

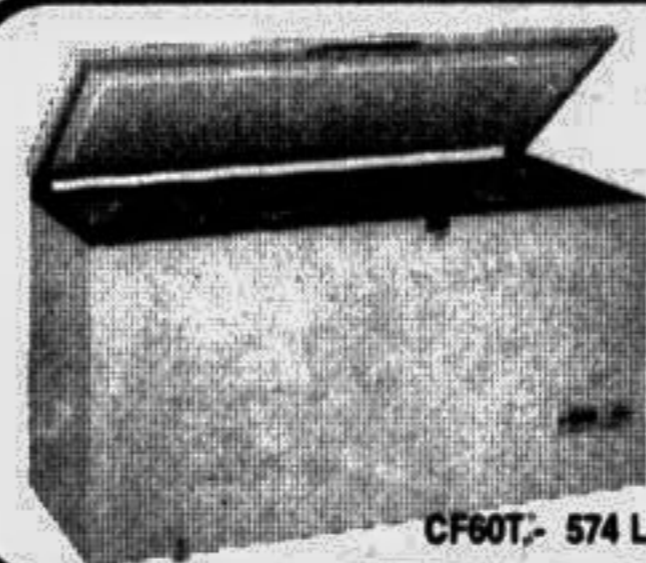
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**Down to Earth**  
**Limitations of Specialised Treatment Facilities**

By ASM Nurunnabi

Lately the Health Minister has submitted the final draft of the health policy to the Prime Minister. The draft covers some important aspects of the country's healthcare system. This marks a big step in the progress in the health sector.

Yet, the limitations in the field of specialised treatment of certain serious diseases of the heart and the kidney can neither be ignored.

There is no doubt that the country has achieved some significant progress in providing facilities for diagnosis and treatment of the diseases in these fields both in the public and private sectors. Yet some of the affected people feel that such facilities in the country are not quite upto the standard. Hence there has been a tendency these days among some well-off people to go abroad for better treatment. Even some cities in the neighbouring country attract such patients.

Effective treatment for serious heart and kidney diseases require modern and sophisticated diagnostic tools. Some public sector institutions like the Institute of Cardio-vascular Diseases and the CMH in the city are said to have such facilities.

Some well-known private clinics reportedly have such facilities too for treating heart

diseases. Although fixing pacemakers or ballooning angioplastics or angiograms are more or less common as part of specialised treatment, many believe the ballooning involves some risk. This may be a layman's view.

Recently, as per newspaper reports, a Bangladeshi heart surgeon, in Paris, did some angiograms in a private heart clinic near the city, while on a visit here. Of course, with such facilities, heart surgeons in the city have reportedly been doing such operations from time to time. Although by-pass surgery is considered a more elaborate procedure, there are instances of such successful surgery with the available expertise and medical infrastructure.

The number of kidney diseases is also said to be quite high in the country although no statistics are available on the number of kidney patients requiring renal dialysis as a means of survival. Reportedly, there are a total of about 29 dialysis machines used by both the public and private sectors in the city.

A private renal clinic situated on Road No. 8 of the Dhanmondi residential area reportedly owns 13 of the machines.

It is understood that this clinic has been doing good humanitarian service with the

help of these machines. But the clinic is said to be having problems in its expansion programme. With the limited space in which the clinic is functioning there seems to be little scope for its expansion, although the owners have necessary funds and other supports for rendering greater service to the patients. Hence the need for shifting that renal clinic to a more commodious site.

Such facilities in some public hospitals and private clinics are not good enough to produce significant impact. Cases of kidney transplants, the last hope, are said to be very few. The survival rate in such transplants at the aforesaid clinic, for instance, is hard to determine.

Usually the well-off patients wanting such transplants tend to go abroad.

In this country it may take more time to build up necessary medical infrastructure with professional expertise to perform kidney transplants.

The point is quite obvious that for the specialised treatment of heart and kidney diseases considerable costs are involved for the affected parties. But the cost may greatly be reduced by setting up the required standard in surgical expertise with all supporting facilities in the country. The objective does not seem hard to achieve.

