

Newborn back from dead in critical state

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The condition of the baby girl -- declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital early Friday but found alive before burial hours later -- is critical. She is under treatment at the Neonatal Intensive Care unit at the hospital.

"Her condition is very critical... We are trying our level best," said Brig Gen AKM Nasir Uddin, director of the hospital.

A four-member probe body led by Dr Manisha Banerjee, head of the neonatology department, has been formed to investigate the incident. The probe body has been asked to submit its report within three days.

"We will take action upon receiving the findings," the director said.

The baby's father, Yeasin Mollah, said on Friday night he saw the baby moving her limbs.

He sought blessing from all for his child.

On Friday, a doctor at the hospital declared the

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With the Sharadiya Durga Puja less than a week away, neighbourhoods in the port city are excitedly preparing for its festivities. Volunteers, devotees, and artisans across the city are busy setting up mandaps, like this little crew of Pilkhana Puja Udjapan Committee. This photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

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Muted Durga Puja celebrations due to pandemic: leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This year's Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the country's Hindu community, will be celebrated on a limited scale amid the coronavirus pandemic, Hindu community leaders said yesterday.

They said there will be no "Kumari Puja", one of the main attractions of the five-day festival, in Dhaka, while celebrations have to be limited for devotees at mandaps earlier than usual.

Besides, distribution of special food items will be held back this time around.

Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad yesterday held a press conference at Dhakeshwari Temple premises in the capital to inform media about festival preparations.

Hindu community members will start celebrating the five-day festival on Thursday, with much enthusiasm and religious fervour.

Community leaders at the press conference also urged devotees to not bring out procession on Bijoya Dashami.

Milon Kanti Dutta, president of the organisation, yesterday told The Daily Star this year Kumari Puja will not be celebrated in Dhaka to avoid excessive crowd to maintain health guidelines.

Different puja organisers were also asked to not distribute spicy rice to avoid crowding, he said.

This year, puja will be arranged at 30,213 mandaps across the country, which is 1,185 fewer than last year, said a statement read out at the press conference.

This year, celebration at the mandaps have to be closed for devotees after 9pm while efforts have to be taken to limit people's presence throughout day, it said, citing a directive taken after meeting held with home ministry on October 4.

Dr Kamal's Gonoforum expels 8 'rebel' leaders

Announces party council on Dec 12

UNB, Dhaka

Expelling its eight rebel leaders -- including Mostafa Mohsin Montu, Dr Abu Sayeed and Subrata Chowdhury -- Gonoforum, led by Dr Kamal Hossain, yesterday decided to hold the party's central council on December 12.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the party's central committee at the Jatiya Press Club. Gonoforum leader Mostak Ahmed read out decisions of the meeting.

He said the meeting decided to hold the central council of the party on December 12 to make the organisation a stronger, dynamic and well-organised one in light of the current political and organisational reality.

Mostak said the meeting also decided to expel Mostafa Mohsin Montu, Prof Abu Sayeed, Subrata Chowdhury and Zaglul Haider Afrik from the post of primary member of the party, for not responding to a show-cause notice served on them on charge of violating party discipline and being involved in anti-organisational activities.

Helaluddin, Latiful Bari Hamim, Khan Siddiqur Rahman and Abdul Hasib Chowdhury -- who had been expelled from the party as primary members.

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Trees, hills razed for housing

Builders cutting greenery, hillocks in port city's Sholoshahar area without DoE approval

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Chattogram

Sanmar Properties Limited, one of the top real estate companies in the country, has been razing greenery along with hills nearby Bangladesh Forest Research Institute in Chattogram city's Sholoshahar area for a twin multistorey apartment block project.

Around hundred of trees and other vegetation were shaved off to make space for the project titled "Sanmar Knightsbridge at Duncan Hills", which is in progress without approval from the Department of Environment (DoE).

Locals alleged that the real estate company engaged its excavator and dump truck to cut the hills at night. A large part of it has been cleared for the project.

DoE Chattogram (metro) ordered Sanmar Properties to stop their work and issued a notice on October 5, asking its director to explain why legal action won't be taken against them.

