

# The Daily Star ROUNDTABLE ON COMMUNITY CLINICS

## Experts call for community control to make them work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leading health experts, representatives of NGOs and development partners yesterday urged the government to put the unused community clinics (CCs) to full operation as designed originally.

The speakers meeting at a roundtable discussion on "Ways to Make Community Clinics Operational" urged the government to consider decentralising the management and operation of the CCs and leave their functioning affairs to the local government.

Community participation is considered an important pillar for building effective community-based organisations (CBOs) around the CCs to ensure sustainability of the latter, they said at the roundtable jointly organised by The Daily Star and the NGO Network for Public Private Partnership.

The speakers regretted that more than 8,700 CCs ready for use

across the country for providing basic healthcare services at the grassroots level are not in full use.

They urged the government to remove all political and bureaucratic differences over decision to use the CCs and make maximum use of NGO experiences of operating some 43 CCs run by various NGOs and CBOs.

There are a few obstacles to putting the CCs to use as designed originally, former health secretary Syed Alamgir Faruk Choudhury observed at the discussion.

He pointed out that the policy document did not clearly specify how the NGOs will collect user fees from clients. "Over 90 percent of childbirths still take place at home. Unfortunately, there was no emphasis given to institutionalise the CCs for delivery, besides routine healthcare services," he added.

Khairul Islam of Public Health Association of Bangladesh pointed out that political game is one of the

major reasons behind the indecision to put the CCs into operation.

He said the donors of land for the construction of the CCs should hold those responsible for failing to make the CCs operational.

Dr Ahmed Al Kabir, chief executive of John Snow Incorporate, said, "If local people are empowered to run the CCs, I believe there should not be any major obstacle."

Dr AM Zakir Hussain, managing director of Partners in Health and Development, said, "It is very unfortunate that those who originally designed and planned the concept of CC functions are no longer in the Ministry of Health." Either they have been made officers on special duty or transferred, or, unable to convince their seniors to implement the original designs, they simply removed themselves from the project, he added.

He also pointed out that originally the plan was to bring the health

## All members keen to join Saarc summit on schedule

Says Morshed

UNB, Dhaka

The member states renewed their commitment to hold the 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka in November and reaffirmed their participation in the summit meet of seven South Asian leaders.

"I understand all member states are very keen to see the summit take place as scheduled on November 12-13," Foreign Minister Morshed Khan told the news agency yesterday.

In reply to a question, he said the member countries conveyed their willingness through diplomatic channels after the August 17 blasts in Bangladesh.

Morshed, who attended an appraisal meeting at the foreign ministry on the preparation for hosting the summit, said he was happy to see the progress of the preparations.

Asked about security arrangement for the grand meet, the foreign



A sweating worker kneads dough for bread at Khondokar Restaurant at Bangla Motor yesterday. A mobile court jailed managers of the restaurant.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



Aspirant BNP candidates for women's reserved seats in parliament come out of the Prodhannontri Bhaban after appearing before interview board for nomination yesterday.

## JS SEATS FOR WOMEN

### BNP candidates face interview

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aspirant for BNP nomination for the election to women's reserved seats in parliament Afroza Khanam, daughter of former minister Harunur Rashid Khan Monno, said she was not asked any significant questions at the interview for party ticket that began yesterday.

Another aspirant, Mita Islam from Sherpur district, said Prime Minister and Chairperson of the ruling BNP Khaleda Zia asked her whether she lives in Dhaka or Sherpur. She also enquired why her party could not get majority seats in the district in the previous parliamentary polls.

"I am well known to the interviewers. They did not ask me any questions, rather they wanted me to say something about my plans. I said I will establish a college on my land in Kishoreganj if I am nominated," Nibarani Saha told reporters after the interview.

This is how the aspirant candidates described the interview with the BNP Parliamentary Board (BNPPB) headed by Khaleda that sat yesterday at the Prodhannontri Bhaban to pick 30 leaders for the September 6 election to the reserved seats. A number of senior ministers are members of the board. Interview of each aspirant lasted

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## Hygiene missing at hotelier body chief's restaurant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday raided Khondokar Restaurant at Bangla Motor, owned by Khondokar Ruhul Amin, president of Bangladesh Restaurant Owners' Association, and found severe unhygienic condition there.

The court sentenced two managers of the restaurant to one month's jail and fined them Tk 1,000 each. It also issued warrant against Ruhul Amin.

