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Deaths from liquor poisoning now 62

By Staff Correspondent
The death toll from Tuesday's liquor poisoning at Gaibandha rose to 62 as eleven more people died yesterday.
Our Correspondent from Gaibandha reported that three persons died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH), three at Gaibandha Sadar Hospital and the rest five at their residences.
However, unofficial sources put the death toll at 75.
At least 127 people fell ill drinking the poisonous liquor at Gaibandha town on the Bangla New Year day.
Sixty-four people were admitted to hospital.
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Govt-PCJSS talks on CHT bills today

By Special Correspondent
Talks between the government and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) to remove differences on the four bills to implement the CHT agreement begins in the city today.
The meeting has been convened following demands by the PCJSS leaders in an urgent letter to the Prime Minister on Thursday, highly placed sources said.
The PCJSS complains that the bills have inconsistencies, failing to incorporate some provisions.
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Feasibility of power import from India being studied

By Sharier Khan and Inam Ahmed

The government has initiated a study on the feasibility of power import from India. The study is likely to be completed before the coming rainy season.
A US consulting firm has started a "techno-economic feasibility study" on import of power from India. The study is funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), according to a highly-placed source in the Energy Ministry.
The government is examining the option of power import in view of the fact that power supply situation is not likely to improve to meet the demand in the next two years.

The on-and-off talks with India to import power has been going on since 1995. At present, the government has a concrete proposal from India to supply 200 mw power from its coal-based huge power plants at Farakka. At the same time, Bangladesh will supply 100 mw power from its Eastern Zone to power starved Agartala, leaving a net power import of 100 mw.
But the governments of the two countries are yet to take any decision on the rates at which Bangladesh will buy power and export it.
A government team headed by the PDB chairman went to

West Bengal in October 1996 to examine the viability of importing power from India.
The team found that the capacity of the coal-based 1600 mw power plant in Farakka could be enhanced to 2100 mw if needed. If then talked with the Indian authorities about the possibility of purchasing the power generated from this plant by setting up a 50 km 132 kv power line in Jherhat near the border.
But the Indian authorities disagreed with the Bangladesh side to provide power from the Farakka system. It offered power from other sources and

wanted to fix its own timing for power supply. But Bangladesh side argued that if power was taken from other areas than Farakka, then it would face technical problem in the "electricity cycle" because India has more 'cycle tolerance'.
Bangladesh also wanted power supply either for 24 hours a day or for four hours during the peak time of the day.
The Indian side then agreed in principle with the Bangladeshi proposal but said it was interested to supply 200 mw from Farakka, which Bangladesh would receive through a 50 km power line.
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Second such incident at Shilpakala in 6 months

Beam of under-construction nal't auditorium collapses

By Staff Correspondent

At least ten workers were injured as a beam of the under-construction Jatiya Natyashala at the Shilpakala Academy in the city's Segunbagicha area collapsed yesterday.
Five of the injured workers have been admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They are Siddique, 25, Manjur, 22, Rafiqul Islam, 30, Shabuj, 31, and Mustafa, hospital sources said.
Police said the incident took place when construction workers were pouring raw materials into a scaffolding of a beam on

the second floor of the under-construction Natyashala.
However, it could not be known immediately how the beam collapsed.
About 40 people were working at the site when the incident took place at about 6:10 pm.
The scaffolding and the raw materials inside it collapsed with a bang shortly after the workers resumed work after about an hour's break due to the rain and stormy weather in the afternoon.
An engineer of the construction company, Project Builders

Ltd, was picked up and being interrogated. Ramna police said last night. They were preparing to lodge a case in connection with the incident.
Earlier, in October last year, at least six construction workers were injured in a similar incident at the same site.
UNB adds: State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, who visited the Shilpakala Academy after the incident told UNB that it had occurred due to negligence of duty by engineers, project



NEVER MIND THE STENCH: The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is dumping garbage on the Biswa Road at Mugdapara. The stinking garbage is occupying parts of the busy road, not only causing inconvenience to the passers-by but also posing health hazard to residents. The picture was taken yesterday at 10:30 am by The Daily Star photographer Sheikh Enamul Huq.

Water contamination in Shantinagar, Mirpur areas

Diarrhoea attacks 2000 in a month

By Mizan Ali

Nearly 2000 people in the city's Shantinagar and Mirpur areas suffered from diarrhoea during the last one month as leaking water supply lines of Dhaka WASA got connected with the adjacent sewer lines of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), according to official sources.
The leaks have been temporarily sealed but the water lines must be shifted away from the sewer lines for a permanent solution, officials of DCC and the WASA told The Daily Star

yesterday.
The perennial problem of WASA water contamination turned acute in Mirpur about a month ago, which left about 1000 people attacked with diarrhoea.
The problem was detected in Shantinagar area about a fortnight ago and as a result about 900 people were attacked with the disease, a number of affected people alleged.
The water looked dirty and emitted foul odour.
In Shantinagar, it was detected very recently, while in Mirpur it existed for years but the problem became acute only a month back, officials admitted.

