

## 58 die of malaria in 27 days at CMCH

ATAUL GANI SUMON, Chittagong

At least 58 malaria patients died at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in the last 27 days and many more are under treatment, but experts claim the disease has broken out in an "extensive form, not an epidemic form" in greater Chittagong.

Doctors and nurses at the CMCH and different hospitals and clinics in the city said the number of malaria patients is increasing every day.

This correspondent found 10 to 15 patients each in a number of wards at the CMCH yesterday. A number of malaria patients were also found at the outdoor wing of the CMCH.

Besides, at least 12 malaria patients were admitted to the Maa O Shishu (mother and baby) in the city in the

last 27 days. None however died.

When contacted, Director of the CMCH Dr Abul Hossain said the rainy season, damp weather, unhygienic environment and over population are the main reasons for the outbreak of malaria.

He said many of the patients came from the three districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and adjacent areas. But there are also a number of patients from the city.

Asked about the situation, Dr MA Foyez, chief of medicine department at the CMCH, said malaria has broken out in Chittagong 'extensively' but not in an 'epidemic form.'

The actual number of malaria patients might be much higher than what is known because many of them

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## DU Hall attack slated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The wave of condemnation continued as politicians, intellectuals, leaders of student bodies and different socio-cultural organisations yesterday expressed strong resentment over the police excess on female students of the Shamsunnahar Hall of the Dhaka University.

Leaders of different student organisations in separate statements demanded the resignation of the Vice-chancellor Anwarullah Chowdhury. They also demanded the resignation of the university proctor.

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# Anything but a park

SABRINA KARIM

It was a different time. A time when everything in the capital looked tranquil, air breathed light and grasses looked what they should be. And boys and girls played happily on the green grass of the Farmgate park, now known as the Shaheed Anwara Park.

Twenty-two years down the line, the same boys now in their 30s cross the park or whatever is left of it as quickly as possible, holding breath to avoid the unavoidable stench of human excreta. Instead of joyful laughter of playful children, cries of hungry children in makeshift shanties assail the ears. Instead of the bhallukwala (bear trainers), chicken traders and prostitutes make the biggest show there.

Hearts only sink as they know the Farmgate park is another goner. Gone for ever?

Negligence by the authorities and a lack of minimum maintenance has left the park in a dilapidated state.

Huge posters and numerous banners hang on the trees. The dying trees, shabby grass, damaged benches and broken pathways have made the park an unbearable sight.

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PHOTO: STAR

The park at Farmgate has now become a dumping ground and an abode for the city's floating population. Years of neglect and lack of maintenance have left Shaheed Anwara Park in a dilapidated condition, frequented by anti-social elements and vagabonds.

## Air show tragedy in Ukraine

45 killed as fighter crashes into audience

REUTERS, Lviv

A Ukrainian fighter jet hurtled to the ground and cartwheeled into a ball of flame at an air show Saturday, killing at least 45 people and injuring 60, officials said.

"These figures are not final yet," a government spokeswoman told Reuters. She said injured spectators were still being taken to hospital from the scene of the crash in the western city of Lviv, close to the border with Poland.

The Sukhoi Su-27's left wing clipped the ground as it failed to come out of what appeared to be a rolling dive maneuver.

Military officials said the plane's two pilots, both colonels, were alive after ejecting at the last moment.

Dozens of emergency workers helped injured people, including young children, some of whom had blood pouring from wounds.

"There were dozens of bodies," a Reuters Television journalist said from the scene.

A spokesman for Ukraine's Defense Ministry said the two-man crew were performing difficult maneuvers before they lost control of the plane.

Local officials said ground staff were among the victims in the crash at the Sknyliv airfield, on the outskirts of Lviv.

Ukraine's post-Soviet armed forces have been struggling with financial difficulties since the collapse of communism a decade ago. Their reputation

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## Not quite a delicacy!

STAR REPORT

Not quite a delicacy! In some parts of the world insects are an Epicurean delight, all right. Here in Bangladesh, however, having insects on the menu has never been a pleasant proposition for a connoisseur. Take cockroaches for instance -- something more fitting to be stamped on the floor than to be presented on a porcelain platter.

