

Docs' negligence leads to death of a newborn

UNB, Munshiganj
 Alleged negligence of doctors in Munshiganj Government Hospital has led to the death of a newborn baby without treatment.
 Noorjahan came to the hospital with labour pain from Rajarchar, a remote village in the district, on March 29. Her husband Sirajuddin said that despite repeated requests, doctor of the labour ward did not turn up.
 Finding the situation critical, the nurse in the hospital operated upon Noorjahan who gave birth of a son. This was her first issue.
 As condition of the mother and the newborn baby was found serious, Sirajuddin went to the doctor the

following morning and appealed to him to look at the baby. Finally, the doctor came and said there was no problem with the baby.
 The poor father could not believe it. He gave the doctor Tk 150 and requested him to again examine the baby with care. This time, the doctor opined that the baby's condition was not good and referred him to Dhaka for necessary treatment. Sirajuddin rushed to Dhaka, but the baby died on the way.
 This is one of many instances of utter negligence of the doctors of the hospital who remained busy looking at patients in private clinics even during their duty hours, complained the patients in the hospital.

Diarrhoea spreading fast in Pirojpur dist

UNB, Pirojpur
 Diarrhoea is spreading fast in Pirojpur district where more than 100 people were attacked with the disease during 24 hours ending Tuesday evening.
 Health officials admitted diarrhoea inflicted 56 people during the period and attributed the reason as scarcity of safe water.
 As the ground water level declined in the summer many shallow tube-wells have dried up. Besides, heavy doses of arsenic in deep and shallow tube-well water

are compelling the villagers to take contaminated water from ponds and canal.
 Officials said 600 people were attacked with water borne diseases here during current season, but unofficial estimate showed 1,000 more. Many attacked with diarrhoea in remote villages cannot report to the hospitals and remained uncounted.
 According to reliable sources about 6,000 tube-wells here remained inoperative, including 697 shallow and 163 deep tube-wells, of the Public Health Department.
 Besides, many others sunk by individuals and NGOs have dried up or gone out of order.
 Dr Alamgir, in-charge of the health department, told that diarrhoea situation is under control here. "But intensity of the disease seems to be more than that of last year."
 He said 55 medical teams are working throughout the district, known as diarrhoea prone, to combat the disease. According to official count, 3,081 people suffered from the disease during last summer.

CHT tribal people await Baisabi festival

BSS, Khagrachhari
 Tribal people in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) celebrate Baisabi festival every year with much enthusiasm and gaiety from time immemorial.
 Baisabi is the greatest social and religious festival of the tribal people to bid by the old year and welcome the Bangla New Year. The three-day traditional 'Baisabi' festival spanning the last two days of the month of Chaitra and the first day of the month of Baishakh.
 The festival reflects the rich cultural tradition, unity and fraternity of different ethnic groups in the hill region. The way of celebrating the festival is almost same except for its different names among the tribal groups.
 Thirteen small ethnic groups in the CHT traditionally take fresh oath in the festival to build a peaceful world sinking all differences.
 The name of the festival 'Baisabi' originated from different social and religious streams of the tribal people. The Chakma tribe calls it 'Biju', the Tripura group terms it 'Baisu' and the Marma tribe calls it 'Sangrai' festival.
 The hill tribes have drawn up various programmes, including traditional sports, dances, songs and cultural functions, to celebrate the festival with much enthusiasm and fervour.
 The tribal leaders have urged the opposition not to call strike during Baisabi so that the tribal people can celebrate their festival in peace.
 The Chakma tribe has been observing the festival as 'Biju' since time immemorial. The first day of Baishakh is identified as 'Dhor Khola' (open

door day).
 They observe the last two days of the month of Chaitra as 'Ful Biju' and 'Mul Biju' respectively, while the first day of Baishakh as 'Gozzya Pozzya Din'. 'Ful Biju' is observed on the day before the 'Chaitrasangkranti', a traditional social festival in the country.
 The hill people go to Buddhist temple, river or canal and pray to Buddha for future peace and prosperity. They light candles and decorate houses and adorn heads of cattle with flower in the afternoon for the celestial blessings.
 They play games including 'Guduhara' Kabadi, 'Nadeng Hara' (Latim Khela), 'Galahara' (one kind of play with wild fruit), 'Potti Hara' (play with wheel), 'Kana Buri Hara' (play the blind man) and 'Dari Tanatani Hara' (play with rope).
 Bachelor and married groups play 'Dari-Tanatani-Hara' to test their prowess. They also take part in football, volleyball, musical chair, chess, ludo and athletics on the day.
 'Mul Biju' day is the last day of Chaitra. Tribal people cook different food items including 'pachon' that is cooked with more than 20 types of vegetables. They also entertain guests with home-made liquor on this day. They rise early in the morning, wear new clothes, sing and dance and roam around merrily.
 'Gozzya Pozzya Din' is the first day of Baishakh. Elderly and respected people are entertained with good food on this day to get blessings.
 The Marma tribe observes the festival in three days 'Palong Choai', 'Akka