"The WASA in collaboration with the DCC has now taken up a project to identify potential areas of contamination so that preventive measures could be taken," he added.
Scores of people are affected everyday drinking contaminated WASA water in the city, commented some doctors, talking to The Daily Star. Many of them get cured without going to a doctor while serious patients are taken to doctors or hospitals and clinics, they pointed out.
"Water-borne bacteria is responsible for such outbreak of diarrhoea in certain areas of the city. And leakage in water pipes near sewer lines is the probable cause of the widespread contamination of water, leading to outbreak of diarrhoea in some areas of

Dhaka," said a doctor who treated many such patients.
Selina Khaleque, a resident of Shantinagar, told this correspondent that she has suffered from diarrhoea, which appeared almost like cholera.
"Many others in the locality also had similar sufferings soon after they had detected bad smell in the tap water," she added.
The middle-aged lady further said the doctors who treated her identified bacterial presence in the drinking water as the reason behind her illness.
Five members of Jasimuddin Sikder's family also had similar experience. According to them, all the families in the eight multi-storied buildings in the area had gone through similar sufferings.
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BTV to telecast live 56 WC soccer matches

Bangladesh Television (BTV) will telecast 56 out of 64 matches of the World Cup football live from France, official sources said yesterday, reports BSS.
The most prestigious event of the football world will be held in France from June 10 to July 12 with Brazil and Scotland playing the inaugural match at Paris-Stade de France at 9:30 pm Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) in Group A.
The other match of the day will be between Morocco and Norway, also in Group A, at Montpellier at 1 am (BST-midnight).
"We will telecast almost all the matches live through Asian Broadcasting Union," Deputy Director General (Programme) of BTV Mostafa Kamal Syed told BSS yesterday.
"We will have to arrange delayed telecast of eight matches — two each on June 23, 24, 25 and 26 — as two matches will take place at the same time on those days, he said.
In all, 32 countries including four from Asia — South Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia and Iran — have qualified for the World Cup finals.
The finalists, split into eight



groups, will play on round robin league basis in the First Round.
The finalists are:
Group A — Brazil, Morocco, Norway and Scotland.
Group B — Italy, Chile, Cameroon and Austria.
Group C — France, South Africa, Denmark and Saudi Arabia.
Group D — Paraguay, Bulgaria, Spain and Nigeria.
Group E — Netherlands, Belgium, Mexico and South Korea.
Group F — Germany, United States, Yugoslavia and Iran.
Group G — England, Romania, Colombia and Tunisia.
Group H — Argentina, Jamaica, Croatia and Japan.

7-party stages protest rallies today

By Staff Correspondent
The BNP-led Seven-Party Alliance will organise rallies and stage demonstrations across the country today to protest 'killings and repressions on opposition activists of political parties during the hartal on Wednesday, called by the Alliance'.
The Alliance also observed 'mourning day' on Thursday as part of its post-hartal two-day programme.
BNP will organise rallies and bring out processions throughout the country today protesting the killings and demanding release of its leaders arrested during the hartal, a party press release said.
In the city, BNP will hold a protest rally on the premises of the Institute of Linguistics Engineers at Kakrail and bring out a procession, the release added.

Police raid Ctg Govt College: 4 held, arms recovered

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 17: Police recovered some arms and ammunition in a pre-dawn raid into the dormitories of Chittagong Government College today and arrested four suspects.
The recovered arms include one Pakistan-made gun, one LG, one pipegun and some ammunition, police said. The arrested persons include three students and one outsider.
Police said the raid was part of the crackdown that began in the city on Tuesday to arrest terrorists after the home minister's order during his visit to Chittagong on Monday. Twenty-one persons were arrested on the first day for their alleged involvement in various crimes, police said.
The home minister's order for arresting terrorists came in a special meeting held on Monday at the Chittagong airport.
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Dhaka, Yangon to set up jt commission

Bangladesh and Myanmar have agreed to set up a Joint Commission, covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations, reports UMB.
"A draft of the proposed commission has been submitted and discussed," Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad told newsmen yesterday after the official level talks with the Myanmar delegation.
Samad Azad led the home side while his Myanmar counterpart U Ohn Gyaw led the other side at the talks held at the State Guest House Padma in the morning.
Azad described the talks "very fruitful and useful."
Trade and economic cooperation, boundary disputes were among the issues discussed "frankly and cordially," and the response from the Myanmar side was very positive, he said but declined to elaborate.
Replying to a query, the Foreign Minister said dismantling of land mines also came up in the meeting for discussion.
"Now we will have to locate the mines."
Samad Azad said: In fact, there is no problem in our bilateral relations.
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate of Environment
Paribesh Bhaban, Plot No E-16, Agargaon
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Invitation for Porter Design on the Occasion of World Environment Day, 5th June, 1998

সুস্থ পরিবেশ উন্নত জীবনের পূর্বশর্ত

On the occasion of World Environment Day, 5th June, 1998, the Directorate of Environment, this year, invites competitive poster designs on the corresponding subject given by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The given subject is "For life on earth — save our seas." Students (male/female) of the Institute of Fine Arts, artists & advertising agencies are requested to send their respective designs on the above subject along with application stating name, address, telephone no. (if any) by 30th April, 1998 within office hours to the office of the undersigned.