The mobile court, led by Magistrate Md Rokan Ud Doulah, found mosquito larvae in the filthy water in one corner of the kitchen,

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## 2 multi-storey buildings demolished in DND area

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka district administration and Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) in a joint drive demolished a part of two seven-storeyed buildings on a drainage canal in Zia Sarani-Shonir Akhra area inside the Dhaka-Narayanganj-

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## 8 killed in road crash

UNB, Munshiganj

Eight people died and 20 others were injured in bus collision at Kamarkhola on the Dhaka-Mawa highway yesterday.

Of the dead, three were identified as Moazzem, 27, Noor Hossain, 14, and Hasina Begum, 22. Identity of the remaining five could not be known.

Police and locals said the accident occurred at about 4:00pm

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## 3 Nepalese get life for hashish smuggling

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced three Nepalese to life imprisonment for possessing 9 kg of hashish.

Judge Mohammad Nazrul Islam of the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions judge's Court gave the verdict in presence of the convicts, two of them women.

The convicts are Sunita Puna

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## One killed in 'crossfire' in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A top leader of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) was killed in "crossfire" with the police in Kushtia while criminals slaughtered a farmer in Chudanga early yesterday.

Abdur Rashid alias Sagar, 41, second-in-command of Nuruzzaman alias Laitu of the Janajuddho faction of PBCP was killed in a shootout between the police and his accomplices at Mirpur upazila in Kushtia.

Chudanga police arrested him at Kadamtala village under Sadar upazila in Kushtia on Tuesday morning.

During interrogation in Chudanga, he confessed to having firearms hidden in different locations throughout Kushtia and

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## Peru plane crash kills 41

REUTERS, Lima

A Peruvian passenger jet crashed during a severe storm in Peru's northeastern jungle on Tuesday, killing at least 41 people, police said.

State-run airline TANS said its Boeing 737-200 plane with 100 people aboard made an emergency landing without its landing gear in swampland 1.8 miles from the remote Pucallpa airport, 490 miles northeast of Lima.

The accident happened at 3:06 p.m. (2006 GMT), TANS said.

"There are 40 cadavers that rescue teams have pulled from the wreckage. There could be more deaths. We assume some 60 people in total since we've rescued 20 injured persons," a police officer in Pucallpa told RPP radio.

There were foreigners among the

dead, police Lt. David Mori told Reuters.

"There were Americans on the flight and one was killed along with an Italian. We have also counted an injured Colombian, an Australian and a Spanish woman," he added.

TANS executive Jorge Belevan said 11 Americans were on board but did not elaborate.

Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo said in a televised address there were between 20 and 30 survivors, but Belevan said there were 52, including two crewmembers.

"The pilot said we'd be there in 10 minutes, but the turbulence was strong. ... We felt a fierce impact, there were flames and fires around us," said passenger Yuri Salas.

Mori said the search for bodies stopped at nightfall and would

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## Saarc information ministers meet in Kathmandu Aug 29-30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information ministers from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) countries will assemble in Kathmandu for a two-day meeting on August 29-30 to discuss an action plan for the development of the region's media.

According to the Saarc Secretariat, the action plan envisages observing 2007 as the Saarc Media Year.

The meeting will discuss the 18-point action plan to develop the information sector in the South Asian region agreed upon at the first meet in 1998 in Dhaka as well as

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## JS body members for chief's removal for meeting walkout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reacting to the unprecedented walkout by chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on fisheries and livestock ministry after severe disagreement with the members at a meeting yesterday, the latter demanded removal of the chairman.

After the walkout by the chairman, other members held a meeting and decided to request the prime minister to remove the chairman. They also decided to resign from the body if the chairman is not removed, meeting sources said.

Hearing the news of the walkout, reporters thronged the office of the

chairman but he declined to comment on the issue. "Why have you entered my office? Get out immediately," he shouted to the reporters.

Conflict between the chairman and members ensued over the holding of discussion on alleged corruption regarding promotion of the director general of the Fisheries Directorate, meeting sources said.

Responding to a proposal of the chairman to hold discussions on it, State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Ukil Abdus Sattar told the chairman to seek opinion from the committee members.

But the members declined the proposal saying that there was no

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## India carrying out anti-Bangladesh campaign

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section civil society activists yesterday blamed India for an anti-Bangladesh campaign and suggested the neighbouring country's link to the August 17 countrywide bombing.

They blasted Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Veena Sikri's comment that those who want to establish Islam in Bangladesh carried out the bomb attack, terming it a violation of diplomatic norms.

Asking the government to call an emergency parliament session to

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Prayer Timing		
August 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-33	6-36
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation