

Safe Motherhood Day today

EOCs at health complexes hope for expectant mothers in the country

SHEHAB AHMED back from Madhupur

Zulekha, a 25-year old woman, is very lucky to have her child alive. Despite having missed the date for delivery by eight days, her baby boy was successfully delivered through a caesarian operation despite birth complications.

When Zulekha was brought to the Madhupur Thana Health Complex in Tangail last Thursday, Surgeon Abdul Rahim readily understood the need for a caesarian operation to save the baby.

Zulekha was scheduled to deliver the baby on May 17, but when 8 days lapsed, the doctor advised her family to get her to the Health Complex without any delay. And that's how the lives of both her and her baby were saved.

This hospital straddling the cross roads to Mymensingh, Tangail and Jamalpur district, with a full complement of doctors (known as medical officers) have

earned a name for themselves by saving the lives of patients with such complexities as Zulekha had.

These Emergency Obstetric Care (EOC) hospital, one of the 121 such units, are equipped with facilities for Caesarian sections, with a functional Operation theatre (OT), a cache of emergency and life saving drugs and other equipment to handle difficult cases.

The government, with funding and medicines provided by UNICEF, Columbia University of USA and The Bill Gates Foundation, has taken up the venture.

Zulekha may have been lucky but many others aren't.

Saleha, 20-year old graduate student of a local college was all excited about her first baby.

But the local Dai's (village midwife) turned her life in to a nightmare while trying to deliver the baby in different methods when it became difficult for her to have a normal labour. The result was a stillborn baby and postpar-

tum sufferings of the young woman. Her uterus came out with the Dai's effort to pull out her baby by force.

"When she came here on Tuesday, there was little we could do", said UNICEF consultant Dr Diana NICE.

Saleha is among those unfortunate one out of every four women in the country who suffer such postpartum problems that surgeons cannot repair.

Dais handle most of the childbirths in rural Bangladesh, often endangering the mother's life.

As the country observes Safe Motherhood Day today, statistics show an alarmingly vulnerable situation of childbirth in the country. Some 28,000 women die during childbirth or related complexities in Bangladesh every year.

This rate has been declining, it has gone down from 4.2 per thousand mothers in 1996-97 to three mothers per thousand in 1999. Hospital help is still rudimentary and a timely trip to a doctor and nearby hospitals where EOC's are available can easily bring down the number of such deaths drastically.

But that remains a far cry at the moment.

A delay in decision making, often by the parents or husband, is another major factor leading to delay in the treatment process, says Dr Diana.

She pointed out to the case of Khodeja. Her baby was strangled at birth by the umbilical cord that got entangled around its neck during delivery. Her baby could have been saved had her parents brought her to the hospital on time.

So far only 121 rural hospitals have been provided with EOC facilities. It is available in 59 district hospitals. Plans are underway eventually to bring every thana health complex or centres under the programme.

Apart from hospital facilities the problem of mindset for the rural families remains to be overcome. Unless the parents like Khodeja's ones are made to understand they must not let their daughters being handled by the Dai's, many more such Khodeja's and Saleha's are going to suffer, Dr Diana observed.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Sylhet division during the next 12 hours still 6 pm today.

Little change in day temperature is expected over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Yesterday highest temperature of 35.7 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakunda and the lowest 22.3 degree Celsius at Srimangal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:40 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.0	25.6	69	70
Chittagong	34.5	25.6	72	73
Rajshahi	31.7	25.0	69	78
Khulna	35.6	24.7	77	78
Barisal	34.8	22.6	80	82
Sylhet	35.2	25.0	71	60
Cox's Bazar	34.1	25.2	69	74



State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader addressing a discussion meeting on 'Harmful effect of tobacco and smoking', organised by the Association for the Prevention of Drug Abuse (MANAS) at the Adamjee Cantonment College, Dhaka Cantonment on Sunday.



Obituary

UNB, Dhaka

Alhaj Abdul Quaiyum Bhuiyan, a retired Deputy Secretary, died of cardiac arrest in the city yesterday. He was 68.

Bhuiyan, a renowned social worker, left behind his wife, three sons, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Journalist Zakaria Kazi of the Bangladesh Observer and Gofam Kibria of daily Prothom Alo are two sons of the deceased.

Following a *namaz-e-janaza* in the city's Kadamtal High School ground after *Maghrib* prayers, he was buried yesterday at Shah-jahanpur graveyard.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Father of Shamim Reza Rubel, a BBA student of the Independent University, Bangladesh who was allegedly tortured to death by DB police, died of heart attack on Thursday.