or Akkai', 'Atada or Apaing'. Marma youths spray water on each other on the day of 'Akka Akkai'. They visit different villages to bathe the old and monks with soaps.
 They feed the poultry birds with paddy and rice on this day hoping to be blessed with material prosperity. They receive 'Ponchoshi' from Buddhist monks and pray to Buddha after lighting candles.
 Marmas cook different types of cakes, sweets and 'Pachon' and entertain villagers on the day of 'Apaying or Atadar'. Observing 'Baisabi' festival among the Tripura tribe is a bit different from Chakma and Marma tribes. Tripura tribe observes the festival in three days 'Har Baisu' 'Boisuma' and 'Bisi Katal' like the Chakmas and Marmas.
 'Har Baisu' is the day preceding 'Chaitrasangkranti'. The Tripura tribe starts traditional 'Goroya' dance a few days before the festival. Around 20 to 25 youths along with two to three leaders organise the dance.
 'Boisuma' is observed on the day of 'Chaitrasangkranti'. The Tripura tribe people purify themselves on the day by bathing with 'Tulshi' (a kind of herb), gold and silver-mixed water.
 The first day of Baishakh is 'Bishi katal'. The old are honoured on the day and later they are entertained with good food. Children attired in new and beautiful clothes visit their neighbours on the day.
 Baisabi is the thousand-year old traditional festival of the tribal people that brings the dream of new life every year. Hill people observe the great festival with the spirit of equality and fraternity.

NEWS SNAPS

Goat plague breaks out in epidemic form

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
 Goat plague has broken out alarmingly in an epidemic form in Satkhira district. A large number of goats have already been attacked with the fatal disease during the last 15 days in this bordering district. District Livestock Department sources said Assasuni, Debhata, Kaliganj and Kalaroa upazilas are the worst affected areas. Dr Aminur Rahman, district livestock officer, said the authorities have already taken up measures to check the disease. The official said owners of goats have been advised to separate the sick animals from the others and dump the bodies of sick animals under earth.

Three housewives commit suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha
 Three housewives of Palashbari upazila under Gaibandha district committed suicide on Sunday.
 Rashida Begum, 20, of village Hanrathpur hanged herself. Family feud has been attributed to the suicide. In another incident, Sabitri, 28, of village Durgapur killed herself by taking pesticide. She committed suicide following altercation with her husband.
 In the last incident, Nurun Naher Begum, 22, of village Subdin Bhagbati committed suicide also by taking pesticide. Three separate UD cases were filed with Palashbari police.

Arrest of KCC commissioner demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
 A faction of Khulna Jubo League demanded immediate arrest of Awami League leader and KCC Commissioner Taslimuddin Khan Babul for his alleged involvement in drug trafficking, murders and smuggling.
 Jubo League leaders in a statement said on Monday night that Babul has made his fortune by looting food grains and fuel from foreign ships and barges. He has made fabulous wealth only in last four years, the Jubo League leaders said. Babul and his armed cadres kidnapped city Jubo League leader Aminul Islam Munna, 26, on Saturday night but could not kill him due to prompt action by Khalishpur police, they said. Munna was rescued by Khalishpur police. He was kidnapped after he protested Babul's criminal activities. Jubo League leaders said. But OC did not record any case in this connection, they added.

Magura JP (E) brings out procession

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura
 Magura district unit of Jatiya Party (E) brought out a procession on Monday afternoon in Magura town after party Chairman Hussain Muhammad Ershad was released from jail on bail in Dhaka.

After parading the main thoroughfares of the town, JP activists held a rally at Chowrongi Square, which was addressed among others by Advocate Hasan Seraj Suja, Advocate Ratan Kumar Mitra, Advocate Omar Farooque, Advocate Asaduzzaman and Khan Rabiul Huq Mithu.

15 hurt by terrorists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
 At least 15 people, including six women, were injured when a gang of hoodlums attacked them after they (hoodlums) were denied illegal toll in Kakonhat area under Godagari upazila in Rajshahi district on Sunday.
 Eight critically injured people were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. They were identified as Bakul, 40, Julia, 32, Tasim, 40, Monira, 10, Khaled, 17, Zahura, 65, and Shukur, 28. According to witnesses, a gang of miscreants numbering eight stabbed them indiscriminately when they refused to pay. A case was recorded with Godagari police in this connection.

