

Newborns cling to life amid dire need of funds

IMRUL HASAN

The two living quadruplets at Paediatric Department, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) were released last Monday, but are still at the hospital because of the mother's inability to pay the cost of treatment amounting to Tk 40,000.

One of the babies died on July 29 of an infection, while another died on August 10 due to apnoea (breathing difficulties), said Paediatric Department officials.

"More than Tk 1,00,000 has already been spent on their treatment in the last four months," said Nilufar Aktar, the mother.

She said that they are simply unable to pay Tk 40,000 charged by hospital authorities for her babies' treatment.

"The Social Welfare Department of BSMMU, some doctors and a few dailies assured us that they would help us financially by raising funds but we have not received any assistance from them as yet," Nilufar said.

"The condition of the two babies still alive seems to be



Nilufar, mother of the quadruplets, worried about the fate of her surviving babies.

improving," said Dr. Farjana, a paediatrician at Paediatric Department. Meanwhile, she added that, one of the babies gained two hundred grams while the other a hundred.

Nilufar, hailing from Debidwar, Comilla, gave birth to quadruplets -- two boys weighing 1.2 kilograms (kg) and

1.3 kg and two girls weighing 1.1 kg and 1.2 kg, by Caesarean Section on July 15.

"They are vulnerable for at least one year. So, intensive care should be taken at home," Dr. Alo, another paediatrician of the department.

When asked why they were releasing the babies so early,

Dr. Alo said: "If the babies are in the hospital, they would be prone to infection more easily because of the many visitors."

Dr. Farjana added: "Two babies should be brought to the Shishu Bikash Kendra of BSMMU once in three months for check up.

A visit to ward 222 of the

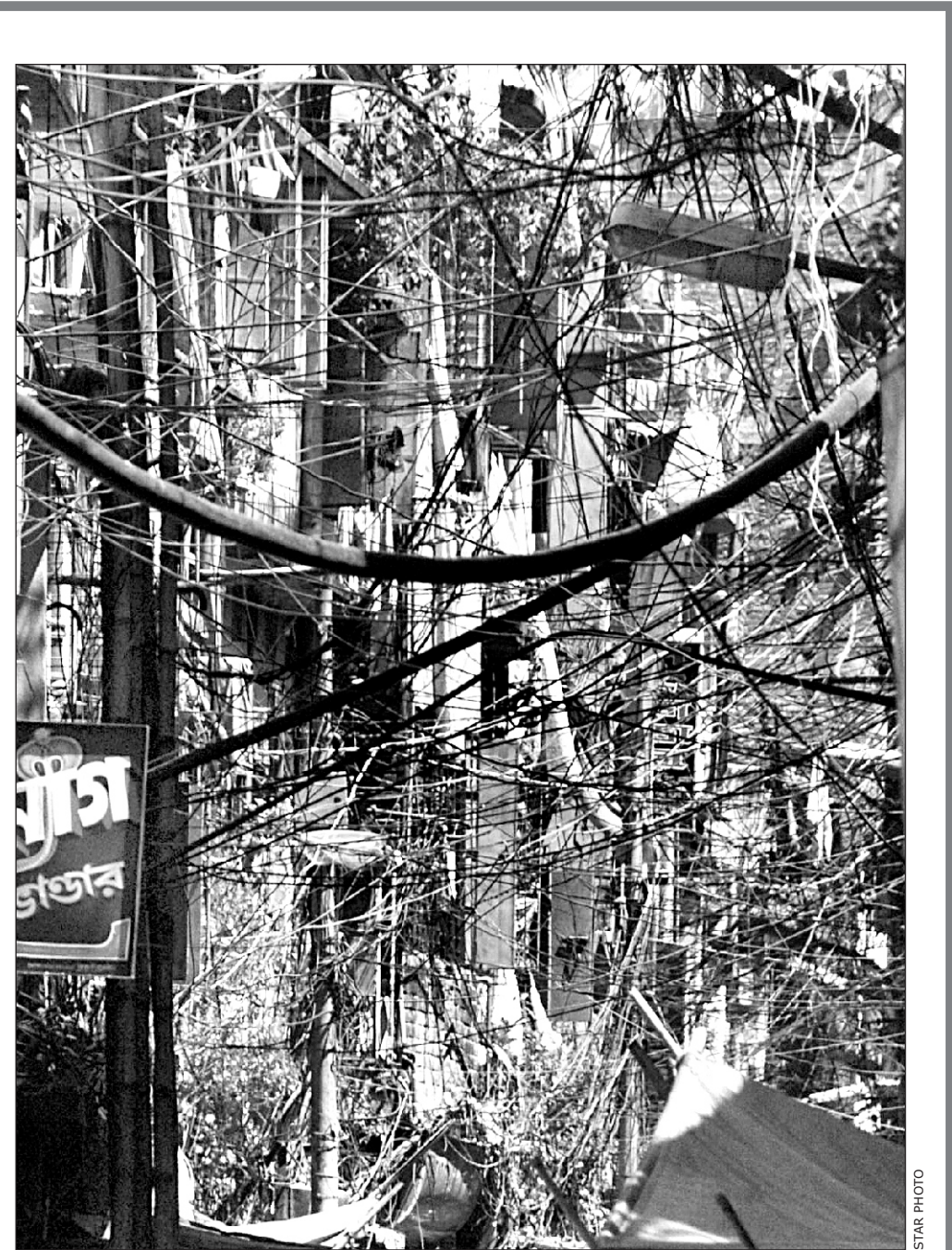
paediatric department, on Monday, showed Nilufar and two of her relatives preparing to go home, but were downhearted as they were unable to pay Tk 40,000.