**Viral fever**

From Page 1  
headache, bodyache and redness of eye along with the fever. In such cases, patients can take Tab. Paracetamol (500 mg) thrice daily and Tab. Anti-histamin twice daily. The Anti-histamin tablet is not a good drug for the pediatric group, especially children under the age of 2 years, he added.

Though the fever mainly affects the upper respiratory tract but in many cases it also affects the lower tract causing pneumonia if the patient is in poor physical condition, malnourished or immune suppressed. Dr Islam said.

Dr Islam said patients having allergy should consult with doctors because they may develop Bronchial Asthma, Chronic Bronchitis as viral infection increases the sensitivity of mucosal tract.

Dr Islam who treated a good number of such patients, advised the affected persons to use separate handkerchief to prevent droplet infection which can affect the healthy persons living with him. Clothes used by the patients should be kept away from the children. All should be very careful, particularly about safe disposal of excreta and drinking water, he said.

**College girl**

From Page 1  
to comfort a speechless Rima. Police said they will produce Rima before court today and then hand over her to her parents. But the abduction case filed by Rima's father would take legal course unless it is withdrawn, they said.

At their Baburail residence, the wailing mother and other family members were still awaiting Rima's return. But till late last night, the mother was not given the shocking news of her daughter's safe mind.

Her mother burst into tears while The Daily Star correspondent was talking to her father and sister-in-law Khadiza Begum. Khadiza was accompanying Rima in the rickshaw when she was abducted.

While the correspondent was at Rima's house, the kidnappers made at least 20 phone calls threatening the family to withdraw the case. They also threatened that Rima would face dire consequences if she gives any adverse statement, the family members said.

"We now suffer from a deep sense of insecurity. We seek protection and justice", says Rahman, a meat trader. The sobbing mother Hayatunnessa described how much careful she was while sending their daughter to college. "Never, I allowed her to go to college, or anywhere else alone".

Khadiza, a Masters' student at the Eden Girls' College in Dhaka, then described the story of kidnapping.

A group of about five young sisters in a white car stopped their rickshaw in front of the Morgan Girls High School adjacent to the town's busiest Bangabandhu Sarak Monday evening. As the youths dragged Rima down from the rickshaw, she caught hold of her *bhabhi*.

"Save me *bhabhi*", she cried out. Her *bhabhi* sister-in-law tried to resist the kidnappers. But the youths punched her down from the rickshaw.

Their cries for help drew some elderly men who made an attempt to save them. But threats of 'dire consequence' drove them away. Others nearby just witnessed the kidnapping of a young pretty girl.

"As I managed to stand up", says Khadiza, "I saw Rima running towards the Morgan School and the kidnappers chasing her".

But the kidnappers dragged Rima to the car and threw her inside. A desperate Khadiza then made her second bid. She pulled one of the youths by his shirt but he punched her and the car drove away leaving her injured on the road.

**Dacoity in a city house**

By Staff Correspondent  
Dacoits robbed gold ornaments, cash and valuables worth over Tk one lakh from a house in city's Lalmitia area in the early hours of yesterday.

Police said a gang of about four entered the house of Enamul Jalil Khan at Block-B in Lalmitia breaking open window rods at about 3.30 am.

The robbers, equipped with sharp weapons, tied up Enamul and forced the other members of the family to open a number of almirahs, police added.

Police said the dacoits left the house after taking Tk 60 thousand in cash, gold ornaments weighing about 12 *ohari* and valuables, including some electronic goods.

None, however, was arrested in this connection till filing of this report late last night. A case was filed yesterday with Mohammadpur thana in this regard.

**BIMSTEC states**

From Page 1  
nology (India), transportation and communication (Thailand), Energy (Myanmar), and Tourism and Fisheries (Sri Lanka).

In the trade and investment area, the economic cooperation would cover exchange of information and establishment of a database involving tariff rates, trade statistics, non-tariff measures, import/export regulations and regulations related to investment and production.

