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CA calls for public-private work to control population

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday called upon public and private sectors to work under close coordination to implement target-oriented programmes to check the country's booming population growth.

He made the call while chairing a meeting of the reorganised National Population Council at the International Conference Centre (ICC).

He emphasised more involvement of NGOs, religious leaders and social workers and others concerned in the national-level birth-control drives.

Availability of contraceptives to garment workers and tea-garden labourers, delayed marriage for birth control, training of imams (religious leaders), filling vacant posts in health and population sectors, implementation of

Farm practice change key to save land, water

Environmentalists, geographers say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Land and water resources of Bangladesh are at stake and the country may face serious food crisis next decade unless agricultural practices change, geographers and environmentalists say.

Climatic change, which is likely to increase salinity in water and lead to sea-level rise, will only multiply the already existing troubles, they observe. They call for serious scientific researches on geography, environment and livelihoods and introducing technology to fight the challenges ahead.

The observations came at a seminar on "Geographical Perspectives on Sustainable Bangladesh" organised by Bangladesh Geographical Society (BGS) at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University.

"... our soils are in a very bad condition because of using chemical fertiliser in imbalanced manner and lack of organic manure. Unless agricultural practices change, we may face a serious food production crisis in the next decade," said environmental scientist Prof Harouner Rashid.

"Trans-boundary rivers deliver less in the critical February-April period, and consequently salinisation continues to increase. In short, food production capacity is already strained and further increases may not be obtainable," said Rashid, director of School of Environmental Science and Management at Independent University, Bangladesh.

Stating that total population is predicted to reach 280 millions, and then begin to decline, he said: "Unless population growth is checked, there cannot be any sustainability."

Prof Rashid in his keynote paper at the inaugural session said climate is changing, but different components may be changing at different rates at different places. But the country does not have any reliable data on it, he added.

"We must institute a system of accurate measurements of relevant parameters from representative localities to provide viable solutions."

University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam said some experts say 3.5 crore people of the country will be refugees.

President okays budget

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday approved the national budget for 2008-09 fiscal year beginning today.

The president also signed the Appropriation (Supplement) Ordinance-2008 and Appropriation Ordinance-2008.

Finance and Planning Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam placed the proposed budget with the president for his approval at Bangabhaban.

Planning Secretary Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary of the Finance Division Dr Mohammad Tareque and Secretary of the National Board of Revenue Mohammad Abdul Mazid were present.

The finance adviser announced the budget through national radio and television on June 9 in absence of parliament.

On Sunday, the Council of Advisors at a meeting with the chief advisor in the chair approved the new budget with some additions and changes to income tax, VAT and social safety net, keeping unchanged the proposed size of budgetary allocation at Tk99,962 crore.



Bangladesh Road Transport Authority has launched a special drive against overcharging bus passengers. The photo was taken inside a bus at Fakirerpul in the capital yesterday.

3 JMB cadres get 20yrs for keeping explosives

A CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Panchagarh court yesterday sentenced three activists of outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to 20 years rigorous imprisonment for possession of bomb making materials.

The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Amulya Kumar Sarkar handed down the verdict in presence of the accused.

The convicts are Tanviruzzaman alias Murad, son of Nurul Islam from Sultanpur village under Debiganj upazila in Panchagarh, Ashjad Hossain alias Awakat, son of late Fazlul Haque from Panditpara village under Dimla upazila in Nilphamari and Shafiqul Islam, son of late Matiar Rahaman from Joyrampur village under Kaharol upazila in Dinajpur district.

The court also fined each of the JMB activists Tk 10,000 and in default of which each will have to serve an additional year in jail.



A birthday gift... Sri Lanka opener Sanath Jayasuriya executes a full-blooded on-drive on way to a blazing 130 against Bangladesh in their Asia Cup Super League match in Karachi on Monday, the left-hander's 39th birthday.

2 outlaws killed in Rab 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two top leaders of a faction of outlawed Sarbahara Party were killed early yesterday in a shootout between the law enforcers and their cohorts at Sargram village in Pabna.

The dead are Md Swapan, 30, son of Wad Uddin of Sargram village and chief of 'Alam-Swapan Bahini' faction of the banned outfit and Md Zohurul, son of late Abdul Hamid of Bauikhola village and regional commander of the outfit.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of Rab-12 and police raided a place near the Sargram Dakhil Madrasa at Sargram village where members of the banned outfit were holding a

GRENADATE ATTACK ON ANWAR CHY Charges framed against Huji man Zandal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday framed charges against Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) operative Abu Zandal in a case filed in connection with the grenade attack on British high commissioner Anwar Choudhury on May 21, 2004.

Additional District and Session's Judge Ferdous Ahmed framed the charges against the Huji man. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted supplementary charge sheet against him on March 11.

Zandal and other accused were produced before the court yesterday. The judge fixed August 5 for the next court day for the case filed under Explosive Substances Act.

Zandal is the son of Nurul Islam of Alamdanga under Lohagara upazila in Narail. He has been in jail

due to cases filed against him in Dhaka. He was arrested months ago and grenades were recovered in his possession.

