

NEWS SNAPS

Body recovered

UNB, Rajbari

The body of an unidentified girl was recovered from Doulatdia of Goalandoghat thana on Monday.

Police said the body was recovered from near the house of one person named Onil Sarker of the area.

They said the girl was strangled. The body was sent to hospital morgue.

Constable indeed!

UNB, Patuakhali

A domestic help was allegedly raped by a constable at the house of a police officer in the town on Friday.

Constable Monjurul Alam raped the girl, 15, at the house of Additional Police Super on February 28.

A case was filed after medical examination of the victim. The cop was sent to jail hajat.

Rapist punished

UNB, Sherpur

A special court here on Monday sentenced a man to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) for raping a little girl.

The tribunal on Prevention of Women and Children Repression also fined the convict, Abdul Hai alias Kalu, Tk 3,000, in default, to suffer six months of more RI. Kalu raped an eight-year-old girl at Chapatali in the town on March 23, 2002.

Piracy in Meghna

UNB, Narsingdi

Pirates looted valuables and cash worth about Tk one lakh from a boat in the Meghna River near village Panchabati in Sadar upazila early Monday.

The pirates also injured two people Amir Ali and Judge Mia. They were admitted to sadar hospital.

Passengers said about 12 armed pirates swooped on a Narsingdi-bound passenger boat sailed from Salimganj in Nabinagar thana and decamped with booty.

Dacoity at Bogra

UNB, Bogra

Dacoits looted cash and valuables worth about Tk four lakh from a house at Thanthania in the town on Saturday.

The bandits entered the house of Mostafizur Rahman crossing the boundary wall and looted 49 tolas of gold and Tk 20,000 in cash. A case was filed.

Decision of longer working period sparks commotion in Rajshahi hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A decision of longer working period for working doctors has sparked commotion in one hospital in Rajshahi.

The management council of Rajshahi Christian Mission Hospital (RCMH) in a meeting on February 27 took a resolution of non-stop 17 hours' working period for physicians from 4.30pm to 9am violating international labour law.

When a doctor Dr M A Latif protested the decision, the hospital authorities 'intentionally' sent him on 'forcible retirement' on February 28.

The decision caused resentment among his fellow colleagues who tendered resignation instantly on March 1 protesting unilateral decision of the management.

However, they withdrew their decision on humanitarian ground and gave the RCMH authorities time for 15 days to appoint new doctors in their places. After March 15, all of them will resign, they threatened.

The doctors are Dr M A Latif, Dr Shah Mizanur Rahman, Dr AQM Abdullah, Dr Sabina Naila Bari, Dr Rozy Ara Khatun, Dr Abed Ali and Dr Rahena Khatun.

Local units of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) and Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB) expressed their deep concern over the

situation and strongly condemned harsh decision and ill-treatment of the RCMH authorities. The associations threatened to go for a movement.

The doctors alleged that President and moderator of Church of Bangladesh Michael S Baroi and some other members of the management council called them 'white elephants' when they requested for rethinking the matter of new working hours.

Some members abused the doctors blaming them for decreasing patients which doctors termed due to 'poor facility' in the hospital.

BMA and DAB demanded improved facilities in the hospital.

Dr Wasim Hossain and Dr Mofakkarul Islam, president and general secretary of both BMA and DAB expressed their solidarity with the RCMH doctors. They asked them to submit a petition describing their problems and facilities available in the hospital.

Vice president and joint secretary of the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital unit of BMA Dr Latifur Rahman Apu and Dr Enamul Haq also protested the incident.

When contacted, RCMH director Simon Dev Sarkar told The Daily Star that the authorities asked the doctors to discuss the issue, but they refused. He also denied all the allegations brought against him and other members of the management council by the protesting doctors.

A humanitarian act!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A major Korean company has taken the responsibility of treatment and open-heart surgery of three little heart patients who are children of its staff-members.

The company, Youngone Corporation Ltd (YCL), will bear entire expense of their treatment. Two of the sick children have been flown to India on Friday morning by YCL's nine-seater Cessna from Shah Amanat International Airport, Chittagong.

They are Md Ifaz Uddin, 3, son of Jahangir Uddin, section manager (export), YCL, and Dola, 2, daughter of Jannatul Nayeem, team manager, Lalmai Sportswear Ltd of YCL.

