

Proper prenatal, postnatal care for newborn suggested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a workshop yesterday strongly recommended proper prenatal (antenatal) and postnatal care for the newborn.

They identified seven priority factors for proper care of the baby before, during and after birth including at least four visits of a pregnant woman to a skilled obstetrician and assistance of a skilled birth attendant during childbirth as part of the antenatal care (ANC).

The workshop on formulating "A behavior change communication strategy on newborn health in Bangladesh", organised by 'Saving Newborn Lives Initiative' of Save the Children USA, and supported by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, was held at the Lagoon Convention Centre in the city.

The other priority factors include preparing pregnant women, families and communities for birth, responding to potential complications, proper and thorough cleaning of the newborn by a soft cloth, keeping the child warm through skin to skin contact with the mother and breast-feeding the newborn within the first hour.

For circulation and training of these factors, the experts identified various target audiences including members of the family, paramedics, local attendants and

the media.

Save the Children USA country representative Leslie F. Wilson, programme manager Dr. Uzma Sayed, consultant Jackie McPherson, representatives from Ministry of Health and Family Planning, UNICEF, UNFPA, different NGOs including BRAC and CARE and different media organisations, and communication expert Professor Golam Rahman of Dhaka University spoke on the occasion.

The organisers will submit to the Government of Bangladesh the recommendations and strategy planning recorded at the workshop for them to be included in the government's policy and planning.

Eviction from railway land begins Dec 18

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Railway (BR) has undertaken a programme to evict illegal occupants from its land.

The railway authorities have asked all concerned to shift their illegal structures from the railway land without delay.

Legal actions will be taken against the illegal occupants failing to honour the requests, railway sources said yesterday.

Eviction programme will be executed in the areas from Tejaon rail gate to Moghbazar on December 18, from Moghbazar rail gate to Malibagh rail gate on December 19, from Malibagh rail gate to Khilgaon Bagicha on December 21, from Khilgaon Bagicha to Khilgaon rail gate on December 22 and at Brahmanbaria railway station and its adjacent areas on December 29 and 30, the sources said.

Nobanno Utsav

A daylong 'Nobanno Utsav' will be held on December 27 on the premises of Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University.

The festival, which was scheduled for December 13, has been deferred for unavoidable circumstances, said a press release of the festival organising committee.

The Nobanno Utsav will start at 6 am and continue till 9 pm with various programmes including painting competition and exhibition for children and juvenile.



The 11-party took out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the bomb blasts in Mymensingh and demanding the trial of those responsible for the blasts.

Victory fair begins in Ctg Dec 15

BSS, Ctg

A 10-day traditional 'Victory Fair, Chittagong' begins here December 15 highlighting the glorious victory over the country's nine-month Liberation War in 1971.

Bangladesh Muktioddh Sangsad (BMS) and local joint command comprising Chittagong city, south and north have organised the victory fair, for the first time, at the outer stadium under the supervision of Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, organisers said.

All preparations have been completed to hold the 'Victory Fair' under the active guidance of 'Muktijuddher Bijoy Utsab Parishad 2002'.

Earlier, a 101-member committee was formed for this purpose with eminent freedom fighter and Sub-Sector Commander Col (ret'd) Ziauddin BU as its chairman. Convener of BMS city unit command Mohammad Shahabuddin was made the Vice-Chairman while convener of BMS north unit command Abul Kalam Azad was the general secretary of the committee.

The Utsab Parishad leaders while exchanging views with the journalists here on Tuesday night, said they obtained all necessary permissions for holding the fair. The leaders were Dastagir Chowdhury, Ekramul Karim, Abu Sayeed Sarder, Abul Kalam Azad, Mohammad Shahabuddin, Sanowar Ali Samu and SM Idris.

The leaders thanked the freedom fighters of the port city for extending all-out cooperation to hold the historic Victory Fair to

help free the event from the grip of "unauthorised and corrupt persons" who had been using the fair for their own interests rather than providing support to the helpless and distressed freedom fighters.

Initially, some reputed and eminent freedom fighters organised the fair to uphold spirit and

President, PM greets Kenyan president

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia have greeted Kenyan President Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi on the occasion of that country's national day.

The president in his message expressed his firm conviction that the existing friendly relations between the two countries would be further strengthened and developed in the days ahead.

He wished the Kenyan president good health and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the Kenyan people.

In another message to the Kenyan president, the PM expressed her belief that the friendly relations between Bangladesh and Kenya would be deepened and strengthened in the years to come.

She wished him good health and happiness and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Kenya.

true history of the glorious liberation war. But a section of Awami League leaders led by the CCC Mayor, ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, tactfully took the leadership of the Victory Fair, the BMS leaders said.

