

Adopt measures to stop brain drain

President urges all concerned

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged all concerned to adopt appropriate measures in stopping country's brain drain in the wake of a growing trend among the students to stay abroad after taking higher studies.

He regretted that many brilliant students and teachers are taking higher degrees from reputed universities abroad, but many of them are not coming back after completing their degrees, which causes irreparable loss to the country.

"I call upon the expatriate meri-

torious graduates to contribute to the nation with the spirit of patriotism and the sense of obligation to the motherland," he said.

"I also urge all concerned to adopt appropriate measures with a view to stopping brain drain for the sake of the nation," he said at the awards giving ceremony of American Alumni Association at a city hotel.

Iajuddin praised the association members for reaching a consensus on returning home after completing higher degrees from USA despite having enormous opportunities for making professional career there.

He also urged them to undertake

mass people oriented activities particularly in the fields of education and healthcare services so that "our people can get ample opportunities in those basic sectors."

Congratulating the award winners, he said those awards would give them more social responsibilities and would also inspire others to make sacrifices for the nation.

"I urge all to come forward with the spirit of patriotism and utmost dedication" to make Bangladesh a happy and prosperous country, he said.

Father poisons 5-month son to death, commits suicide in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A day labourer committed suicide after poisoning his five-month-old son to death in the port city in the early hours of yesterday.

The day labourer was identified as Akhter Hossain, 35, while the name of his son was Masud Hossain.

On information, police recovered the bodies at around 1:30pm and sent them to Chittagong Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

Quoting Akhter's wife Rani Begum, the investigation officer said she along with her husband and son went to bed on Thursday night and found both of them senseless after getting up in the morning.

Sources said Akhter had a serious quarrel with his wife at their house at a slum at Roufabad area under Bayezid Police Station in the early hours.

Following the quarrel that reportedly resulted from financial crisis, the poverty-stricken labourer poisoned his son to death and killed himself in the same way, they added.

Hotel staff shot in city

UNB, Dhaka

Staff of a residential hotel was shot wounded by a gang of miscreants at Chowdhurypara in Malibagh in the city yesterday.

Police said two miscreants entered Meraj Residential Hotel at about 9:30am and looked for its manager for tolls demanded earlier.

As the manager was not there, the criminals came out of the hotel and opened fire on hotel staff Khalilur Rahman, 30.

Khalil, hailed from Baumohal village in Nalchhiti upazila under Jhalakathi district, was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet wounds in his leg.

Production in Zia Fertiliser Factory resumes

UNB, Brahmanbaria

The production in Zia Fertiliser Factory that was suspended due to technical faults on June 29 resumed yesterday.

Sources said the 26-year-old factory failed to achieve its production target in the last fiscal year as technical glitches forced the authorities to suspend its production for 15 times in six months.

The factory, having 1,600 mts of production capacity, has 4.20 metric tons of output target in the new fiscal year.

Indian clothes worth Tk 17 lakh seized

UNB, Joypurhat

The members of BDR seized a truck loaded with Indian clothes worth about Tk 17 lakh at Vimpur in Panchbibi on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, the BDR men intercepted the Dhaka-bound truck on Hill-Joypurhat road and seized 579 pieces of sari and 378 pieces of salwar kameez, which were smuggled from India, BDR sources said.

Sensing the presence of BDR, the smugglers fled away leaving behind the truck.

TTT course for police held

A five-day-long 'Train the Trainers' (TTT) course for Bangladesh Police concluded in the city recently, says a press release.

The Police Reform Programme (PRP) of UNDP sponsored the course while Institutional Development Services Linkage (IDSL), a centre for training and development, conducted the training.

Additional Inspector General of Police NBK Tripura inaugurated the course on July 1.

Hasan M Mazumdar, deputy country director of CARE Bangladesh, Mark Weston Wall, executive development and training specialist, PRP, and Dr Md Mosleh Uddin Sadeque, chief executive officer, IDSL, were present at the inaugural ceremony.

The course focused on enhancing capacity of the trainers of police department. The contents included training needs assessment, setting course objectives, curriculum development, lesson plan preparation, training methods, communication and presentation skills, training assessment and evaluation.



