

'48 newborns die in every 1000 live birth'

By Staff Correspondent

Death rate of newborns is still one of the highest compared to neighbouring countries in Bangladesh. Forty-eight newborns (age 0-30 days) die in every 1000 live births.

About 30 lakh babies are born each year but regrettably a large number of them die that can be reduced substantially although a 20 per cent reduction of neonatal (newborn) death has been recorded over the last one and a half decade.

The studies were revealed at the 1st national conference and scientific session organised by Bangladesh Neonatal Forum yesterday. The conference was held at the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons auditorium presided over by forum's convener Prof Nazmun Nahar.

Surveys revealed that there is a tremendous lack of knowledge on the part of mothers and healthcare providers about newborn care. Lack of medical facilities also attribute to 'unwanted' death of the newborns.

Some of the other principal causes of newborn death were low birth weight, pre-maturity and infections.

Research at Dhaka Shishu Hospital revealed that mothers use mustard oil, clay, charcoal ash and even cow dung on navel of newborns to prevent catching cold.

These were found causes of infection that leads to ultimate death of the newborns. Mothers believing in superstitions particularly in rural areas were also found reluctant to breast-feed their babies.

Many health visitors were also found lacking knowledge on this. Those who survive also live with long complications due to lack of proper care. An example of this is birth perinatal asphyxia which can be avoided. But the studies showed about 9-12 per cent suffer from this problem in the country.

National Prof M R Khan, Prof M S Akbar, Prof Nurul Islam, Prof T A Choudhury among others addressed the conference in the morning session.

Condolence rally for Dadabhai today

By DU Correspondent

A citizen condolence rally will be held at the Central Shaheed Minar today at 3 pm in remembrance of the country's noted child litterateur and founder of Kuchi Kanchar Mela Rokonzaman Khan popularly known as Dadabhai.

Renowned socio-political and cultural personalities of the country will address the rally organised by Citizen Condolence Meeting for Dadabhai died of cardiac arrest in the city on Friday. Prof. Mustafa Nurul Islam will preside over the rally, said a press release.



Noted singer Tapan Chowdhury, model Nobel and others performing at Close-Up Star Nights at the Chittagong Club recently. The programme was sponsored by Close-Up.

BCS test begins Dec 21

The second half-yearly departmental examination for 1999 of all BCS cadre and non-cadre officials except BCS (General Education) cadre will begin on December 21 at Public Service Commission, reports UNB.

The examination will be held from December 21 to 23, December 26 to 30, 1999 and January 2 to 5, 2000, said an official handout.

Examination of BCS (General Education) will be held from January 3 to 5, 2000.

The lists of intending eligible candidates admit cards and timetable of the exams are being sent to the respective higher authorities, the handout added.

The candidates have been requested to contact their respective higher authorities to get the necessary papers.

Zaker Party postpones Dec 9 rally

Zaker Party has postponed its rally at Paltan Maidan on December 9.

The chairman of the party Alhaj Mostafa Ameer Faisal yesterday announced the saying that the new date and venue would be announced later, said a press release by the party.

The rally was postponed in view of ongoing anti-government movement by the four party alliance. The party will continue its action programme following the four party alliance's movement, the press release said.

Rajshahi-Benapole intercity train demanded

RAJSHAHI, Dec 7: With re-commissioning of Jessore-Benapole railway track and introduction of Khulna-Benapole-Khulna commuter train, demand for Rajshahi-Benapole inter-city train is coming up. Several quarters have already raised the issue, reports BSS.

According to western railway source, it seemed to be feasible. At present there is no inter-city train in Jessore-Khulna route from Rajshahi in the morning hours.

If the Rajshahi-Benapole inter-city train service is started many people in this region will be benefited, said the people of the district.

DU may hold postponed exams on Fridays

By DU Correspondent
Dhaka University authorities are planning to hold its various examinations on Friday to cope with the session jam being created due to the frequent hartal call by the political parties.

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University disclosed this at a press conference at his official residence Monday afternoon. The press conference was arranged to brief the newsmen about the preparations for holding the forthcoming 40th convocation of the university.

"The session jam at the university had come to almost an end following various steps taken by the authorities to perform academic activities on time," the VC said but regretted that the session jams has increased recently due to the frequent calling of hartal.

The DU had to remain closed for 10 days since November 1 till Monday. Almost 200 examinations of various departments of DU have been postponed for unavoidable reasons. Sources said that a section of university students submitted a memorandum to the DU authorities to hold the examinations on Friday.

DU authorities will have to reschedule the postponed examinations which will take at least three months, official sources said.

Qulkhwani

The Qulkhwani of Sha Alam, FCA will be held on Friday after Asr prayers at Ladies' Club, Eskaton, says a press release.

Shah Alam died of heart failure in London on November 25 and buried in Banani Graveyard on December 3.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Martyrs of Liberation War Balaganj — a place of turbulent struggle

SYLHET, Dec 7: Balaganj under Sylhet district is one of the highly turbulent places where the Pakistani occupation forces have faced stiff resistance from the valiant freedom fighters during the nine-month long bloody War of Liberation, reports BSS.

