

## WORLD POPULATION DAY TODAY 3-yr plan to improve FP services

BSS, Dhaka

The government has planned to intensify the family planning programmes with a three-year plan to increase Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) to 62 percent from the current 54 percent and cut Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to 2.9 percent from existing 3.3 percent by 2006.

The plan taken under Health, Nutrition, Population Sector Programme (HNPPSP) will help improve overall health and family planning services, reducing drop-out rate of temporary contraceptive users and mother and infant mortality rate.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain said this yesterday at a press briefing on the eve of the World Population Day giving special emphasis on family planning programmes. The day will be observed today.

Under the plan, 1,500 (three in every upazila) Union Health and Family Welfare Centre (FWC) will be modernised and Emergency

Obstetrics Centres (EOC) will be expanded at district and upazila levels, he said.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will attend the main function of the day as the chief guest at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre at 11 am today.

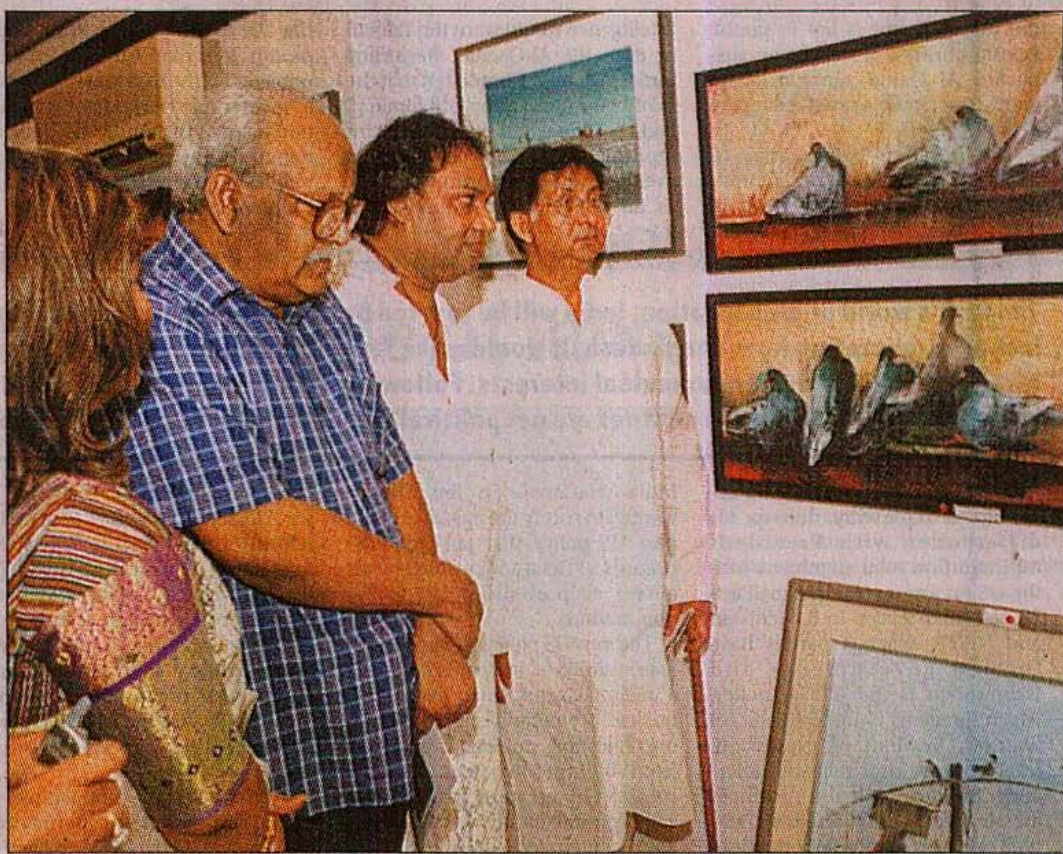
This year's theme of the day is -- "Participation of males and women's empowerment are prerequisites for a planned family and mother and child health."

### President assents to 4 bills

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday assented to four bills passed in the current budget session of parliament.

The bills are: The Dhaka City Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2004, The Chittagong City Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2004, The Khulna City Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2004 and The Rajshahi City Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2004.



Jamal's Gallery, the first solo art gallery on an artist, was opened at Dhanmondi in the city on Friday. Foreign Secretary Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury (right) inaugurated the gallery while eminent artist Rafiqun Nabi (second from left) launched its website -- www.jamalsgallery.com. The gallery will exhibit paintings by artist Jamal Ahmed (second from right) and organise exhibitions both at home and abroad.

## AL protests distortion of history

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different front organisations of main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday staged separate demonstrations at Bangabandhu Avenue protesting the insertion of Ziaur Rahman's name as the first proclaimer of the country's independence in the reprint of liberation war document.

At a rally of Awami Secchhasebok League and Jubo League, the speakers demanded punishment to those responsible for the distortion of the history.

They also burnt down a dummy of the liberation war document at the rally.

Addressing a rally of Mahila Awami League, AL Presidium Member Motia Chowdhury said if the government does not amend the distortion and fails to find out the criminals who issued death threat to Hasina, the AL leaders and workers along with the people would launch greater agitation to oust the government.

"We are always ready to sacrifice our lives to protect Sheikh Hasina," she said.

AL Women Affairs Secretary Ivy Rahman, Mahila Awami League President Ashrafunnesa Mosharraf and General Secretary Fazilatunnesa Indira also spoke.

## Bid to abduct businessman in Ctg: 2 held

CU CORRESPONDENT

Local people caught two abductors red handed when they made an attempt to kidnap a businessman at Agaramile area under Hathazari police station on Friday.

They were identified as Md Forkan, 32, and Shahjahan, 30.

The abductors forced Haji Mohammad Elias into a CNG-run autorickshaw when he was returning home after juma prayers, sources said.

As he shouted for help, local people rushed to the spot and caught the abductors. Later, they handed over the abductors to police.



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## Khoka gets bail in 2 graft cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday granted bail to Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka in two graft cases.

Judge Rezauul Karim Khan of the Special Court for Dhaka Division passed the order upon a bond of Tk 30,000 with two guarantors.

Khoka along with his lawyers appeared before the court and submitted two separate petitions for bail.

The lawyers said the petitioner earlier obtained bail from the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court and did not misuse the privilege of bail. Moreover, the cases were filed against him during the Awami League rule as part of a conspiracy to harass him politically. So they prayed for bail.

In the case filed with Motiheel Police Station, it has been alleged that Khoka, state minister for youth and sports during the previous BNP government, in connivance with others misappropriated Tk 3.20 lakh from the public fund showing forged documents of 14 clubs and organisations.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac) filed the case accusing Khoka and seven others on August 24 in 1998. The investigation officer pressed charges against Khoka and others on January 14 in 2001.

In the second case filed with the same police station, it has been alleged that Khoka gave promotion to Syeda Arzuma Akhter, organiser of Khulna Division in the youth and sports parishad, as a deputy director without recommendation of the Promotion Committee.

The Bac filed the case accusing Khoka and Arzuma on August 31, 1998.

### Buet term final exams July 24

UNB, Dhaka

The term final examination of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) will begin on July 24 instead of July 17.

Dates of other exams, however, will remain unchanged.

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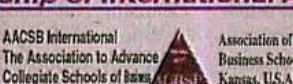
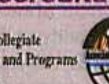
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