Abdur Rob was laid to rest beside the grave of Rubel. His kulkhwani was held at his Siddeswari residence on Sunday.

Rubel, a brilliant student of the Independent University was picked up by Detective Branch of the police from in front of his Siddeswari residence on July 23, 1998. He was tortured to death in custody on the same day.

BSS, Dhaka

Renowned Islamic scholar and founding director of the Imam Training Project of the Islamic Foundation Maulana Muhammad Nuruzzaman died of old age complications on Saturday at his city residence, family source said. He was 95.

He left behind his wife, one son, two daughters and a host of relations to mourn his death.

Discussion and doa mahfil

Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Smriti Parishad will lay floral wreaths at the mazar of the late artist. He will also hold a discussion meeting and doa mahfil in the evening to mark the 25th death anniversary of the artist. Time: 9:00 am and 6:00 pm.

BISS seminar

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies will hold a two-day long seminar on "Bangladesh-Southeast Asian Relations". Venue: BISS auditorium, 146 Elephant Road. Time: 9:30 am.

Symposium

The American Center will hold a symposium on NGO management techniques. Venue: CIDRAP auditorium, Chameli House, 17, Tophkhana Road. Time: 10 am-4:00 pm.

Discussion meeting

Nagorik Forum will hold a discussion meeting on "Border aggression and the subversive role of Awami government". Venue: VIP lounge of National Press Club. Time: 3:30 pm.

PIB seminar

Bangladesh Press Institute will hold a seminar on "Professional risks in Journalism: Bangladesh Perspective". Venue: PIB seminar room, 3 Circuit House Road. Time: 11:00 am.

Discussion meeting

Bangla Academy will hold a discussion meeting on Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin's artwork. Venue: Bangla Academy. Time: 11:00 am.

DAB discussion meeting

Doctor's Association of Bangladesh will hold a discussion meeting titled

"Shaheed's Zia's Life and Works"

Venue: VIP lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Time: 3:00 pm.

AI discussion

Amnesty International Bangladesh will hold a discussion meeting to mark Amnesty International's 40th anniversary. Venue: TSC cafeteria, DU campus. Time: 4:00 pm.

SSI conference

A conference of the Sammilita Sangkritik Jati will be held. SSJ will announce its next course of action after the conference and bring out a procession. Venue: TSC auditorium. Time: 10:30 am and 4:00 pm.

SCAB procession

The Science Club Association of Bangladesh will bring out a colourful procession to mark Science Day. Venue: From Shishu Academy to National Press Club. Time: 5:00 pm.

ARACES discussion

Association of Rajshahi Art College students will hold a discussion meeting to mark the 25th death anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin. Venue: Sangkritik Bikash Kendra, 7/A Panbag Hatipul. Time: 5:30 pm.

IEB certificate distribution

The Engineers Institution, Bangladesh will hold the certificate distribution ceremony of a training course on "disaster management for the engineers" it held recently. Venue: IEB committee room. Time: 7:00 pm.

Seminar

The Electrical Engineering Division of Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh will hold a seminar on "The Internet: Opportunities Challenges and Prospects in Bangladesh". Venue: IEB premises, Ramna. Time: 7:00 pm.

Film festival at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

A two-day 'Film Festival' begins tomorrow (Tuesday) at Chittagong University (CU) library auditorium.

Chittagong University Film Centre (CUFC) has organised the film festival to mark the 80th birth anniversary of Oscar winning filmmaker Satyajit Roy.

Anwar Hossain Pintu, a senior journalist of local daily 'The Purbon' will inaugurate the festival while Prof Abul Munsur Ahmed remain present as the chief guest.

The CUFC will screen six films directed by Satyajit Roy - 'Charulata', 'Ganashatru', 'Postmaster', 'Devil', 'Kanchanjanga' and 'Aghor-tak' in the festival.

