



A delegation of election observers from European Union calls on President/Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday. PHOTO: PD

## HEALTH SERVICES

# 'Bangladesh lags behind other countries'

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Compared to health services in other countries, Bangladesh is lagging behind in terms of doctors' behaviour and attitudes towards the patients, said Dr Sufia Rahman, health and family welfare adviser to caretaker government, yesterday.

"Equipment worth crores of taka are lying idle in government hospitals, we are to use those in the most efficient ways," she said, adding, "Through this way we can extend health services to remote areas of the country."

Sufia Rahman, also an eminent cardiologist, was speaking at the premiere show of a television programme titled 'amarhealth' and the inauguration of a web portal at

the National Press Club in the city. Speaking as chief guest she said the standard of Bangladesh's health services is improving day by day and said, "Years back, people of our country used to go to other countries for better treatment, but now the rate has declined significantly."

"Even in Europe, some five percent patients opt for treatment in other countries as they think health services there would be better," she said, adding, "This happens primarily with the affluent patients."

Expressing her satisfaction in Bangladesh's improvement in cardiac diseases, Sufia Rahman said, "I do not believe, no country would be able to conduct cardiac surgeries at such a low cost as

Bangladeshi hospitals do." At the programme, she stressed on the need for prevention of diseases and focused on Bangladesh's success stories in reducing infant mortality and vaccination programme.

Director of Laboratory Services at BirDEM Dr Shubhagata Choudhury said it is not desired that doctors would make prescription to the patients through television or telephone without examining the patients.

Such prescription might be disastrous for the patients, he added.

The programme will be telecast at 3:05pm on Sundays in Channel 1 and on the web portal [www.amarhealth.com](http://www.amarhealth.com).



Citibank N.A. Bangladesh contributed Tk 1.7 lakh to 'Muktijuddha Gabeshana Kendra' yesterday for publishing books with stories on the heroics of women freedom fighters during the War of Liberation. The picture shows Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, handing over the cheque to Dr Sukumar Biswas, chief editor of Muktijuddha Gabeshana Kendra, at the Citibank Gulshan Branch office in the city. Margaret Dawson, extreme left, managing director & head of Securities and Fund Services in Citigroup Asia Pacific Region, Mamun Rashid, 2nd from left, Citigroup Country Officer, Bangladesh, Shamsun Nahar Rahman, 3rd from right, member secretary, Muktijuddha Gabeshana Kendra, Benedict Lumley-Smith, 2nd from right, regional product head for Agency & Trust, and Khondoker Rashed Maqsood, extreme right, head of Global Transaction Services of Citigroup Bangladesh, were also present.

## Handicrafts exhibition to help empower disadvantaged women

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to empowering socially disadvantaged women and their children through alternative livelihood, a three-day exhibition of handicrafts began in the city yesterday.

The exhibition is being held at Drik Gallery under a project titled 'Capacity-building, poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihood for socially disadvantaged women (SDW) and their children'.

Department of Social Services in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initiated the project in 1998.

The exhibition as part of the project aims at building capacity, alleviating poverty and empowering the socially disadvantaged women and their children to enable them to earn a sustainable socio-economic livelihood with due human dignity, Selima Sultan, project site coordinator, told The Daily Star.

About 1200 socially disadvantaged women and their children from Mymensingh, Jessor, Daulatdia Ghat, Rajbari and Dhaka are taking part in the exhibition, Selima added.

A total of seven organisations including Nari Maitree, ACLAB, PIACT-Bangladesh, Nari Unnayan

Shakti, DORP and INCIDIN Bangladesh are the co-sponsors of the exhibition.

Md Habibur Rahman, additional director of social services department, formally inaugurated the exhibition in the morning.

Different items including cotton and georgette sari, salwar kamiz, fatua, bedcover, embroidery work and earthen ornament are on display at the exhibition.

It will remain open from 11:00am to 8:00pm daily.



PHOTO: STAR  
Jubo League President Jahangir Kabir Nanak receives Sheikh Rehana, younger sister of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, with a bouquet at Zia International Airport yesterday while Hasina looks on.

## EU observers' mission chief meets acting FS

### BSS, Dhaka

Chief of the EU Election Observers' Mission (EU-EOM) Alexander Lambdorff, also a member of the European Parliament, yesterday called on acting Foreign Secretary Touhid Hossain at his office in the city.

During the meeting, the head of the EU-EOM thanked the government for extending full cooperation and support to his team.

He explained to the acting foreign secretary the mandate and scope of the EU-EOM and said the EU observes only a limited number of elections in a given year.

The decision to observe elections here only reflects the importance that the EU attaches to Bangladesh, he said.

Lambdorff said the EU-EOM is an independent and impartial entity not only with respect to political parties in Bangladesh but also with that of governments of the EU member countries. The EU-EOM will observe the entire electoral process and publish a report, he said.

Touhid thanked Lambdorff for taking keen interest in the upcoming parliamentary elections in Bangladesh and assured his team of the government's total support.

"Bangladesh attaches great importance and priority to her relations with the European Union and its member countries," he said.

## US embassy closed Dec 24-25

### UNB, Dhaka

The American Embassy offices, including the American Centre, Archer K Blood American Centre Library, the student counseling service and the Consular Section will remain closed on Sunday and Monday on the occasion of Christmas.

US Embassy in Dhaka asked American citizens in need of assistance on an emergency basis to contact the Embassy duty officer.