



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina enjoys the cultural show performed by the autistic children at the launching ceremony of "Centre for Neurodevelopment and Autism in Children" of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) at a city hotel yesterday. (Story on Page 1).

Save Waiz House

Green activists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of socio-cultural activists yesterday urged the government to take immediate steps to protect all historical sites including Waiz House in the city's Waizghat area from land grabbers.

Paribesh Bachao Andolan (POBA) and Bulbul Lalitkala Academy of Fine Arts (Bafa) jointly organised the human chain programme in front of National Press Club.

Bafa is situated at Waiz House in the old part of the city.

Bafa President Begum

Shamshuzzaman Nur said the Waiz House is on the verge of being extinct as grabbers are trying to occupy it.

"We are fearing that the next target of grabbers may be the Waiz House," she said.

They also called upon people from all walks of life to be aware of land grabbers and demanded governmental initiative to protect historical structures.

Bafa General Secretary Md Sadullah and POBA President Abu Naser Khan were present at the human chain programme with Begum Shamshuzzaman Nur in the chair.

CONFCE OF INT'L COALITION OF SITES OF CONSCIENCE

Call to spread peace edn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 5th conference of International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC) began at Brac Inn Centre in the city yesterday with a call to spread peace education in Asian countries.

Formation of an Asian platform to educate youths in peace education and organised efforts to ensure justice regarding war crimes were also emphasised at the conference organised by Liberation War Museum.

"We must form a forum of Asian countries for providing peace education to the youths," said Amrutbhai Modi, a representative from Sabarmati Gandhi Ashram, India, at the two-day long meet.

"The youths of tomorrow must be made to understand that peace has been seen to last only where justice has been served even handedly," said the annual report of the coalition while focusing on the ongoing efforts to try 1971 war criminals in Bangladesh.

Speakers also said that peace education

could be given using museums and historical sites. They said by respecting the trauma different nations underwent during their birth, youths can be taught about peace.

Foreign delegates shared stories of genocide along with the role which museums are playing in their countries to make youths aware of their past.

Chanho Kim, a representative from Korea republic, Elizabeth Sikes, a representative from ICSC, Ahmad Salim from Pakistan, Prof Abhi Subedi from Nepal, Isama-ae Salaeh from Thailand and Sophearum Chey from Cambodia participated among the foreign delegates.

Eminent drama personality Ramendu Majumder and the museum trustees Akku Chowdhury, Ziauddin Tariq Ali, Mofidul Hoque, Dr Sarwar Ali and volunteers from different universities and colleges along with independent film-makers participated at the program.



Dr Sarwar Ali speaks at the 5th Conference of International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. On his left are Chanho Kim and Sophearum Chey and on his right are Elizabeth Sikes, Amrutbhai Modi and Wang Shanfeng.

17 suspended staffs resume work at BSMMU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventeen staff members of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), whose recruitment and promotion were termed controversial and were subsequently suspended by its syndicate, resumed work yesterday following a High Court (HC) order.

The HC on July 13 issued a status quo order on the syndicate decision on whose basis the 17 of the 19 staff members who filed the writ petition against the syndicate decision, joined work, a number of plaintiffs said.

"Status quo" is an order by a court asking people or an authority to keep things as they were before a dispute erupted.

However, the plaintiffs also filed a case with the 4th Joint District Judges' Court on June 10 this year, and the court issued a show cause notice on the university's authority on the same day asking it to stop the entire process to suspend the plaintiffs.

Not paying a heed to the court order, the university issued suspension orders along with show cause notices to 41 doctors and administrative officials.

The doctors then filed a writ petition with the High Court bench of Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice AKM Fazlur Rahman on July 13 that issued the status quo order on the syndicate decision, Dr Abdul Kuddus, one of the plaintiffs, told The Daily Star.

"Until the disposal of the appeal, these doctors would continue to work as they were doing on June 10," Dr Kuddus, also an associate professor at the department of Ophthalmology, quoted the court as saying.

