

Diarrhoea claims 689 in 15 dists

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 689 people died of diarrhoea and nearly 85 thousand others were affected in 15 districts in the country during last three and a half months, according to an estimate of the Directorate of Health in the city Wednesday.

The mostly affected areas where diarrhoea broke out in an epidemic form are: Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Comilla, Kishoreganj, Habiganj and Tangail, sources said.

A concerned official said that as each of the death cases was reported in the respective health offices, the actual number of death tolls might exceed the official figure.

According to an official estimate 55 people died of diarrhoea in Comilla, while 81 in Brahmanbaria, 66 in Chandpur, 23 in Netrokona, 79 in Kishoreganj, 51 in Sirajganj, 45 in Kurigram, four in Rangpur, 93 in Habiganj, 22 in Sunamganj, 85 in Tangail, 22 in Narsingdi, 34 in Khagrachhari, 20 in Moulvibazar and nine in Maulvibazar, since August this year.

A total of 10 people died in Comilla, Kishoreganj, Sirajganj, Habiganj, Tangail and Maulvibazar Tuesday, the source added.

4 killed, 29 injured in road accidents

By DMCH Correspondent

At least four persons including two minor girls were killed and another 29 injured in two separate road accidents in and outside the city Wednesday.

Two minor girls were killed when a speeding truck knocked them at Mirpur in the city at about 12 noon Wednesday.

The victims were identified as Amena Khatun, 10, and Tania Khatun, 5. They were sisters and died on the spot.

However, police seized the truck and arrested its driver and helper.

A case was filed at Mirpur thana in this connection.

Later police sent the bodies to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

UNB from Gazipur adds: Two persons were killed and 29 others, including a UNDP official, were injured in a bus accident in front of Ansar Academy at Sakhipur on Dhaka-Tangail highway yesterday, witnesses and police said.

The dead were identified as Iqbal Kabir Pasha (30), an inspector of Kaliakotr Krishi Bank and Bikash Chandra Shaha (35), a local businessman.

Critically injured Dr Tashu, an eye specialist of UNDP, was admitted to Mirzapur Kumudini Hospital.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when a Dhaka bound minibus from Tangail rammed against a tree in front of gate No 2 of the academy at about 8.40 am, injuring 31 passengers.

All the injured were rushed to Ansar Academy Hospital from where three were shifted to Mirzapur Kumudini Hospital in critical condition and 10 others to Kaliakotr Health Complex, hospital sources said.

Iqbal and Bikash succumbed to their injuries at Kumudini Hospital.

Prayer for injunction on Bhorer Kagoj editor rejected

The first court of Subordinate Judge in Dhaka yesterday rejected a prayer for temporary injunction on the Editor and Publisher of the daily 'Bhorer Kagoj' Mattur Rahman and others.

Naimul Islam Khan, a former Editor of the paper, and two of his associates prayed for injunction.

After hearing both sides, Judge Shahidul Huq rejected the prayer for injunction.

Red Cross: Shelters

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ent programmes in the country.

Of the total amount of 29.2 million Swiss francs, 20.8 million equivalent to Taka 63 crore would be spent to build 120 cyclone shelters in the coastal areas over the next three years.

The remaining 8.4 million franc or Taka 25 crore will be used for the cyclone preparedness programme, including the purchase of equipment.

Responding to a question on the release of seven million Swiss francs earmarked for Bangladesh but later suspended, the Red Cross chief said that he would make necessary efforts to convince the donors to release the funds.

The funds were committed following an appeal by the Red Cross in the aftermath of the 1988 floods and the 1991 cyclone to carry out emergency relief operations.

However, the funds were suspended after the government stopped the emergency relief operations much earlier than scheduled, he noted.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia urged the Red Cross chief to help release the suspended funds when he met her Tuesday.

"Prior authorisation of the individual national donor agencies is needed to spend the funds elsewhere," he said, "as IFRC is not the owner of the funds, it is only the trustee."

