

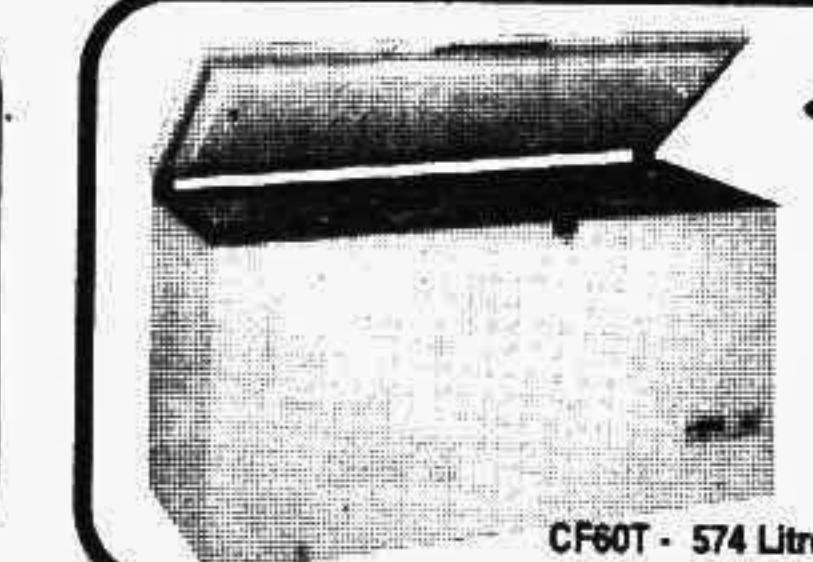
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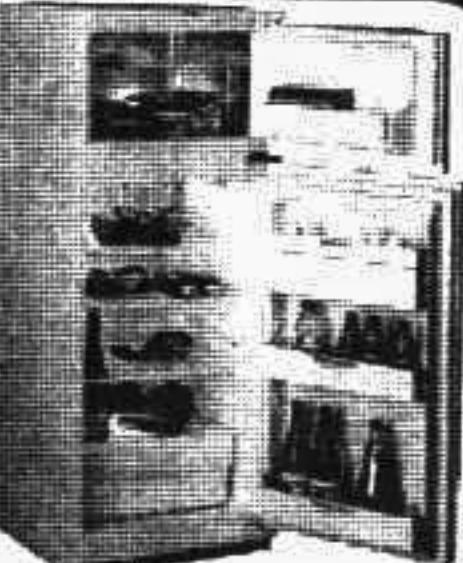
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## Down to Earth Of Blood Donors and Dubious Use of Syringes

By A S M Nurunnabi

The issue of blood donation by private individuals has always been a source of concern. The concern relates to the quality of blood received from the private donors. Another aspect of such concern bears on the estimated need of blood for various emergencies in hospitals and clinics and its estimated availability from private donors and other sources.

According to a report, the quantity of blood needed by organisations like Sandhani and the Red Crescent Society for medical purposes is in the region of two lakh bags a year but, each year, the availability of blood through collection drive falls short by 140,000 bags. How is this gap between demand and supply bridged? From informed sources, it is learnt that in filling this gap, a substantial role is played by professional blood donors. A risk factor lies in the fact that such professional blood donors generally come from the poorer section of society who give their blood for a price. It is the prevailing medical opinion that as many of these donors suffer from disease, those who receive this blood during transfusion are at risk because facilities for screening such donated blood are generally limited.

Because of the inherent risk involved in the use of such blood, informed medical opinion puts emphasis on encouraging regular donations by those donors known to be in good health at four-month intervals. The question of screening blood received indiscriminately from questionable sources has assumed all the more importance in these days of possible HIV infection and other STDs. But the unfortunate thing is that the so-called "safe blood" is generally

short supply and this shortage sometimes throw the patients needing transfusion into the compelling necessity of using whatever blood happens to be available.

Reportedly the Red Crescent Society has lately taken the initiative of training a limited number of doctors and lab technicians for undertaking safe blood transfusion. Obviously this limited number of trained personnel is inadequate for meeting the needs of so many patients. This underlines the urgent necessity of training more and more personnel in order that we may be able to make the requiring patients feel safe. We may keep in mind that there are patients who must need regular transfusions because of the nature of their disease. It seems to be the moral obligation of those connected with the treatment of such patients to ensure safe transfusion. There seems to be no reason for complacency in this field because we sometimes read reports of infection of children with AIDS in other countries caused by contaminated blood.