An unspecified number of innocent people of this area were ruthlessly killed by the occupation forces who also burnt into ashes innumerable dwelling houses and left a vast trail of devastation during the nine-month ordeal. Only 300 names could be collected from among those who embraced martyrdom during the War of Liberation.

Despite wanton killing, arson, destruction and looting by the frenzied Pakistani army, the courage and commitment of the people of Balaganj have finally led the nation to victory. They demonstrated their joy of breaking down the shackles of subjugation by hoisting first flag of independence on December 7, 1971 after freeing the whole area. Valiant freedom fighter Azizul Kamal led his fellow freedom fighters to hoist the first flag amid jubilation and cheers of hundreds of people.

Rotary News

Weekly meeting

The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held today at 5:30 pm at Dhaka Club, Ramna. It will be followed by a Board Meeting.

Members have been requested to attend on time, says a press release.

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ple on that historic day. Since then every year the people of Balaganj observe December 7 as the 'Balaganj Liberation day' with enthusiasm and a great respect for those who made their supreme sacrifice for the country and also for those who fought unto their best to drive out the heinous forces from the soil of Bangladesh.

The ancestral home of the Commander-in-Chief of Bangladesh Mukti Bahini General MAC Osman is in Balaganj. During the War, the freedom fighters fought several front battles with the Pakistani army including two fierce battles in the neighbouring Sherpur and Shadipur areas.

Following the Pakistan army's crackdown on March 26, 1971, the freedom fighters taught them a very good lesson by severely beating them up at Shahar Nagar airport in Moulibazar district. The occupation forces had to make a cowardice retreat to take shelter in Sherpur. At Sherpur, situated on the bank of the river Kushiara, the Pakistan army comprising two platoons of Punjab regiment made their base with automatic machine guns, 3-inch mortars and Chinese rifles.

On the other side of the bank of the river, a large number of freedom fighters led by the Chief of Staff of Bangladesh Mukti Bahini Col Mohammad Abdur Rob, Maj CR Dutta and Commandant Manik Chowdhury made an ambush to fight

the Pakistan army. Members of the then East Pakistan Rifles (EPR) from the nearby border posts, Mujahid, Ansar and police together with those led by Dewan Farid Gazi, one of the organisers of the War of Liberation in the country's North-east front, became a formidable group of 450 freedom fighters to fight the occupation forces based on the other side of the river.

On April 5, 1971, the freedom fighters equipped with only 303 rifles suddenly attacked the Pakistani hordes and fought a seven-hour long stiff battle from all directions to drive them out of their base. The Pakistani army finding no other way started fleeing their base and ultimately Sherpur came under the occupation of the freedom fighters.

The retreating Pakistan army then took shelter in nearby Shadipur area where they again faced a similar resistance from the freedom fighters led by Major CR Dutta on April 6. The occupation forces again suffered a humiliating defeat and Shadipur thus came under the total control of freedom fighters. The two battles in Sherpur and Shadipur cost a number of lives in both sides.

After the independence, December 7 comes every year with heroic reminiscence of bravery for the people of Balaganj but the near and dear ones of those martyrs take more pride for the contribution they had made for snatching the long-cherished freedom from the Pakistani brutal forces.

BNP joint meeting today

A joint meeting of the vice-presidents of BNP National Executive Committee staying in the capital, members of the advisory council, joint-secretary, general secretaries, members, presidents and general secretaries of the front organisations, city convenor and joint conveners will be held at 29 Minto road at 11 am today, reports UNB.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has requested all concerned to attend the meeting.

British Trade Fair ends

The Third British Trade and Education Fair ended in the city yesterday evening with a record number of people visiting it. British High Commission sources said, reports BSS.

The three-day fair, which brought together over six-dozen British companies and educational institutions, was opened by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and British High Commissioner in Dhaka David C Walker on Sunday.

The fair was, however, disrupted by two-day hartal called by the four-party opposition alliance.

Sources said despite the hartal, response from the people was quite impressive. About 16 thousand people visited the fair this year against 14 thousand last year, they said.

The fair was marked by greater presence of people in the evenings compared to lesser people turning out in daytime, the sources said, adding "This year we had more visitors, more participants and more space."

About the business in the fair they said, "A number of inquiries came from Bangladesh businessmen."

The organisers later in the evening hosted a reception at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

One roughed up at Shahbagh area in city

By Staff Correspondent
A pharmacy employee was roughed up by a traffic constable when he protested assaulting a rickshawpuller near the Ibrahim Memorial Hospital (BIRDEM) yesterday morning.

The victim identified as Shahidul Islam, 27, an employee of Chawa Pawa Pharmacy at Shahbagh.

The incident took place when Shahidul protested a traffic constable for assaulting a rickshawpuller while returning home from Shahbagh area yesterday morning.

As soon as Shahidul protested the constable, he became angry with Shahidul and started beating him. Shahidul was seriously injured and he was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

When contacted the Ramna thana duty officer expressed his ignorance about such incident.

DAB blasts BSMMU decision

By Staff Correspondent
The Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB) strongly protested the Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University Authority (BSMMU) decision to suspend use of its library, says a press release.

