



CHILDREN'S SIGHT RESTORATION PROGRAMME

UK actress Joanna arrives today

British actress Joanna Lumley arrives in the city today on a five-day visit to support a groundbreaking crash programme of the Sight Savers International to bring sight to 10,000 Bangladeshi children born blind, says a press release.

The campaign will completely remove the backlog of cataract blind children who could benefit from sight restoring surgery.

Across the world, nothing has ever been attempted on this scale before and the agency hopes that the programme in Bangladesh will provide a model for other countries to follow.

Every cataract blind child in every village across the country will be offered the chance of sight restoring surgery.

Sight Savers International, also known as the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, is one of the leading agencies in the world preventing and curing blindness. Joanna Lumley has been supporting Sight Savers for many years but this visit to Bangladesh is her first opportunity to see their work at first-hand.

To meet the ambitious target of 10,000 child sight restorations, Sight Savers, together with its partners in Bangladesh, will develop the capacity of local hospitals and eye care professionals so that they are better able to identify and treat children with cataract.

49 killed by Rab, police in May

Odhikar report says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 49 people were killed by the law enforcers across the country in the last one month, including 39 of them in crossfire, a human rights organisation report said.

The report of Odhikar said police killed 35 while Rapid Action Battalions (Rab) killed the rest 14 during the month of May.

Police shot down 25 while Rab members killed 14 in crossfire, the report added.

The report, revealed yesterday, was prepared based on the reports published on 14 different national dailies.

A total of 25 were killed, 549 injured and 133 arrested violating human rights during the last month, according to the report.

A total of 94 women and girl children were abused, of them 25 were killed after rape while another 15 women became victims to acid violence, the report added.

A total of 22 women became victim to dowry while 15 of them were killed after torture and one committed suicide during the time. A total of nine were injured, 14 abducted and 18 others captured during the last month in Chittagong, the report pointed out.

One journalist was killed, two injured, two arrested, one abducted, two beaten and 12 received threats during May, the report also said.

A total of 116 children were abused in different ways, of them 31 were killed, 10 injured, 36 raped, 16 abducted, 4 missing, 12 trafficked and one arrested during the period, the report also added.

Rajuk approves AMCH plan

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) has approved the plan for Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) to be built in Sector 10 of Uttara Model Town in the city, says a press release.

Rajuk Chairman Engr Md Shahid Alam handed over the Plan Approval Letter to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President and Chief Executive of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), yesterday at a function at the Rajuk Bhaban.

Tarek Alam AIA, managing director of Design Alliance, USA, AKM Delwar Hossain, project director, AMCH, Prof Nurul Islam, director, PRD, Engr Kazi Mohammad Momen, Xen Engineering Cell and MA Razzaque, assistant director of DAM were present at the function.

The approval of the plan has put new momentum to the activities of establishing the proposed 500-bed world class Cancer Hospital in the country with public donations on private initiative.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam said DAM has taken all the preparations for starting the construction of the hospital very soon and it will be completed in three years.

He reiterated his appeal to the benevolent persons to come forward and make contributions for construction of the hospital as per plan.

He requested all to make the AMCH lottery a great success.

Resist enemies of trees: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called for invigorating the afforestation campaign and preventing "enemies of trees" from carrying on their onslaughts on forests.

She said people themselves are the enemies of the trees despite the fact that trees are so vital for human existence. "Some of these enemies are also present in the forest department," she said and asked the authorities concerned to identify and take proper action against them.

"Devourers cannot be kept in the roles of protectors," she said this at a function marking Tree Fair at the National Parade Square.

Calling for intensifying the national tree-planting campaign into a dynamic social movement, the PM suggested people to plant at least two trees each this year. "The habit of planting trees has to be cultivated by all ... the country has to be abounded with greenery".

Presided over by Forest and Environment Minister Tariquul Islam,

the function was also addressed by Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Huq, State Minister for Forest and Environment Zaful Islam

Chowdhury, Forest and Environment Secretary Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury and Chief Conservator of Forests M Anwarul Islam.

Khaleda planted a "Mahua (Bassia Latifolia)" sapling on the premises to mark the formal inauguration of the National Tree Planting Movement-2005.

She also released two commemorative stamps of Tk 6 denomination brought out by the Postal Department.

She also distributed Prime Minister's National Award for Tree Planting-2004 to different individuals and organisations and NGOs on the occasion and hoped that it would encourage others to plant more trees. She also distributed cheques among the beneficiaries

of the social afforestation programme.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Prof Shahidul Islam MP and Khurram Khan Chowdhury MP were among the recipients of the Prime Minister's National award for outstanding tree-planting initiatives.