Living with drought

PHOTO FEATURE: HOSSAIN SERAJ



At present drought has been prevailing in Magura. The situation has multiplied the misery of common people. Crop cultivation has also been suffering in this season due to such situation. Cultivation of Boro paddy and other Rabi crops has already been affected seriously. Most of the canals and the rivers in the area have dried up partially and the ground water level has gone down disrupting the irrigation system. As a result many deep tube-wells have become inoperative in many places. Crisis of pure drinking water is also prevailing as the tube-wells fail to supply water in the villages and in the town too. (Pictures on top from left to right) (Far left) A cracked land due to prolonged drought, (middle) some thirsty poultry birds badly in need of water and (extreme right) some rural boys are taking rest under a banyan tree. (Bottom pictures) (Extreme left) A rickshawpuller is quenching his thirst drinking water of a green coconut, (middle) some tiny tots are enjoying the game of swimming in a pond and (extreme right) two buffaloes are trying to get rid of the scorching sun.

Directorate General Defence Purchase
 Ministry of Defence
 New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Tender Notice

1. Sealed tender in foreign currency is invited from bonafide Manufacturer/Dealer/Suppliers (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Navy:

Sl No	Name of item & qty	Date of selling		Date of opening	Tender No
		From	To		
1.	Electric components tester (Qty: 02 complete sets)	18-4-2001	14-5-2001	15-5-2001	6814/NP-4
2.	Air conditioning plant (Qty: 01 complete set)	-do-	-do-	15-5-2001	6815/NP-4

2. Tender schedule with detailed specification/condition will be available on payment as per international tender selling rate (non-refundable) during office hours between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hours and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of the tenderers (if present).

ISPR/Misc/2001/327
 DFP-9174-8/4
 G-664

Lt Commander BN
 For Director General

Directorate General Defence Purchase
 Ministry of Defence
 New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Tender Notice (1st Time)

1. Sealed tenders are invited in local currency from bonafide Manufacturers/Dealers/Suppliers/Indentors (enlisted firms) for supply of the following item for Bangladesh Armed Forces:

Sl No	Nomenclature	Date of selling		Date of opening	Currency	Tender No	Cost of I/T
		From	To				
a.	Dal Masur (whole without husk) 600 M/Tons	19-4-2001	17-5-2001	21-5-2001	Local currency	602/P-8	1500.00

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications will be available on payment (Non-refundable) as per I/T selling rate during office hours between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender will be dropped latest by 1000 hours and opened at 1005 hours on concerned opening date in front of tenderers present at that time (if present any).

ISPR/Misc/2001/314
 DFP-8874-3/4
 G-666

Major
 for Director General

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh
 Headquarters, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229
 Bangladesh

International Notice Inviting Offer for Operation, Maintenance & Management of MA Hannan International Airport, Chittagong

Under a new policy of the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) to bring in private sector operator for Airport Terminal Operation, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) has decided to contract out the operation, maintenance and management of recently commissioned MA Hannan International Airport, Chittagong initially on a 5 years lease term. All operational activities (other than regulatory functions) will be outsource through a proposed management contract. Intending Airport Terminal Operators with reasonable experience in the relevant field may submit their offers through a two-stage, two envelope bidding process of international competitive bidding.

The technical offer should contain organisational profile, experience in International Airport Terminal Operation, details of similar contracts in hand with terms of reference (TOR) and scope of works, audited financial statement for last 5 (five) years, CV of key professionals/specialists currently in employment, an outline of methodology to be employed to perform the functions required by CAAB.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh during technical evaluation would seek clarifications and may hold discussions with substantially responsive bidders to bring these bidders technically at par before opening their financial offer.

The terminal operation consists of ground handling, cargo handling, duty free shops, restaurants, lounges, visitors gallery, car park and overall security and up-keep of the building and structures. Technical bids must include an earnest money of US \$ 25,000 (twenty five thousand) or equivalent amount in Bangladesh Taka drawn on any scheduled bank operating in Bangladesh.

Further details are available with CAAB which can be obtained on request through fax/letter.

The government of Bangladesh has laid down a set of incentives to Airlines, Air Freighters Operators for using MA Hannan International Airport, Chittagong. An English translation of these incentives will also be furnished on request by CAAB.

Pre-bid meeting is scheduled for 30 April, 2001 in CAAB Conference Room adjacent to Dhaka International Airport at 10.00 hrs. Technical and financial offers in sealed separate envelopes are to be submitted to the office of Chairman, CAAB by 13.00 hrs. (Bangladesh standard time) on 31 May, 2001.

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

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 G-660