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Single-child families to get govt facilities
JS told
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In efforts to control population growth, the government is planning to offer various facilities to parents who have only one child, Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque told the parliament yesterday. "The government gives reception to parents for having one child to encourage people to have one child. Discussions are on in government's different level to offer different facilities to those having one child," the health minister said in a scripted answer.

In reply to another query, Ruhul Haque however said the government is planning to set a condition of 'two-child policy' on getting jobs in family planning department.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Climate projects to get Tk 700cr fund
Ministry to pick from 400 govt-NGO projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Environment and Forests is to allocate money from its Tk 700 crore Climate Change Fund to implement projects to tackle climate change.

The ministry has received around 400 proposals while hundreds of proposals have also been submitted by NGOs and government bodies to 42 other relevant ministries and departments.

Bangladesh is the first country to create and implement a climate change strategy and action plan.

An official from the Ministry of Environment said, "The government has formed expert committees for each of the six areas and they will decide which projects get the nod."

Sixty-six per cent of the fund will be spent on the six designated areas of the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009. The remaining Tk 362 crore will be deposited in the bank and the interest accumulated will be distributed over time.

These areas include food security, poverty and health; comprehensive disaster management; infrastructure; research and knowledge management; mitigation and low carbon development trajectory and capacity building.

The maximum spend of any single public sector project will be capped at Tk 25 crore and projects implemented by the private sector will be capped at Tk 5 crore.

Once approved, all projects must be implemented within two years.

Responsibility for coordinating activities under the action plan lies with the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Earlier this month the government approved five special projects worth Tk 52 crore.

The government created the fund with state money in 2007.

The deadline for proposal submissions elapsed on January 14.

Rangpur Govt College shut after clash
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Authorities of Rangpur Government College suspended all academic activities for an indefinite period from yesterday to avoid further clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal-backed Chhatra League.

Following Saturday's clash between the two groups that left 10 students injured, acting principal of the college Mozammel Haque issued the notice.

Sources said the activists of BCL and JSD backed Chhatra League were getting prepared with sharp and lethal weapons yesterday to take revenge.

Meanwhile, Rangpur Korwali thana police arrested JSD backed Chhatra League central committee member

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

OMS of rice by this week
Initially starts in Dhaka, 2 other dists amid upward trend in price

PORIMOL PALMA

Prompted by the recent hike in rice price, the government has decided to launch open market sales (OMS) of rice at the rate of Tk 20 per kilogramme within this week.

"We shall start OMS within this week, as the rice price has gone up in recent times," Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzak told The Daily Star yesterday.

Rice under the OMS will be sold at Tk 20 a kg while the dealers will buy it from the government at Tk 18.5 a kg. The sales will kick off first in Dhaka, Narayanganj and Munshiganj and then in some other districts if needed, the minister said.

In last one month, fine rice was sold at Tk 39-45 per kg and coarse rice at Tk 26-28, an increase by Tk 3 to Tk 7 only. Price of wheat also rose by up to 6 percent and it was sold at Tk 22 to Tk 35.

Price of red lentil, which went up to Tk 120-136 a few weeks back, came down to Tk 114-128. Prices of edible oil, sugar, garlic and chicken also went up to various ranges.

Traders and economists said the prices of imported essentials go up or down mostly in line with international prices, but prices of rice, plenty of which has been produced domestically, should not go high.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

5TH AMENDMENT
2 petitions filed against hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two petitions were filed yesterday with the Supreme Court (SC) for adjourning today's scheduled hearing on the earlier pending petitions against the High Court (HC) verdict that declared illegal the Fifth Amendment to the constitution of Bangladesh.

The Fifth Amendment had legitimised all governments that had been in power following the coup of August 15, 1975 till April 9, 1979 including late president Ziaur Rahman's ascension to the presidency.