Garbage continues to pile up on a road at Nakhla para in the city, polluting the environment and posing health hazards to locals and passers-by.

PHOTO: STAR

54th founding anniversary of RU today

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) celebrates its 54th founding anniversary with a daylong colourful programme today.

The programme, beginning with the hoisting of the national flag and the university flag at 6:00am, includes procession of teachers, students and university staff, placing wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar and RU mass grave, march-past by the BNCC and Rover Scout, tree plantation, friendly cricket and handball matches and cultural programme.

RU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Alaf Hossain will inaugurate the programme by releasing pigeons and balloons, said a RU press release.

The university authorities formed a committee headed by Prof Sadekul Islam, dean of the social science faculty, to make the programme a success.

Campaign to save Mirpur park

DU CORRESPONDENT

As part of the ongoing movement to save a children's park at Mirpur in the city, Save the Environment Movement and local people organised a drawing competition, signature collection campaign and a cultural programme at the park yesterday.

Around 300 children took part in the drawing competition, said a press release.

The organisers said a vested quarter cut down many trees at the park at Mirpur section # 2 on April 16 in order to construct a commercial market there. But the environmentalists stepped in and forged a united movement with the help of local people to save the park. On April 20, two advisers of the care-

taker government visited the park and ordered a halt to the construction work.

Addressing yesterday's programme, convener of Save the Environment Movement Abu Naser Khan stressed the need to preserve greenery and parks in urban areas.

He said greenery helps offset damage to the environment in various ways.

Parks also help ensure healthy physical and mental growth of children by providing space and better environment for their physical activities, he added.

Mirpur Park Protection Committee President Yakub Ali, General Secretary Zahurul Haque, Morshed Ali Khan, Wahid Mia and Khairul Islam also spoke.

Bus passengers robbed in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

Armed robbers beat up the passengers of a bus and looted valuables, leaving 10 passengers injured, near Bonogram Bazar on Dhaka-Pabna highway early Thursday.

Police said a gang of 8 or 10 robbers in the guise of passengers boarded the Pabna-bound bus from Dhaka. When the bus reached the bazaar area at 3:00am, they beat up the passengers and looted cash and valuables worth Tk 2 lakh.

The robbers got down from the bus at Ganghati area at 4:30am and fled away with the booties.

Police arrested four people, including the bus driver, suspecting their link with the robbers. A case was filed in this connection.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mintu Paul Chowdhury, a student of Dhaka University, has appealed for financial assistance for his treatment as he has been suffering from lung cancer for the last one year.

Mintu, a second year student of public administration, is now undergoing treatment at an Indian hospital. According to doctors, the treatment would cost about Tk 15 lakh.

But his father Jatindranath Chowdhury, who is a poor farmer, is unable to collect such a huge amount of money.

So, Mintu has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save his life.

Contributions can be sent to Savings Account No. 34099774, Janata Bank, TSC Branch, Dhaka University. Interested persons can also call at 01714-588143 or 01716-139014.



PHOTO: STAR



Former adviser to the caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan speaks at a discussion titled 'Role of media in the development of women and children' organised by non-governmental organisation Children and Women Vision Foundation at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Former chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission Margub Morshed and on his left is Chief Adviser of ATN Bangla Saiful Bari. (Story on Page 1)

Live Earth concerts aim to rally action against global warming

AFP, Washington

Round-the-world Live Earth concerts in nine major cities today will promote the fight against global warming with 24 hours of music by the likes of Madonna, the Police and other pop giants.

Former US vice president Al Gore will provide the political message, urging a potential audience of two billion to lobby industry and governments to take action.

"We're going to ask the two billion people estimated to be in the audience Saturday to take a seven-point pledge that is designed to change behaviour and also to put pressure on political leaders in every country across the ideological spectrum," Gore told NBC television.

The festivities start at 0200 GMT Saturday in Sydney, which passes on to Tokyo, then Shanghai, Hamburg, London, Johannesburg, New York and wrapping up in Rio de Janeiro, with a symbolic rendezvous in Kyoto, Japan and a base in Antarctica.

Some 7,000 events in 129 countries including the eight giant concerts are being promoted by Gore as part of his passionate bid to focus attention on the dangers of climate change.