Inspector Jubayer Ahmed of CID filed the four-page charge sheets with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court-11 in March accusing Zandal in the two cases filed in connection with the grenade attack on the then British high

Morshed Khan, wife asked to appear in court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked absconding former foreign minister M Morshed Khan and his wife Nasrin Khan to appear before it by July 6 in connection with a case filed for amassing wealth worth Tk 1.67 crore illegally and giving false information to the commission.

Metropolitan Sessions Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque passed the order after receiving reports on the arrest warrants issued against the two earlier.

The judge in his order mentioned that even if they fail to comply with the court order, the trial would continue.

Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) Assistant Director Talebur Rahman, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the couple to the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on June 24 showing 24 people as prosecution witnesses.

The IO prayed for issuing arrest

BIJOY TV GRAFT SC stays case proceedings till July 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed till July 16 all proceedings of the Bijoy TV graft case against detained mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and former chief executive officer of the city corporation Imtiaz Hossain.

This case is pending in the Divisional Special Judge Court in Chittagong.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice MA Matin passed the order on a stay petition jointly filed by accused Mohiuddin and Hossain.

2 SCHOOLBOYS TORTURED, KILLED Muggers did the horrendous crime

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two murderers who tortured and killed two schoolboys in city's Nayatola area in April, yesterday spoke to the press for the first time about how they committed the gruesome killings while under the influence of drugs.

At a press conference held at the Detective Branch (DB) of Police in the city, Ronju Sarder and Liton, both in their 30s, related how they killed the two boys while smoking cannabis in an abandoned house in Nayatola.

The two men also said that they had abused other young boys before.

Ronju Sarkar said that on the day of the crime, he and Liton had



Ronju Sarder Liton

been smoking cannabis when they saw two young boys walking near their den. They lured the two boys into the abandoned house.

"We raped Biplab first. Then we stabbed him to death because he was screaming very loudly. After Biplab we also violated Jewel and stabbed him to death as well so that

Oil prices hit \$143

AFP, Madrid

Leading figures in the oil world gathered in Madrid yesterday for one of the industry's biggest events, as oil prices hit record high points close to 144 dollars per barrel.

More than 3,000 delegates, including leading corporate and political figures, are attending the World Petroleum Congress with spiralling oil prices topping the agenda amid dispute over the cause.

A week after failing to deflate the price of crude at a summit in Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil producers and consumers will get another chance during talks at the World Petroleum Congress to explore ways of calming tense global energy markets.

ASIA CUP CRICKET Jayasuriya, Sangakkara punish Tigers

AFP, Karachi

Sanath Jayasuriya celebrated his 39th birthday with a spectacular century while Kumar Sangakkara also hit a hundred as Sri Lanka piled up a mammoth 332-8 against Bangladesh here on Monday in the Asia Cup.

Jayasuriya hit an 88-ball 130 and Sangakkara notched 121 for his third century in the tournament as

the duo punished a hapless Bangladesh during their 201-run opening stand in the Super League match at the National Stadium here.

Jayasuriya was ruthless from the outset, hitting shots with power and precision. He took just 31 balls to reach his half-century.

He continued in the same vein to reach his 26th one-day hundred

Leading by example

FS Sweaters Limited of SQ Group has been selected as one of the 22 commendable performers in creating much-needed employment and augmenting national income. In recognition, the Government of Bangladesh has once again awarded Muhammad Ghulam Faruq, Chairman of SQ Group, the status of Commercially Important Person (CIP) for the year 2008.

We celebrate the inspirational leadership...

ANNOUNCEMENT

Life Standard Chartered The Daily Star A Film, Photography & Lyrics Contest 2008

As per our earlier announcement, submissions for The Daily Star-Standard Chartered "Celebrating Life" 2008 Contest is now closed. We would like to thank all those who have sent in their entries.

We will soon be holding a gala event to announce the winners of this contest. Watch out for the date.

Mahfuz Anam Editor & Publisher The Daily Star

CHT gets courts from today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The district and sessions judge's courts will start functioning from today in the three hill districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

According to a notification served by the government on June 29, Md Dudu Mia, Md Mokhtar Hossain and Md Golam Maola have been appointed as the three district and sessions judges for Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban respectively.

They were asked to join their new offices today morning.

Earlier, all judicial activities of the three hill districts had been done in Chittagong.

US-led forces kill 33 Taliban militants

Four US soldiers killed attacks

AFP, Herat/Washington

US-led air strikes and Afghan ground troops killed 33 Taliban rebels in western Afghanistan, while four civilians and four US soldiers were killed in bomb blasts and attacks elsewhere, officials said yesterday.

The coalition said "numerous" militants were killed on Sunday during an operation in Nimroz province targeting a Taliban leader involved in bomb attacks but did not give further details.

Insurgents attacked a police post in Khash Rod district of Nimroz late Sunday, leaving five Taliban dead in the clash that broke out immediately afterwards, provincial police chief Mohammad Ayob Badakhshi told AFP.

After the incident the militants massed with other insurgents in the same district, where they were bombed by US-led coalition aircraft, provincial governor Ghulam

Zimbabwe vote results not legitimate: UN

AFP, AP, Tokyo

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Monday sharply criticised Zimbabwe's violence-marred

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Prayer Timing		
July 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation