



French Ambassador Michel Lummaux called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday.

UNFPA report on State of World Population today

Fertility rate declines BDHS survey says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

UNFPA's annual flagship publication, State of World Population, will be launched in Dhaka today as in other world capitals.

UNFPA Bangladesh will launch the report at a press conference at the VIP Lounge of the National Press Club, said a press release yesterday.



Qulhwani of Hasna Hazari today

Qulhwani of Begum Hasna Hazari (Jelly Apa), an eminent social worker and pioneer in the handicraft industry, will be held at her Gulshan residence after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

She died of kidney-related complications at Birdem Hospital at 6.30pm on September 12.

Begum Hasna was the wife of late Abdul Ghani Hazari, a renowned poet and journalist.



Dhaka City Awami League stages a demonstration yesterday demanding resignation of the four-party alliance government.

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JCD, police club BCL procession at RU, 20 students injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists, in collaboration with the police, clubbed a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) procession on the Rajshahi University campus leaving nearly 20 students injured yesterday.

Of the injured, the condition of BCL President Ibrahim Hossain Moon and General Secretary Ayan Uddin is learnt to be critical.

Others included Ayub Hossain, Al Biruni, Mofazzal Haq, Ziaul Haq, Zillur Rahman, Mehdi Hasan, Mustak Ahmed, Rebeba Sultan, Sumon Kanti, Sumon Kumar, Rothi, Khuku, Ashish and Madhabi Mollik.

Sources said JCD cadres along with the police swooped on the BCL procession when it was heading towards university bus stand to foil a JCD bid to run the buses during the strike.

Earlier, the BCL held rallies and brought out processions as part of the daylong strike enforced by six opposition student organisations protesting the JCD attack on Dhaka University campus.

At a press conference on RU campus, the BCL leaders called a daylong strike for today protesting the attack.

They also demanded removal of RU Vice-chancellor Prof Faisal Islam Faruki and Proctor Prof

Strike observed at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

A strike called by the Bangladesh Chhatra League and other left-leaning organisations was observed at Jahangirnagar University yesterday.

They called the strike to protest the September 12 attack on their joint rally by the JCD on Dhaka University campus.

Shamsul Alam for, what they said, the failure of the administration to provide security on the campus.

They claimed that Proctor Prof Zahid Hasan provoked and led the attack.

Asked, the proctor said police dispersed a BCL procession which was heading for damaging the university vehicles.

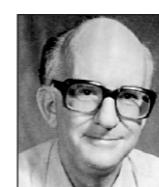
"We (RU teachers) and JCD leaders just barred the procession. We did not make any attack," he added.

JCD General Secretary Aslam Reza said general students drove the BCL workers who tried to create chaos on the campus.

Meanwhile, many resident students have reportedly left their halls due to prevailing situation.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 18th death anniversary of Lindsay Allan Cheyne, founder of the Underprivileged Children's Education Programmes (UCEP).

UCEP-Bangladesh has taken elaborate programmes to mark the day. The programmes include prayers at a local church, placing wreaths at Narinda cemetery and a discussion on the life and works of Cheyne.

Cheyne, a social worker of New Zealand, established the UCEP in 1972 to provide cost-effective non-formal education and skill training to the underprivileged urban working children.

He served as the chief executive of UCEP-Bangladesh until his death in 1986.

DHAKA TODAY

Memorial lecture

Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies organises a memorial lecture on Hiralal Sen, the pioneer filmmaker of the subcontinent. Two films will be screened on this occasion. The films are '2: Anatomy of a Political Assassination' (1969) directed by Costa-Gavras and 'Fahrenheit 9/11' (2004) directed by Michael Moore. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm.

Academy film show

Academy Film Society will screen a British documentary titled 'Touching the Void' (2004). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Scholarship awarding ceremony

Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation will award scholarships to the underprivileged rural students through a scholarship awarding ceremony. Venue: Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited Training Centre, Dilkusha. Time: 10.30am.

Moon sighting meet

A meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee will be held with State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan in the chair. Venue: Conference room of the Islamic Foundation Bangladesh, Baitul Mukarram. Time: 6.30pm.

Seminar

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association organises a seminar on the 'Role of home-based women and children workers and their rights in the context of Bangladesh'. Venue: Women's Voluntary Association Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Academy film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'Chalte Chalte' (2003) and an American film titled 'Starsky & Hutch' (2004). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Indian film show

The High Commission of India will screen a film titled 'Kaho Naa Pyar Hai'. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House-25, Road-96, Gulshan-2.

Seminar

A seminar on 'Earthquake engineering research in the University of Asia Pacific' will be held with Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: University Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over the country till 6.00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country during the period.

Highest temperature 28.9 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangpur and lowest 21.5 degree Celsius at Rajshahi.

The sun sets in the capital at 6.02pm today and rises at 5.45am 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	25.0	22.7	97	96
Chittagong	27.4	23.5	82	93
Rajshahi	24.6	21.5	94	94
Khulna	28.5	24.5	89	94
Barisal	26.2	24.6	100	93
Sylhet	27.8	23.4	88	89
Cox's Bazar	27.2	25.0	100	95



Good Governance for development at the local level and the implications of National Budget Allocations on Pourasavas at the CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka.

14 SEPTEMBER 2004, CIRDAP AUDITORIUM, DHAKA.

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Honorable Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mr. Mizanur Rahman Minu MP

Honorable Mayor of Sylhet City Corporation Mr. Badruddin Khanam

ORGANIZED BY: MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESH - MAB



PHOTO: STAR

Strengthening local govt a must for good governance

Speakers tell MAB roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Strengthening local government is a must for decentralisation of power, equal distribution of resources, good governance and overall economic development, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

They also called for more budgetary allocation for the local government and planned development projects in the locality.

The Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB) organised the roundtable on 'Good governance for development at the local level and the implications of national budget allocations on Pourasavas' at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Tongi Pourasava Chairman Advocate Azmat Ullah Khan, economist Debapriya Bhattacharya and economist Atiur Rahman and on his right is Badiul Alam Majumder, executive director of Hunger Project.

development of infrastructure and more budgetary allocation.

Debapriya suggested introduction of a mechanism through which budgetary allocation would be given on the basis of performance. The local government bodies who will perform better will get more allocation.

Speaking as special guest, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu called on the Pourasava chairmen to take up project-based development programmes in their areas.

The local government should take initiatives to implement projects in various sectors with the money allocated by the government under the annual development programmes (ADP), he said.

Minu suggested that the responsibilities for land management, holding tax collection and revenue collection from local markets should be given to the local government.

He also said the first class municipalities such as Narayanganj, Savar, Tongi and Comilla should get the status of city corporation.

Economist Atiur Rahman underscored the need for promoting a participatory democracy in the country.

He also suggested forming a permanent finance commission to assess the requirements of the local government.

He also called for capacity building of the local government for the

possible without a strong base of the local government, he said.

Referring to the poor performance of the local bodies, Atiur said some of them often get higher allocation from the government just on the basis of recommendations by influential political high-ups.

He also said policy-makers should consider the changed livelihood pattern in the country while taking up development programmes.

Prof Nazrul Islam called on the local government bodies to take up planned development projects that do not harm the environment.

Badiul Alam Majumder said the constitution gave full autonomy to the local government bodies but they could not enjoy it.

Rather, their power has gradually been curtailed, he said.

Selina Hayat Ivy, chairman of Narayanganj municipality, alleged that the local body leaders aligned with opposition political parties often fell victim to political harassment.

Such political interference also hampers the development process, she said.

Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star, moderated the roundtable held at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city.

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