Promotion of joint investment and business between members, implementation of trade facilitation measures such as customs procedures and mobility of business people should also be covered in the trade and investment area.

The meeting decided to develop an action plan, which is likely to be adopted at the tourism summit to be held in India later this year.

The meeting held that in order to promote private sector participation in the BIMSTEC cooperation projects and to ensure implementation of work plans, it is necessary to establish a BIMSTEC Chamber and Commerce and Industry (BIMSTEC CCI). It is also necessary to designate private sector representatives to coordinate work in each sub-sector among the private sector groups of the member countries.

The meeting observed that to promote trade and investment in the region, cooperation should be extended further excluding the existing five sub-sectors.

The areas to be included in the list are: Trans-Asia railway and highway, rubber, tea, coffee, coconut and spices, automotive industries and processed foods.

The existing sub-sectors include textiles and clothing, drugs and pharmaceuticals, gems and jewelry, information technology products and services, and horticulture and floriculture products.

Recognising that the South

Asia is a potentially large and unsaturated market unlike other regions, the meeting said that BIMSTEC could, therefore, utilise the advantage to expand trade and investment in other sectors of the grouping on a gradual basis.

Identifying the importance and priority needed to develop the road and rail connections among the member states, the meeting agreed that they should work for early establishment of the BIMSTEC component of the southern corridor of the Trans-Asian railway and Asian Highway projects.

It was also agreed at the meeting that necessary mechanisms would be set up to coordinate efforts and funding of those projects.

The ministers decided that they would work together to formulate a common position in areas to be addressed in the forthcoming discussions of the new World Trade Organisation (WTO) round.

The meeting opined that BIMSTEC should also work closely in the business sector to accelerate the development of a regulatory framework and prepare a WTO for such discussions at the WTO meetings.

**4 tiger cubs**

From Page 1  
Arjun had earned notoriety by tearing the head of a rag picker last year.

The vets were on alert, even on the weekend, monitoring the health of the cubs.

A pair of the leopards earlier gave birth to three cubs, who are also doing well.

Besides pairs of waterbuck, python, baboon and peacock also had their babies last month.

**Cong to launch satyagraha for Thackeray's arrest**

NEW DELHI, Aug 7: The All India Congress Committee minority cell has said it would launch a nation-wide 'satyagraha' for the arrest of Shiv Sena Chief Bal Thackeray and the dismissal of the Shiv Sena-BJP state government in Maharashtra following their indictment by the Sri Krishna Commission for the 1992-93 riots in Mumbai, reports BSS.

Some 900 people, majority of whom were Muslims, were killed in that riot.

In a statement here today, All India Congress Committee

(AICC) minority cell chairman Shahid Siddiqui condemned the Shiv Sena-BJP government in Maharashtra for its refusal to accept the Sri Krishna report. "This is not only a murder of justice, but rule of law but it will also lead to loss of faith in the judiciary and the legal system," he added.

The Commission in its report had indicted Marathi newspaper 'Samna', the mouthpiece of Shiv Sena, edited by Bal Thackeray for "inflammatory writings during the riots."

The inquiry report also made several critical references against Shiv Sena supreme. The Maharashtra Chief Minister, Manohar Joshi, had rejected these references against Bal Thackeray saying, "there is no concrete evidence to substantiate the indictment."

The AICC minority cell chairman Shahid Siddiqui in his statement said the effort of Maharashtra Chief Minister Manohar Joshi to communalise the report as "pro-Muslim" and "anti-Hindu" was highly reprehensible and a "direct provocation" to incite hatred against the minorities once again.

**Two held with arms in Demra**

By Staff Correspondent  
Police recovered three firearms with ammunition and arrested two persons in this connection from Demra thana area in the city Thursday.

The arrested were identified as Abdur Rahman, 28, and Jahangir Alam, 28, police said. A revolver, a pistol and 14 bullets were also recovered from the possession of the arrested two.

