

Appeal for help



M o h a m m a d Zubaer Ahmed, a student of class seven, has been suffering from serious cardiac problem since his birth, says a press release.

Doctors advised Zubaer to undergo open heart surgery immediately. But the treatment involves about Tk five lakh which his father, an office assistant cum stenographer, could not afford.

His father Mohammad Rafiz Uddin Ahmed has appealed to the generous and affluent people, social welfare organisations and the government to extend financial assistance to save the life of his son.

Contributions can be sent to the following bank accounts: Rafiz Uddin Ahmed, Savings Account No. 13507, Janata Bank, Bagherhat branch, Bagherhat, or Abu Bakkar Titu, Savings Account No. 34067603, Agrani Bank, Malibagh branch, Dhaka.

Aminul Islam Shaheen



A l-Aminul Islam Shaheen, 27, who has been suffering from blood cancer, seeks financial help for his treatment, says a press release.

Doctors have advised him to go abroad for treatment. But his poor family has already spent all the money on his treatment here.

Shaheen has also lost his father. He now appeals to the generous and affluent people to extend a helping hand to save his life.

His present address is 151/53 Mukti Housing, South Pirerbagh, Mirpur.

Contributions can be sent to the following bank account: Savings Account No. S/12265, Social Investment Bank Ltd., IDB Bhaban Dhaka.

1642 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1642 people, including five listed criminals, during their country-wide drive in last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

A huge canopy is being set up at the National Eidgah in the city for the main congregation of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Only 5.3 pc attend HSC level

National survey on child labour-2003 says

BSS, Dhaka

Some 45.6 per cent of population have education level of class-I to class-V while 22.3 per cent has class-VI to class-VII level.

According to the national survey on child labour of 2003, 14.3 per cent population has education level of

class-IX to class-X, 7.6 per cent secondary school certificate (SSC) and equivalent, and 5.3 per cent higher secondary certificate (HSC) and above.

The data has also revealed that only 3.6 per cent people received technical training in various trades or fields.

In urban areas, 6.1 per cent received training as against 2.9 per cent in rural areas. The proportion of trained females is almost half of their male counterparts.

A question was put to the head of the household for providing information on each and every member of his household of age 5 years whether they can read and write a letter in the survey.

As per the answers revealed that 47.9 per cent population was illiterate as against 52.1 per cent literate during

2003. The literacy rate in urban areas was much higher than that of rural areas.

According to population census 2001, the overall literacy rate was 42.5 per cent for Bangladesh.

The national survey revealed that 98.2 per cent children received education in formal educational institutions as against 1.8 per cent from non-formal types of institutions like family, NGO and others.

The proportion of children, who received education from the NGO informal education programmes, was as high as 0.9 per cent.

As many as 1.3 per cent children received education through NGO programmes and the urban-rural variation was also significant.

Of the total of 33.3 million children of age group 5 to 17 currently attending school, only 8.3 million were engaged in economic and or non-economic activities.

The proportions of children engaged in economic and non-economic activities in the age group 5-9, 10-14 and 15-17 were 8.9, 38.6 and 36.4 per cent respectively.

The proportion of school attending children who are engaged in economic activities is higher in rural areas than that of the urban areas due to the fact that the rural school children generally engage themselves in farm activities after or before the school hours to support their families.

Diarrhoea breaks out in Rajshahi

200 hospitalised in three days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

More than 200 people, including 43 children, have been admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in last three days following an outbreak of diarrhoea in the city and its suburbs.

Hospital sources said more patients are pouring in, but no death has so far been reported.

More patients are also being treated in different private clinics.

The disease has also broken out in

nine upazilas of the district.

At the hospital, diarrhoeal patients overflowed the observation ward into

Body of undertrial accused handed over to family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The body of an undertrial accused, who died in the central jail here, was handed over to his family members on Saturday night.

Abdul Hannan, son of Lal Miah of village Gopalpur under Nabinagar upazila of Brahmanbaria district was caught in a raid conducted by the Department of Liquor and Narcotics at Sylhet Railway Station area on the night of November 12.

He was involved in drug business for long, local sources alleged.

Earlier, his body was taken to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

the veranda outside.

The hospital has witnessed a rise in the number of diarrhoeal patients this month, but the figure shot up unexpectedly after the weather turned cold on Friday.

"Such a rush of diarrhoeal patients is a bit unusual," said Dr Santosh Kumar Sarkar, emergency medical officer of the hospital.

"The cold is certainly not the reason for the disease, but unhygienic food coupled with cold might have aggravated the situation," he said.

Supply water might have been contaminated, a source in Rajshahi City Corporation said, adding that the Public Health Engineering Department found micro-organisms in the supply water last week.