In this context, it seems necessary to emphasise that blood plasma and other blood products, which are reported to be in short supply, also need attention for augmentation in their availability in specific circumstances. It was learnt that the Red Crescent Society has a five-year programme to supply only safe blood. Under this programme, appropriate equipment for screening to ensure safe blood is expected to function at suitable centres. But in case this programme fails to deliver the goods, the ominous prospect of not getting safe blood may persist with consequence.

Now it is the health authorities who have to do something about the menace that is said to be one more problem plaguing our medicare system. Observers are of the opinion that only prompt and decisive action against the criminals engaged in this hazardous malpractices can retrieve the situation.



After a three-day hartal, the Ekushey Book Fair at Bangla Academy drew a large crowd yesterday, a public holiday.

— Star photo

Khaleda warns govt against repression on opponents

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday cautioned the government against repression on the opposition activists, reports UNB.

The repression carried out by the police and the armed goons of the ruling party on opposition activists would be boomerang for them, she said, adding that they let loose the terrorists in the name of opposing hartal.

Begum Zia was exchanging views with the leaders and workers of Mohila Dal at her official residence at 29, Mintu Road in the evening and reviewing post-hartal situation.

Kurshid Jahan Huc, Begum Sarwari Rahman, Prof Jahanara Begum, Selima Rahman, Firoza Talukdar, Bilkis Islam were present at the meeting.

TCB

From Page 1

the "regular" exporters. TCB gets

five per cent of the "free" quota as per the Textile Trade and Quota Administration Rules 1991.

The EPB distributes the quota among registered garments exporters.

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The prime minister pointed out that in the poura polls 13 candidates from BNP, eight from Jatiya Party, three from Jamaat, two from Workers

Party and 20 independent candidates got elected.

Sheikh Hasina said that the people have restored their voting rights at the cost of their blood and they would protect it by any means. She said that city corporation polls would take place in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna in future and people would exercise their voting rights freely.

She hinted that city corporation elections would also be held in the newly created division of Barisal and Sylhet.

PM tells rally in city

## Resist hartal in every ward

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the opposition parties to shun violence, and conspiracy and follow the path of peace to save the nation from destruction, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting at the Mohammadpur Physical College ground here in the afternoon, she said the frequent hartals only brought miseries to the peace-loving people.

Sheikh Hasina accused the BNP leader Begum Zia of carrying out destructive activities in the name of hartal and killing innocent people like rickshaw-pullers. She said, "why are you killing rickshaw-pullers by pouring petrol on their body?"

She called upon the people to resist hartal in every ward in the city and help restore a peaceful atmosphere.

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## Gold seized at Ctg airport

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 26: Customs officials at Chittagong airport hauled 400 tolas of gold worth about Tk 25 lakh from a passenger who returned from Dubai by Bangladesh Biman at noon today.

Passenger Tajuddin of Raozan was arrested following recovery of 40 smuggled gold bars, 10 tolas each, from inside his shoes and socks, customs sources said.

The seized gold bars were deposited with Chittagong Customs House while the arrested passenger was handed over to police.

## Press briefing

From Page 1

Ali had to face critical questions from journalists regarding preparations for the D-8 Summit and failed to give satisfactory answers to a number of questions.

The commissioners' meeting concluded yesterday and the briefing was scheduled at 6 pm.

It is learnt that the media committee set up to oversee the D-8 Summit does not include the DG of EP, PIO or the press secretary to the PM. It is also learnt that till yesterday reporters had not been enlisted to cover the meeting of D-8 council of ministers or the formal session of the Summit.

Incidentally, security passes were issued only late last night which will allow journalists both from home and abroad to cover only the media briefing.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources said that Nigeria would send a high official to attend the D-8 conference. This, however, could not be confirmed from the Foreign Ministry.

## Kafco's sales deals

From Page 1

commercial settlement proposed by Kafco's general contractor.

The settlement aims to clear the contractor, a consortium of two Japanese companies, one of which is Chiyoda which actually built the plant and the other is Marubeni, from their obligations to Kafco about the faulty plant, and give the contractor plant acceptance.

The plant acceptance is at the core of the proposed deal, with far-reaching consequences for the company and the government of Bangladesh. The government, the largest shareholder and guarantor of \$190 million in outstanding loans to Kafco, has so far resisted the pressure to swallow the "settlement" and plant acceptance. The off-take deals expire seven years after plant acceptance.

A former managing director Manucher Towhidi says the plant is still not in a suitable state for acceptance. Two major items of equipment which may cause a shutdown at any time will not be replaced until February 2000. Towhidi, at the helm through the construction phase and numerous plant problems afterwards, says the company has been drained of at least US\$ 120 million in lost production and other effects due to a series of mechanical breakdowns and the faulty construction of the plant.