Describing trees as man's best friend, Khaleda urged the people to motivate at least two acquaintances for planting trees and start the practice of giving tree-plants as gift.

She asked the people to utilise all possible space to plant trees for prosperity.

Khaleda regretted that the balance of proportion and harmony between the population and trees no longer existed. The increase in population and decrease of trees endangered ecological balance.

The imbalance is a major cause of natural disaster and catastrophes, she said. She called for increasing the number of trees rapidly to prevent calamity.

She said resources will improve with the increase of trees on the one hand and on the other it will help

check natural disaster.

She asked the Ministry of Forests and Environment to take necessary measures for encouraging this year's SSC and HSC examinees to plant trees during their free time before their results are published.

Pointing out the benefits of trees, she said they provide food and drinks to humans, supply oxygen for breathing and shade from the sun. The trees are used for building houses and furniture and also a major source of fuel.

Khaleda said mere planting trees will not be enough and called for taking care and protecting the saplings.

She called for utilising the advantage of fertility of the soil to raise the numbers of trees and increase the forest resources to reduce the needs and save the country from poverty and natural disaster.

SURPRISE RAIDS SOON
CMP identifies 53 crime spots in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) has identified 53 crime spots in the city with a view to conducting surprise raids in cooperation with the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) soon.

The CMP in a meeting on Monday decided to launch crack-down on criminals in the wake of alarming rise in crimes, including mugging, police sources said.

The Officers-in-Charge of 12 police stations have identified the crime points under their respective thana areas and the lists have already been submitted to the CMP, they said.

According to the list, the highest number of crime points are located in Kotowali area while Kamaphuli area has the lowest number of crime spots.

Sources said surprise raids by police and Rab would begin at any time at the directive of the CMP commissioner.

Commander of Rab-7 Lieutenant Colonel Quazi Emdadul Haq and other high police and Rab officials attended the Monday's meeting while CMP Commissioner Majedul Haq presided.

Obituary

BSS, DHAKA

Siddiquzzaman (Bachchu), a businessman, passed away due to cardiac arrest at Suhrawardi Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 56.

He left behind his three sons and four daughters.

He was buried at Azimpur graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at the Bakshibazar ground.

Death anniversary



Today is the 9th death anniversary of Advocate Dabir Uddin Ahmed, former lawmaker, an organiser of the War of

Liberation, a close associate of Bangabandhu and Sirajganj Awami League leader, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his village home at Islampur in Ullapara upazila, at Sirajganj Suhrawardi Road residence and at 113/1- B Khilgaon Chowdhurypara, Dhaka.

Abdul Mannan



Today is the first death anniversary of Md Abdul Mannan, a retired official of BRRI, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhawani and doa mahfil will be held at Sham's Nikunja, Telipara (near mosque) Chandana, Gazipur and his village home Moysdipur Jame Mosque under Senbag upazila, Noakhali after Juma prayers tomorrow.

Relatives and friends have been requested to attend the programme.

Rotan Mia



Today is the eleventh death anniversary of Md Rotan Mia, founder chairman of "Babuli Construction & Consultants (Pvt) Ltd," says a press release.

On the occasion, doa and milad mahfil will be held at the Islampur "Moon Complex" after Zohr prayers and at his residence after Asr prayers today.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at the Jubo Gono Forum council at Mahanagar Natya Mancha auditorium in the city yesterday.

Identify those giving arms to students

Dr Kamal tells Jubo Gono Forum council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called for identifying the evil people who are destroying the potential of the students and the youths by giving arms to them.

Referring to criminal activities at Dhaka and Rajshahi universities, he called on the government to clarify why such activities are being allowed in the educational institutions.

The evil forces who are patronising criminal activities and corruption only to protect their self-interest are infected by diseases, Dr Kamal said as chief guest at the Jubo Gono Forum council-2005 held at

Mahanagar Natya Mancha auditorium in the city.

He called on the youths to play a pivotal role in making the country free from crimes and corruption.

Those engaged in dirty politics have to be replaced by honest and qualified people for the welfare of the people, he said.

The politics in our country needs treatment and the youths have to play an effective role in this regard, said Dr Kamal, also the president of Jatiya Oikya Mancha.

Gono Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik called on the youths to launch a movement to ensure participation of the honest

people in politics for the advancement of the country.

