

Awareness, facilities help detect more premature babies

SHARMIN MEHRIBAN

An infant lies inside a brightly lit incubator in ward no.3 of the Dhaka Children Hospital (DCH), while being fed with breast milk through nasal tubes and intravenous saline.

His eyes are bandaged as protection from the phototherapy rays being given for jaundice.

"We have not named him yet as he is still too little," said his aunt who was tending to him as his mother was ill.

There is an increasing presence of premature babies and infants with congenital diseases in the present generation, said hospital sources.

"They are actually not increasing but more are being detected due to increased awareness and facilities available," said Dr Md Salim Shakur, director, senior consultant and member of the management board of DCH and also a professor of the Bangladesh Institute of Child Health.

He added that there has been no significant reduction in premature and low weight infants since the last decade although infant mortality has reduced to a certain extent but not significantly.

A premature baby is one that is born in less than 37 weeks of pregnancy whereas a low weight infant is one that weighs less than 2.5 kilograms. The purpose of incubators is to maintain a certain level of temperature and humidity,

provide oxygen and prevent infections in such infants.

Congenital diseases refer to the improper development of the heart, brain, liver or any other organ that ultimately leads to physical or mental impairment or any other disease. Minor congenital diseases refer to conditions like cleft lips or cleft palates.

"Congenital diseases are formed in the infant within the womb, depending on the mother's eating habits whereas acquired diseases are those acquired by an infant after birth depending on what the infant is fed with," explained Shakur.

He focused on air pollution in urban areas apart from the tendency of urban women towards drugs, alcoholism and smoking that could affect unborn babies.

Responding to a question, he said that contraceptive pills have no side effects but consumption of adulterated food containing toxic chemicals could lead to congenital diseases in unborn infants. Infants fed with adulterated food and kept in unhealthy environments could acquire diseases, he added.

"Although there is no direct evidence, chronic consumption of fast food containing various chemicals could affect the organs of unborn infants," he said.

Even medications for diabetes, blood pressure or schizophrenia could have similar effects if they are taken without a doctor's advice," he

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added.

There is also no direct evidence that chemical fertilisers used in agriculture could lead to congenital or acquired diseases in infants.

The mother's mental stress could lead to a hyperactive infant both in and out of the womb, said Shakur. Such

infants can suffer from colic and inadequate sleep after birth.

"A mother's mental nature could lead to inadequate breast milk," said a female doctor, preferring anonymity and citing her own experience as a mother. She also added that newborn babies could acquire infections from each other when

they are kept in the same ward. "Brain defects in the infant can occur due to complicated deliveries," said the doctor, citing the case of a woman carrying an infant who had a brain defect from birth.

She explained it as situations in normal deliveries where the birth canal is too small or an



STAR FILE PHOTO

infant is too large to pass through. Consequently a newborn baby cannot take the first breath.

She also cited the cases of mothers who are not taken to hospitals immediately after they experience labour pains.

"Many elderly women are now conceiving through artificial

stimulation like using certain form of drugs and infants born to such women are often premature," she added.

A caesarean operation, where a baby delivered by cutting open the abdomen, is required in situations where the infant is already matured within the womb and yet the mother

does not experience labour pain.

Caesarean infants are prone to respiratory problems as they cannot squeeze out the fluid inside their bodies unlike infants in normal deliveries who squeeze it out as they pass out through the womb," said Shakur.

Rajuk accepts late appeal in approving plan

TAWFIQUE ALI

Rajuk's appellate authority has decided to restore a building plan, cancelled in March this year, hearing the appeal three and a half months after the cancellation order that raised question about the fairness of the appeal process.

As per rules, any one aggrieved by an action of Rajuk's building construction (BC) committee is supposed to go to the appellate authority within 30 days.

The plot owner in this case first filed a writ petition in the High Court and after three and a half months he approached the appellate authority of Rajuk (Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha)

which entertained the appeal.

The BC committee-2 approved the plan on February 2, 2006 for construction of a 15-storey commercial and residential building by Prasad Nirman Ltd. But it cancelled the plan on March 15 on the allegation that the builders "suppressed facts and made false declaration in the proposed construction plan."

Rajuk chairman KAM Harun, as convener of the appellate committee, held the appeal hearing on July 3 in which representative of Department of Architecture was absent.

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Rajuk chairman KAM Harun, as convener of the appellate committee, held the appeal hearing on July 3 in which representative of Department of Architecture was absent. "As per rule, an appeal long after stipulated time is not tenable at the appellate committee and the authority has no scope to consider such approach," said ASM Ismail, deputy chief architect of the Department of Architecture.

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But acting chairman of Rajuk Nasir Uddin said it all depends

on the discretion of the Rajuk

chairman to decide whether an appeal is tenable or not. "May be the chairman was not aware of the deviations on part of the

builder," he said. Some sources at Rajuk said the appeal was entertained under high-level pressure.

When asked, Public Works

Minister Mirza Abbas brushed aside the allegation of pressure from top authorities. "I'm not aware of the case but I will look into it," he said.

"Initially, we did not go to the appellate authority apprehending that we might not get justice," said Abu Yusuf Md Abdullah, the chairman of Prasad Nirman.

"I met the works minister and convinced him that I have fallen victim to the unjust action of Rajuk, Abdullah said. "Having heard the matter in detail, he asked the works secretary and Rajuk chairman to settle the matter so that justice is done."