Kafco lost at a hearing last year in London in arbitration brought by Transammonia against the company to enforce the urea off-take agreement. But the arbitrator said that if plant acceptance still did not take place within a year, Kafco could

end the off-take agreements. The factory went into production in December 1994, and plant acceptance remained at the heart of the dispute triggered by the frequent shutdowns of the plant which followed. The Kafco management said that faulty design and substandard equipment have led to plant failures, shutting down the plant for a staggering 37 times.

Both Marubeni and Transammonia make money through commission on sales. Commission can go up to five per cent, and is charged even if Kafco sells directly to the government. The two companies also make money by giving Kafco lower prices. Marubeni is also known to charge very high shipping costs.

On an average, it is estimated, about \$8 million a year will be lost by Kafco to Marubeni and Transammonia because of commission, lower prices and excessive shipping costs if the two off-take agreements continue.

## Cairn

From Page 1

those to Shell without informing Petrobangla or seeking permission from it. The government is now looking into the issue," said a source.

In December last, the government was examining the legal aspects of Cairn's transfer of 50 per cent of its concerns to Shell. As the government was involved in it, Cairn decided to sell all its concerns to Shell, again without prior permission.

Sources said, Cairn would withdraw from Bangladesh by June next. It may, however, remain involved in exploration activities with Shell later. Cairn is also retrenching some 40 employees working in the Bangladesh section at its head office, they said.

Despite its pioneering role in the private sector oil and gas exploration in the country, Cairn has been unstable here and we must truly calculate how much Bangladesh has been benefited from Cairn's investment," said a source.

A case was filed with the police in this connection accusing 15 people, including one defeated commissioner candidate.

## Post-polls violence at Mymensingh: 35 hurt

Mymensingh, Feb 26: At least 35 people were injured, eight critically, in post-polls violence here on Thursday and Friday between the supporters of rival candidates of the municipal elections, reports UNB.

meningh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

Police said 15 people were injured in a clash in front of Razzak Sarkar Market at Maskanda in the town at about 5 pm today.

Of them, Lovely, 18, and Munina, 25, sustained splinter injuries and were admitted to MMCH.

Another clash took place in front of Nayanmoni Market at Shankipara here at about 3 pm today, leaving 10 people injured.

Sher Ali, 25, suffered bullet wounds in the clash while Sehmi, 30, sustained splinter injuries. They were also admitted to the hospital.

In a separate incident, Monir Hossain received splinter injuries when a bomb was hurled at Baghpara in the town at about 12:15 pm today. He was also admitted to MMCH in a critical condition.

On Thursday night, Rafiqul Islam, 30, received bullet wounds at Mashkanda while Sumon, 17, sustained splinter injuries at Health Officer's lane at Shankipara and Faroque, 20, sustained skull injuries in front of Polytechnic Institute at Mashkanda.

In another incident, unruly people attacked a house of Pranesh at DN Roy Road here on Thursday and beat up the family members, leaving at least five of them injured.

A case was filed with the police in this connection accusing 15 people, including one defeated commissioner candidate.

## Parvez fighting death

From Page 1

Nazrul said, "The ambulance is strictly meant for administrative purposes."

Parvez's uncle Shahjahan Mia said, "I bought drugs worth Tk 500. No drug was supplied from the hospital". The doctors asked us to get the CT Scan done as soon as possible."

Till the writing of this report at 11 last night, Parvez was in a state of coma.

With draw false cases, demands Mohila Dal

By Staff Correspondent  
Leaders and activists of Jatiyatobadi Mohila Dal staged demonstration in the city yesterday demanding withdrawal of 'false' cases filed against four women leaders.

Led by Mohila Dal convenor Kurshid Jahan Haq, MP, the activists of the women's front of BNP paraded different city streets and chanted slogans against the government, said a press release.

Later addressing a rally, Kurshid Jahan Haq demanded immediate withdrawal of 'false' cases filed against Selima Rahman, Rebeqa Siraj, Laila Begum and Shirin Sultan.

She said the current movement based on 4-point demand will soon turn into one-point oust-government movement if the government fails to behave with the opposition parties properly.

The BNP MP in her speech said the people of the country will foil the evil plan of the government to restore the one-party BKSAL system through mass movement. "The government will not be able to stay in power by holding the one-party municipal polls," she added.

## বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন'৯৯

### বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন অফিস

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