They also accused the AL leaders of using the platform for their pily political interests and plundering huge funds.

The leaders said the income from the Victory Fair would be spent for the welfare of the distressed and poor freedom fighters.

Meanwhile, the CCC Mayor and Muktiuddher Bijoy Utsab Parishad Chairman, ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, at a meeting with the representatives of several professional groups on Tuesday vowed to hold the Victory Fair at the same venue of the outer stadium at all cost.

He also announced detail programmes of the fair. The programmes include placing of wreaths at the Shaheed Minar at the zero hours of December 15, hoisting of national and fair flags on December 16, rally, discussion, seminar, reception, cultural function, poetry recitation and drawing competition for the children from December 22 to December 31.

Former Pro-Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University Dr Abu Yousuf Alam, Gano Forum leader M. Kafiluddin, JSD (Inu) leader Abul Kalam Azad, Awami League leader Moslemuddin Ahmed, Chittagong Press Club president Akhtarunnabi and journalist Reaz Haider attended the meeting.

CJ for arbitration for quick resolution of conflicts

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury yesterday underscored the need for arbitration for quick resolution of conflicts to avoid expensive and lengthy judicial exercises and reduction of the burden of pending cases on judiciary.

"The human and material resources to meet these ever-growing disputes and complicated questions of law, the courts are in some cases inadequate to deal with the cases quickly, resulting in delay and costs," he told a roundtable here.

He added: "As we are becoming more and more aware of our

human and legal rights, with the globalisation of market economy, free trade and information technology, new and complicated questions are arising. Such problems have led us to find alternative solutions for the resolution."

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed, Chairman of ICC International Court of Arbitration Dr Robert Briner, Former Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal and Senior Advocate Dr Kamal Hossain, among others joined the roundtable. Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ARD) organised by International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Bangladesh.

ICC President Mahbubur Rahman moderated the discussion.

The Chief Justice said judges now generally acknowledge that courts were not the most appropriate forums to resolve certain classes of disputes. Handling of certain issues by quasi-judicial and non-judicial bodies manned by lawyers or others having appropriate knowledge on the subject in dispute did not necessarily injure the parties, he said.

Justice Chowdhury pointed out that the disposal of disputes without damaging the relationship between the parties could be ensured through these informal consensual arrangements beyond the adversarial atmosphere of courts, "which is often endemic in the traditional judicial system."

Moudud said over one million cases were now pending in different courts of Bangladesh with 127,000 in High Court Division and some 5,000 in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

He said the government had decided to amend the civil procedure code (CPC) for quick and proper disposal of the international commercial and business disputes.

Held at Hotel Sonargaon, the function was also addressed by a number of distinguished personalities.

The Jatiya Sangsad enacted the Arbitration Act of Bangladesh in 2001.

Special trains on Biswa Ijtema

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Railway will run some special trains from December 12 to December 15 for the convenience of devotees who would attend the upcoming Biswa Ijtema at Tongi.

From December 12 to December 14, two special trains will ferry passengers between Mymensingh and Tongi. The trains will leave Mymensingh at 11 am and 7:30 pm for Tongi.

A special train will travel between Laksam and Tongi and another between Bhairab Bazar and Tongi on the same days. The trains will leave Laksam at 9:50 am and Bhairab Bazar at 12:10 am for Tongi.

On December 15, the day of Akheri Munajat, seven special trains will shuttle between the capital and Tongi at every 20 minutes from 8 am to 10:40 pm.

Besides five inter-city mail and express trains that will leave Dhaka on the day will halt at Tongi.

After the munajat, seven special and three mail and express trains will shuttle between Tongi and Dhaka from 12:30 pm to 5 pm. The trains will depart from Tongi at 12:30 pm, 12:50 pm, 1:15 pm, 1:50 pm, 2:20 pm, 2:50 pm and 3:50 pm.

A special train will travel between Tongi and Akhaura and another between Tongi and Laksam after the munajat. The train to Akhaura will depart from Tongi at 2:50 pm and the train to Laksam will leave Tongi at 12:30 pm.

Four trains will ferry passengers between Tongi and Mymensingh and depart from Tongi at 12:35 pm, 1:10 pm, 3:25 pm and 10:55 pm.

Besides, all the inter-city, mail and express trains will stop at Tongi for two minutes from December 13 to December 15.

Devotees willing to attend the Ijtema will be able to buy advance two-way tickets to Tongi from Kamalapur station, a railway press release said on Monday.

It said advance return tickets could be bought at Tk 10 each from Kamalapur station from December 13.

Tickets could also be bought from mobile ticket collectors from Dhaka and Tongi stations in addition to ticket counters on the stations on the day of Akheri Munajat.

