters' release.

British HC closed on Feb 1, 2

UNB, Dhaka

The British High Commission in Dhaka and its office in Sylhet will remain closed on February 1 and 2 on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, says a press release.

DHAKA TODAY

<p>Asiatic society The 10th biennial general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will be held with President Iajuddin Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Premises of the society, Old Secretariat Road. Time: 11.00am.</p>	<p>Seminar Russian Cultural Centre, in collaboration with Bangladesh-Russia Friendship Society, will hold a seminar on 'Bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Russia: History and perspectives'. Venue: House-510, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.30pm.</p>
<p>Workshop Khan Foundation organises a workshop on 'Computer training for adolescent girls at grassroots level' with Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: Democracy auditorium, Momenbagh. Time: 11.00am.</p>	<p>Talk BRAC University will hold a talk on 'Identity politics and women's fiction: A survey of theory' with Nuzhat Amin, English department of Dhaka University as guest speaker. Venue: University building, Mohakhali. Time: 3.00pm.</p>
<p>Musical evening Protiti, a cultural organisation, will organise an evening of old Bangla songs to be rendered by some noted artistes of the country. Venue: Block-B, 4/8 Lalmatia. Time: 6.30pm.</p>	<p>Award giving ceremony The distribution ceremony of Cute Channel i Film Awards will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 6.00pm.</p>
<p>IUBAT orientation The 34th orientation programme of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) will be held. Venue: Academy for Planning and Development auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 3.00pm.</p>	<p>FEJB meeting The 10th biennial general meeting of the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) will be held with Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj as chief guest. Venue: FEJB field office, Segun Bagicha. Time: 9.30am.</p>

GraminPhone

Managing Director of GrameenPhone Ola Ree hands over computers to the representative of a school at the GP office in the city recently.