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**Hib infection kills a large number of children**

By Staff Correspondent  
Bacterial infection by Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) which causes pneumonia and meningitis is a major factor behind child mortality in the country.  
Incidence of diseases caused by Hib infection has increased by 712 per cent in the country in the last one decade while it has been eradicated in most of the developed countries, according to research findings presented at a symposium in the city yesterday.  
Dr Samir Kumar Shaha of Microbiology Department at the Dhaka Shishu Hospital did the research at the hospital.  
The three-year research conducted on 242 Hib infected children revealed that 39 per cent of them died and 30 per cent developed neurological disability. The rest were treated.  
The symposium on 'Burden of Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) infection in children of Bangladesh and the need for vaccine', sponsored by Esakay Bangladesh Ltd, was held at a local hotel.  
Ninety per cent of Hib cases are babies aged between two months and one year. Most of the cases were from poor families living in an overcrowded environment, DR Samir said.  
Hib infection can be prevented with Hibrix vaccine, which should be included in the Extended Programme for

**US, Russia sign N-safeguard accord**

MOSCOW, Oct 2: The United States and Russia today signed an agreement on cooperation in the monitoring and safeguarding of nuclear materials, reports AP.  
The agreement was signed by visiting US Energy Secretary Bill Richardson and his Russian counterpart, Yevgeny Adamov, after the unveiling of a crisis 'situation center at the Russian Nuclear Power Ministry, the ISTAR-Tass news agency said.  
The agreement envisaged a Russian national program of registration, monitoring and protection of nuclear materials, including their transportation, ISTAR-Tass said.  
It also called for the equipping of Russian factories working with nuclear materials with updated systems and special devices for the registration and control of nuclear materials, the report said.  
On Friday, Richardson inaugurated a civilian computer center that would incorporate high-performance IBM computers, ending a long-standing conflict over their sale to Russia.  
Russia bought the 13 computers in 1996 for nuclear weapons research, bypassing US export regulations. Under US policy, the computers required licenses for export to military and nuclear.

**President tells Janakantha function Geniuses never back out despite political chaos**

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said the geniuses never retreated from discharging their responsibilities despite political chaos and social disorder, reports UNB.  
"Political instability, social chaos, economic crisis or social degradation often created hindrance, but the geniuses did never back out," President said while addressing the distribution of 'Janakantha Celebrities' and 'Janakantha Talents' awards '98 at a local hotel in the city yesterday morning.  
He said there are many talented personalities who are working relentlessly for awakening the people from their respective positions. But various social odds, especially the economic hardship, create obstacles to their endeavour.  
Shahabuddin said if the conscious and judicious individuals are not evaluated properly, then there could be no expectation of creativity and free-thinking.  
The financial arrangement made by the Janakantha man-

**13 dacoits held in Sitakunda**

From Our Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Oct 2: Thirteen dacoits were arrested with arms at Panthochhila in Sitakunda thana today.  
Police and witnesses said, about 25 dacoits were travelling in a Chittagong bound bus from Ramganj of Noakhali in the guise of passengers.  
When the bus reached near Nunachhara, the dacoits swooped on the passengers and looted their belongings at gunpoint.  
They got down from the bus at Panthochhila and tried to flee in a microbus, but the bus passengers with the help of local people intercepted their vehicle and caught eight of them while the rest managed to flee. Two LGs were recovered from their possession.  
The bus passengers and local people beat up the dacoits and later handed over to the police. The arrested dacoits were identified as Abu Misa, Nurul Karim, Imam Ali, Jamal Uddin, Alauddin, Towhid Islam, Suman Majumder, Akram Hossain Mintu, Taslimuddin, Abu Zafar Champa, Saiful Islam alias Shahidul, Kutub Uddin and Sajol Roy.

