# METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR TODAY

Today is the World Day Against Child Labour. The country is observing the day for the fourth year when a total of 12.90 lakh children are engaged in hazardous child labour.

According to the National Child Labour Survey 2002-2003, the number of boys engaged in hazardous child labour are 11.70 lakh while the number of girls is 1.20 lakh. Of them, 6.7 percent are engaged in formal sector where as 93.3 percent in various informal sectors.

A research report on State of Child Labour 2001, Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum and Unicef identified some 430 forms of child labour. Among them, 67 are identified as hazardous. The report labeled seven sectors, including bidi factory, match factory, seafood, domestic help as excessively hazardous for children.

Many children are also employed in bedding stores, stone breaking and construction, saw mills, glass and garment factories, tannery and other economic activities.

No doubt, they engage themselves to help the families. Most of the children come from poor families and support the families, risking own security and health

Milon (not real name), 11, is working at a tannery industry at Hazaribag for the last two and half years. His job is to pile up dry leather one after another. He gets a onehour lunch break in between his daylong shift starting from 8:00am

Ex-JCD leader

seeks security

A former leader of Jatiyatabadi

Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday urged

the prime minister to ensure the

security of him and his family

members as a quarter has been

giving death threats over the

"I have always been under threat

since I was expelled from the BNP

five years ago following a conspir-

acy within the party. Recently, the

conspirators are issuing death

threats to me and my family mem-

bers," said Kamruzzaman Ratan,

former joint secretary of JCD, at a

Ratan, who was a member of the

national executive committee of the

BNP, said, "The conspirators

recently published a poster portray-

ing me as a 'notorious criminal and

smuggler' in a bid to tarnish my

and his younger brother were

present at the press conference

The former JCD leader, who

played a vital role during the anti-

Ershad movement in 1990, said, "I

kept myself away from politics since

I was expelled from the party. But

now my personal and social life are

at stake as the conspirators have

become active again to destroy my

Awami League General Secretary

Abdul Jalil MP left Dhaka yesterday

for Kolkata for his regular health

tomorrow, says a party press

act as acting general secretary of

Senior journalist AKM Jalaluddin

died here yesterday following

Jalal left behind his wife, a son

Former general secretary of

Rajshahi University Central

Students Union (Rucsu), Jalal

joined the Bangladesh Observer in

the early seventies. He also worked

He was also the senior vice-

Jativa Press Club president

Reazuddin Ahmed and general

secretary Shaukat Mahmood

Begum Kaniz Noor, wife of late

Abdur Noor, deputy registrar of

Bangladesh Cooperatives Society,

passed away due to old-age compli-

cations yesterday at her

Mohammadpur residence at the

She left behind her two sons and

condoled the death of Jalal.

**Begum Kaniz Noor** 

six daughters.

with Radio Moscow and the UNDP.

president of the Jatiya Press Club.

protracted illness at the age of 58.

the party during Jalil's absence.

Obituary

and a daughter.

He is expected to return home

Joint Secretary Obidul Kader will

Jalil goes to

Kolkata for

check-up

held at the National Press Club.

Ratan's wife and two children

press conference in the city.

image in society."

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

telephone.

The poor boy works 48 hours a week to receive only Tk 245, which is Tk 35 per day. He comes from Barisal and stays at his sister's

"My father couldn't bear my expenses, so he sent me to my sister. Then my brother in-law managed this job for me. Now I can help my family a little bit," Milon said adding that his work here is not that tough and there are many boys like him in the factory.

But, the boy doesn't even know that his 'easy work' costs him so much. It is found that corrosive chemicals, used for tanning and preservation of the hides and skins, are unhygienic with horrid smell.

The children may develop anthracosis manifested by painful ulcer in the hands and feet, fever, severe weakness and toxic condition, dermatitis and fungal infection, digital and nail fold ulcer, diarrhea, anorexia or vomiting, according to a research conducted by the Department of Labour and IPEC/

Around three to four hundred children are engaged in some worst forms of child labour in the 200 tanneries in Hazaribag. These children are never recruited as permanent workers and deprived of all sorts of facilities, including a reasonable standard wage.

The employers, especially who run the industries with a small capital, employ the children for cheap labour. As a result recruiting though a bilateral agreement was signed in 2002, sources from International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) project of ILO said.

The agreement signed among Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leather Goods and Footwear Exporters' Association, Bangladesh Tanners Association and Hazaribag Tannery Workers' Union with the Employers said no more child workers would be recruited in the tannery industries and it would soon be declared as child labour free industry

" But the treaties are not implemented fully. Few large industries stopped recruiting child labours, but that does not represent the whole scenario, as the small industries are yet to follow the agreement.