However, he added that discussions were already underway to devise alternate plans for which the funds can be used. He made a 'personal commitment' to help release the funds.

Replying to another question, Dr Villarreal, a Venezuelan national, brushed aside a notion that there may be some irregularities in the administration of funds by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

"There isn't any type of management problem for administration of funds in the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society," he said categorically. "We appreciate the work they are doing and we hold great respect for them."

He said that the administration of funds of the Red Cross around the world was

crystal clear' as there were internal and external controls over the management of funds.

The IFRC President assured another questioner that the Switzerland-based Red Cross was not facing any fund problems despite the on-going global economic slowdown.

He cited the example of a recent appeal by the Red Cross for the Rohingya refugees, responding to which donors pledged five million Swiss francs, over-subscribing by about two million francs.

IFRC is represented in 152 countries with more than 200 million members, he said, and it enjoys 'total credibility' and is recognised by governments and people around the world.

"In difficult situations our movements are always present in trying to help the needy," he added.

Also present at the press conference were the Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) Shahidul Huq Jamal MP, IFRC Vice President Darrell Donald Jones, Director of the Asia-Pacific region Jerry Talbot, Special Assistant to the President Mortiz Eiries, in head of the delegation in Bangladesh Daniel Prgwitt, Treasurer of BRCS Ekramul Amin and other members of its managing board.

Young woman found dead in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 18: Hundreds of people thronged the Dawn Chamber residential area of the town this morning to see the body of a young woman left by unknown persons.

Police and doctors at hospital suspected that the unidentified woman aged about 24 was murdered after being raped.

However, autopsy report on the body, sent to the General Hospital, was not available till 8 pm to-night.

Witnesses said the woman wearing a sarce was found lying on the Nawab Salmullah Road in front of Rose Clinic since early hours of the day.



Dr Kamal Hossain exchanging views with journalists on the present political situation at his residence yesterday. — Star photo

PM: Education

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could be established through accountability, she added.

Presided over by Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof M Anisur Rahman, the rally was also addressed by Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sirar and former Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal president Rizvi Ahmed.

State Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Aminul Haq, State Minister for Land Advocate Kabir Hossain, Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu, Lutfunnesa MP, former minister Emran Ali Sarker and Prof V of Rajshahi University Prof M Azharuddin were present.

The Prime Minister said the nation could not prosper in the past as education was not linked with the development process, appropriate technology was not innovated and utilised and there was no thrust for increasing production.

The Prime Minister said establishment of universities would not be enough unless "we develop our skills and pursue a system of accountability as well."

Turning to female education, the Prime Minister said the country could not prosper leaving half of the population uneducated. "We want to ensure women's participation in all national activities and for this elaborate programmes have been taken up," she said.

She assured the teachers, students and employees of the university of solving their problems gradually while addressing the problems of all the regions of the country.

Earlier, the Prime Minister laid the foundation of the fourth girls hostel of the university in the campus.

Frequent JS boycott

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Kamal Hossain observed and said that the legislators should reach consensus on some major aspects of national life that included poverty alleviation, strengthening of the economy and building democratic institutions in the country.

When requested to comment on the Awami League-led Opposition's boycott of parliament sessions, Hossain said that such decisions should be taken only after adequate review of the whole socio-political scenario.

"Frequent boycott of parliament virtually weakens the process of institutionalising democracy," Hossain commented.

Replying to a question on when he was going to float a political party Hossain said that although he had rejected becoming a member of the Awami League advisory council, he still belonged to the party as a general member.

When asked to comment on the Awami League's reported understanding with the Jatiya Party for a joint movement against the incumbent government, Hossain remarked, "It is not acceptable in principle."