**Failure to deliver DC 10-30 Biman will scrap its contract with GIA**

By Shehab Ahmed  
Bangladesh Biman has decided to cancel its contract with a US company GIA, for supplying a DC-10-30 aircraft on a long 'dry lease' as it failed to provide the aeroplane at the scheduled time.  
Biman sources said that the decision followed the failure of the company to provide the aircraft by May, following a number of extensions of the delivery schedule.  
It sought 90 days time last week to deliver the aircraft, after the Biman authorities gave it a final one week's notice to deliver the aircraft at Dhaka.  
But Biman authorities decided against extension of time. It also decided to start negotiations with two other companies who participated in bidding for the supply of aircraft in March last year.  
Nine months ago, it offered to deliver the aircraft within 45 days of opening of the letter of credit.  
The back street US company ran into trouble in opening the letter of credit for the supply of the aircraft.  
The delay in the procurement of the aircraft had cost Biman huge losses in terms of lost schedules and difficulties in operating its long haul routes.  
Biman decided to increase strength of its current fleet of four 'DC-10-30' to serve its transcontinental routes including the New York route.  
Absence of the fifth aircraft, however, had upset its expansion programme, opening new routes and increasing frequencies in the lucrative Gulf sector, knowledgeable sources said.

**SADHARAN BIMA CORPORATION**  
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18, Mohakhali Commercial Area  
(west of Government Titumir College)  
Dhaka - 1212  
Phone - 607942  
It is intimated to all Concerned that this branch is entrusted with underwriting the Dread Disease Insurance and Overseas Mediclaim Insurance besides its normal functioning like other branches.  
SBC/PR/NOTICE - 28 /99

**Housewife murdered in Siddirganj**

From Our Correspondent  
NARAYANGANJ, Oct-2: Decomposed body of a housewife was recovered from a pond near her house at North Jalkuri village in Siddirganj thana area this afternoon.  
The dead was identified as Afzana, 29, wife of Alam alias Nabin of North Jalkuri Village in Siddirganj thana.  
Police quoting local people said the body of Afzana was found floating in the nearby pond at about 2 pm today. Police later recovered the body from the pond.  
Police suspected that Afzana was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband. She was then thrown into the pond tying her legs with a heavy stone.  
The body bore several stab injuries. Hospital sources said that she was pregnant.  
Police arrested two persons, Altaf Hossain and Kamal Hossain, brothers of the accused, for their alleged involvement in the killing.  
A case was lodged with Siddirganj thana.

**Steps being taken to make country arsenic-free: PM**

GOPALGANJ, Oct 2: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said all-out measures would be taken to free the country from the menace of arsenic contamination in groundwater, reports BSS.  
The prime minister directed the authorities concerned to evolve cost-effective and sustainable technology for ensuring arsenic mitigation and pure water supply and sanitation services.  
The prime minister was formally inaugurating the National Emergency Screening Programme for successful implementation of Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project (BAMWSP) at Uttar Gobra Village under Gopalganj Sadar Thana.  
The government has taken up the comprehensive project with the assistance of the World Bank and Swiss Development Corporation to address the arsenic problem which has already contaminated 211 thanas of 69 districts covering more than two crore people.  
Besides, such programmes were simultaneously inaugurated at five different places of five other divisions of the country.  
Held at the Neeler Math, the function was also addressed by LGs and cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Communications Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, General Secretary of Gopalganj District Awami League Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, Acting Country Director of the World Bank Mohsin Ali Khan and Acting Resident Coordinator of UNDP Andre Klap.

**Hoax: Emirates flight delayed**

By Staff Correspondent  
A faxed message containing a hijack threat delayed an Emirates flight for Dubai for about an hour at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday, according to official source.  
The faxed message received by the security wing of the Civil Aviation authority yesterday morning threatened that two Pakistani citizens, Taleban members, with firearms and bombs would hijack the EK-611 Emirates flight and that they would take it to Kabul in Afghanistan, sources added.  
Security men at ZIA and police were yet to identify the origin of the faxed message till the filing of this report last night.  
The Emirates flight was scheduled to leave Dhaka at 11:30 am yesterday with about two hundred passengers for Dubai.