Mia Mahmudul Haque, deputy director of DoE Chattogram (metro), told The Daily Star that Sanmar Properties applied to secure approval for building retention wall for the project in December last year.

DoE asked them to get approval from Hill Management Committee headed by the divisional commissioner of Chattogram in a letter sent to them on March 10 this year and submit it to DoE, he said.

The company did not respond to their letter yet, he said.

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Sitting too much is not good FOR YOUR HEALTH

HERE IS WHY

Let's compare transit drivers, who sit most of the day, and conductors or guards, who don't. Though diets and lifestyles are a lot similar of both groups, the drivers are about twice as likely to get heart disease than the other groups. It is just because of sitting.

People who sit for long hours continuously are more likely to die earlier from any disease. Exercise helps a little in these cases. Sitting elevates the risk of heart disease, diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol.



The bad effects of too much sitting are very difficult to counter with exercise. You hardly can reverse the effects of sitting 7 hours at a time.

Surprisingly, you are more likely to have diabetes if you sit all day. It also contributes to obesity and anxiety.

Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT), a clot that forms in the leg, often forms due to long time sitting. It can be serious if the clot travels and lodges in the lungs. Sometimes, it exhibits no symptom.



The prolonged sitting habit puts heavy pressure on your back muscles, neck, and spine. An ergonomic chair may not ease the problem. You need to get up and move around for a minute or two every half hour to keep your back healthy.

The senior citizens who are inactive may be more likely to develop osteoporosis (problem with weak bones) and could gradually become unable to do the basic tasks of everyday life, like bathing or using toilets.

Your chance of developing different kinds of cancers increases due to sitting more. The more you sit, the higher your odds are.

The only remedy is to be more active and move on. You need to stand up and stretch every half hour or so. You can touch your toes. Take a stroll around places. You can arrange a treadmill at your workplace. All these things can help prevent the bad effects of uninterrupted sitting and keep you a healthy life.

Source: World Health Organisation



A man haggles with a vendor over the price of veggies at "Fokinni Bazar". Set up on both sides of the rail tracks under Bijoy Sarani-Tejgaon Flyover, this market used to be the last resort for low-income people to purchase greens at a minimal price. But the recent price hike of produce has affected this bazaar too, making it difficult for many to afford.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Even 'Fokinni Bazar' not spared from price hike

At market for 'discarded' produce, customers, vendors distraught as budget gets strained, profit declines

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MATHEWS CHIRAN

It had nearly been an hour, but Khadiza Khatun was still moving from vendor to vendor with her empty bazaar bag in Tejgaon kitchen market.

With the bag folded in her hand, Khadiza was looking for some vegetables within her tight budget. But wherever she went, she found the prices beyond her reach. Eventually, she decided to go to another bazaar for low-income people, popularly known as "Fokinni Bazar", under Bijoy Sarani-Tejgaon Flyover, along

the rail tracks.

When Khadiza went to buy a kg of brinjal there, to her utter surprise, she found that the price is also catching up with the mainstream market.

"One kg of brinjal is Tk 70 in normal markets, and here it's Tk 50 now. But a few months back, I would buy them for Tk 30," she said.

"Due to the pandemic, my husband couldn't find a regular job. Now, because of such high prices, we can't manage three meals a day, especially for my children," lamented Khadiza, who has been living with

her two school-going children and day labourer husband at Purbo Nakhpara for the last 10 years.

This is the current picture of Fokinni Bazar, which has been a godsend for the poor. But now, it too is a victim of price hike like regular markets.

The transient bazaar is set up on both sides of the rail tracks, where people living in shanties nearby sell daily goods. The sold produce is not particularly in good condition, as most are on the verge of rotting.

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Info minister hospitalised with Covid-19

UNB, Dhaka

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud has been admitted to a hospital in the capital with coronavirus infection.

"The minister was admitted to Square Hospitals on Friday as he tested positive for Covid-19," his personal assistant Kaisarul Alam told the news agency.

Kaisar, however, said the minister is doing well and requested all to pray for him for his early recovery.

A number of ministers and state ministers have been infected with Covid-19 since its outbreak in the country on March 8.

Many of them have already recovered from the deadly virus while one state minister died of its infection.

Planning Minister MA Mannan was diagnosed

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