BSS adds: Kamal Hossain also stressed the need for bridging the opinion gap on formulating what he termed, a 'national survival programme' to achieve economic progress and urged the government to study and implement the reports of the national task force which were prepared by leading intellectuals during the interim government of Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

He also said that the Forum would hold a discussion meeting today seeking implementa-

Nirmul body to go ahead with its programmes

The National Coordination Council of Ghatok Dalai Nirmul Committee yesterday decided to go ahead with all its action programmes, including a country-wide dawn-to-dusk hartal on December 8.

The Nirmul Committee took the decision at a meeting held with its Convener Jahanara Imam in the chair. Among others, Abdur Razzak, Hassan Imam, Mohammad Afzal, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Aminul Islam Badsha and Kamal Pasha were present.

When contacted, Jahanara Imam told UNB last night that the government side had not made any request for deferring the proposed shutdown.

14 more held from Rohingya refugee camps

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 18: Police today arrested 14 unruly elements from Rohingya refugee camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf where security measures were tightened as tension prevailing, reports UNB.

Law enforcing police resorted to lathi charge and finally opened fire in the air to disperse the mob trying to snatch away those taken into custody by police at Dumdumia and Balukhali refugee camps.

Hunt for the listed miscreants trying to create chaos in the camps began Tuesday when visiting Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury issued orders to round them up. The ring leader of the miscreants Nurul Islam Majhee was arrested immediately.

Police said 2 persons were arrested from Dumdumia refugee camp, 4 each from Balukhali No 1 and No 2 camps and 4 others from Gumdum and Desua Palang camps.

Wrong policy

From Page 1 Col 7

Hasina was equally critical of the government for its dealing with Rohingya refugee problem. "They have brought the Rohingya refugees for a particular purpose, but it boomeranged." The refugee camps are in a mess and the situation is going out of control day by day, she added.

On controversial Golam Azam issue, she said the constitution provides his trial by a special tribunal. "If the tribunal finds him not guilty, he shall be free. If found guilty, he will face punishment."

About Jamaat-e-Islami, the Awami League leader said, "fundamentalists today are pushing the country to violence and terrorism. Their politics of confrontation (with arms) will push the country to a civil war."

Asked about the plight of Muslims, including those in Kashmir and Palestine, she said, "I condemn oppressors and call for an end to the plight of the oppressed Muslims."

Expressing solidarity with oppressed Muslims all over the world, Hasina said they were in favour of taking positive steps in ending their plight."

The Midnight File

Clinton flies to meet Bush

WASHINGTON, Nov 18: President-elect Bill Clinton flew to Washington today for a meeting with President George Bush at which he hoped to get Bush's assessment of problems facing the new administration and answers to some budget questions. Before leaving Arkansas, Clinton went for his usual early morning jog through streets near the governor's mansion. His private early afternoon meeting with Bush at the White House, scheduled to run about an hour, was the first event scheduled during a busy two-day stay in the US capital, reports Reuter.

VHP okays plan to build temple

NEW DELHI, Nov 18: Hindu revivalists endorsed today plans to start building a temple on the site of a 16th century mosque, rejecting a proposal by Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao that courts settle the dispute. The governing council of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, World Hindu Council) met here and announced that construction of the proposed temple in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya would begin as planned on December 6. The date had been set by Hindu holy men at a meeting here after a three-month Hindu ultimatum calling on Rao to settle the dispute ended on October 26, reports AFP.

Body on SAARC press coverage

A six-member sub-committee headed by Information Secretary Nuruddin Al-Masud was formed yesterday for coordinating proper press coverage of seventh SAARC summit to be held in Dhaka next month. The decision was taken at the fifth meeting of the Information and Mass-Communication Committee with Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda in the chair. The committee was formed in connection with the SAARC summit, reports BSS.

Khaleda: Anarchy

From Page 1 Col 7

Referring to the programmes of mass literacy, women education, supplying power to every nook and cranny of the country and improving the communications network, she said we would have to remove poverty for achieving the desired objectives of democracy.

