

WORLD FOOD DAY OBSERVED

Ensure right to food for all

Speakers tell seminar

BSS, Dhaka

The World Food Day was observed in the country yesterday with a call for ensuring the right to food for all and eradicating hunger and poverty from the world.

This year the theme was 'The right to food'.

To mark the day, the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations organised a seminar and a rally in the city.

Adviser for the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management Tapan Chowdhury attended the seminar as the chief guest while Adviser for Agriculture Dr CS Karim was present as special guest.

Agriculture Secretary M Abdul Aziz presided over the seminar.

The seminar called for inventing new technologies for production of high-yielding crops to ensure food security for the growing population of the country.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in separate messages urged the government and the non-government organisations to join their hands to enhance the food production in the country to ensure the right to food for the growing population.

President Iajuddin in his message said Bangladesh still could not build food security for its people despite its progress in food production.

Laying importance to strong

'commitment' and 'actions' at the national level to ensure the right to food, Iajuddin called for concerted efforts to achieve the goal.

Fakhruddin in his message referred to the constitutional right of the citizens to get adequate food and said the government is committed to protecting the right.

He said the government has been implementing various programmes to increase food production, reduce inflation, create employment, expand social security nets and ensure food supply up to the marginal level.

Fakhruddin urged all concerned to ensure agricultural inputs, application of modern technologies and increased investment in the agriculture sector.

The day was also observed in the other member states of the United Nations simultaneously.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in a message said the Day was observed at a time when around 854 million people across the world are suffering from chronic hunger and the figure has been increasing day-by-day.

He expressed deep concern over increase in the number of starving people in the world since beginning of the new millennium. In a world of plenty, this situation is unacceptable, he said.

Ban Ki-moon urged all to put together their efforts in making the 'Right to Food' a reality saying the world has the resources, the knowledge and the tools to make it happen.

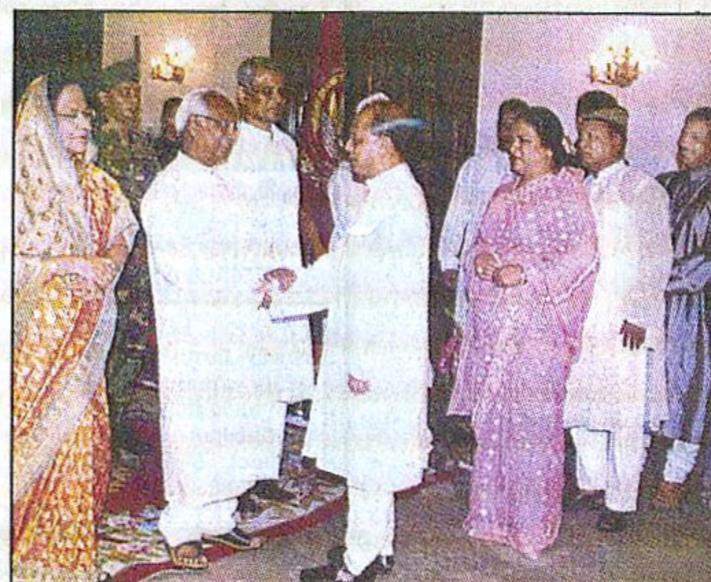


PHOTO: PID

(Left) Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed exchanges Eid greetings with President Iajuddin Ahmed at a reception at Bangabhaban on Sunday on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. (Right) Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed exchanges Eid greetings with people from all walks of life at a reception at the Chief Adviser's Bhaban on Sunday.



Motijheel Commercial Area looks almost deserted yesterday, the first working day after Eid holiday, as many city residents who went to their village homes to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr, are yet to return.

Indian navy ship arrives in Chittagong

The Indian Navy Ship Karmuk commanded by Commander Suraj Berry VSM arrived in Chittagong yesterday on a goodwill visit to Bangladesh.

During its stay in Bangladesh, the Commanding Officer of the ship will call on Commodore Commanding Chittagong, Commodore Commanding BN Flotilla and Commodore Superintendent of Dockyard.

The Area Commanders will also pay return call on the Commanding Officer of INS KARMIK on board the ship.

Other activities of the visiting ship include a visit to BNS Shaheed Moazzam, a training complex of Bangladesh Navy at Kapta.

The ship will also be kept open for visitors from the members of Bangladesh Army, Navy, Air Force, BNCC and Sea Scout.

Earlier, the ship was welcomed by a Bangladeshi Naval Ship upon its arrival outside the territorial limit at sea following naval tradition.

Commanding Officer of BNS Isha Khan and official of the Indian High Commission greeted the visiting ship on its arrival at Chittagong harbour.

The ship is expected to leave Chittagong tomorrow for Yangon.

INT'L DAY FOR ERADICATION OF POVERTY TODAY
Call to stand up against poverty, inequality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty will be observed in the country as elsewhere across the world today with a call 'stand up and speak out against poverty and inequality'.

Different organisations have drawn up various programmes, including rally, open-air concert and gathering, to highlighting this year's theme 'Stand Up Against Poverty and Inequality'.

People's Forum on MDGs (PFM), an alliance of 200 private organisations and trade union centres, will hold programmes simultaneously in 30 districts, including Dhaka, to mark the day.