Nilufar added that they have paid major part of the expenses by borrowing money from relatives and donations from well wishers but were worried about the expenses that would be incurred on them in the future.

"Though most dailies published this incident and wrote about our financial crisis, no individual or welfare organisation has come forward to help us," she said.

Officials of paediatrics department said that the birth of quadruplets is indeed a very rare incident and there are less than 100 quadruplets in the world. The last known quadruplets in Bangladesh were born at Ad-Din Hospital in Dhaka in August 2004.

Nilufar requests the rich people to help her by donations to account number-7277, of Janata Bank, Kuthi Bazar Branch, Police Station-Koshba, Brahmanbaria and her cell phone number is 0187403588.



Not any pernicious growth of cobwebs from the Amazon. These are electric cables dangling dangerously in the narrow alley of Shankhari Bazar posing serious risk to the pedestrians, but no initiative is taken to clean up the mess.

Errant builders go unpunished

FROM PAGE 21 Bangladesh, said: "The authorities are aware of the violations of building rules but their failure to apply the penal provisions means the authorities are influenced by some illegal factors."

Dr. Malik also said that designated authorities should be considered guilty of failure in applying the law simply because unplanned urbanisation and unauthorised construction are causing peril to the lives of city dwellers.

Rajuk chairman, KAM Harun said: "It is just a new law, it will take some time to put it into practice."

There are provisions for a number of committees within the Dhaka building construction rules, he said, and punitive measures cannot be put in practice until those committees are formed, said the chairman.

But the committees envisaged in the Dhaka city building rules have nothing to do with punishing violators, said a top Rajuk official.

"It does not matter whether a building was constructed before or after the provision of

punishment was enacted," he said. "Any offender of building rules must be punished under the existing law," he added.

It is the original Building Construction Act that provides for punishment of violators building rules at various stages of construction.

Rajuk has so far identified many building plans submitted with fake documents and many others that do not comply with building rules passed, but has not yet punished any one involved, said the source.

The Building Construction Act of 1952 (amended act no-15 of 2006) provides that whoever commits an offence by contravening the provision of section 3 of the act or by failing to comply with any directions given to him by an authorised officer or a committee under relevant sections shall be punishable under this section.

