



Different non-government organisations jointly took out a colourful procession at Manik Mia Avenue in the city yesterday to mark the World Population Day.

Fresh initiative to set up 17 small power plants

BSS, Dhaka

The government has taken a fresh initiative to allow installation of small power plants with 20 to 30 megawatts capacity, reviving an earlier decision in view of the growing demand for electricity, energy ministry officials said.

According to the decision, power entrepreneurs will be given permission to install 17 small power plants in different parts of the country to provide electricity to the national power grid.

Initially, we planned to install 12 such plants in different places -- Chittagong Port, Boro Aulia of Chittagong, Feni, Choumohoni, Comilla, Tangail, Habiganj, Bogra, Rajshahi, Naogaon and Moulvibazar, said an official.

He said the process is underway to make a list of the entrepreneurs who intend to install the plants.

Against the backdrop of acute power crisis in mid 1990s, the then

government decided to quickly open up the power generation to private sector when several foreign and joint venture companies installed 100 to 110 mw plants called "independent power plants" or IPPs.

The state-owned Power Development Board has been paying the IPPs in dollars under a decision which later was criticised because of massive draining out of foreign currency due to gradual devaluation of taka.

But in line with a recent government decision, the new plants would be paid in Bangladesh currency while only Bangladeshi entrepreneurs will be allowed to install the plants, the officials said.

Under an earlier plan taken during the previous government, the Rural Electrification Board (REB) was to purchase electricity from proposed 10 small power plants with 10 mw capacity each.

The initiative, however, was stalled after three of the plants were

installed at Ashulia, Comilla and Narsingdi.

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmud said recently that the fresh initiative was also a bit different from the earlier decision. Under the new initiative, PDB would buy the power directly from the plants for the national grid.

So far, 118 enterprises took the enlistment forms for setting up the power plants although only four to five of them have experience in the power sector, said an official.

"Some of them, however, are working on developing partnerships with the experienced ones," he added.

Currently, 23 power plants, including the IPPs, are in operation with 61 units having a total of 4710mw capacity. But due to the dilapidated conditions of many of the state-owned plants, the production does not exceed 3600 mw while the demand for power is nearly 4,000 mw.

PM to hand over cheques among youth bodies tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to hand over cheques of grant among youth organisations for the fiscal 2003-04 at a function at Osmani Memorial Hall in the city tomorrow.

The cheques amounting to Tk 70 lakh will be distributed among 676 youth organisations from the Youth Welfare Fund, said a press release of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Md Fazlur Rahman will preside over the function.

In last fiscal, Tk 48 lakh was distributed among 458 youth organisations.

'Relaunch family planning programmes'

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion meeting in the city yesterday warned that the population boom in the country was ticking away like a time bomb.

They also stressed the urgency of relaunching the family planning programmes abandoned since 1999 and providing access of the people at the grassroots level to health and education services in order to empower them for improving their living conditions.

The speakers said this at the discussion organised by Life, a non-government development organisation, at its Dhanmondi office to mark the World Population Day.

Life President Kamrul Islam Sony, Dr. Atiqur Rahman of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Youth Scholars' Council President Amirul Islam Babu, Life Joint Secretary General Minu Hussain Tutul and Arifuzzaman Alo of Satata

Kalyan O Unnayan Samity took part in the discussion.

Life advisor Amanullah Khan in his keynote address said that despite the much-trumpeted success of population control policies claimed by the government, which had been more publicity than real achievement, the situation on the ground had not changed much.

He said the rate of population growth remained more or less static at around 2 per cent or slightly lower over the last decade as the government was unable to reduce it to the desired level. "This together with the increased life expectancy has made the problem worse," he added.

Home to one of the most densely populated areas of the world with about 2,400 persons per square mile, Bangladesh, at the current population growth rate, would witness the birth of over 2.6 million babies by the end of the year 2004, he said.

Hundreds of Pak women fall victim to 'honour killing'

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistani doctors Amnat and Ghulam Mustafa are on the run, in fear of their lives, for falling in love and getting married.

Hundreds of women fall victim to so-called "honour killing" by male relatives every year in deeply conservative, rural Pakistan for marrying without their families' consent, thereby being deemed to have brought disgrace on their family.

Amnat fears she would meet that same fate if she returned to her home in Sindh province in the south of the country.

"My brothers have threatened to kill me and my husband," 44-year-old Amnat told Reuters in a recent interview in the capital, Islamabad.

"There is no guarantee for my life if I go home," the visibly shaken woman said as her husband, Ghulam Mustafa, looked on.

"The main condition of my brothers is that I should get a divorce from my husband if I want to go home but I will never do that."

The couple's predicament highlights a major dilemma faced by Pakistan in reconciling centuries-old tribal traditions with modern-day values as President Pervez Musharraf tries to project the country as a moderate, progressive Muslim nation.