STOCK

TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES MAY 27, 2001

CSE					Financial Performance					DSE					
Turnover	Price	Turnover			Company	FV(ML Tk.)	Price	Turnover			Company	FV(ML Tk.)	Price	Turnover	
Day	Closing	% Pre Day	Share	Share	Last	EPS	DPS			(%)	Closing	% Pre Day	Share	Share	
Dandy Dyeing Ltd.															
75	27320	250.00	-7.92	271.50	440	26/10/00	21.6	12.5			100.50	215.00	-2.38	63.00	200
00	2315	295.00	Not	Traded		05/07/99	23.3				100.50	95.00	-3.06	98.00	550
00	531	297.00	-3.11	311.00	71	24/08/00	18.1	21.0			100.50	128.50	-3.56	133.25	1740
00	19605	294.75	-7.82	319.75	8360	18/11/00	18.3	20.0			100.50	145.50	-4.14	150.00	7400
00	5	115.00	Not	Traded		30/09/00	12.4	—			100.50	164.00	-4.29	175.00	1250
00	1320	75.00	Not	Traded		12/05/01	24	—			100.50	116.25	-4.95	121.25	12650
00	1800	186.00	Not	Traded		15/09/99	15.6	—			100.50	39.00	-0.64	39.25	3050
00	555	—	Not	Listed		19/10/00	19.0	—			100.50	53.00	-2.30	54.25	1450
00	12	—	Not	Listed		16/09/99	23.2	—			100.50	100.00	-3.49	8.60	116500
00	340	490.00	Not	Traded		22/05/01	46.7	30.0			100.50	49.00	-6.52	46.00	550
00	160	—	Not	Listed		18/05/00	11.7	27.0			100.50	110.00	-2.71	83.50	9300
00	15950	285.00	Not	Traded		20/06/00	23.4	15.0			100.50	121.75	-0.41	122.25	2400
25	580	1835.00	Not	Traded		21/11/00	18.1	12.0			100.50	102.25	-3.59	90.00	6200
00	4500	410.00	Not	Traded		07/04/01	72.0	30.0			100.50	127.25	-6.08	105.00	6000
00	12	360.00	-3.73	375.00	8300	17/09/00	28.4	15.0			100.50	102.25	-2.38	105.00	1250
00	15150	281.00	Not	Traded		21/06/00	31.1	25.0			100.50	102.00	-2.68	104.75	1600
00	46700	237.25	-5.90	237.25	31850	—	—	—			100.20	175.50	-5.14	185.00	8860
00	130	—	Not	Listed		—	—	—							
00	520	—	Not	Listed		—	—	—							
PHARMA & CHEM.															
00	10	1050.00	Not	Traded		02/11/00	17.4	12.5			100.50	5.70	3.79	55.40	12700
00	50	320.00	Not	Traded		02/11/00	30.3	36.0			100.50	66.00	-3.88	90.00	10905
00	260	156.00	Not	Traded		02/11/00	22.4	15.0			100.50	59.10	-2.64	60.70	22350
00	4400	88.00	Not	Traded		—	—	—			100.50	28.00	-10.00	31.25	100
22351000	1.14	-5.79	1.212862500			—	—	—			100.50	76.00	-4.11	80.00	11900
00	75	680	235.00	Not	Traded	14/12/00	18.9	16.0			100.00	220.00	0.00	220.00	200
00	1205	321.00	Not	Traded		14/09/01	31	—			100.00	20.00	-5.88	21.25	30
00	9125	131.00	-6.76	140.50	50	09/10/00	2.5	—			100.00	64.50	-4.97	67.25	20860
25	85	500.00	Not	Traded		25/09/00	9.1	15.0			100.00	181.00	0.00	181.00	40
00	5620	12.00	Not	Traded		12/06/00	8.15	10.0			100.00	290.00	-4.48	304.25	570
00	2465	300.00	Not	Traded		16/05/01	27.2	80.0			100.00	208.25	-2.57	213.75	1760
00	100	—	Not	Listed		14/12/00	8.76	10.0			100.00	37.25	-2.56	33.75	6440
00	75	25.00	Not	Traded		31/12/00	32	—			100.00	12.00	-4.00	12.50	3550
40	449000	21.40	-4.46	22.40	419800	23/12/99	1.1	10.0			100.50	50.75	-0.98	51.25	1500
00	540	—	Not	Listed		31/03/01	85.2	35.0			100.50	52.00	-4.59	54.00	350
00	2920	200.00	Not	Traded		26/09/00	10.5	10.0			100.50	5.80	-4.92	6.00	100
00	75	14100	148.00	Not	Traded	08/03/01	14.4	10.0			100.50	84.50	-5.32	89.25	17900
00	300	107.50	Not	Traded		28/09/00	1.61	—			100.50	40.00	-0.03	41.25	3000
00	400	28.50	-3.39	29.50	100	20/12/00	5.9	—			100.50	58.00	-6.78	59.00	560