Continuous pressure by the Tannery Workers Union and awareness building programmes taken by the ILO decreased the number of child workers, which was almost 2,000 in 1995," said the president of Hazaribag Tannery Workers' Union. Abul Kalam Azad.

However, the factory owners were unwilling to admit the fact that they had child workers in their factories claiming that for the last seven to eight years, no hazardous chemicals are being used in the factories and they had appointed women workers instead of children.

The government as well as different NGOs are working together to resist child labour.

Education programme for the children, vocational training, economic empowerment, creating awareness in the society are going on. Rehabilitation of some 30 thousand children, engaged in hazardous work, is also carried out.

On a more practical level, the Ministry of Labour and Employment is currently implementing a USAID funded project, titled "Eradication of Hazardous Child Labour in Randladesh". Interventions under a "demonstration" project, which covers areas in Dhaka and Chittagong Municipal Corporations, include non-formal education and skills training for the working children and micro credit support for their guardians or parents.

"Yet the child labour is not declining as it should have been Lack of education, appropriate plan and implementation of laws are possibly the main reasons behind it," said the chairperson of Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), Advocate Rokhsana

BSAF recommended political commitment from the policy makers and implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy paper. It also demanded for a taskforce on national child labour elimination. Introduction of national child labour policy and appropriate laws as well as signing the ILO Convention 138 were also suggested by the forum.



Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum held a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday on the occasion of the World Day Against Child Labour.

# 'Widened tax net to hit consumers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political and social organisations yesterday strongly criticised the proposed budget for 2005-06, terming it ambitious and against the interest of the people.

In a statement, the Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) the tax net has been widened to such an extent that the consumers will be the worst sufferers, it said. The CAB observed that the

budget has no direction in the area of poverty reduction although the finance minister in his budget

5:10am tomorrow.

City/Town

Chittagong

Raishahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Cox's Bazar

Dhaka

major cities and towns yesterday were:

speech said poverty alleviation will be given priority.

It also expressed scepticism about whether the poor farmers will benefit from the provision for more subsidies to the agriculture sector proposed in the budget.

In another statement, Bangladesh Sramajibi Nari Moitri, a women workers' association, said the interests of the women workers have been totally ignored in the proposed budget.

Although women make up over 40 percent of the total labour force, there is no specific allocation for them, it added.

Humidity in

percentage

80

77

91

Morning Evening

56 76

84 73

WEATHER TO DAY

Heat wave may continue

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is

likely at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions

and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions

predicted that mild heat wave prevailing over Khulna division and the

regions of Rajshahi, Ishwardi, Bogra, Tangail, Dhaka and Faridpur

Sylhet divisions and may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over

at Chuadanga and lowest 23.5 degree Celsius at Rangamati

Temperature

in Celsius

Max

35.4

32.5

38.6

35.7

34.6

32.0

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

Day temperature may fall slightly over Chittagong, Barisal and

Highest temperature 40.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

The sun sets in the capital at 6:47pm today and rises at

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

25.8

26.0

26.8

29.5

28.3

24.5

"Rather, the finance minister has colluded with the big interest groups by giving them a scope to whiten black money," it said.

Sheikh Shahidul Islam, secretary general of the Jatiya Party (Manju), called for reducing expenditure in the unproductive sectors and increasing the allocation for the service sectors such as education and health.

Bangladesh Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Parishad demanded proper allocation for the teachers of non-government educational institutions.

# Myanmar hails Bangladesh for repatriation of its172 citizens

**BDNEWS**, Dhaka

Myanmar has appreciated the

A note sent by the Embassy

"The Embassy feels that without the cooperation extended by all

# Provident funds in savings

This was decided by the government, which reintroduced the system by further amending the Savings Certificates Rules of 1977 (as amended till June 30, 2002).

A notification was issued yesterday to restore the system, a PID handout said.

Since June 2002, public and private institutions, including schools and colleges, have been barred from investing accumulated amounts of their provident funds in savings instruments.

Yesterday's notification removed the restriction.

## Mosquitoes force villagers to flee homes

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal** 

About 12,000 villagers in Kuakata have fled their houses to protect themselves from a phenomenal mosquito menace.