Deputy registrar of the university Dr Rafiqul Islam Bachchu, who is also one of the plaintiffs, said they joined their work after they received the court order yesterday.

The 41 staff members, mostly professors at the university, were recruited between 2001 and 2006 and were suspended on June 30 this year on the ground that they were recruited and promoted through irregularities.

Prof Syed Akram Hussain of oncology department, prof Niaz Ahmad Chowdhury of vascular department and associate prof Kamruzzaman of general surgery of the university are among others who rejoined yesterday following the HC verdict.



Paribesh Bachao Andolan (POBA) and Bulbul Lalitkala Academy of Fine Arts (Bafa) jointly organise a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

141m urban population by 2051 likely

BSS, Dhaka

More than 140.89 million people would live in the urban areas by 2051 when the country's total population is projected to be 218 million.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) projects the population size while experts say it may swell to 243 million during the period.

The rise in population is determined by increase in middle age people, urban population and decrease in dependency ratio of the people, the experts said.

The population is growing rapidly, particularly in the urban areas, mostly due to population momentum and migration from the rural areas, said Prof M Ataharul Islam of Dhaka University. Prof Islam is one of the members of BBS Committee on Population and Housing Census.

The population in the urban areas was 30.47 million, out of 130 million, in

2001 and was projected to be 44.06 million by 2011, 63.92 million by 2021, 88.5 million by 3031, 114.5 million by 2041 and 140.89 million by 2051.

The projected figures are based on BBS reports assuming achievement of replacement level fertility by 2011. But experts say this may only be possible by 2021.

Prof Islam, who was a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania in the US, said, "If the country's 300 parliamentary constituencies are based on the size of the population, over 192 would come from urban areas in 2051."

According to the BBS, the population increased in the capital by 56.5 per cent in the decade from 1991 to 2001. During the same period, it increased 44.2 per cent in Chittagong, 33.8 per cent in Khulna and 28.5 per cent in Rajshahi.

Identifying the root cause of rapid population growth in the urban areas, Prof Islam said there is no alternative to

agriculture in the rural areas that forces people to come to the cities to seek their fortune.

The government should provide enough support for alternative income generation projects like cottage industries which will encourage people to live in their village homes, Prof Islam said.

"Bangladesh people have a lot of innovative power and if we provide them with some money and training, they will be able to prove their skill. Without it, we cannot stop the population boom in urban areas," he added.

Describing how census can help make the people skilled, he said, "We have enough population in the working age group and special focus in the planning require to transform the population into manpower which will contribute significantly to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)."

Otherwise, he said, they will remain a burden for the nation.

He said the population in the age

group 15-59 was 49 per cent in the 1991 census and 54.6 per cent in 2001.

But the projected percentage will be 64.8 per cent by 2011, 63.9 per cent by 2021, 65.3 per cent by 2031, 63.2 per cent by 2041 and 58.6 per cent by 2051.

It is also noteworthy that the percentage of elderly population (aged 60 years or higher) will keep on increasing during the next decades. The population in this age group will increase from 6.3 per cent in 2001 to 18.4 per cent in 2051.

This projected increase in the proportion of elderly population will result in increase in the dependency ratio eventually. This ageing process in Bangladesh will require special attention in our planning as well, said the expert.

"If the number of middle age people increases, the opportunity for income generation is also created which is a positive side of population momentum," said Prof Islam.

Ctg road crash kills 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least two people were killed and nine others injured when an overloaded speeding human hauler (rider) turned upside down in the Tiger Pass area intersection yesterday.

One of the deceased was identified as Mohammad Raju, son of one Javed Ali of the city's North Patenga area.

The injured were taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where Raju succumbed to his injuries at about 11:00am. The unidentified person, aged around 35, died at around 4:00pm.



Save Paramee Prue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Paramee Prue, a three-year-old girl, has been diagnosed with a bilateral severe-to-profound hearing loss and requires a Cochlear implant surgery to restore her hearing.