Gore announced yesterday that Washington had been added as a new location, four months after some members of US President George W Bush's Republican party resisted attempts to hold a concert in the nation's capital.

"I'm happy to announce here on CNN that a surprise new concert venue is going to be the Mall in our nation's capital," Gore told the cable network, referring to the sprawling green space near the Congress.

According to Gore, the scaled-down Washington event would be a daytime concert at the National Museum of the American Indian's outdoor plaza, kicking off at 10 am (1400 GMT) and featuring country music stars Trisha Yearwood and Garth Brooks.

Gore also told CNN all the artists would perform for free.

"These are the best acts in the entire world, and they've all said, yes, we're going to give our time and our talents in order to try to help save the climate," he said.

The Rio concert was nearly nixed by a judge who feared for the safety of the 700,000 expected to attend the free concert in Copacabana featuring Macy Gray, Lenny Kravitz, Pharrell Williams and Xuxa.

A concert for Istanbul was called off due to security reasons.

Bob Geldof, organizer of the 1985 Live Aid concert that set the standard for world activism through music, has expressed doubts that Live Earth would be more effective than pressing government and industry to action.

But Gore called the concerts "an SOS, a wake-up call to the entire world. And it will launch a three-year global campaign to get the facts out to everybody in the world" through his Alliance for Climate Protection.

"People will be aware of the facts but they will connect that awareness to what we can do to solve it," he told NBC.

Gore's Academy Award-winning documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" argues that human activity is raising the Earth's temperature, threatening changes in weather patterns, the seas and endangering life on the planet.

His crusade against global warming has prompted calls for him to enter the 2008 US presidential race after having narrowly lost the 2000 vote. But he told NBC: "I don't expect to be a candidate again, ever."

"I'm involved in a different kind of campaign to try to raise awareness of what I truly believe is the most serious crisis our civilization has ever faced."

At Wembley Stadium in London, musical acts will include the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Duran Duran, Foo Fighters, Black Eyed Peas and John Legend.

The Police, Smashing Pumpkins, Kanye West, Alicia Keys, Jon Bon Jovi, Roger Waters and Gore will take the stage at Giants Stadium outside New York.

Angelique Kidjo, Joss Stone and UB40 will play in South Africa.

Shakira, Snoop Dogg and Yusuf Islam (formerly Cat Stevens) will play at Hamburg and Linkin Park will play Tokyo.

The concerts aim to promote action to fight global warming, caused by the release of gases into the Earth's atmosphere, allowing light in but preventing heat from escaping, much like the glass in a greenhouse.

Gore preaches energy conservation and lower "greenhouse gas" emissions, such as was agreed in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol which was signed but not ratified by the United States.

Performances will be carried on national television networks around the world and on the Internet at <http://liveearth.msn.com>.



Awami League (AL) presidium member Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, third from right, along with other leaders returning after security forces barred him from entering Sudha Sadan residence of party president Sheikh Hasina yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

Australian research reveals AIDS-cancer link

AFP, Sydney

AIDS sufferers and transplant patients are at a much higher risk than the general population of developing a range of cancers, according to an Australian research released yesterday.

The new study, published in The Lancet medical journal, suggests a link between a depleted immune system and 20 different types of cancer and could be a breakthrough in the understanding of the causes of the malignancies.

Lead researcher at Sydney's University of New South Wales, Professor Andrew Grulich said the research looked at two groups — those infected with HIV/AIDS and kidney transplant patients.

"Immune suppression is really the only thing they share," he told AFP.

"What we found is that the extent of cancer occurrences in these two populations was very similar. Both had increased rates in a wide variety of cancers."

The research analysed the results of 12 previous studies completed in Australia, the US, Europe and Canada and involving more than 444,000 people with HIV/AIDS and some 32,000 organ recipients.

It found that of the 28 cancers studied, both groups were at a significant risk of developing 20 of them including cancer of the liver, stomach, cervix, eye, lip, mouth and penis.

HIV/AIDS patients were found to be 11 times more likely to develop Hodgkin's lymphoma while those who had undergone a transplant were almost four times more likely to develop the disease.

Grulich said most of the 20 cancers were mostly linked to infection.