On the day of munajat, Subarna Express will not travel between Dhaka and Chittagong and Parabat Express between Dhaka and Sylhet.

Besides, changes will be brought to the schedule of some express trains on the day.

The Dhaka-Noakhali Upakul Express will begin journey at 7 am in stead of 6:30, Dhaka-Chittagong Karnaphuli Express at 12 pm in stead of 11:10 am, Dhaka-Mymensingh Balaka Express at 12:20 pm in stead of 9:45 am and Ishakhan Express at 12:40 pm in stead of 11:30 am.

The Dhaka-bound Uttarabanga Mail will leave Bandurabad Ghat at 11 pm in stead of 1:40 am.

Coastguard seizes 2 boats with smuggled goods

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Coastguard caught two boats carrying 118 metric tons of urea fertiliser valued at Tk 31 lakh from near the Sangur Gas field on Sunday.

They also arrested eight people from the boat on charge of trying to smuggle out the fertiliser.

The arrested were handed over to Karnaphuli police station, and the seized boats and fertiliser deposited with the customs officials.

Shilpakala academy officer dies in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahabub Alam, a research officer of the subdivision of finance, accounts and planning of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) died in a road accident on way to Dhaka from Barisal on Tuesday. He was 42.

He left behind his wife, daughter, two sons, and a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers.

The body of the deceased was brought to the BSA premises yesterday where his namaz-e-janaza was held. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman, Director General of BSA Ahmad Nazir and officers of the ministry and members of BSA officers and workers' association attended the namaz-e-janaza and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

The body was taken to his village Thakurazul under Babuganj Thana in Barisal for burial.

30 DU teachers protest arrest of Muntasir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty teachers of Dhaka University in a statement yesterday protested the arrest of Muntasir Mamun, a teacher of the university's History Department, and demanded his immediate release.

The signatories included Prof. KAM Saaduddin Ahmed, Prof. Mohammad Abu Jafar, Prof. Imdadul Huq, Prof. Mohiuddin, Prof. Badrunnahar, Prof. Paresh Chandra Mandal, Prof. Ahmad Kabir, Prof. Kazi Nurul Islam, Prof. Md. Aminul Huq Bhuiyan, Prof. Akmal Hossain and Prof. ABM Farque among others.

Meanwhile, Dhaka University Teacher's Association (DUTA) at a meeting yesterday expressed concern over the arrest of Muntasir Mamun under section 54 of the CPC.

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Obituary

Shariful Huq Mithu, son of late Abdul Huq passed away on 9th Dec, 2002 at Virginia, USA. He was 55. Qurankhwani and milad mahfil of late Shariful Huq Mithu shall be held at House No. 19, Road No 7, Baridhara, Dhaka on Friday, 13th Dec, 2002 at 4:30 PM. Relatives, friends & well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad mahfil. Abu Zafar Humayun Rabi, Md Jahangir Babul, Reaz Kajal, Shahidul Huq Lithu, Mahamuda Khanam Hena, & Nargis Ahmed Kachi. C-2588



Rashed Khan Menon, president of the Bangladesh Workers' Party, speaks at a press conference at the party office in the city yesterday.

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Vice-Chancellor: Professor Dr. M. Shamsher Ali (Former Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh Open University)

'Foil evil design of conspirators'

BSS, Rajshahi

Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haque yesterday called upon the people to foil the evil design of the 'conspirators' in the greater interest of the nation.

He said the members, supporters and workers of BNP and its front organisations including Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) can play a vital role in this regard in cooperation with the people.

He was addressing a joint conference of the district and city units of JCD on local Loknath High School premises yesterday afternoon as chief guest.

Joint Convener of the Central Committee of JCD Azizul Bari Helal attended the conference as chief speaker. JCD Central Committee Convener Shahab Uddin Lailu inaugurated.

Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu, MP, ABM Mosharrar Hossain, Farhad Hossain Azad, Abdul Kader

Jewel, Monir Hossain, Abu Bakar Siddique and Shafiqul Islam Shafiqul also addressed the conference with Khandaker Mijanur Rahman Khokon in the chair.

"Some conspirators are always making anti-state propaganda in and outside the country and resorting to subversive activities only to disrupt the prevailing congenial atmosphere in the country," Aminul Haque said.

He said the recent serial bomb attacks in four cinemas in Mymensingh were the outcome of the conspiracies.

He said late President Ziaur Rahman founded JCD with a view to fulfilling the demands of the students and asked them to devote themselves to materialising the ideals of the late president.

He also asked them to acquire proper knowledge to take the responsibility of running the country in future and face the challenges of the 21st century as well.

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