



PHOTO: STAR

Two children pay floral tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman near the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday on the occasion of his 87th birthday.

REPORT OF POLIO CASE Immunisation campaign begins next month

UNB, Dhaka

Around 18 million children under five years will be given Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) in next three months in the wake of the first polio case reported in the country in over five years.

Rahima Akhtar, a nine-year-old girl from Chandpur, was paralysed on January 23. On March 8, laboratory tests in the Indian State of Mumbai confirmed that Rahima has been attacked with the wild poliovirus, a Unicef official said.

WHO South-East Asia Regional office expert Dr Arun Thapa said the virus found here has similarity with that of Uttar Pradesh in India.

Bangladesh has been polio-free since August 2000 following extensive vaccination against the disease, said Kirsty Mcivor, Chief Communication Officer of Unicef.

She said all Bangladeshi children under five would be brought under the vaccination campaign from next month by the government with the help of WHO and Unicef.

After the report of the first polio case, an immediate investigation

was conducted in the area and the government is currently devising its response plan with support from partners, including the WHO.

Unicef communication officer Shamsuddin Ahmed said the OPV would be given to the children on April 16, May 13 and June 11. The government will provide the fund, Unicef will procure polio vaccine and launch campaign while WHO will provide technical and management assistance.

Some 50,000 vaccinators and 750,000 volunteers will be engaged in the implementation of the OPV campaign.

DU POL SC 1ST CLASS ISSUE

Probe body expanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

The seven-member probe committee to investigate the matter of securing first class by 52 Master's examinees at political science department of Dhaka University (DU) in 2004 has been expanded to include three more members.

The new members of the committee formed on February 28 include Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Prof Sharifullah Bhuiyan, Dean of Social Science Faculty Prof Harun-or-Rashid and Giasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, a registered graduate representative of the Senate.

Other members of the committee, headed by DU Pro-Vice-chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, are Prof Tazmeri SA Islam, Dhaka Medical College Principal Prof Doctor Hosne Ara Tahmin, Prof Sadeka Halim, Dr Rafiqul Islam, Dr Md Rahmat Ullah and DU Controller of Examination Mohammad Abdul Latif.

A member of the probe committee requesting anonymity told The Daily Star that the tenure of the committee has also been extended without fixing any particular date.

According to previous terms of reference of the committee, it was to investigate only the faults in the tabulation sheets, but it will now investigate other issues also.

The committee will investigate different allegations including question paper leakage, irregularities in evaluating examination papers and marking in tabulation sheets, sources said.

VC Prof SMA Faiz could not be contacted for his comment in this regard.

Bangabandhu's 87th birthday observed

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The 87th birthday of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, architect of the nation's independence, was observed across the country yesterday.

Main opposition Awami League marked the day as the National Children's Day.

Hasina, now in the USA, took part in a children's day programme in Florida.

Awami League and its front organisations held various programmes, including milad mahfil, discussions and cultural functions, on the occasion.

National and party flags were hoisted at all AL offices across the country and the leaders placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the capital.

Elaborate programmes were also arranged at Tungipara, the birthplace of Bangabandhu. The programmes include placing wreaths at the mazar of Bangabandhu, milad mahfil and discussion.

A central team of AL led by its presidium member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim took part in the programmes at Tungipara.



PHOTO: STAR

Artistes perform a dance number at the Spring Festival at Rabintra Sarobar Mancha at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday. Jatiya Rabintra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad organised the festival.