Their parents and a company

physician accompanied them. They will stay at Bangalore where the children will be under treatment.

The other sick child, Lamisa, 7-month-old daughter of Md Abdus Satter, team manager (sales & export) Karnaphuli Sportswear Ltd, will fly to India by commercial airlines sometime later.

Her treatment schedule at another hospital (Rubi Hospital) is yet to be adjusted.

Kihag Sung, chairman and chief executive officer of Youngone and KEPZ Corporation Ltd, offered the opportunity for their treatment abroad under the company's health care service. Abu Naser Chowdhury, general manager of YCL and KEPZ told journalists while talking with them inside YCL rented lounges

at the airport premises.

He came to see the children off.

He revealed that the treatment cost would be around Tk 4 lakh for each child.

The company offers free treatment facilities to 26,000 employees working in its 14 factories. They also receive free medicine regularly, he said to the waiting newsmen.

Ten of its factories are situated in Chittagong, while four are situated in Dhaka.

The company has its own team of physicians and has a 9-seater Cessna for carrying patients abroad, if needed, Abu Naser told the press. Earlier, Youngone sent two heart patients abroad for treatment, he added.

Yeasmin Jahangir, mother of Ifaz Uddin and Jannatul Nayeem

mother of Dola expressed their gratitude to the authorities of Youngone company for their noble gesture.

Dola's father Md Ilias, a businessman told newsmen that heart disease of their daughter was detected at the age of 34 days when doctors advised them to go for an open-heart surgery within three years.

Five youths with firearms nabbed in Rajbari

UNB, Rajbari

Police arrested five youths along with firearms and ammunition from Doulatdia brothel on Saturday.

The arrested are Iqbal, 26, Jakir, 25, Selim, 20, Sajal, 21 and Monwar, 22.

Police said when the youths stabbed a cloth trader named Khokon at the brothel, local people rushed to the spot and caught the youths red-handed along with a gun and one round of bullet. The clash was a sequence to rivalry over establishing supremacy in the area. The youths were later handed over to police after a mass beating.

Iqbal and Jakir, injured in the mass beating were rushed to the local hospital. Police said the arrested were wanted in several cases including murder.

A case was filed against them under Arms Act.

11 withdraw from Sylhet City Corporation polls race

BSS, Sylhet

Eleven candidates have withdrawn their nomination papers submitted for the upcoming Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) polls on March 20.

After the withdrawal, the total number of candidates contesting in the SCC polls stood at 340. Election Commission (EC) sources said.

Among the candidates, 14 are contesting for the post of Mayor, 71 vying for reserved seats for women and 255 for general ward commissioners.

The candidates contesting in the post of mayor are: M Qutub Uddin Ahmed, Mohammad Zahirul Hoque Chowdhury, Badar Uddin Ahmed (Quamran), Kazi Kamal Ahmed, Sawar Ahmed Chowdhury Abdal, Shameem Hasan Chowdhury, Dr Mohammad Giasuddin, Mohammad Aksar Box, Abdul Hoque (MA (Hoque), Mohammad Lutfur Rahman, Mohammad Shamsuzzaman, AFM Kamal, Syed MA Salam and Mohammad Quamrul Islam.

Alleged burglar killed in Gazipur

UNB, Gazipur

An alleged burglar was beaten to death at village Dhirasham in Gazipur municipality on Saturday.

Locals said a gang of thieves numbering four entered the house of Mustafa and looted Tk 25,000 in cash and gold ornaments. Later at one stage when they tried to snatch the gold chain from the neck of his sleeping wife, Mostafa woke up from the slumber and raised hue and cry.

Hearing the screaming local people gave the thieves a hot chase and caught one of them identified as Shahar Ali, 50, and beat him indiscriminately.

Shahar Ali, hailed from Dalpara in Gafargaon upazila of Mymensingh, was rushed to the Sadar hospital where he died.

A case was filed with police.



PHOTO: STAR

A colourful rally in Mymensingh town to celebrate the brilliant performance of an eye hospital of Bangladesh National Society for the Blind (BNSB) where one million patients were operated upon in 30 years. The hospital was established in 1978 under the patronisation of Sight Saviours International (SSI) and Andheri Hilfe, a German donor agency.