Acting on a tip-off, a special team of Demra police arrested Rahman and Alam from Shampur Industrial area at about 4:40 pm, police said.

**20 hurt as BCL factions clash at Haluaghat**

MYMENSINGH, Aug 7: Two factions of pro-Awami League Chhatra League clashed at Haluaghat here today over formation of a new committee, leaving at least 20 people injured, witnesses said, reports UNB.

They said the clash erupted when a faction protested the announcement of a 41-member new committee of the local unit of BCL and assaulted its president and secretary Kanchan and Hannan.



Ramicha Khatoon trying to comfort her child at Mugdapara Community Centre yesterday. The child is suffering from diarrhoea and fever for the last seven days. She complains that there had been no help from anyone for the flood victims so far. - Star photo by Sk Enamul Haq

**Khaleda visits flood-hit Keraniganj Govt relief yet to reach rural areas**

KERANIGANJ, Aug 7: Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia today asked the government to open gruel kitchen in the flood affected areas, reports UNB.

"In many flood-hit areas, people are passing their days without food. Though the flood victims around the capital are getting scanty relief, relief funds have not yet reached the rural areas," she said.

The BNP chairperson was briefly addressing a spontaneous gathering at Zila Parishad market of Aganagar union in Keraniganj thana, where she distributed relief materials in the afternoon.

Begum Zia, distributed relief at 8 points of different unions

of Keraniganj, including Dhaleswari Ideal High School and College, Hasnabad, Pargandaria, Bastuhara Primary School, Aganagar, Lasamganj Ghat and Mandail Ghat.

Some traders and businessmen of the Zila Parishad market handed over cheques amounting to over Tk one lakh to Begum Zia.

Blaming the government for failure in mitigating the miseries of the flood victims, she said the poor will continue to be deprived and the development of the country will be stopped if it remains in power.

Urging the people not to show any 'sympathy' to the Awami League in future elections, she said, "It has been proved that they are doing the same thing as they did in the past."

Referring to the recent incident of Bagha at Rajshahi, the BNP chief said the ruling party terrorists had stripped two women as a business man refused to pay tolls.

She blasted the government for its failure to protect the dignity of women.

**Arms recovered in Khagrachhari: 3 arrested**

From Our Correspondent  
KHAGRACHHARI, Aug 7: Police today recovered a revolver and twelve bullets from a house at village Chowdhurypara in Matrianga thana and arrested three persons in this connection.

The arrested are Abdul Kader, 25, son of Abdul Berek, Abdur Rahman, 28, son of Chan Mia, Morshed Alam, 18, son of Abdur Rahman of village Comilla Tilla of Khagrachhari sadar.

**Floods**

From Page 1  
unchanged in Chandpur, Bogra and Munshiganj districts. However, the overall flood situation in other places of country improved further.

According to the control room, no flood related death was reported from across the country keeping death toll to 270 on Thursday.

The FFWC said 10 rivers of the Brahmaputra, Ganges and Meghna basins were flowing above their red marks at 13 points.

The major rivers around Dhaka and its adjacent areas were also flowing above their respective danger levels.

**Growth cycle**

From Page 1  
strong growth in its major export markets.

"The composition of domestic financing of budget deficit improved in FY98, with a significant decline in central government borrowing from the Bangladesh Bank," the WB said.

"The government's domestic interest burden did, however, increase due to increased reliance on the relatively more expensive national savings certificates and the increase in interest rates on treasury bills."

Monetary policy was significantly tightened in FY98. Broad money grew by only 9.5 per cent between July 1997 and March 1998, reflecting less than 12 per cent growth in domestic credit, an increase in the bank rate from 7.5 per cent to 8 per cent and strict surveillance of the balance sheets of banks frequently using Bangladesh Bank's discount window.

**Donors suggest conversion of BR into state-owned co**

The donors have suggested conversion of the Bangladesh Railways into a 100 per cent state-owned company to reduce deficit and make it a viable organisation, official sources said yesterday, reports BSS.