Paramee suffered from a high bilirubin problem during birth and the doctors had to change the blood cells of her entire body. The complication gradually caused her to lose her hearing power.

She has lost almost 90 percent of her hearing and needs a Cochlear operation within two months to stop a complete loss.

She is currently admitted to the Christian Missionary Hospital, Vellore, India. It is impossible for her family to bear the estimated expenses of 45 lakh. So, her family has urged the affluent section of the society to extend their hand and help the little girl towards a normal life.

Contributions can be sent to Rupasree Newar, Account no. 34192273, National Bank, Dilkusha Branch, Dhaka, or Account no. 10-1097718-01, Standard Chartered Bank, Main Branch, Chittagong.

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable

Ganatantrik Foundation will hold a roundtable titled "Trial of war criminals and the conspiracy politics of the opposition". Venue: Pragati auditorium, Mukti Bhavan, Time: 4:00pm.

Meeting

The 6th Meeting of the Committee of the Heads of UGC/Equivalent Bodies of the Saarc Member Countries will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton, Time: 9:45am.

Symposium

Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan will organise a symbolic hanging of some marked war criminals. Venue: Eastern Gate, High Court, Time: 4:00pm.

Seminar

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) will organize a seminar titled "Civil aviation and tourism: prospect and challenges". Venue: DCCI auditorium 5, Time: 1:00am.

Conference

Liberation War Museum will organise the closing ceremony of the fifth Asian regional conference of International Coalition of Sites of

Conscience. Venue: Brac Inn, Brac centre, Time: 5:00pm.

Exhibition

Drik gallery will organise an exhibition titled "The Life and Struggle of Garment Workers". Venue: Drik Gallery, Time: 5:00pm.

Human chain

Gonotony Unnayan Committee will organise a human-chain protesting hartal. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:00am.

Human chain

Bangladesh Awami Shishu-Jubo Sangskritik Jote will organise a human chain. Venue: National Museum, Time: 10:00am.

Human chain

Bangladesh Truck, Covered Van O Panno Paribahan Agency Malik Oikya Parishad will organise a human chain. Venue: Tanti Bazar-English road-North south road, Time: 12:00pm.

Prize giving ceremony

Bangabandhu Lalitkala Academy will hold a prize giving ceremony. Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Time: 5:00pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Khulna divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:48pm today and rises at 5:22am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 24.7 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

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	34.8	28.4	75	65
Chittagong	33.0	25.5	89	78
Rajshahi	35.1	27.4	83	65
Khulna	34.5	27.4	81	89
Barisal	31.5	27.4	84	84
Sylhet	32.1	24.7	97	79
Cox's Bazar	34.0	26.0	73	75

Effective JS a must for development

Says Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP central leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed said making parliament effective is an urgent necessity for national development and making the government accountable, said a press release.

He was speaking as a guest speaker at a parliamentary style debate competition 'Youth Parliament' on ATN Bangla aired every Friday. The title of the debate was 'The movement for emancipation has not been completed yet'.

Moudud Ahmed said the country became independent in 1971 after a long struggle for freedom. But the real freedom has not yet been achieved.

He said overall development of a country could be measured by how effectively its parliament is working adding that parliament must be made effective at any cost for the interest of the people.

Director of the Youth Parliament Hasan Chowdhury Kiron said, "We want all concerned to know that the country and nation will be benefited if the Jatiya Sangsad held issues or subject wise debates through the Youth Parliament."

SOS Hermann Gmeiner College sailed to the finals defeating Mirzapur Cadet College in the semi-finals, according to a press release.

Chairman of Debate for Democracy Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron moderates the programme.

The first semi final of the competition will be aired in ATN Bangla at 11:05 on July 23.

ultra | Powered by Citycell

NATIONWIDE
THE FASTEST MOBILE BROADBAND

Get used to surprises

Zoom Ultra
THE FASTEST MOBILE BROADBAND IN BANGLADESH