Well, a five-star hotel in the

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## 7 killed in Savar bus collision

BSS, Dhaka

At least seven people were killed and 25 others injured in a road accident near Savar Radio Colony on Dhaka-Aricha Highway yesterday morning.

Police and hospital sources said the accident occurred at about 7-30 AM when an Aricha bound passenger bus from Dhaka collided head on with another bus coming from Faridpur, killing six people on the

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|         | Sun Rises | Sun Sets |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| July 28 |           | 6-44 pm  |
| July 29 | 5-26 am   |          |

| Prayer Timings |       |        |
|----------------|-------|--------|
| July 28        |       |        |
|                | Azan  | Jamaat |
| Fajr           | 4-30  | 4-55   |
| Zohr           | 12-45 | 1-15   |
| Asr            | 5-00  | 5-15   |
| Maghrib        | 6-50  | 6-55   |
| Esha           | 8-15  | 8-45   |

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Sylhet jails burst at the seams

MD IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Inmates of the four jails in Sylhet division are not getting the minimum facilities as provided by law because their number is almost three times the capacities of the jails.

All the jails, constructed during British rule, are in dilapidated condition. At the Central Jail in Sylhet city, water leaks from the roof at many points.

Besides convicted and accused inmates, a good number of arrested people are sent to the Central Jail and the district jails every day, confounding the accommodation problem further.

About 5000 inmates including 200 women are huddled in the jails which have a total capacity to accommodate 1665 people. Of them, 2000 including about 100 women are convicts.

At Sylhet Central Jail, there are 12 convicts with death sentences, four with life term, eight convicted foreign nationals and 22 mentally retarded people. Two children are with their convicted mothers.

The Central Jail accommodates 2500 inmates against its capacity of 1210. TB patients from all the jails are sent to Sylhet Central Jail because among the jails, it has the lone TB hospital. But facilities at the hospital are too inadequate.

Though the number of inmates increased over the years, no development or renovation work has been done in any of the jails in the division.

Habiganj and Moulvibazar district jails accommodate over 900 inmates each against their capacities of 157 and 194. At Sunamganj jail, there are over 700 inmates against its capacity of 104.

## 65 drown as boat capsizes in Kerala

AFP, Kumarakom

At least 65 people drowned when a boat packed beyond its 100-passenger capacity sank in a lake in the southern Indian state of Kerala, officials said Saturday.

A senior police official, S. Gopinath, said the tragedy happened "due to overcrowding". "The boat was carrying passengers three times its actual capacity," he said, as officials speculated the ferry was carrying as many as 250 to 300 people.

So far 65 bodies have been recovered, a rescue official said, with the toll expected to rise further.

Some 64 survivors were admitted to various hospitals, a government official said, adding that 15 of the bodies have been identified.

The accident occurred in Vembanad lake at about 5:30 am (0000 GMT) when the boat was on its way from Muhamma to the popular tourist resort of Kumarakom, in Kerala's Kottayam district.

The boat belonged to the Kerala State Water Transport Department and

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## HC demands explanation from Home on letter to Janakantha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has been asked by the High Court to explain why the Home Minister's letter addressed to the Daily Janakantha will not be declared illegal. The HC in a ruling on the writ petition of the Daily Janakantha yesterday also clamped a restraint order on the minister's letter for four weeks.

A HC Division Bench comprising of Justice Md Tafazzal Islam and Md Anwarul Haq made the ruling after hearing arguments of both sides. Barrister Amir-ul-Islam and his team pleaded the case for the Janakantha while Attorney General AF Hasan Arif represented the state.

It needs to be mentioned, that the Janakantha ran a story on the bribe of Taka 2 crore involved in the

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## Three placed on remand in CID inspector murder

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Three muggers, arrested in connection with the killing of CID Inspector Nazrul Islam, were placed on a three-day remand yesterday.