00	80000	24.00	-3.61	24.00	19500	06/07/00	1.39	15.0			100.20	42.25	9.74	38.00	4350
BANK															
00	100	58.00	Not	Traded		20/03/01	2.82	30.0			100.5	67.25	-0.93	70.00	40350
00	1065	381.25	-9.23	420.00	100	09/12/00	16.6	10.0			100.50	153.00	-6.07	144.25	8150
25	2785	55.00	Not	Traded		09/10/00	25	—			100.50	119.75	-1.64	121.75	7420
00	5	—	Not	Listed		09/08/00	31.9	27.5							
00	50705	103.00	-3.74	107.00	100	19/06/00	5.92	40.0			100.50	225.50	-1.74	229.50	20500
00	850	68.00	-2.86	70.00	100	30/12/00	10	—			100.50	60.00	-0.17	60.20	3900
00	50	65.00	-1.09	68.75	40	25/06/00	8.00	5.00			100.50	127.00	0.00	127.00	2000
00	2440	45.00	0.00	45.00	40	27/05/01	7.3	—			100.50	78.00	-1.27	79.00	2450
00	30600	130.00	-1.89	132.50	1000	30/12/00	13.9	15.0			100.50	346.00	-4.21	350.25	925
00	23350	12.20	-2.32	12.40	170	18/12/00	4.27	10.0			100.50	459.00	-1.64	457.50	165
00	4460	426.75	Not	Traded		14/12/00	42.2	20.0			100.50	45.00	-3.13	51.00	41200
00	350	71.00	Not	Traded		14/12/00	4.28	—			100.50	330.00	-2.11	332.50	4740
00	320	100.00	Not	Listed		16/09/01	15	—			100.50	242.50	-0.21	243.00	2160
00	50	100	42.25	Not	Traded	30/12/00	24	—			100.50	541.00	-0.28	552.50	31300
00	3700	37.00	Not	Traded		18/12/00	4	—			100.50	127.00	-0.44	127.50	33200
00	200	75.00	Not	Traded		10/12/00	3.11	—			100.50	120.00	-1.84	122.25	1120
00	25	85.00	53.50	-1.83	54.50	26/12/00	3.16	5.00			100.50	110.00	-0.68	110.75	1000
00	275	105.00	32.50	Not	Traded	18/12/00	5.8	—			100.50	49.00	-1.51	49.75	500
00	30	312500	—	Not	Traded	10/12/00	1.73	10.0			100.50	133.25	-4.14	139.00	1100
00	200	10.10	-2.88	10.40	1060	10/06/00	0.93	10.0			100.50	137.00	-0.40	137.50	3200
00	100	Not	Not	Traded		17/02/01	13.3	40.0			100.50	20.00	-4.76	21.00	3450
00	2520	40.00	Not	Traded		12/09/00	0.05	—			100.50	34.25	-3.13	35.25	9950
00	740	26000	7.00	26.00	750	—	—	—			100.50	306.00	-2.60	296.25	67750
00	24	100	Not	Listed		30/09/98	13	—			100.50	19.00	-6.83	20.50	181375
00	50	5100	49.94	10.66	2200	10/12/00	4.6	—			100.50	107.00	-0.40	106.25	3270
00	0	—	Not	Listed		22/03/01	50	—			100.50	316.75	-4.23	330.75	5500
00	4230	—	Not	Listed		28/06/00	0.12	—			100.50	9.00	-3.13	9.00	7950
00	32	88.25	-5.58	91.75	170	18/12/00	4.5	7.50			100.50	45.00	-3.13	46.00	15000
00	0	—	Not	Listed		18/12/00	3.52	5.00							
00	0	—	Not	Listed		02/12/00	4.18	5.00			100.50	240.00	0.63	238.50	110
00	425	10	40.50	Not	Traded	23/11/00	20	—			100.50	493.00	7.61	490.00	30
00	240	—	Not	Listed		21/11/00	92.3	5.00			100.50	10.00	-0.00	10.00	2600
00	150	38.25	Not	Traded		15/09/00	15	—			100.50	160.00	-2.41	165.00	1000
00	4500	200.00	Not	Traded		19/06/00	43	15.0			100.50	140.00	-4.92	147.25	860
00	15500	80	155.00	6.16	146.00	20	09/12/00	28.8	12.0		100.50	171.00	0.00	171.00	260
00	1025	1485.00	66.00	-80.93	81960	10/03/01	4.01	10.0			100.50	165.00	-2.37	169.00	40
00	1350	37.00	Not	Traded		18/12/00	4.1	—			100.50	62.75	-4.66	55.50	1880
00	3350	140	63.00	65.00	100	28/01/00	4.54	5.00			100.50	128.00	-2.29	131.00	1300
00	1350	84	140.25	Not	Traded	27/07/97	49.3	15.0			100.50	112.50	-2.60	115.50	450
00	1275	2240.00	65.00	15.60	640	26/12/00	0.59	—			100.50	129.00	-6.72	134.00	150
00	1275	88.25	-4.59	92.50	300	23/12/99	8.6	—			100.50	153.50	-0.64	164.00	2240