**AL leader held in Rupganj**

By Staff Correspondent  
Police arrested yesterday Altaf Hossain, a local Awami League leader and the main accused in the attack on City Vegetable Oil factory at Tarabo in Rupganj under Narayanganj recently.  
A team of Rupganj police led by SP of Narayanganj Sanaulah arrested him.  
He was sent to court yesterday.  
Local people alleged that Altaf created trouble in the industrial belt. He and his group used to force to compel the management of the vegetable oil factory to recruit men of his choice.

**Two minor girls injured in blast**

Two minor girls were injured yesterday when a homemade bomb exploded at Zahuri Mohalla at Mohammadpur in the city, reports UNB.  
The girls — Fatima, 8, daughter of Dulul Gazi and Lima, 7, daughter of Shamsul Amin — were playing with the abandoned bomb when it exploded.  
They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

**Justice Anwarul Haque Chy dead**

Anwarul Haque Chowdhury, retired Judge of the High Court division of the Supreme Court, died of a heart attack at his residence here yesterday morning. He was 72, reports BSS.  
He was the chairman of the Fifth Wage Board for newspapers and news agencies.  
The Namaz-e-Janaza for Justice Haque was held at the Baitul Mukarram national mosque after Asr prayers yesterday and later he was buried at Banani Graveyard.  
He left behind his wife, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers.  
President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday visited the residence of Anwarul Haque Chowdhury and expressed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family. He prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.  
In a message of condolence, the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her deep sympathy to the bereaved family members of late Chowdhury and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.  
BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia has expressed profound shock at the death of Justice Anwarul Haq.  
Quikhwani of Anwarul Haque Chowdhury will be held at his residence at 1/14 Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur in the city on October 5, after Magreb prayers.

**Babu holds board meeting at home!**

By Staff Correspondent  
Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu yesterday claimed to have chaired a Board meeting of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL) at his residence yesterday.  
Babu said that he could not hold the meeting at the UCBL headquarters earlier as he was busy with other businesses.  
Babu told The Daily Star yesterday evening that six other directors attended the meeting. There who attended the meeting were: Mrs Nurun Nahar Zaman, Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, Hazi MA Kalam, Nuruddin Zaved, Manum Salam and Anisuzzaman. Babu claimed.

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**Mintoo**

From page 1  
leading but also unwanted, unexpected and ill-motive', Bhuiyan said.  
Referring to Mintoo's reported comment that 'a serious crisis will be created if the Chief Election Commissioner resigns', the BNP secretary general said there is no possibility of any crisis if the CEC quits showing respect to the demand of political parties representing two-third of the total population.  
In the past, there was no crisis after the resignation of CECs Justice ATM Masud, Justice Abdur Rouf and Justice ASK Sadeq, he said.  
On Mintoo's 'campaign against hartal', Bhuiyan said the business leader had supported hartals when Awami League enforced 73 days of hartals and resorted to destructive activities during BNP rule. 'It would be wise for FBCCI to raise voice against failures of this government at a time when national interests are being threatened.'  
Bhuiyan went on, 'Mintoo is working as a tool in the conspiracy hatched by the government to confront BNP and the businessmen.'  
**Computer**  
From page 1  
tors were on September 24, a public holiday. As many as 40,000 people thronged the show on that day.  
'We were compelled to stop sale of tickets and allowed several thousand visitors without tickets on that day,' Hasan said.  
As many as 160 IT firms, both vendors and soft developers, participated in the annual fair.  
Tickets worth over Taka 17 lakh were sold during the fair.  
The fair has been turned into a 'computer market' which will remain open on six days a week from 10 am to 8 pm except on Tuesday, the sources said.

**3 day match on 4th, 5th & 6th October '99**  
**2 one day matches on 8th & 9th October '99**  
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Club House (east) Tk. 200 (for 2 one-day matches)  
Club House (west) Tk. 75 (for 3-day match)  
VIP Tk. 150 (for 2 one day matches)  
TK. 200 (for 3-day match)  
TK. 300 (for 2 one day matches)  
Special Enclosure Tk. 30 (for 3-day match)  
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