



PHOTO: STAR
Nirapad Sarak Chai (We Demand Safe Road) took out a procession at Kakrail yesterday to mark Road Safety Day.

Separate lanes for cycling demanded

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a rally of cyclists here yesterday emphasised the need for creating separate lanes for cycling in the capital city.

The 'Roads for People' organised the rally of cyclists at National Museum. A cycle procession was also brought out from National Museum to Central Shaheed Minar in the city in observance of the National Road Safety Day.

The speakers said the road accident is one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide.

Ibnul Sahid Rana of the NGO Ushika,said the bicycle creates no noise or air pollution, takes a little road space and does not create traffic jams.

Maruf Rahman, a leader of the Roads for People said, "Now, it is risky to ride a cycle in the capital. Thus, we want separate lanes for cycles. Motorised transport can not reduce poverty, air and noise pollution, road accident and traffic jam ," he said.

Members of Ushika, Usha, Dhaka Cycling Club, Hunger Project, Hunger Free World, Shanti Udduog Trust, Shodesh Unnayan Kendra, Saster, MANOBIK, WACC, Fej, Campaign for Peace, WBB Trust, Pratyasha, Bangladesh Shashika Parishad and Jubo Academy participated in the rally.

Oct 22 National Road Safety Day

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to observe October 22 every year as the National Road Safety Day to curb road mishaps as well as raise awareness on road safety.

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda announced it at a rally as chief guest at Kakrail in the city yesterday on the occasion of Nirapad Sarak Dibash.

Bangladesh has a sent a specific proposal to United Nations to declare October 22 as the Inter-national Road Safety Day to create public awareness to check road acci-

dents around the world, Huda said.

Huda expressed the hope that United Nations would comply with Bangladesh's proposal.

Tigress gives birth to three babies at Ctg zoo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,Ctg

A tigress in Chittagong Zoo gave birth to three baby tigers on Wednesday, zoo sources said. Of them, one is male and the other two are female.

"We are a bit worried about the health of the female baby tiger which is very weak and unable to suck her mother. But the rest two are all right" said Curator Dr Monjur Morshed Chowdhury.

"We are making utmost efforts to save the ailing baby tiger. We are feeding it with cow milk in an artificial way" the curator said, adding " We are hopeful that it would come round shortly."

"Visitors are not allowed to enter their cage now. We will open the cage for them after 15 days " he said.

The tigress Purnima along with her mate Chandra were brought to Chittagong from Dhaka Zoo on August 28 last.

Purnima was carrying before her arrival in Chittagong Zoo.

Ensure proper treatment to save foreign exchange

President urges doctors

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday inaugurated a conference of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) with a call to the physicians to launch a social movement against smoking through raising awareness.

The BMA organised its 17th Medical Conference and Annual General Meeting-2004 at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre here.

Iajuddin said that the nation could save valuable foreign exchange if the doctors could ensure modern and proper treatment in the country.

In this context, the president mentioned different success stories in the medical sector such as bypass surgery, angioplast and kidney transplant.

He said "Uncontrolled smoking is still one of the social ailments in our country." He noted with dismay that "various evil designs" have been crafted to make smoking attractive to the youths.

He also mentioned the threat of environmental pollution caused by industrialisation and rapid urbanisation.

The BMA is an important organisation of professionals and the physicians, with their talent, hard work and sacrifice, have always stood by the people, he said.

He also commended the role played by the physicians during every mass movement, including the language movement of 1952, the War of Liberation and the mass upsurge of 1990.

The president recalled with gratitude the contributions of the martyred physicians like Dr Fazle Rabbi, Dr Aleem Chowdhury and others to the War of Liberation.

Referring to the Primary Health Care programme, introduced by late President Ziaur Rahman in 1978, he

President, PM greet Hungarian counterparts

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia felicitated their Hungarian counterparts on the occasion of the National Day of Hungary to be observed today.

In separate masssges to the president of Hungary Dr Ferenc Madl and Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany they expressed hope that the close and friendly relations that exist between the two countries will be further strengthened in the years to come.

said people are now enjoying the fruits of that programme.

"President Zia had initiated a far-reaching programme to take the health services to the doorstep of the people," Iajuddin said.

He also recalled that President Ziaur Rahman had taken the initiative to introduce health cadre in Bangladesh Civil Service and ensured the appointment of MBBS doctors at the Union Council level.

Iajuddin listed President Zia's contributions in improving the health

sector by founding NICVD, NIO and NIPSOM for post-graduate education and training of the physicians.

In continuation of those initiatives, the present government has also taken up various steps to improve the public health sector, he said.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain and State Minister Mizanur Rahman Sinha attended the conference as special guests. BMA President Prof MA Hadi presided.