DAB observed that for post-graduation the library should be in extensive use for research activities but instead of considering the benefits the authority has decided to close the library doors.

DAB said many doctors have expressed their grievances at the decision.

DAB demanded to reverse authority's decision immediately considering higher educational facilities in the university.

BTMC Tender Notice for Sell of Land at Noakhali Textile Mills and Tangail Cotton Mills

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by the Chief Engineer, BTMC, BTMC Bhaban, 7-9, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka from the interested persons/organisation/citizen of Bangladesh staying abroad for selling of (A) Approximately 8.63 acre land of Tangail Cotton Mills at Mouza Gorai, Mirzapur, Tangail (B) Approximately 9.89 acre land of Noakhali Textile Mills at Mouza Chor Boga & Chor Rakhaila, Raipur, Lakshmipur, including the existing structure on the land as it is where it is basis.

Tender documents may be purchased from the office of the Chief Accountant, BTMC Bhaban, 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka, BTMC Shipping Office, 79, Agrabad, Chittagong & respective Mills Office on cash payment of Tk. 750/- (non-refundable) per set for each group up to 21-12-99 on all working days during office hours up to 1:00 PM. Tender will be received by the above office of the Chief Engineer, BTMC, BTMC Bhaban (2nd floor), BTMC Shipping Office, 79, Agrabad, Chittagong & in the reception room adjacent to the Gate No. 1 & 3 of Bangladesh Secretariate, Dhaka on 22-12-99 up to 11:00 AM & will be opened in each & every place at 12:00 Noon in presents of the bidder (if any) except in the Gate No. 1 & 3 of Bangladesh Secretariate which will be opened in office of the Chief Engineer, BTMC, 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka at 12:00 Noon.

2½% security deposit of the quoted value must be submitted with the tender in the form of Bank Draft/PO in favour of BTMC from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh. In case of the citizens of Bangladesh staying abroad will submit 2½% security money in the form of Bank Draft in foreign currency along with the original bank receipt with the tender. Representative of the foreign citizen may submit tender on behalf of the citizen of Bangladesh staying abroad. Tender without earnest money will be summarily rejected.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason thereof.

TMC-37/99/37

DFP-26936-2/12

G-2075

Wahidur Rahman

Chief Engineer, BTMC

Phone: 328506.

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জিডি-১১৬২

প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, অঞ্চল-৭

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সেমিনার স্থগিত

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বিসিএসআইআর
ঢাকা।

জিডি-১১৬৩

BCIC Tender Notice

বিসিএসআইআর পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Sealed quotations are hereby invited by the Managing Director, Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd, Tarakandi, Sarishabari, Jamalpur from the suppliers/manufacturers for supply of Jute Twine against Tender Enquiry No. JFCL/LP(FPH)/8.046/2873 date 21.11.99 and Sewing Thread against Tender Enquiry No. JFCL/LP(FPH)/8.047/2874 dated 21.11.99. Tender documents will be available on cash payment of Tk 25/- (Taka twenty-five) only (non-refundable) & Tk 100/- (Taka one hundred) only (non-refundable) per set respectively from the office of the (1) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, (2) Sr General Manager, BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Ctg & (3) General Manager (A&F), Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd, Tarakandi, Sarishabari, Jamalpur. Quotations will be received simultaneously in the office of Sr General Manager (Pur) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka & the General Manager (Comm), Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd, Tarakandi, Sarishabari, Jamalpur up to 11:00 AM on 30.12.99 & will be opened immediately thereafter on the same day in presence of the tenderers (if any).

The Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders partly or fully without assigning any reason whatsoever. No tender documents will be sold on the date of its opening.

BCIC-1162-29/11/99
DFP-26983-2/12
G-2076

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01. Bangladesh Biman Corporation has decided to sell two BAE ATP aircraft along with two spare engines, two propellers, landing gears and spare parts (approx. 405 Rotable & 2587 consumable items). Interested buyers are requested to submit their proposals in sealed envelope to the General Manager Planning, Biman Head Office, Balaka Bhaban, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh. The basic information of the two aircraft is given below:

a) Airframe data (As on November 22, 1999):
S2-ACX: TSN-12,047 hrs
CSN: 20,384
S2-ACY: TSN-13,065 hrs
CSN-21,778

b) Engine data (PW-126):
i) ESN-PW124304
TSN-9,311 hrs
ii) ESN-PW124391
TSN-6,943 hrs
i) ESN-PW124392
TSN-8,668 hrs
ii) ESN-PW124353
TSN-8,822 hrs

02. The tenders must be submitted latest by 1200 hrs BST (0600 hrs UTC) on 18-01-2000. The offers shall have to remain valid for at least 90 (ninety) days from the last date of submission of the tender.

03. Further information, if required, will be available from the office of General Manager Planning, Biman Head Office, Balaka Bhaban, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229 on any working day between 1000-1600 hours BST, Telephone No-88-02-8917391, Fax: 88-02-8917475.

04. Bangladesh Biman Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offer(s) at any time and/or stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and no claim shall be acceptable in this respect.

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