Meanwhile, Rajuk Executive Engineer Uzzal Mallik filed a general diary against Prasad Nirman on July 5 complaining

that safety of a Rajuk officers' quarters, Banani Nibash, is at risk as the developer has not taken adequate site protection measures.

"A crack has developed on the boundary wall of Rajuk quarters because of deeply-dug foundation work," said Mallik. "It may endanger the foundation of officers' quarters."

Asked, the Prasad Nirman chairman said, "We have taken adequate protection measure." A builder cannot build a 15-storey building going beyond the six-storey ceiling in Gulshan and Banani area, Uzzal Mallik said.

"We have formally written to the works secretary and Rajuk chairman complaining various irregularities in converting the plot into a commercial high-rise

establishment," said one of 20 Rajuk officers residing at the Banani Nibash.

In 1971, the then Dacca Improvement Trust (DIT) leased out the said plot no-6 in Block-C, Kemal Ataturk Avenue to one Ahmad Faizur Rahman to set up a petrol pump.

Rahman recently awarded a contract to private builder Prasad Nirman Limited to build the high-rise commercial building on the plot.

A top Rajuk official seeking anonymity said a section of corrupt officials have facilitated approval for the construction of a high-rise building although the area is earmarked as an ancillary service zone.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

Hospitals

Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam 9336611, 7411660
BARDEM 8616641-50
Cholera Hospital (ICDDR) 8811751-60
CMH (Dhaka) 9870011
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital 8628612-6
Holy Family Red Crescent 8311721-5
Islamia Eye Hospital 9119315, 8112156
Lion Eye Hospital 9129127
Medinova Medical Services 8620353-4
Mirpur General Hospital (Pvt) Ltd 9007873, 8015444
Nilford Hospital 7319002-6
National Heart Foundation Hospital 8014914, 8010491, 8021399
Orthopedic Hospital 9112150

Salimullah Medical College Hospital

7319002-6
Samorita Hospital 9131901
Shahid Suhrawardi Hospital 9122560-78, 9112086, 8114856, 9130800
Shishu Hospital 8116061-2, 9119119

Clinics

Akad Clinic 8015855, 8022581
Arogyaya Niketan 9333730
BAVS Maternity 8016413-4
Dhaka Monorog Clinic 9005050
Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic 8822738, 8812992
Ibn Sina Clinic 8119513
Jahanara Clinic (Pvt) Ltd 8912929
Judi Maternity 9113322
Paltan Poly Clinic 9557385
Retina Eye Center (Clinic) 9884588, 9884566
Shishu Bekash Clinic 9351625

The Eye Clinic 9333238

Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9

Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040

Ambulances For

Dead Body
Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,
Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
 Elephant Road-Friday
 Bishal Center-Friday
 Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday
 Polwell Market-Friday
 BCS Computer City-Friday
 Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
 Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
 Stadium Market-Friday
 Bangabazar Market-Friday
 National Museum-Thursday
 Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.
 New Market-Tuesday
 Gausia Market-Tuesday
 Mouchak Market-Sunday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Eastern Plaza-Sunday
 Farmview Super Market-Sunday
 Muktiyudha Jadughar-Sunday
 Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
 Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

Passenger's Complaint

01711-000990, 01711-000991, 01711-000992, DMP-999, 2627.
Reliance Cab Ltd. 9339563-4
RMS Cab Ltd. 8118536
Shatarupa Taxi Cab Ltd. 731083, 01711-458740
Tinni Cab Ltd. 9662009, 01711-645257
Telex Cab Ltd. 7202201
Aliif Cab Co. Ltd. 0191-357838, 83116948
Cab One Ltd. 9563054 Ext.-3077, 3178
United Cab Ltd. 7510166, 01711-8624741
Orion Taxi Cab Ltd. 934727, 9347277, 01711-155144
Reliance Cab Ltd. 9339563-4
RMS Cab Ltd. 8118536
Shatarupa Taxi Cab Ltd. 731083, 01711-458740
Tinni Cab Ltd. 9662009, 01711-645257
Telex Cab Ltd. 7202201
Aliif Cab Co. Ltd. 0191-357838, 83116948
Cab One Ltd. 9563054 Ext.-3077, 3178
United Cab Ltd. 7510166, 01711-

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express
Mahanagar Prabhati
Mahanagar Godhuli
Turna
Parabat Express
Joyantika Express
Upaban Express
Tista Express
Ekata Express
Upakul Express
Agnibeena Express

Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 3:15 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

348474
Ulka Express Ltd. 9359885, 01711-313554
Cab Bangla Ltd. 9563077 Ext.-3054, 3178, 01711-622644
Cab i Ltd. 9563054, 9563077, 01711-629585
Cab line Ltd. 8321162
Capital Cab Co. Ltd. 9352847-9
Classic Cab Ltd. 200825, 01711-233851, 01711-812415
Comport Cab Ltd. 8817610-4
Cab Express Ltd. 9341369, 9339337, 9348401 Ext.-111

Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 1:55 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 10:55 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 6:40 am
 Reaches Sylhet at 2:30 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 9:20 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 am
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 1:05 pm
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 11:15
 Reaches Noakhali at 5:00 am
 Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm

LIBRARY & INFO

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
Information Resource Center, The American Center- 8813440-4, 9886395-9
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l-Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141-2
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412
Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4