Former Awami League leader Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Jatiya Jubo Jote Convenor Nazmul Haq Proshan, Bangladesh Jubo Maitree President Noor Ahmed Bakul, Bangladesh Jubo Union General Secretary Mahbulul Islam and Jatiya Oikya Mancha and Gono Forum leaders Mostafa Mohsin Montu, Abdur Rouf, Dr Abdul Hakim, advocate Subrata Chowdhury, Mazfulul Islam Khan Kamal and Farida Yasmin also spoke.

Jubo Gono Forum President M Sagir Anwar presided over the inaugural session of the council.



Blue for Peace

Arally will be held as part of the 'Blue for Peace' programme demanding trial of the killers of former finance minister Shah ASM Kibria. Venue: Near Mohammadpur Town Hall Shaheed Park Mosque. Time: 4.30pm.

Meet the Reporters

Dhaka Reporters Unity will hold 'Meet the Reporters' programme with ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, the newly elected mayor of Chittagong City Corporation. He will talk on 'Urban development: Aspirations of city-dwellers and achievements'. Venue: DRU VIP auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.

Shaplakuri Award

Shaplakuri Award 2003-04 distribution ceremony, organised by Zia Academy, will be held, with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

Poetry reading session

Muldhara organises a poetry reading session with senior and young poets. Poet Syed Al Faruk will conduct the programme. Venue: Muldhara Zakia Alam Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm.

Film show

Biswasahitya Kendra will screen a film titled "The Pianist" directed by Roman Polanski. Venue: Biswasahitya Kendra.

Reunion

Reunion of Begum Badrunnesa Government College Alumnae Association will be held. Venue: WVA Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of the 'Samageet', a magazine on music, will be held. Venue: Natmandal, Dhaka University. Time: 4.45pm.

Discussion

Nazrul Institute will hold a discussion to mark the 24th death anniversary of former president Ziaur Rahman. Venue: Kabi Bhaban, House-330/B, Road-28, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.

Cultural evening

Officers Club, Dhaka organises a literary and cultural evening in celebration of Rabindra-Nazrul Joyanti. Venue: Club Auditorium, Bailey Road. Time: 7.15pm.

East West University

The East West University will hold the Merit Award Scholarship programme. Venue: University auditorium. Time: 5.00pm.

Rotary Greater Dhaka

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka will be held. Members are requested to attend the meeting. Venue: Hotel Eastern Residence, House # 14, Road # 27, Block # J, Banani. Time: 6.00pm.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Sylhet, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country till 6:00pm today.

Moderate to severe heat wave may continue over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi, Dinajpur and Ishwardi during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 42.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 23.4 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:43pm today and rises at 5:11am 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	35.5	28.5	70	65
Chittagong	34.5	28.1	77	71
Rajshahi	42.4	28.0	68	43
Khulna	36.7	28.6	75	61
Barisal	34.8	27.6	77	75
Sylhet	33.8	23.4	74	75
Cox's Bazar	35.0	29.0	67	72

Govt to reform laws to make judicial system more dynamic

Moudud says at workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said the government has taken an initiative to reform laws to make judicial system more dynamic.

"The development of other sectors is possible if a dynamic and smooth judicial system exists in the country," he said.

He was addressing a workshop on "Reforming Criminal Justice: A Legislative Initiative" organised by the law ministry in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Moudud said that 17 amendments and 17 new sections would be introduced in the criminal laws in this regard.

Such reforms will be finalised after consultation with all concerned, he added.

"The government is much concerned about the flaws in the investigation system, case management and court administration and has taken different initiatives accordingly," Moudud said.

He said "The government's discussion with the stakeholders before introduction of a law is a unique example in Bangladesh."

The government does not avoid its responsibilities after enacting a new law, rather it monitors implementation of that law, he added.

State Minister for Law Muhammad Shahjahan Omar said the reforms in civil and criminal laws will be brought to ensure justice for the common people.

Law Secretary Alauddin Sardar presided.

Lawyers, judges and police officials took part in the workshop.

Navy launches tree plantation campaign

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Navy has launched a massive tree plantation campaign at all naval bases and establishments in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Mongla, Kaptai, Cox's Bazar and other naval units in the coastal areas as part of its tree plantation campaign 2005.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan inaugurated the programme by planting a "Arucaria" sapling at the Naval Headquarters compound at Banani yesterday.

The navy personnel are expected to plant about 2 lakh fruit-bearing, forest and medicinal saplings like Shal, Mehagani, Korai, Mango, Jackfruit, coconut and Arjun.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Family Welfare Association has also undertaken similar programme at different naval bases.