Most of them have been passing their nights in the open field. producing thick smoke from various sources to scare off the insects. Many families also moved to safer places in nearby Kalapara Swarms of mosquitoes from

protected forestlands in Khajura, Lembuchar and Mombipara attacked the villages in Latachapli Union on Thursday, making the life of villagers miserable, said Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Barek The waterbodies in the

forestlands are the breeding ground of the mosquitoes, he said, adding that lack of rain for a long time has resulted in the rapid breeding of the insects. The swarm of mosquitoes is so

thick that the sunrays cannot enter through it, darkening the area, said Sohrab Hossain, a UP member of No. 8 Ward, who has moved to Syeed Fakir, another UP memper, said hundreds of chickens

fallen sick due to attack by the mosquitoes Although nobody became seriously ill due to attack by the

have perished and cattle have

insects, children and elderly people have been suffering from fever. The affected villages are Khajura, Naioripara, Fansipara,

Hossainpara, Kalaipara, Mongthoypara, Mombipara, Panjupara, Melapara and UP Chairman Barek Molla said

this regard and urged the district and upazila administration to take immediate steps to eliminate the mosquito menace.

## Hawker murdered in Rajshahi

BDNEWS, Rajshahi

A newspaper hawker was stabbed to death at Ranibazar area here vesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Titon, 22. Police suspect that the murder occurred due to previous Family members of slain hawker

said, Titon left home as usual at 6:00am to distribute newspapers. Titon's blood-stained body was found in front of ADAB office under Boalia thana by the local people at around 7:00am.

He was rushed to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where the attending doctors declared him

Victim's father Kabir Hossain,60, filed a case with Boalia thana.

# JU syndicate polls June 18

JU CORRESPONDENT

The election to the syndicate under dean category in Jahangirnagar University (JU) will be held on June Intra-party feud among the pro-

AL teachers has come into surface ahead of the election. Two pro-AL teachers have submitted nomination papers to run for the post while pro-BNP teachers on liaison with pro-AL teachers decided not to take part in the election. Science Faculty Dean Prof Dr

Mahmuda Ghani and Arts Faculty Dean Prof Dr Nasir Uddin will compete for the post. The deadline for withdrawing nomination papers

About 315 teachers are expected to vote in the election scheduled to be held from 9:00am to



Japanese Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Ichiro Aisawa yesterday called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the

# PM seeks Japanese help to build Padma bridge

Visiting Japanese Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Ichiro Aisawa yesterday called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the PM's office yesterday

During the meeting, Aisawa expressed his hope that the forthcoming visit of Khaleda Zia to Japan, beginning July 11, will further intensify the existing warm relationship between the two countries. He said that the Japanese Prime Minister, government and the people are looking forward to receive her in Japan.

Khaleda Zia told Aisawa that Bangladesh was grateful to Japan for its support and assistance to Dhaka's infrastructure development over the years.

Referring to Japanese assistance in building the long bridge over the river Jamuna, the Prime Minister said it has laid a very positive impact on Bangladesh's

She hoped that the Japanese

## Bashar acting DCC mayor

Kazi Abul Bashar, Commissioner of Ward No-74, took charge yesterday as the acting mayor of Dhaka City orporation (DCC) in absence of Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP.

Khoka left Dhaka on Friday for Singapore for medical check-up, DCC sources said.

government would also come forward in building the planned Padma bridge.

The Japanese Senior Vice Minister responded positively and said his country looks with appreciation at the development being carried out under the leadership of Khaleda Zia.

Khaleda mentioned the investment incentives provided by the government and hoped that more Japanese investors will be attracted. She also urged Japanese Minister to look into the possibility of importing more goods from Bangladesh.

# Canada keen to invest in energy sector

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Energy minister of oil-rich Canadian province Alberta (AB) expressed interest to invest in the energy sector of Bangladesh.

He showed the interest when Bangladesh State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain met him at the provincial capital Calgary on June 9. During the meeting, Mosharraf welcomed his interest.

Mosharraf Hossain went to anada in response to an invitati of the economic development minister of Alberta. He took part in Gas and Well Exposition held from

# **A**BDUCTION

KALPANA CHAKMA

## Punishment to abductors demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the ninth year of the abduction of Hill Women's Federation Leader Kalpana Chakma, savs a press release of the federation.

Protesting the abduction and demanding immediate punishment to the alleged kidnaper Lieutenant Ferdous, the federation will organise various programmes on the occasion.

Arally at Shabag in the city will be held at 10:00am to start the daylong programme while a discussion titled 'Women's security question in military ruled area: CHT context" will take place at 4:00pm at the seminar room of the Public Library.

Kalpana Chakma was abducted on 12 June in 1996 ahead of the eighth National Election.

Following the incident, the then government had formed an investigation team under national and international pressure. But the probe report never got published, alleged the federation.