"More than 4,000 people, the major-

ity of them women, have been killed in the name of honour across Pakistan since 1998, according to government officials.

Amnat and Mustafa have been on the run since they married in August 2002 and have recently come to Islamabad to seek government help.

"We have come here to ask the government to do something for us because we are now physically, mentally and financially exhausted," the bespectacled Mustafa said.

The doctors' marriage enraged Amnat's relatives in their conservative home town of Moro where almost every marriage is arranged.

Mustafa said his wife's family had been harassing his family ever since. They kidnapped and tortured two of his women relatives for more than two weeks and attacked and wounded his nephew to avenge the marriage, he said.

"At least 35 of my relatives have left Moro in fear of their lives," he said.

NO CHANGE IN TREND
Musharraf, a key ally in the U.S.-led war on terror, has in recent months become more forceful in urging the government to take stringent steps to curb crimes against women.

In May, he called for the drafting of specific laws against honour killings, saying that although they were already illegal, specific laws would strengthen efforts to end the "intolerable prac-

tice."

He also called for a review of controversial Islamic laws which rights activists say are discriminatory against women.

But human rights groups say crime against women goes on despite the president's calls.

"There is no change in the trend," said Kamila Hyat, a spokeswoman for the private Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

"The government has been saying for long that it is doing something. But nothing actually has happened on the ground," she said.

Rights activists say few of those responsible for honour killings are brought to justice, with police often reluctant to intervene in a "family matter."

Those who are arrested are often freed after families reach settlements, usually brokered by tribal elders. In Amnat's home province of Sindh, where such murders are known as Karo Kari (black man, black woman), rights groups say 398 people, including 243 women, were victims of honour killings in 2002.

Mustafa said he did not want the government to provide protection just to them.

"We want them to lay hands on influential people and feudals who incite such crimes. There are many Amnats who are facing similar tragedies," he said.

Nat'l Hajj Policy soon

BSS, Dhaka

The government will soon announce the National Hajj Policy-2005 with provisions of various facilities for the pilgrims.

The work for preparing a draft on it has already been completed. However, the pilgrims will face no difficulty in performing Hajj, an official handout said here yesterday.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan on Saturday said the government was committed to solve all problems in the Hajj-related affairs.

Addressing a pilgrims' reunion at Eastern Circuit Community centre

in the city, he said the pilgrims would be provided accommodation near the Makkah Al-Muazzama so that they could perform their Hajj perfectly and say their five-time prayers in the Masjid-ul-Haram.

Measures will also be undertaken to ensure flawless management with due facilities for the pilgrims both in Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia during the Hajj, the handout said.

Shahjahan described the reunion of pilgrims as an important event and said exchange of pleasantries as well as views and experiences among them would help a lot to remove any problem or difficulty in the Hajj-related affairs.

'Kidney dialysis centres to be opened at div hospitals'

BSS, Dhaka

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the government plans to open kidney dialysis centres in the divisional hospitals.

Replying to a question from Mohammad Amjad Hossain Sarkar (Nilphamari-4), he said that gradually kidney dialysis centres would also be opened in the district hospitals.

The minister said that there are at present kidney dialysis units at the

government level at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, PG Hospital and National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology. Besides, there are six private kidney dialysis centres, he added.

Replying to another question from Jatiya Party member Mohammad Golam Habib Dulal, he said that the rural health centres in the country would be developed into health and family welfare centres by 2004-05 fiscal. He added that a list of the rural health centres was being made.

Allowance for elderly people raised to Tk 165

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Monthly allowance for the senior citizens has been raised to Tk 165 per person in this fiscal from Tk 150 in the last fiscal, said Social Welfare Minister Alihasan Mujahid yesterday.

At the same time, the age limit of the beneficiaries has been raised to 65 from 57.

About two lakh more elderly people will be added to the scheme this fiscal, the minister said at a press conference.

Quoting the Population Census of 2001 by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), he said the country

now has a total of 80.49 lakh elderly people and his ministry has selected 12 lakh, half of them are women, for the allowance.

The minister, however, admitted that the money given to each person is not enough.

This money is a token of support for the elderly, he added.

The minister said his ministry has allocated Tk 237.60 crore for the monthly allowance this fiscal.

Those who are physically- and mentally-challenged and suffering prolonged illnesses will be given priority during the distribution of money.



CAMPAIGN AGAINST DENGUE: Nabin, an artist, paraded the city streets during hartal hours yesterday carrying a large replica of aedes mosquito, carrier of dengue virus, and a placard that reads "Keep houses clean, destroy aedes mosquito."

Dhaka firm to eliminate violence against women

Khurshid Jahan tells CEDAW session

BSS, New York

Minister for Women and Children Affairs Begum Khurshid Jahan Haque said Bangladesh has expressed its solidarity with and commitment to almost all the international instruments related to women's advancement.

"Bangladesh was among the first few countries to ratify the protocol of Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)," she said while addressing the 31st session of the CEDAW at the United Nations here on Saturday.