'Conserve bio-diversity for sustainable food production'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar have called for conservation of bio-diversity for sustainable food production.

The seminar on 'Strategies towards people's right to food: National and global perspective' was organised by the Right to Food Movement, a non-government organisation, at the National Press Club in the city on Thursday.

Maushumi Mahapatra from Action Aid Bangladesh presented a paper at the seminar emphasising on various aspects of food aid, rights to wage, market access and hybrid seeds.

She also stressed the need for

meaningful participation of NGO networks in the local consultative group.

Ahmed Swapan Mahmud, secretary of the Right to Food Movement, discussed the bio-diversity conservation issue in his paper.

Presided over by Nasreen Huq, country director of Action Aid Bangladesh, the seminar was also attended by Chairperson of the Right to Food Movement Ashrafal Alam Tutu, Prof Dr Iqbal Zuberi, Prof Mesbah Kamal, Dr Khairul Bashar, Fahmida Munhit, Prof Dulal Biswas, Shawkat Ali, Rayyan Hasan Farhat Jahan and Arup Rahee.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil speaks at a discussion titled " Misrule of alliance government and the way out for the nation" at Dhanmondi yesterday. Bangabandhu Adorsha Mulyayan O Gobeshona Sangsad organised the meeting.

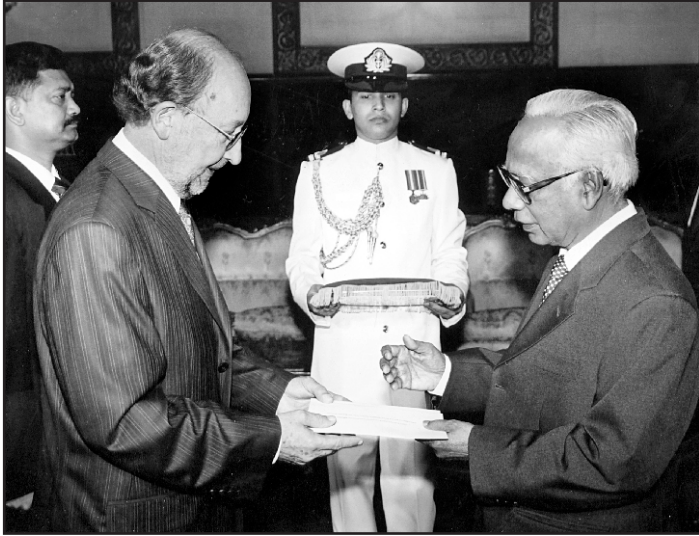


PHOTO: PID

Newly appointed Ambassador of France to Bangladesh Jacques Costilhes presents credentials to President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban on Tuesday.

Bangladesh for UN-Saarc institutional relationship

BSS, New York

Speaker Muhammad Jamiruddin Sircar said here yesterday that an institutional relationship between SAARC and UN would strongly help achieve objectives of these organisations.

Sircar was addressing the joint debate of the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on "Cooperation between the United Nations and the other organisations."

He said that in an increasingly globalised world, cooperation among the international organisations was crucial. The Millennium Declaration recognised the need for the United Nations to work more closely with parliaments in the areas of peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights, and democracy and gender issues.

Sircar urged the parliaments to explore the ways of assisting the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. He also said

that national parliaments could contribute a great deal to better the lives of people around the world.

Referring to the practice of democracy in Bangladesh, he said that Bangladesh had come a long way in strengthening democracy and making it an integral part of her national life.

He said that despite efforts of the UN, war, conflict, poverty, hunger and malnutrition remained global scourge, which destroyed the lives and aspirations of millions of the world.

"We firmly believe that nations big and small, weak and powerful all need the UN, as much as the UN needs them. It is only by combining our endeavours and uniting our resolves that we will be able to achieve our objectives of peace, security, development and stability," the Speaker added.

The Speaker also attended the 2004 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations headquarters from October 19-20.

Rab nabs 4 thieves, recovers truck

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four alleged thieves from Banshkhali upazila in the district on Thursday night and recovered a truck stolen from the capital

The arrestees are Ajit Kanti Das, Rasel Barua, Biplob Das and Shamsul Alam.

Later, they were handed over to police.

Acting on a tip off, a 10-member Rab team raided a garage owned by one Monju at Miar Bazar and arrested the thieves along with the truck, sources said

The truck was stolen from Sutrapur in the capital a month ago.

Prisoner dies at CMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A prisoner of Chittagong Jail died yesterday.

Sources said Khorshed Alam, son of Jalal Driver, was shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with chest pain in the morning.

He died at the hospital at around 8:00am.

Khorshed Alam, an under-trial accused in a criminal case, had been in the jail custody since he was arrested early this year.