A) Size of poster: 24 inches x 17 inches.
B) Colour of poster: Maximum four-colour.
C) Prize: Tk 10,000/- (ten thousand) will be awarded for the selected design.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the submitted designs without assigning any reason. The submitted designs will not be returned under any circumstance. The selected artist/advertising agency will be intimated of the selection through correspondence.

DFP-7616-6/4
G-784
Abdul Hamid
Deputy Director (Feature)

Assessment of quality of medical edn from tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The Quality Assurance Body (QAB) will start assessment of the quality of teaching and learning in medical colleges soon, according to official sources.
Earlier, in January, the government formed the QAB for medical education with Prof AKM Nurul Anwar, Director General of Health Services, as its Chairman.
Plans have been drawn up for pilot studies in three medical colleges for quality assessment and audit review. It is aimed at improving the quality of medical education in the country through diverse methods, practices and procedures.

the sources added.
A team of four external reviewers and a review secretary will carry out its assessment at the Dhaka Medical College from April 19 to 23 and at Chittagong Medical College and Rangpur Medical College from April 26 to 30.
The team will meet members of the teaching staff and students and observe formal teaching sessions and analyse course documents and related procedures.
The reviewers will submit their report to the QAB and it will scrutinise the report. QAB is likely to make the report public.
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Foundation stone of Mujibnagar Complex laid

MUJIBNAGAR, Apr 17: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation stone of the Mujibnagar complex here today, urging the people to build up the country with the spirit of the liberation war, reports UMB.
"We will have to ensure a better life for the people to reach the fruits of independence to all," she said at the foundation laying ceremony at this historic place where the provisional government in exile of Bangladesh took oath on April 17, 1971.
The complex will be built on 30.75 acres of land with liberation war museum, gardens, tourism centres, library, tower.
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Elephant poachers still active

By Shehab Ahmed

Poachers killed an elephant and removed its tusks in the reserved forest of Thaingkhali in Ukhia thana of Cox's Bazar recently.
Forest guards, hearing gunshots at night, mounted a search in the forest and found a group of poachers busy in extracting the tusks.
The guards could apprehend one of them, Maung Thao Chakma, a tribal and resident of Mocharkhola in Ukhia.
The others managed to escape. The arrested man was

handed over to police, who arrested him on charge of killing the elephant, a protected animal.
Forest officials said the man could be caught because of heightened vigilance by the guards, ordered to step up anti-poacher patrol in Cox's Bazar region.
Cox's Bazar is one of the few remaining sanctuaries for elephants, where poachers killed another tusker last year. Following that, the forest authorities ordered anti-poacher pa-

trol.
The arrested tribesman told police that there were five more people in the gang, three of them local and two from Bandarban. But he could not give the names of the two.
Forest officials in Cox's Bazar said the two are suspected to be members of a Myanmar rebel group who often make forays into Bangladesh, killing elephants and other animals.
An autopsy of the elephant revealed that it was a 15 year old.
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Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka
Computer Centre
Computer Application Course

The following three courses will be offered at BUET COMPUTER CENTRE commencing from 16th May, 1998.

Course No	Course Topics	Duration	Remarks
1	Introduction to Computer Systems MS DOS WINDOWS 95 MS-WORD 97 MS-EXCEL, POWER POINT	24 classes. Each class 2 hrs 3 days per week Time: 4-6 PM/6-8 PM Venue: Computer Centre, BUET	Minimum qualification is HSC or equivalent with good mathematical background. Class size: 28. Individual machine for each participant.
2	FOXPRO Programming with projects	24 classes. Each class 2 hrs 3 days per week Time: 4-6 PM/6-8 PM Venue: Computer Centre, BUET	Minimum HSC with good working experience in Windows environment. Class size: 28. Individual machine for each participant.
3	C/C++ Programming Language	24 classes. Each class 2 hrs 3 days per week Time: 4-6 PM/6-8 PM	Minimum Graduate with good mathematical background. Class size: 28.

Applications in plain paper with full particulars stating course topics, academic qualifications and experience should reach the DIRECTOR, COMPUTER CENTRE, BUET, DHAKA by 12th May, 1998. Fees for each course is Tk 6,000/- (Taka six thousand only) payable by Bank Draft or Pay Order in the name of "DIRECTOR, BRTC, BUET" should accompany the application. The fee includes course materials, light refreshments, file bags etc. Names of candidates selected on first-come-first-serve basis will be posted on the Computer Centre Notice Board on 14th May, 1998.

GD-276
Director