With the two new petitions, a total of six petitions against the HC verdict are now pending with the SC. Two leave to appeal petitions were filed last year with the apex court challenging the HC verdict while two others on January 5 this

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



THE WALL HAS COLLAPSED: Bangladesh paceman Shahadat Hossain (C) is on cloud nine after bowling India's Rahul Dravid (not in picture) on the first day of the first Test at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Farmers can open account in state banks with Tk 10
No service charge, fees; hassles of receiving govt subsidies to be over

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh Bank has directed the state-owned commercial and specialised banks to allow farmers to open accounts with an initial deposit of Tk 10 to get government subsidies without hassles.

A circular it issued yesterday says the banks must dispense with the provision requiring a minimum balance in the case of farmers' accounts. They must not also charge service fees.

Any farmer can open such accounts, showing national ID card or birth certificate or agricultural input card issued by the Department of Agricultural Extension, it adds.

The central bank has taken the decision so the farming community can easily get the subsidies provided by the government.

The move comes in response to allegations that farmers often have difficulty availing themselves of the government benefits.

Sometimes they even have to bribe officials concerned, said BB sources.

Currently, the government gives subsidy on fertiliser, power and diesel.

It is considering taking up a project to subsidise agricultural equipment as well, said sources. Around 25 percent of the cost a farmer bears to buy the implements might be given from public exchequer, they added.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

2 militants arrested
Collecting youths as members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police arrested two militant suspects from Bagmara upazila yesterday for their involvement in organising teens and youths under a secret militant outfit.

They were identified as Majnu and Shahin Alalm. Both teens are nephews of convicted Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh leader and Bangla Bhai's associate Abul Hossain member of Rayapur.

They were arrested from their houses at Rayapur village under the upazila, said sources in the police.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Prayer Timing
January 18

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-40	5-44
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

OnlinePoll ✓

Do you support BNP's decision to forge an antigovernment movement for the treaties with India?

Yes (18.0%)
 No (81.2%)
 No Comments (0.8%)

Total votes: 1533

TODAY'S POLL

BNP in 2005 had supported Japan for permanent membership in the UNSC during an agreement. Now they are criticising the AL govt for the similar support to India. How do you look at it?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Haitians desperate for food, relief
Rescue efforts go on; 20,000 bodies recovered

AP, Port-au-Prince

Rescuers pulled a dehydrated but otherwise uninjured woman from the ruins of a luxury hotel in the Haitian capital early yesterday, an event greeted with applause from onlookers witnessing rare good news in a city otherwise filled with corpses, rubble and desperation.

"It's a little miracle," the woman's husband, Reinhard Riedl, said after hearing she was alive in the wreckage. "She's one tough cookie. She is indestructible."

For many, though, the five days since the magnitude-7.0 quake hit have turned into an aching wait for the food, water and medical care slowly making its way from an overwhelmed airport rife with political squabbles. And while aid is reaching the country, growing impatience among the suffering has spawned some violence.

Nobody knows how many died in Tuesday's quake. Haiti's government alone has already recovered 20,000 bodies not counting those recovered by independent agencies or relatives themselves, Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive told The Associated Press.

The Pan American Health Organisation now says 50,000 to 100,000 people perished in the quake. Bellerive said 100,000 would "seem to be the minimum."

A UN humanitarian spokeswoman declared the quake the worst disaster the international organisation has ever faced, since so much government and UN capacity in the country was demolished. In that way, Elisabeth Byrs said in Geneva, it's worse than the cataclysmic Asian tsunami of 2004: "Everything is damaged."


SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

QUL KHANI

Alhaj Asaduzzaman, Vice Chairman, Islam Group, passed away last Friday, **15 January 2010, at 4 pm** (Inna.....rajiun). He was 74. His namaj-e-janaja were held at his Dhaka residence and also at his village home at Pakundia in Kishoreganj. Later the body was buried at the family graveyard at Ahutia. A qul khani and special dua mahfil will be held at the deceased's residence at Gulshan (Road # 137, House # SEG 3, Gulshan, Dhaka) on **Tuesday, 19 January 2010** after the Asr prayer and at the village Ahutia on **21 January** after Zohr prayer.

All the relatives, friends and well-wishers are specially requested to attend the qul khani and dua mahfil for the salvation of the departed soul.

The Family



The Daily Star

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