He said for those cancers not linked to viruses or bacteria, such as breast and prostate cancer, both groups had similar rates to the general population.

"Until now, the accepted wisdom was that there were only three cancers associated with HIV — this paper finds that it is more like 20," he said.

Grulich, who works at the university's National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, said the findings could overturn the previously held view that some of these cancers were linked to lifestyle risks such as smoking and sexual practices rather than infection.

"We believe that the finding points to an immune deficiency and not those other risk factors," he said.

The results could change way HIV/AIDS patients are treated, he added.

"This evidence suggests that immune deficiency is associated with risk of cancer and this suggests we need to maintain people's immune systems at a higher level — and that might mean putting HIV patients on anti-retroviral drugs earlier than is currently the case," he said.

The research comes ahead of a major international conference on HIV/AIDS which will take place in Sydney on July 22-24.

WEATHER TODAY

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi division until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to very heavy rainfalls are also likely at places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions, Met Office said.

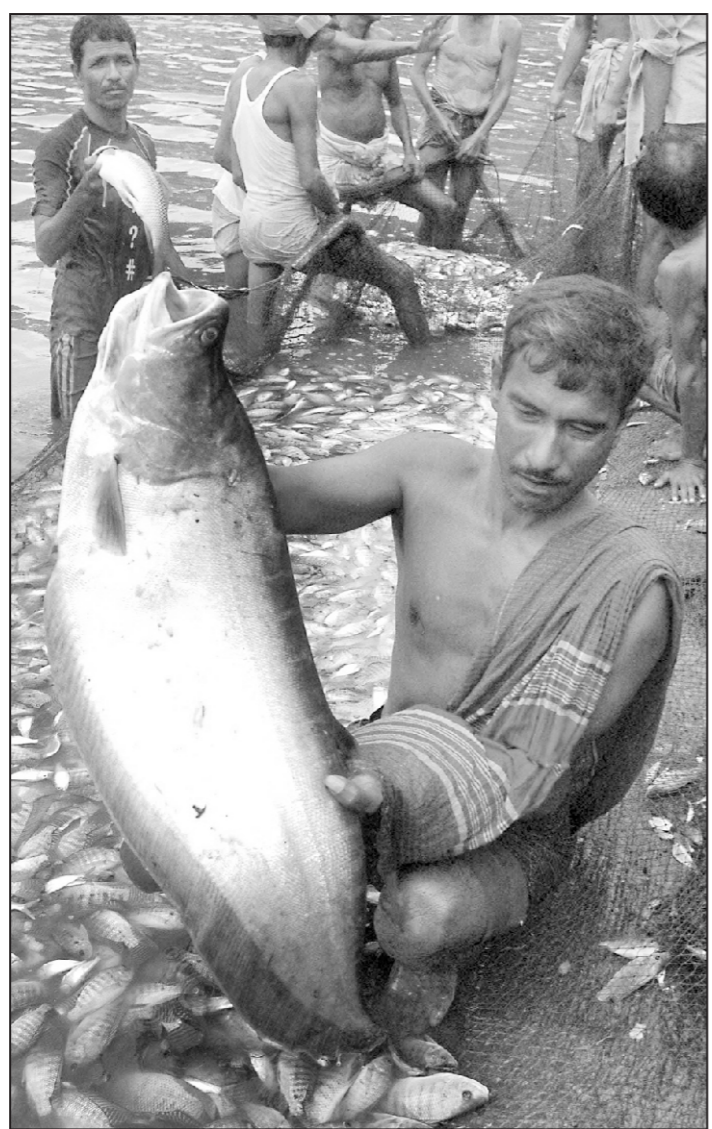
It also predicted that day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.7 degree Celsius at Khepupara.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:17am 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	31.0	25.3	88	78
Chittagong	29.0	25.0	83	97
Rajshahi	31.3	25.8	89	78
Khulna	31.3	25.5	97	93
Barisal	30.6	25.0	97	96
Sylhet	35.2	26.5	82	96
Cox's Bazar	27.4	25.2	97	95



Fish cultivated in contaminated water of lagoons of Wasa at Pagla in Narayanganj are being netted to destroy them in order to prevent their sale in markets.

PHOTO: STAR