Khurshid Jahan said the govern-

ment is determined to eliminate all forms of violence against women.

"There are different laws and acts in the country to combat all sorts of violence against women," she added.

The minister said Bangladesh has received global appreciation for attaining outstanding success in reducing poverty, empowering women and ensuring education, health and nutrition facilities for all.

She said the government made a heavy investment in women's education, making primary education compulsory and free for girls up to 12th grade.

Quoting World Bank report of May 2004, she said nearly 73 percent girls of 11-15 years and 80 percent of 6-10 years are enrolled in the secondary and primary schools respectively, which is one of the highest in any developing countries.

Referring to the HIV/Aids situation in Bangladesh, the minister said the prevalence of this killer disease is still very low compared to many Asian countries.

But, she said, there is a consensus at the national level leadership that the low prevalence of HIV/Aids should not relegate the issue to a low priority.

Chief Whip hospitalised

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Whip Khondkar Delwar Hossain was admitted to National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) yesterday as he complained pain in the chest and abdomen.

He was attacked with cold fever on Saturday. "He is now under investigation and treatment in the Intensive Care Unit of the NICVD," an official release said.

The chief whip sought doa from all for his early recovery.

JAPANESE SCHOLARSHIP Recruitment of fellows begins today

UNB, Dhaka

The recruitment of the fellows of Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship 2005 begins today.

Twenty fellows will be selected in eight disciplines- Law, Public Administration, Economics, International Relations, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Medical Administration, Education and Environmental Policy.

Application guidelines and forms will be available in all Ministries and Divisions, all DC offices, Embassy of Japan, JICA, JBIC, JICA Alumni Association, JUAAB, and JICE JDS project office in Bangladesh.

The application deadline September 9, 2005, says a Japan embassy press release.

Kishoreganj team submits memo to president

BSS, Dhaka

A team of newly-elected chairman and commissioners of Kishoreganj Poursabha along with noted citizens of the district called on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The delegation informed the president that the Kishoreganj Poursabha, established in 1869, is one of the oldest local government bodies in the country.

They submitted a memorandum to the president, underscoring the need for upgrading Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital to a 500-bed hospital, constructing a bridge over the Narasunda River to link Sholakia Eidgha with Karimganj and renovating Kishoreganj Town Hall.

President Iajuddin gave a patient hearing to them and called for local initiatives along with the government efforts to develop the area.

Former MP Abdul Latif Bhuiyan, President of Pura Banik Samity Harun-ar Rashid, Vice-President of the district Chamber of Commerce and Industry Quamrul Hasan, Public Prosecutor Khandakar Shahjahan were also present.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Md Abdul Mannan, a retired official of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute and father of poet Arefin Shamsul Hoque, will be held at his home at Telipara in Chandna, Gazipur today, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held after Zohr prayers.

WEATHER TODAY

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions till 6.00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls is likely at places over Rajshahi, Sylhet and Chittagong a division during the period.

Day temperature may rise slightly over Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions and remained nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country. Met office said.

Highest temperature 33.9 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and the lowest 23.3 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:19am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.3	26.5	80	92
Chittagong	25.8	24.5	93	92
Rajshahi	33.3	24.8	86	82
Khulna	32.6	26.9	80	74
Barisal	33.4	26.5	86	89
Sylhet	25.8	23.3	95	96
Cox's Bazar	27.8	25.0	96	93

শেরে বাংলা কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

শেরে বাংলা নগর
ঢাকা-১২০৭

পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং-এল-২/০৩/৪৬(২)

তারিখঃ ০৭-০৭-২০০৪ইং

অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের লাইব্রেরীর জন্য কিছু দেশী ও বিদেশী বই ক্রয় আবশ্যিক। বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ও প্রতিষ্ঠিত বই ও জার্নাল ব্যবসায়ীদের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্রে বই-এর তালিকা ও শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত সিডিউল, হিসাব শাখায় ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মূল্যে (অফেরতযোগ্য) ১২-০৭-২০০৪ তারিখ হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ২৪-০৭-২০০৪ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ক্রয় ও জমা দেয়া যাবে। ২৫-০৭-২০০৪ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০১ টায় দরপত্র খোলা হবে। ইতিপূর্বে যারা এ বিষয়ে দরপত্র জমা দিয়েছেন তাদেরকেও পুনরায় দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে। দরদাতাগণ ইচ্ছা করলে দরপত্র খোলার সময় উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন। কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ১৫ দিনের মধ্যে বইগুলো অবশ্যই সরবরাহ করতে হবে। সর্বনিম্ন দরদাতাকে কার্যাদেশ দিতে কর্তৃপক্ষ বাধ্য নহে। যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।

মোঃ মাহবুবুর রহমান
লাইব্রেরিয়ান (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)

শেরে বাংলা কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।

জিডি-৪১৩