

Child injury prevention programme on cards

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A child injury prevention programme will be launched soon in selected rural and urban areas of the country to reduce child mortality and morbidity due to various injuries.

The pilot prevention programme will address home safety, school safety and community safety of the children.

This was stated by the speakers at a roundtable on 'Child Injury Prevention in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges' at Brac Centre Inn in the city.

It was jointly organised by the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research Bangladesh (CIPRB), Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and Unicef.

The speakers said the programme will include assessment of injury risk at home and counselling by household mem-

bers to improve the home environment and introduction of safety devices appropriate to age and local conditions.

The pilot programme will be implemented by the CIPRB and US-based TASC in collaboration with the government and Unicef.

The speakers said while neonatal deaths and infectious diseases remain major concerns for child survival, child health programmes in Bangladesh cannot be considered complete without injury prevention at the core.

Quoting the data of Bangladesh Health and Injury Survey (BHIS) they said some 2,600 children get injured every day and of them 80 succumb to their injuries.

The injuries are mainly caused by road accident, drowning, animal bite, fall from different places, accidental poisoning, cut by sharp objects and suffocation.

Speaking as chief guest Unicef Representative Morten Giersing said, "Injury is a leading killer of children over the age in this country and it is time that we look at interventions which could slow the injury epidemic."

Stressing the need for multi-sectoral involvement for the intervention, he said the government bodies and NGOs have to work together for the intervention.

TASC President Pete Peterson, Prof Hannana Begum of National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Dr Siddiqur Rahman and AKM Shamsuddin of DGHS, Prof Amjad Hossain of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, Prof MK Talukdar of Bangladesh Breast Feeding Foundation, Rezaul Karim and Khairuzzaman of Brac took part in the discussion.

Foam factory owner burnt alive

Properties worth Tk 15 lakh damaged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire burnt down a foam factory leaving the owner dead in the city last evening.

Benibhushan Shiva, the owner of Delux Foam Industry at 308 Moynabagh in Uttar Badda, was inside the factory when the fire broke out.

The fire originated at around 6:00pm and soon engulfed the entire factory and its adjoining Isha Intaj Workshop, said eyewitnesses.

The fire fighters doused the flame after struggling an hour with 12 units.

The charcoaled body of Shiva was lying on the floor, they said.

Locals complained that the fire fighters arrived late to the spot.

Properties worth around Tk 15 lakh were damaged, said the fire officials.

ADB to help set up sewerage treatment plant in Dhaka

BSS, Dhaka

Asian Development Bank (ADB) will extend cooperation in setting up a sewerage treatment plant in Dhaka and increasing supply of pure drinking water for the city dwellers.

The assurance came at a meeting between LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and a three-member ADB delegation led by Country Director Hua Du here yesterday.

During the meeting at the minister's Secretariat office, they discussed the progress of different ADB-funded projects under his ministry, including the Urban Primary Health Care Project.

Bhuiyan assured the ADB representatives of looking into the hindrance to smooth implementation of the Urban Health Care Project in Chittagong City Corporation.

The ADB delegation included Principal Project Implementation Specialist Hans Carlsson and Chief of Social Infrastructure Department Jamal Mahmud. Joint Secretary of Local Government Division (Development) M Saifur Islam was present.

Solar eclipse on Oct 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A solar eclipse will take place on October 3, but a partial eclipse will be seen from Bangladesh.

The eclipse will start at 5:04pm and can be seen up to 40 minutes as the sun will set during the eclipse, according to the Bangladesh Astronomical Association.

The eclipse will be clearly visible from the Kuakata sea beach as the sun will be near the horizon at that time, said the association in a press release.

The association in cooperation with the Dalchhut Adventure Club has organised an observation camp at Kuakata to watch the solar eclipse.

Persons interested in joining the camp can register their names with the Bangladesh Astronomical Association, 75 Science Laboratory Road, Dhaka-1215, by September 29 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm daily. Phone - 0171-187555. The registration fee is Tk 2,000.

FOOD ADULTERATION 4 Ctg bakeries, six hotels fined Tk 2.5 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court yesterday fined four bakeries and six hotels about Tk 2.5 lakh during its drive against food adulteration and unhygienic condition in Chittagong city.

