

### New UNFPA representative arrives in Dhaka

CITY DESK



Argentina Pinto Matavel Piccin, the new UNFPA representative to Bangladesh, arrived in Dhaka yesterday to take up office.

She is replacing Arthur Erken who left Bangladesh on reassignment in June. Piccin brings with her a wealth of management and strategic planning experiences as well as expertise in the field of population and development.

Matavel Piccin, a national of Mozambique, completed her master's in international development from American University in the US and has a certificate in executive master's in policy management from Georgetown University, USA.

### ACC arrests suspended Sonali Bank officer, wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday arrested an officer of state-run Sonali Bank of Faridpur's Sadarpur branch and his wife for misappropriating over Tk 3 crore. The arrest was made when Zakir Hossain, a suspended officer (cashier), and his wife Shewly Akhter came to ACC's Faridpur office in compliance with an ACC notice.

### DoE fines Nasir Trade Centre owner Tk 65 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined the owner of a multi-storied building, Nasir Trade Centre at 89 Bir Uttam CR Dutta Road, Tk 65 lakh for using the building without taking an environmental clearance certificate from DoE. The owner had also taken illegal gas, water and electricity connections and was using the building space for commercial purposes, says a DOE press release.



## Chinese hospital ship arrives in Ctg with free services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

China's People's Liberation Army Navy hospital ship "Peace Ark" arrived in Chittagong yesterday on a week-long visit to provide free medical services to the people of Bangladesh and conduct academic exchanges with the country's military hospitals.

A ceremony was held to welcome the ship at Jetty NCT-5 of Chittagong Port where the hospital ship berthed.

Speaking as the chief guest, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said the arrival of the hospital ship is an important milestone in Bangladesh-China bilateral relationship.

He hoped that people of both countries will work hand-in-hand to bring peace and prosperity for all.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jun said China will continue to work together with Bangladesh in different issues.

Assistant Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral M Saiful Mission and Rear Admiral of Chinese Navy and Mission Commander of Peace Ark Shen Hao also addressed the ceremony.

Apart from providing treatment to 300 servicemen and civilians every day onboard the ship, medical teams will be sent to Navy Hospital in North Patenga, Ashar Alo and Bangladesh Navy Primary School to provide medical service.

The ship has 300 beds, a burn ward, an intensive care unit, CT scanner, Doppler ultrasound and dental rooms and eight operating rooms where 40 surgeries can be conducted a day.

The ship has 102 medical crew, including 46 doctors, 15 of whom have PhD degrees and above specialising in surgery, internal medicine, gynaecology, ear, nose and throat and traditional Chinese medicine.

Bangladesh is one of the eight Asian nations that Peace Ark will visit on its four month long trip, which started on June 10 and will continue till October 6.

In the past two months, Peace Ark visited Brunei, the Gulf of Aden, the Maldives, Pakistan and India. After Bangladesh, the ship will sail for Indonesia and Cambodia before wrapping up its visits.



Anticlockwise from top, school kids with Bangladesh and China's national flags welcome the Chinese hospital ship "Peace Ark" as it anchors at Chittagong Port around 11:00am yesterday.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, who was chief guest at the welcoming ceremony, gives blood sample for tests at the ship's pathology laboratory to inaugurate the free medical services, for which the ship arrived on a weeklong visit in Bangladesh.

A Chinese sailor receives a therapy for knee pain.

In another lab, a medical assistant seeing CT scan images on the computer screen.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK Bangladesh observes from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to creating awareness among mothers about the benefits of breastfeeding, the country will observe World Breastfeeding Week 2013 from today, Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque announced yesterday.

This year's theme, "Breastfeeding support: Close to Mothers", highlights the key role of peer support in promoting proper feeding practices.

Addressing a press conference at his office, the minister said the aim of the breastfeeding week was to facilitate peer support for mothers to sustain breastfeeding and inform people of its benefits.

Breastfeeding within an hour of birth can prevent 31 percent of neonatal deaths in the country, Haque said. Exclusive breastfeeding (feeding infants only breast milk) in the first six months after birth can prevent 13 percent of under-five deaths, he added.

Asserting the government's success, he said the rate of exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months after birth was increased to 63 percent in 2011 from 43 percent in 2007.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Institute of Public Health Nutrition, and Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation will observe the week through awareness campaigns.

## Harsh behaviour of parents hinders intellectual development of children

Say experts

BSS, Dhaka

Critical or harsh behaviour of parents towards their children may hamper the latter's mental growth and have a negative impact on their minds which, in the long run, hinders their intellectual development.

Parents teach their children the rights and wrongs through rewards and punishments, helping them understand which actions are acceptable and which are not.

"Critical parental attitude like scolding, negative comments or punishments have negative impacts on children's development which in the long run may ruin their academic life," said Prof Dr MSI Mullick, chairman, Department of Psychiatry, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

The development of a healthy self-esteem is extremely important for children to be happy and successful, he said.

Negative approaches by parents make

children lose confidence and have low self-esteem, barring them from trying new things and mixing with new people, he said.

They feel unloved and unwanted, hesitate to be in social networks and, out of lack of confidence, lose attention in studies and stop liking schools and social gatherings.

Psychologist Dr MA Mohit Kamal, associate professor, National Institute of Mental Health, blames parents, saying scolding, yelling, and hostility show a lack of faith and may provoke rebellion.

Children, at home, schools or workplaces, have to face negative approaches in different ways. Parents and teachers raise their voices or speak firmly to children if they break a rule or do anything wrong.

Dr Mohit suggests showing faith in children by requests, polite commands and use of the word "please" rather than using negative words like "no", "do not", "stop", "quit", and "can not".

Instead of saying "Stop leaving your

toys everywhere", they should say "Please pick up your toys now, dear", he said. Critical attitude of teachers may also result in a child having low self-esteem and sometimes wanting to avoid school.

Experts say teachers should deal with children softly and be assertive instead of being strict and tough.

Dr Mullick suggests openly and smoothly communicating with children and listening to what they have to say too.

Sometimes parents compare children with their friends, cousins or neighbours. This type of attitude destroys the children's tranquility of mind. They feel encased in a competitive atmosphere and get disheartened with small failures, he added.

A little understanding of a child's psyche, love, support and a lot of patience can change things and unruly child can calm down and become well behaved, said the experts adding that parents need to keep on trying in a positive manner.



Bangladesh Janadhrbhog Nirmul Jatiya Committee forms a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding fairness of the trial of the killing of Bangladeshi girl Felani Khatun, which is taking place in an Indian court. The 15-year-old was fatally shot by India's Border Security Force on January 7, 2011, when she was climbing the barbed-wire fence on the border to return to her home in Phulbari upazila, Kurigram.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

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