Those who commit offences by designing or approving or implementing a building plan in contravention to any provisions of the Bangladesh Building Code and building rules shall also be punished.

Members of Rajuk's building construction (BC) committee, authorised officers and those involved with clearance certificates scrutiny committee who approve any faulty, fake and incomplete building plan and the errant builders are all subject to punishment under the law.

Offenders can be punished with imprisonment up to seven years or with fine not less than Tk 50,000 or both.

The offender has to demolish or dismantle the building or tank or portions of the building that have been constructed violating building rules either as per direction by authorities concerned or by a court of law.

Any provisions related to building construction and made under The Building Construction Act of 1952, is considered as BNBC.

Building rules for Dhaka metropolitan area is a part of the BNBC.

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

Construction still in limbo

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Construction of the International Mother Language Institute is still in limbo due to bureaucratic tangle since it was suspended in October 2003.

According to the revised project proposal, the construction work would be completed by December 2006 if it started in April 2006. But the PP is still waiting for approval from the concerned ministry in order to restart the work.

The process to restart the construction has seen a very slow progress. When this correspondent had talked to the officials of project implementation unit of the education ministry in January this year, they said that the formalities were "in progress" and the construction would restart soon. But seven months have gone by and still there has been no sign of restarting the construction.

"In the revised proposal, the number of the project staff was reduced to half, 9 from 18. The

ministries of finance and planning took six months to approve the reduced manpower," said a high official preferring anonymity.

According to sources, the revised project proposal was then sent to the Planning Commission and it is now

waiting for the final approval of the finance minister. However, Shirin Akhter, project director of International Mother Language Institute, is hopeful about the future of the project. "The construction will soon restart as the process is in the final stage," she said.

Since the revised proposal has not been approved as yet, project officials are not getting their salaries from July. "Although money has been sanctioned in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) in the current fiscal year, it cannot be released since the proposal is in the process," she

language laboratory, an archive and a museum.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan laid the foundation stone of the institute in 2000 on 1.03 acres of land at Segunbagicha in the capital.

However, language laboratory, computer lab, museum, archive

countries and conduct research on them, but without language laboratory, computer lab, museum and archive this objective cannot be fulfilled.

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne) approved the project in August 2000 after February 21 was recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) as the International Mother Language Day in 1999.

The construction began in April 2003 with the target to complete it by December 2005 and the work continued till September. But after a review meeting on September 28, 2003, the work was suspended at the directive of the ministry.

The education ministry issued an order in August 2004 to restart the construction, which was stopped following some 'disagreements' on the viability of the project. Then the project proposal was revised and sent to the Planning Commission for approval.

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
 Mitford 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**
 Akand Clinic 8015855, 8022581
 Aroggaya 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,

- Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
 Elephant Road-Friday
 Bishal Center-Friday
 Baithal 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
 Muktiuddha Jadughar-Sunday
 Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
 Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

- Passenger's Complaint**
 01711-000990, 01711-000991, 01711-000992, DMP-999, 2627.
 Cab Salida Ltd. 9344477, 01711-620888, 01711-610405
 Cosmo Cab Ltd. 9112959, 8127191, Nitol Cab Co. Ltd. 8125285, 01711-621953
 JBS Cab Ltd. 0191-364575
 Coal Cab Ltd 8130485, 01711-826731
 Limujin Cab Ltd. 9318351, 9337204
 Multi-Cab Ltd. 9666502, 9570740
 Nihon Taxi Cab Ltd. 8624742,
- 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
 Teletax Cab Ltd. 7202201
 Alif Cab Co. Ltd. 0191-357838, 83116948
 Cab One Ltd. 9563054 Ext.-3077, 3178
 United Cab Ltd. 7510166, 01711-

- 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. 9341389, 9339337, 9348401 Ext.-111

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

TRAIN TIMING

- Subarna Express**
 Mahanagar Prabhathi
 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
- 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