The People's Forum in association with Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) and Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) will organise rally, concert for youth and children's assemblies at educational institutions.

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will also hold a rally on the premises of Nagar Bhaban at 12:00 noon today, which will be inaugurated by Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

The People's Forum, a broad-based coalition of civil society groups, along with other partner organisations will organise a mass gathering at Rabindra Sarobar Mancha at Dhanmondi at 2:00 pm.

"These efforts will be part of global mobilisation that aspires to achieve the biggest ever mobilisation against poverty in more than 100 countries showing courage and demand for a more political response to the growing crisis of global poverty," said Forum Convenor Rasheda K Chowdhury.

Irfan Mufty, GCAP campaign manager, said the world leaders should adopt progressive policies for land reform, taxation, poverty reduction, conflict prevention and effective peace-building strategies.

In the first phase, two floors of the three-story building will be constructed, the officials said.

Remodelling of Khulna Rail Station begins in Dec

BSS, Khulna

Remodelling of Khulna Railway Station is expected to begin in December as the Executive Committee of National Economic Council released Tk 40 crore for the project in the first phase.

The remodelling work of the 54-year-old station was finalised three years ago with an estimated cost of Tk 52 crore. But the project could not be implemented due to complexities regarding the selection of land, officials said.

However, under the plan, eight stations -- Nowapara, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Bogra and Natore -- of the Railway's Western Zone were renovated.

About 10 acres of land behind the House Building Finance Bhaban at Jabbar Sarani has been selected for the new railway station.

In the first phase, two floors of the three-story building will be constructed, the officials said.

Art of Living, UNMC join hands to fight poverty

The Art of Living and United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC) have come together to champion the cause of eradicating poverty, says a press release.

The two organisations have launched a joint initiative that will see the former mobilise over forty lakh people across the globe to support UNMC's 'Stand Up & Speak Out' campaign today.

The Art of Living will organise several public events in over 100 countries. The participants will stand up for two minutes and take a pledge in support of the eradication of poverty and to ensure the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In Bangladesh, thousands of people will take part in the campaign at various institutions and corporate houses at a single time, said Sajeet Menon, country coordinator to the Art of Living Foundation, Bangladesh.

An informal gathering will be held at 4:00pm at Brac Centre, wherein the participants will meditate and take the pledge together. Brac Centre, Brac University, Rahimafrooz Group, Tata Motors, American International School and FUCHS Lubricants Bangladesh are some of the participating organisations.

Interested organisations can call at 017130-83639 for further information. They can also send e-mail to STANDUPBD@gmail.com for registration.

Interested persons can log on to the campaign website -- <http://www.standupounmc.org/> -- today to express their solidarity with the campaign.

BNP factions blame each other for emergency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-Khaleda faction of BNP blamed the immediate-past caretaker government for its failure to run the country according to the constitution and as such the state of emergency was imposed in January.

On the other hand, pro-Bhuiyan faction said only the political leaders are responsible for the situation as the dialogue between BNP and Awami League (AL) to resolve the crises failed due to non-cooperation of two top leaders (Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina).

Blaming the Iajuddin-led caretaker government, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said the then caretaker government failed to act according to the constitution before 1/11.

"Emergency followed not only the violent clashes between the political parties but also the failure of the then caretaker government," he said while talking to the reporters at his NAM flat in the capital, adding that there were many other reasons also behind the imposition of emergency.

The two organisations have drawn attention to the fact that the then caretaker chief was the BNP-nominated president, he said a person should be considered

neutral when he is elected as president.

Rejecting the allegation raised by Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and chairperson's adviser Mofazzal Karim, Delwar said he (Bhuiyan) is trying to blame others for his failure which is not acceptable.

"Party gave him (Bhuiyan) the mandate as secretary general to take decision through dialogue

Iftekhar hosts reception for foreign diplomats

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury hosted a reception for ambassadors and high commissioners at Parastasha Bhaban at Eskaton in the city on Sunday on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Envoys of different countries, including the United Kingdom, Russia, India, Malaysia, South Korea, Iran and Pakistan, attended the reception.

Talking to journalists, the adviser said Eid is an opportunity to strengthen the bond of friendship.

with the AL general secretary for the welfare of the country, but he failed," Delwar said, adding that he should have made the things clear at that time.

Demanding withdrawal of the state of emergency, he said everyone now wants it, even the foreign diplomats have urged the government to because it is doubtful whether proper environment for an acceptable election is possible if the emergency continues.

The expelled secretary general of the party Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan had recently alleged that the dialogue between him and AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil did not succeed due to non-cooperation of Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina.

Echoing the same, Mofazzal Karim, an adviser to the party chairperson, yesterday said dialogue had failed, as the two top leaders did not cooperate.

"State of emergency was imposed only due to the failure of the political leaders," he said after meeting Bhuiyan at his Gulshan residence.

"Dialogue might not have failed if the two leaders (Bhuiyan and Jalil) were empowered for taking the decision," he said, adding that Mannan Bhuiyan could not clear the matter to the nation due to lack of proper environment.



Dhaka City Corporation workers cut a fallen tree into shorter pieces to remove it from the footpath near the Curzon Hall on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. The tree was uprooted by a storm on Monday night.

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