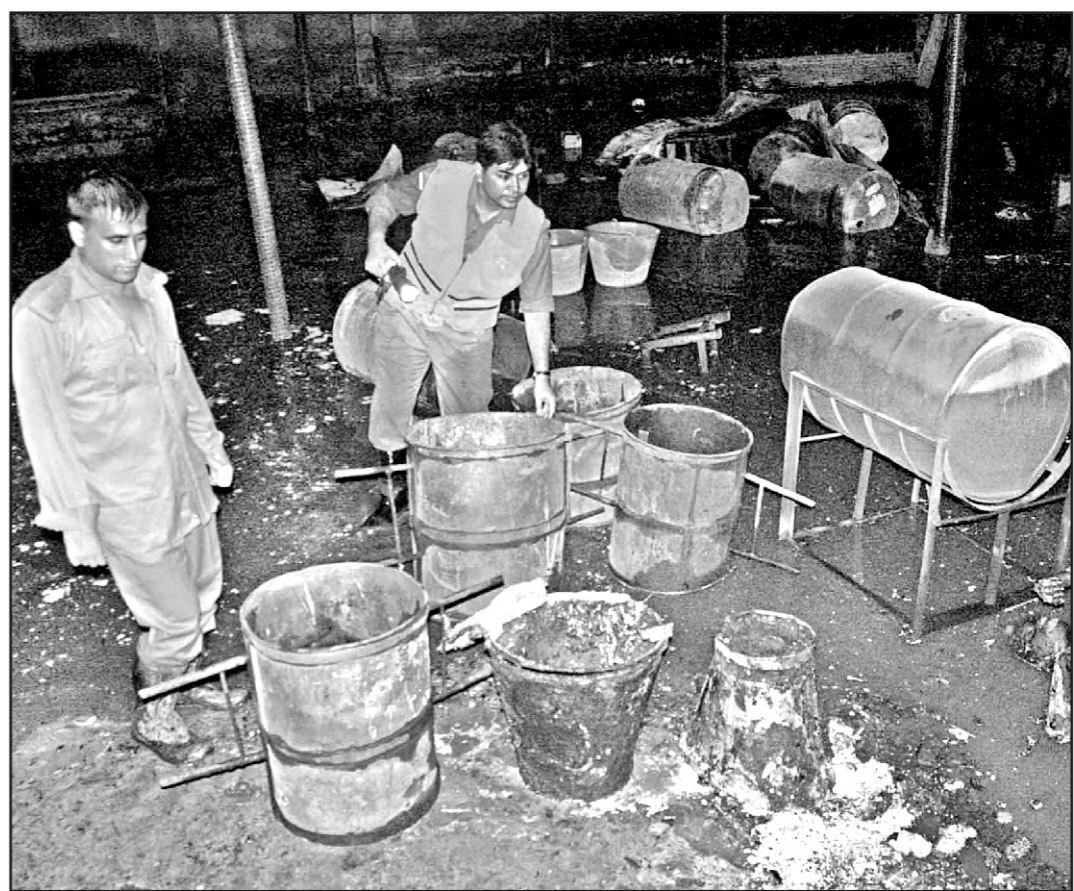
During the drive at Jugichand Lane in Madarbari, the mobile court led by Magistrate Sayeda Sarwar Jahan fined Chattala Bakery Tk 75,000 for selling stale and open foods and preparing the foods in unhygienic environment.

It also fined Pragati Bakery Tk 30,000, Master Bakery Tk 35,000 and Ananda Bakery Tk 30,000 for preparing different food items with sub-standard ingredients amid unhygienic condition.

The mobile court slapped Orient Restaurant with a fine of Tk 30,000 and Hotel Zaman with a fine of Tk 20,000 for preparing foods in unhygienic atmosphere.

Besides, Darber Hotel, Madina Hotel, Al Monir Hotel and Ali Hotel were also fined.

Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI) officials and Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) personnel assisted the Chittagong City Corporation magistrate in the drive.



Delux Foam Industry at Uttar Badda in the city was damaged in a devastating fire yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Three more camel jockeys back to families

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more children used as camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) returned to their families yesterday, bringing the total number to 26.

The children --Shahed, 13, and Jewel, 15, two brothers from Gaibandha, and Sohail, 12, from Shariatpur -- were handed over to their parents by the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) officials.

The children had been staying at city's BNWLA shelter home along with other returnees upon their arrival from the UAE, which started from August 11.

Bangladesh government, in association with the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), is bringing back the children. So far, 83 former camel jockeys returned home and over 100 are awaiting repatriation at three shelter homes in Abu Dhabi.

A committee comprising of officials from home ministry, Unicef, International Organization for Migration (IOM), BNWLA and a trafficking-related NGO Astec, is managing the rehabilitation and reintegration process.

Slash cellphone call charge Demands Citizens' Rights Movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Citizens' Rights Movement yesterday demanded that the cellphone call charge be slashed to Tk 0.50 per minute immediately.

They also called a four-hour countrywide 'mobile phone strike' for September 16 and urged all not to use cellphones on the day from 10:00am.

The leaders also reiterated their eight-point demand at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city.

The demands include introduction of incoming system from land phone to cellphone without any charge and withdrawal of monthly fee for post-paid cellphone, says a press release.

Citizens' Rights Movement Convenor Tushar Rehman read out a written statement at the press conference addressed by General Secretary of Consumers' Association of Bangladesh Kazi Faruque, Advocate Zulfia Aktar Rita, Dr Jasmine Ara Sati, Dhaka University teachers Aklima Mansur Lima, Zahidul Islam Rupak and Babul Hossain.