## 'Govt conspires to uproot indigenous people'

BDNEWS, Bandarban

Goutam Dewan, president of Protect Rights of Land and Forest, has said that the indigenous people of CHT do not get much importance

as the wildlife gets. "When sanctuaries are being established across the world to protect wildlife, Bangladesh government has been conspiring to uproot the indigenous people (Adivashis) from their homes," said Dewan in an exclusive interview with the

BDNEWS. He said, the movement for survival of indigenous community and to establish their rights on land have started; no temptation can

misguide the ongoing movement. He demanded permanent cancellation of land acquiring process for the extension of the cantonment in Ruma.

If the government does not show respect to their demand, they will foil the blue print of uprooting Adivashis from their lands through acquisition

of lands for the cantonment, he said. He said the government acquired over two lakh acres of land of 83 mouzas of Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati in the name of social afforestation.

Simultaneously, the government acquired 11,500 acres of land for setting up Artillery Training Centre in Bandarban. Now about one lakh ethnic people are feared to be rendered homeless due to extension of cantonment in Ruma.

Goutam Dewan also attended a rally organised by Adivashis at Terenus Hall of Ujani Para in Bandarban on June 7. A huge number of men and

women of indigenous community was present at the rally from Ruma. Pantla, Galanga, Tankabati, Chimbuk and Sengum mouza.

Hill Tracts Committee to Protect Rights of Forest and Land' president Jumlian Amlai chaired the meeting while General Secretary Sudutt Tanchainga, Adivashi leader Avoy Chakma, Tuku Talukdar, Sagarika Chakma and district Janasanghati Samity Vice President Mong Marma spoke on the occasion. Goutam Dewan at the rally said

Bandarban district 'Chittagong

eviction of people from their own lands in the higher court. Earlier, he resigned from the

Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council Chairman post in 1992 to take part in the movement of establishing people's

the note said.

The Myanmar nationals were repatriated on April 27.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all concerned authorities of the ministry of Home Affairs, and the Bangladesh Rifles for the speedy repatriation of 172 Myanmar nation-

recently said that the repatriated Myanmar nationals had been sent back to their respective domiciles. "The persons repatriated and their families have also expressed their deep gratitude to the concern authorities of the People's Republic of Bangladesh," said a Foreign Ministry press release yesterday.

concerned this tough job would not have been done and the Embassy hopes to continue getting such cooperation from the authorities and officials of the various ministries and departments of the Government.'

1:00pm at the Teachers' Club.

# A weeklong Arts Festival, organised by

and Bengal Foundation, will be inaugurated. Venue: ISD premises. Time: 11:00am. **Evening of Bangla** 

the International School Dhaka (ISD)

Arts Festival

songs

### An evening of Bangla songs, organised by the Muldhara, will be held with renowned senior and young singers. Venue: Muldhara Zakia Alam Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:30pm.

Project Fair Delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh organises a daylong Project Fair to raise awareness about the EC-funded projects. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan. Time: from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

### DVD launch The DVD version of national award-

winning film 'Lalsalu' (A tree without roots) by Tanvir Mokammel will be launched, with French Ambassador Jacques-Andre Costilhes as chief guest and Prof Anisuzzaman as special guest. Venue: Alliance Française. Time:

### Child gathering Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum will hold a gathering of children on the

occasion of the World Day against Child Labour. Venue: Wonderlands, Gulshan-Confce on ending

### domestic violence The Alliance to End Domestic Violence will hold a national conference on

'Ending domestic violence against women' as part of 'We can' campaign. Venue: Engineers' Institute. Time:

**British Interactive** 

### School

British Interactive School arranges a demonstration on 'Interactive whiteboard teaching' introduced for the first time in the country. Venue: School premises, House #500 V (west), Road # 8, Dhanmondi. Time: 11:30am.

### Seminar

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and Bangladesh Unnavan Parishad (BUP) will hold a seminar on 'Sustainomics -- A Transdisciplinary Framework of Making Development More Sustainable'. Venue: IDB Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 9:00am.

### Human chain

The inaugural ceremony of a human chain by working children will be held, organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Resource Integration Centre to mark the World Day against Child Labour. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 10:00am.

### Rally

The Development Centre International organises a rally and street meeting to mark the World Day against Child Labour. Venue: Postagola to China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge square. Time: 4:00pm.

### Condolence meeting Bangladesh Awami Ainjibi Parishad will

hold a condolence meeting in memory of Advocate Khorshed Alam Bachchu, law secretary of Dhaka city Awami League. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm. **RU Alumni Assoc** 

### A joint meeting of the executive

committee and advisory committee of Rajshahi University Alumni Association will be held. Venue: 5/5 Block # C, Lalmatia, Time: 5:30pm

# that a case would be filed against

### can be invested 12.90 lakh engaged in worst certificates, bond forms of child labour Provident funds of the recognised institutions can henceforth be invested in savings certificates and