Hospital sources said the stock of saline used to treat diarrhoeal and cholera patients has been exhausted, and the patients are being forced to buy their own medicine.

Death anniversary



The 32nd death anniversary of Yusuf Ali Chowdhury (Mohan Miah), a noted politician, will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

Different political and social organisations have chalked out programmes to observe the day. These include Qurankhwani, milad Mahfil, discussions and feeding of the destitute.

Yusuf Ali Chowdhury Smriti Committee will hold milad mahfil, discussion and feeding of the destitute at Moez Manzil in Faridpur on November 28.

Besides, Faridpur Islamic Foundation will organise a seminar on different aspects of his life while Kanaipur Jame Masjid will hold a milad mahfil.

Zakera Begum Bina



The fourth death anniversary of Zakera Begum Bina, a former deputy secretary, will be observed on November 27, says a press release.

A doa mahfil and distribution of clothes among the poor will be held at the village home of her father-in-law at Moshang under Ujirpur upazila in Barisal district.

Relatives, friends and colleagues have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Ershad plans to talk alliance after Eid

UNB, Dhaka

Former President and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad is likely to start discussion after Eid vacation towards forming an alliance, now that political alignments are shaping up along different lines.

He didn't disagree with the concept of emergence of 'third force' in the political arena.

While talking to this correspondent at his Baridhara residence, Ershad said as both Awami League and BNP failed to present good governance, people are looking for a third force to replace these two.

On recent move by former President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Ershad said although many a person, especially members of the civil society, hailed the move, the civil society can not change a government.

The civil society can create public opinion against the government, but for the change of government a political party or alliance is an imperative, said Ershad, who stood down from the presidency in the face of mass upsurge in 1990.

"Let's wait and see the next move by Prof Chowdhury," he said about the sudden reappearance of the immediate-past President, who also had to quit last year amid revolt within the ruling BNP.

About the prevailing situation, Ershad said law-and-order situation turned for the worse and it is now the focal point of discussion, in any circles.

"People are scared about the present situation with law and order and they want a change, but how this change will come has to be decided by the political leaders and parties," he

said, adding that there is "no concrete plan" in this regard.

Ershad has already had preliminary talks with Krishak Sramik Janata League President Kader Siddiqui MP, JSD leader ASM Abdur Rab and a few smaller Islamic groups with a view to forming a new alliance.

"Formal discussion will start after Eid, but I can't say at the moment when the alliance will take a formal shape," he said.

Although it would be an electoral alliance, he said that they were yet to discuss the future action plan of the planned alliance. "They (possible allies) have agreed to form an alliance," he added.

The JP Chairman said he was also holding discussion with the other factions of the Jatiya Party for reunification,

which he said may take a shape by December.

About the possibility of any anti-government movement, Ershad said he had heard that Awami League is preparing to go for movement, but he was not sure when they would launch their movement.

About his Jatiya Party stand, he said they are critical of the government, but they are not in a position to launch any movement now as his party is not prepared.

Ershad showed his reluctance about any street agitation, but agreed that the ground is prepared for the launch of an anti-government agitation.

"Let us complete reorganising the party; then we will form alliance and later decide to go for movement," he said.

Two die in boat capsized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two bodies were recovered while seven others remained missing following a boat capsized in the river Kangsha in Dharmapasha upazila of Sunamganj district on Saturday.

They were identified as Nazrul Islam, 30, son of Newaj Ali, and Uday Chandra Das, 38.

The bodies were handed over to their families after the autopsy at Sunamganj Sadar Hospital yesterday.

Police and local sources said a mechanised boat left Sunamganj with about 50 passengers on board for

Mohanganj under Netrokona district at about 11:30pm on Friday.

The accident occurred when a passenger launch dashed the boat at a place near Rajpur of Dharmapasha in the early morning of Saturday.

The boat sank immediately.

On hearing hue and cry of the passengers, local people rushed to the spot and rescued most of them while others managed to swim ashore.

Ratan Das, brother of deceased Uday Dass, filed a case with the Dharmapasha police who arrested Emran Hossain, the Sareng, and Abdur Rab, driver of the launch.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Dry weather to prevail

**UNB, Dhaka**

Dry weather will prevail over the country till 6 pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, it added.

Highest temperature 30.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and the lowest 13.8 degree at Comilla and Srimongal.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:11 pm today and rises at 6:21 am tomorrow.**

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	28.8	17.0	67	64
Chittagong	30.0	16.8	68	53
Rajshahi	29.6	16.2	80	83
Khulna	29.5	16.8	77	73
Barisal	29.0	15.4	85	91
Sylhet	29.0	18.0	76	76
Cox's Bazar	30.0	17.0	68	76