The Prime Minister referred to the changes that took place in different countries of the world including the Soviet Union and said those who were now speaking of socialism here were giving bluff to the people. She sought cooperation of the people of all strata to help her government to institutionalise democracy, and increase production at mills and fields for building the nation.

The Prime Minister said the anti-terrorism law was made to deal with the terrorists, and those who would resort to toll collection and damaging the vehicles.

Criticising those opposed to anti-terrorism act, she said they wanted to create anarchy and were opposed to the peoples welfare.

She also referred to the more stringent laws of different countries for dealing with the criminals and trouble-makers.

Benazir batoncharged

From Page 1 Col 4

tear gas to listen to her brief address before she was hustled away by police.

She urged her supporters to storm the Parliament in Islamabad and throw the government out. After her arrest, the angry crowd battled thousands of riot police in Rawalpindi's dark, narrow streets.

Many supporters were injured earlier when baton-wielding police attacked the crowd as it broke through barricades around her home in nearby Islamabad. Ms Bhutto, who wore a bullet-proof vest, was hit several times but appeared unhurt.

Bhutto supporters and police clashed in at least two other cities as well, and police arrested the former prime minister's mother Nusrat, in the eastern city of Lahore while she was travelling to Islamabad to join the march.

Ms Bhutto, an articulate politician known for her ability to attract crowds, was arrested as she proceeded with her plans for a 16-kilometre (10-mile) march from Rawalpindi to the capital, Islamabad. Public protests are banned.

She demands the dismissal of Sharif's conservative Islamic government, charging it is corrupt and repressive and came to power through a rigged election in October 1990. Independent observers have said the elections were fair.

Ms Bhutto was dismissed from power in August 1990 for alleged corruption, nepotism and abuse of power. She has never accepted her dismissal or her party's electoral defeat and has not put her drifting party on course.

Although he has a solid parliamentary majority, Sharif has remained wary of Ms Bhutto's appeal and reacted strongly at times to her statements.

Sharif charged that Ms Bhutto was trying to incite rebellion against his government. He ordered her arrest and took unprecedented security measures, deploying the army around Parliament and at key intersections around Islamabad.

She insists she has done nothing wrong.

From 1977, when her father was overthrown in a coup until she went into self-imposed exile in England in

Bhola-4 by-polls Candidates barred from spending over Tk 3 lakh

From Page 1 Col 4

Along the planned route to Islamabad were thousands of government troops, who set up barricades every 100 metres (yards). Armoured vehicles moved slowly, firing tear gas canisters every 10 metres (yards) to prevent people from gathering.

At the Rawalpindi park where Ms Bhutto's supporters planned to start the march, riot police used tear gas and batons to disperse about 500 rock-throwing students.

At Ms Bhutto's home in Islamabad, hundreds of police wearing flak jackets, helmets and carrying huge shields watched her calmly step through the barrels and barbed wire erected outside before police charged the crowd.

"Pakistan cannot remain a country under siege," Ms Bhutto said as she emerged from her house.

"We have proved that this government does not have the people's mandate," she said. Supporters shouted, "Long Live Bhutto."

Police smashed the windshield of Ms Bhutto's vehicle before she sped to the park in Rawalpindi. She was arrested at the park.

In Lahore, a government stronghold, witnesses said some 200 of Ms Bhutto's supporters threw rocks at riot police, who fired back with tear gas. Demonstrators set one policeman on fire, critically injuring him, they said.

Marchers also clashed with security forces in the northern city of Peshawar, where one supporter was hit by a tear gas canister and critically injured. Minor clashes were reported in other major cities.

Ms Bhutto was dismissed from power by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in August 1990, accused of corruption, nepotism and abuse of power. He established one-judge tribunals to try her administration for alleged corruption and mismanagement. If convicted on any count, Ms Bhutto could be banned from politics for seven years.

According to an Election Commission press release, the contesting candidates have been barred from spending money for certain activities out of the approved expenditure of Taka three lakh or a part of it.

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