BELTA confce begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh English Language Teachers' Association (BELTA) will organise a three-day International Conference at the British Council auditorium in the city beginning today, says a press release.

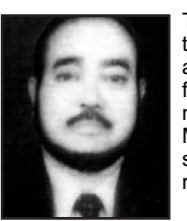
The Conference under the theme "ELT in context: Future Directions", is a professional get-together of around 300 delegates from home and abroad. The participants include teachers, teacher-trainers, administrators, textbooks/material writers, testers and others related to English language teaching and learning.

The programme will focus on the globalisation of English, teacher development/education, ELT (English Language Teaching) methodology, literature and language, language in education, English for specific purposes and other related topics.

Professor Serajul Islam Choudhury, Professor of English of Dhaka University will be present as chief guest and Dr June Rollinson, director, The British Council, Bangladesh as special guest.

Professor Ravinder Gargesh, University of Delhi, will present the keynote paper.

Death anniversary



Today is the third death anniversary of former law-maker Advocate Md Atiqullah, says a press release.

On the occasion, millah mahfil will be held at his village home at Shayesthaganj and Habiganj residence. Foods will be distributed among the poor and at orphanages and hospitals in Habiganj.

Local people, relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the programmes.



A mobile court team found stale pieces of bread and pieces of meat prepared unhygienically at a restaurant, Topkapi, during a drive against food adulteration at Gulshan in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Help establish rights of disadvantaged children

Speakers urge ward commissioners, NGOs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called on the ward commissioners, NGOs and the well-off people to come forward to establish the rights of the disadvantaged and street

Wasa continues drive against bill defaulters, Tk 3.50 lakh more realised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) in a drive against bill defaulters yesterday realised Tk 3.50 lakh as arrears in the city.

The court led by Wasa Magistrate Kazi Wasiuddin went to a holding named Cosmos Centre at Malibagh to realise an arrears of about Tk 6 lakh. The owner of the building gave a cheque for Tk 2 lakh.

The court then went to another holding owned by a politician Ismail Hossain Bengal at Outer Circular Road to realise Tk 3 lakh as arrears. Ismail Hossain gave a cheque for Tk 1.5 lakh.

The court snapped the connection of a holding at the Outer Circular Road for an arrears of Tk 8.50 lakh.

The court also snapped the connection of Hotel Bonbhojon at Tophkana Road for an arrears of Tk 34.12 lakh as the owner didn't appear.

The court however didn't snap the connection of a holding at the Outer Circular Road when the owner assured of paying the arrears soon by cheque.

Different government, private organisations and household owners owe a total of Tk 200 crore to Wasa.

Of the total amount, Tk 180 crore is due to private business organisations and household owners. The rest Tk 20 crore is due to government organisations.

The Wasa authorities at a meeting recently decided to disconnect the lines of bill defaulters in a bid to realise the arrears, and started the snapping drive on August 23.

The drive will continue particularly on Tuesday and Wednesday of this month and end from the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, Wasa sources said.

children and help them lead a normal life.

They said many street children have engaged in criminal activities as they do not receive any care and shelter from society.

Aparajeyo Bangladesh, an NGO working for the disadvantaged children, organised the workshop on 'The responsibility and participation of the ward commissioners in protecting rights of the children and their development' at the WVA auditorium in the city.

Nasima and Altaf Hossain, two deprived children who have now become almost self-reliant with the support from Aparajeyo Bangladesh, made an appeal to all to stand by the street children to prevent them from going astray.

The disadvantaged children would be able to contribute to society if the affluent section of society extend a helping hand, they said.

Aparajeyo Bangladesh has provided many street children, like Altaf and Nasima, with education and they are now working at differ-

ent places.

Addressing the workshop, ward commissioners of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) pledged that they would do their best for the betterment of the disadvantaged children.

They also called on all to create a better environment for the underprivileged children so that they can grow up like our children.

If each wealthy person take the responsibility of one child, the deprived can enjoy a wonderful life, they said.

Wahida Banu, programme director of Aparajeyo Bangladesh, said, "We can give the street children a better life and help them become a good citizen through our combined support."

Ishtiaq Ahmed, executive director of Aparajeyo Bangladesh, also spoke.

Dr Enamul Haque, a member of the Law Commission and former inspector general of police, was present as the chief guest.



Moderately heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also expected at places during the period, Met Office said, predicting that day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

Highest temperature 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.2 degree Celsius at Rangamati and Srirangam.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:03pm today and rises at 5:45am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest 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	33.0	26.5	75	95
Chittagong	33.8	25.0	78	81
Rajshahi	30.5	25.7	81	93
Khulna	27.4	24.5	97	96
Barisal	31.4	25.5	80	--
Sylhet	35.5	26.3	71	60
Cox's Bazar	32.4	24.6	81	93