According to a report, Bangladesh Railway's (BR's) deficit stood at Tk 100 crore to Tk 150 crore annually during 1975 to 1993. The conversion of a department of a government ministry into a 100 per cent state-owned company under the companies act would be a new concept, the report said.

The report on organisational reform of Bangladesh Railways jointly prepared by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in collaboration with the government also suggested that the approval of the cabinet was required by the end of August this year to carry out successfully the conversion programme.

olution and its strong support for the process to the general public and to railway employees. The government would have to take several actions to initiate the conversion process and to demonstrate its commitment, it added.

It would appear that BR could operate a better and more competitive railways, could actually generate profits and could reach a substantial positive cash position if the conversion to a state-owned company proceeded, the report observed.

The report mentioned that the BR has steadily lost market share in both passenger and freight transport markets. BR's share of passenger traffic fell from 30 per cent to 12 per cent and freight traffic from 28 per cent to 7 per cent, the report said.

**CU classes resume today**

From CU Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Aug 7: All classes of the Chittagong University (CU) will resume tomorrow after a week-long vacation for rainy season.

All the offices of the CU will reopen on the same day. Students have already started returning to their halls.

**Teenage prisoner**

From Page 1  
give his name.

Meanwhile, the body of Alamgir was handed over to his father Abdus Sobhan yesterday afternoon, jail sources said.

Alamgir was arrested by Savar police on July 3 for allegedly possessing phenisidyl syrup. When contacted, Savar police claimed last night that Alamgir was not physically assaulted while he was in the thana custody for a night after his arrest.

**Rubel**

From Page 1  
house yesterday.

The CID investigators will begin questioning the family members and relatives of Rubel today.

The CID officials hoped that they would be able to cross-check the statements of the remanded plainclothesmen with those of AC Akram, another accused in the murder case, who is likely to be remanded this week.

Investigators have so far confirmed that at least six DB policemen were directly involved in the torture on Rubel after he was picked up by the DB team at about 4:30 pm on July 23.

The CID has also asked two DB Sub-inspectors to report to the investigating team for questioning in connection with the murder.

Constable Mir Faruq, an accused plainclothesman, in his judicial statement before the magistrate last week reportedly named SI Nurul Alam and SI Tareq as the other members who were also involved in the torture.

However, CID investigators have not found any "useful information" so far from Havildar Abdul Qudus of Special Branch who was arrested a week ago.

Qudus was held for his alleged attempt to meet constable Parvez, also an accused in the case.

The five-day remand of Qudus ended yesterday and he is likely to be produced before the CMM's court today.

**Lewinsky**

From Page 1  
she's been saying for the past six months," CNN quoted the source as saying.

Clinton went about his business at the White House, hosting an anti-crime event in the Rose Garden and escaping reporters' questions about Lewinsky that were drowned out by the blare of a military band. His aides projected a business-as-usual air.

"His mood is great," White House deputy press secretary Barry Toiv said.

"We're hopeful that this means a four-year investigation that has cost upwards of 40 million dollars is finally coming to a conclusion," Toiv said, referring to Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's investigation that started with the Whitewater land deal in Arkansas and expanded to questions of obstruction of justice inside the White House.

**PM's interview on Star Plus today**

Star Plus, a satellite TV channel, will telecast an 'interview-cum-profile' of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at 8 pm today, an official of Star TV network said, reports BSS.

The interview, which was taken by Indian journalist Ms Tavleen Singh, will be aired in the Star Plus' popular programme 'Ek din, ek jeevan,' highlighting the activities of the daily schedule of the prime minister.

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2	Introduction to FOXPRO and 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 23rd August, 1998. Fees for each course is Tk 6,000/- (Taka six thousand) only payable by Bank Draft or Pay Order in the name of "BRTC Computer Centre Fund, BUET" should accompany the application. The fee includes course materials, light refreshments, file bags etc. Name of candidates selected on first-come-first-serve basis would be posted on the Computer Centre Notice Board on 27th August, 1998.

GD-626 Director

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