Mohammadpur police produced the three -- Mohammad Liton Sarder, Mohammad Hazrat Ali and Mohammad Kamal -- before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, at 6:30 pm with a prayer for a seven-day remand.

After hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Nurul Karim Majumder placed them on a three-day remand.

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## PM asks WASA to supply safe water

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has asked the officials and employees of Dhaka WASA to ensure supply of safe drinking water to city-dwellers at any cost.

"The city-dwellers will have to be kept safe from waterborne disease. Therefore, no negligence would be tolerated in supplying safe drinking water," she said while inaugurating the Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant yesterday.

The Prime Minister directed all officials and employees of Dhaka WASA to be active in preventing wastage and misuse of water supplied by the public utility authorities.

"I want to see attendance of WASA field workers everywhere. You have to be active in entertaining complaints of the subscribers and ensuring immediate solution," she told the function, attended by WASA officials and employees, besides donor representatives. She also asked the engineers to regularly supervise fieldwork.

Pointing to the vexed problem of 41 per cent system loss in WASA supply due to leakage from pipes and open taps as well as pilferage, Khaleda cautioned, "This situation cannot continue."

Referring to a salutary effect of the Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant, which will use surface water from the Shitalakhya, the Prime Minister stressed the need for reducing dependence on pumping groundwater that adversely affects the ecology.

The newly installed water plant set up on 22 acres of land will now supply 22.5 crore litres of water daily by purifying the Shitalakhya waters.

It would bring down the shortage of 30 crore litres of water to 10 crore litres in the WASA command area. Presently, the Water and Sewerage Authority supplies 130 crore litres of water daily against the demand for 160 crore litres in the capital city.

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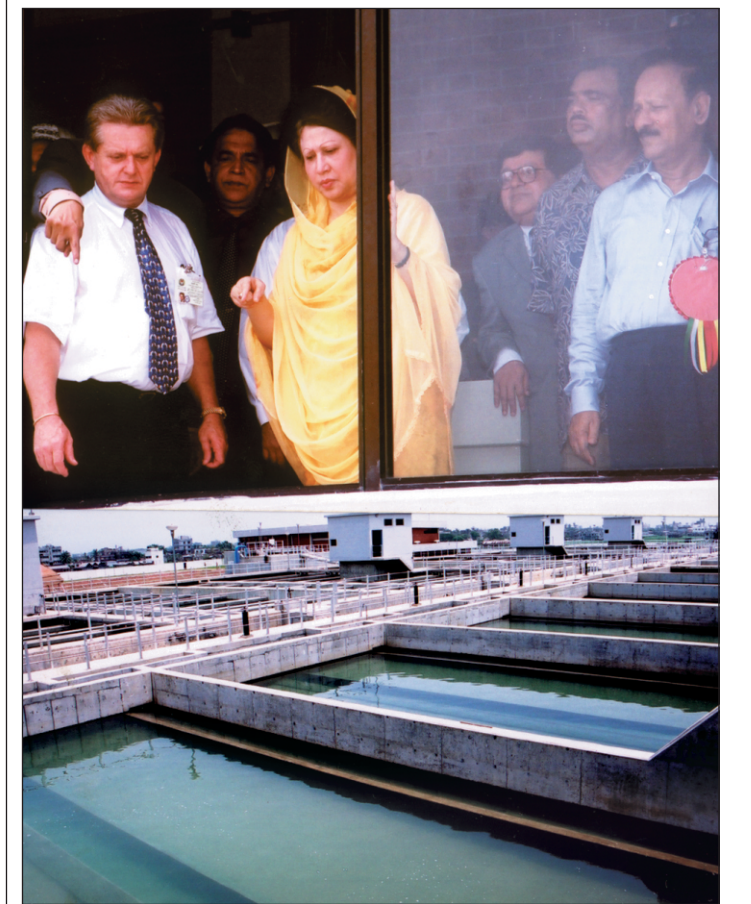


PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inspects the Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant yesterday. She inaugurated the plant that will supply 22.5 crore litres of water daily by purifying the Shitalakhya waters.