

BIRTH REGISTRATION PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

# 100pc registration by 2 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ensuring citizens' rights and protecting children from early marriage, child labour, child prostitution and youth detention, the government is going to implement the Birth and Death Registration Act 2004.

With this end in view, universal birth registration programme was launched yesterday to bring cent

percent population under the birth registration within the next two years.

LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan launched the programme at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city.

"Birth and death registration act was first introduced in Bangladesh in 1873 but it was not implemented due to lack of awareness of people.

But it is very important to count the age-based population and for this reason we have enacted the law adjusting the present need," said the minister.

He said birth registration will be needed in school admission, getting jobs, incorporating the name in voter list and collecting passport.

The programme will also be very helpful with regard to early mar-

riage, child labour, child prostitution and youth detention, he added.

"Steps have been taken to prepare electronic birth registration database in city corporations, municipalities and union parishads. A software named BRIS has already been developed for making data based information," said the minister.

Bhuiyan said linking the electronic birth registrar to a child immunisation database would ensure vaccination of all registered children on time.

Speaking as special guest Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said the birth registration will also be very helpful in medical services.

"Birth registration will ensure a healthy life as it helps determine patients' age which is essential in health services especially when doctors give prescription," he added.

Rosella Morelli, officer-in-charge of Unicef Bangladesh, said birth registration prevents early marriage, ensures that all children are enrolled in school at the right age, protects underage children from working and ensures special treatment for children in juvenile justice system.

State Minister for LGRD Ziaul Huq Zia said the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that a child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and the right to be cared by parents.

Secretary to Local Government Division SM Zahurul Islam presided over the function where Country Director of Plan Bangladesh Espey Ned also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

Vehicles got stuck in a massive traffic jam in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

## B Chowdhury visits Matiur's grave

President of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday visited the grave of Birsreshtho M Matiur Rahman at the martyrs' intellectual graveyard in Mirpur in the city, a BDB press release said yesterday.

He paid respect to the martyr standing in silence by side of the grave and prayed for eternal peace of Matiur and all other martyrs.

BDB Vice Presidents Major General (Retd) MA Halim, Doctor Abu Mujaffar Ahmed, Organising Secretary Mahi B Chowdhury and other leaders were present on the occasion.

# Victory at UN CEDAW body reflects int'l recognition: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said Bangladesh's win in election as member of the UN CEDAW Committee is an international recognition of the country's achievement in women's welfare and rights.

She made the remarks when newly elected member of the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee Ferdous Ara Begum made a courtesy call on her at the PMO.

The Bangladesh candidate, Ferdous Ara, grabbed the first position bagging the ever-highest 140 votes. Twelve countries were elected members of the CEDAW committee out of 23 countries in the race for election held in the UN

Headquarters in New York on June 23. A total of 183 member countries cast their vote.

Other elected members are Japan (131) Mauritius (128), Slovenia (116) the Netherlands (116), Croatia (112), Algeria (110), Egypt (105), Thailand (100) Ghana (97), Israel (96) and South Africa (94).

Congratulating Ferodus Ara on her election, Khaleda said the country would have to do more for the welfare and improving the lot of the womenfolk.

"Those women personalities who remain in various good positions here can play an important role in improving the fate of those women lagging behind," the PM said.

Ferdous Ara, a former DG of

BTV and ex-joint secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, expressed her gratitude to the prime minister for nominating her for CEDAW-committee member.

She said Bangladesh has been elected following multifaceted progress and action of the government under the leadership of Khaleda in women's affairs, including women's education, empowerment and employment, as well as bold steps and measures against women repression, including dowry, acid throwing and women trafficking.

"These steps and achievement have created a positive impression in external world about Bangladesh," the UN CEDAW members said.

# Dhaka hopes to consolidate ties

Sircar, Khaleda greet Bush on US Independence Day

UNB, Dhaka

Acting President Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia felicitated President George W Bush on the occasion of the Independence Day of the United States, reaffirming the importance Bangladesh attaches to its relationship with the USA.

"It gives me immense pleasure in extending to you and through you to the people of the United States of America my heartiest felicitations on the occasion of the Independence Day of the United States of America," said the acting President in a message.

He hoped and believed that the existing excellent bond of friend-

ship and cooperation between the two countries would be further solidified in the coming days.

He noted that the people of Bangladesh and the United States have come increasingly closer over the years as they share common values of democratic polity, which are the inherent strength of the two societies.

In a separate message, Khaleda, on behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh, extended to Bush and his government and the US people the warmest greetings and felicitations "on the great occasion".

She said that Bangladesh attaches a very high degree of importance to its relationship with

the United States. "Our two nations are committed to common values of democracy, the rule of law and freedom of expression."

The PM further noted that the friendship between the two countries "has matured in content, depth, dimension and strength" over last three and a half decades.

"We sincerely appreciate the support of the friendly government and the people of the United States for the progressive socio-economic development of the people of Bangladesh."

The prime minister firmly believes that "the much-valued and time-tested friendship" between the two countries would continue to flourish in the days ahead.



PHOTO: STAR

A drenched crow perches on a branch of a tree in Chittagong city during moderate rain yesterday, which brought some relief from the scorching heat for the city dwellers.

## HC stays fresh surcharge collection by feeder operators

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday stayed for two months the collection of congestion surcharge imposed by Chittagong feeder vessel operators on Chittagong Portbound containers.

A High Court bench passed the interim order following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) challenging the legality of imposition of the surcharge.

The Chittagong feeder vessel operators imposed the congestion surcharges on Chittagong-bound containers on June 5, which would cost the country over Tk 60 crore a month in foreign exchange.

Dr Kamal Hossain appeared for the BGMEA.

## Security guard shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists shot and injured a security guard at Mirpur in the city yesterday morning.

The victim, Jahangir Alam, 50, was shot in his leg and hand in front of an under-construction building at Monipur at around 6:00am.

He is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Jahangir said two extortionists came to the construction site and were looking for the owner of the house for toll. But without finding the owner, they fired at him.

## Govt chooses path of killing to stay in power: CPB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at a rally yesterday said the BNP-Jamaat coalition government has chosen the path of killing and torture in order to stay in power.

The leaders also said the coalition government would not stay in power through killing people as no government in the past could stay in power by doing so.

CPB organised the rally at Muktangin in the city protesting killing of Golam Mustafa Milon, a leader of Swechhasebok League, 'by police' during Sunday's blockade programme.

CPB Acting General Secretary Syed Jafar Ahmed, CPB central leaders Ruhin Hossein Prince, Mahbub Alam, Ahsan Habib Lavlu and Sajjad Jahir Chandan also spoke on the occasion.