

NID ON MAR 3, APR 8

Plan to vaccinate 2.4cr children against polio

UNB, Dhaka

The caretaker government yesterday decided to observe the 15th National Immunisation Day (NID) to administer polio vaccine to some 2.4 crore children under five years across the country on March 3 and April 8.

Health and Family Welfare Adviser Maj Gen (Retd) Dr ASM Matiur Rahman said this at a press conference at secretariat yesterday.

Emphasising the need for unity in combating the disease, he urged the people of all walks of life to bring their children to the nearby permanent immunisation centers on March 3 for feeding two drops of polio vaccine to make a success the first round of the programme.

He said all the centers would remain open from 8:00am to 4:00pm and the children, who took their regular vaccine from the centers, must be fed again the polio vaccine on this day.

The adviser said about 700,000 volunteers, including field workers of the Health and Family Welfare Ministry, teachers of school and madrasa, members of Ansar-VDP and workers of NGOs, will feed the children with polio vaccine at some 140,000 immunisation centres across the country.

Besides, he said temporary centres will also be opened in different areas like bus stands, rail-stations, airports, land ports, launch

ghats and all toll collecting centres near the bridges so that no child is excluded from the programme.

Dr Matiur said in the second round of programme on April 8, children from one to five years old will be fed a highly potent vitamin A capsule and the children from two to five years given an anti-worm tablet each along with polio vaccine.

"Seventeen polio affected patients were found in Bangladesh until yesterday. Our country is not safe, as India and Pakistan are not polio-free countries. Polio is endemic in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, so it can easily enter our country," he said with a note of caution.



PHOTO: STAR

Asiatic Society President Prof Emajuddin Ahmed presents a citation to Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus at a reception at the Society office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

FIRE AT CU PRINTING PRESS

Valuables worth Tk 41 lakh gutted

CU CORRESPONDENT

Valuable printing machineries, computers and furniture worth over Tk 41 lakh were reduced to ashes in a devastating fire at the printing press of Chittagong University (CU) on the campus early yesterday.

Academic and administrative activities of the university would be greatly hampered following the fire as only one printing machine out of old four is active, sources said.

All kinds of printing of forms, mark sheets, tabulation sheets, record sheets and other official documents were depended on it.

Sources said the fire broke out at around 12:15am at the semi-pucca press located at the north campus and spread fast engulfing the whole press.

The fire gutted a press machine, an offset machine, a process machine, three computers, furniture, important documents, and other printing equipments and materials.

Four fire fighting units from different fire stations rushed to the spot and doused the fire after a five-hour effort. Fire fighters claimed that the fire was originated from mosquito coil and damages were estimated at Tk 41 lakh.

However, the university authorities said that the loss is more than what fire service personnel estimated.

Two university probe committees were formed to investigate into the origination and damages in the fire headed by Professor Dr ANM Abdul Muktadir of finance and banking department and Associate Professor Mohammed Zakir Hossain, dean of the Law faculty.

9 DMP stations begin to provide legal service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday launched round-the-clock service to provide legal service for the people.

The service was initially launched at nine police stations in the capital -- Ramna, Dhanmondi, Kotwali, Sutrapur, Paltan, Mohammadpur, Mirpur, Gulshan and Uttara.

The remaining 24 police stations would be brought under the programme within the shortest possible time, DMP Commissioner Nayeem Ahmed said while launching the service at the DMP Headquarters.

From now on, special service delivery officers at the nine police stations will provide suggestions to the people seeking the service.

If necessary, a service delivery officer will contact the officer-in-charge or senior officers in order to ensure that the people receive the service they are seeking, said the DMP commissioner.

"Our objective is to provide necessary service to the city dwellers in quickest possible time and turn the police stations into a professional service-oriented institution," he said.

Other objectives of the service include ensuring individual accountability of all officers, maintaining departmental discipline strictly and continuing effective monitoring.

The DMP will appoint 33 monitoring officers with the status of deputy commissioner, assistant deputy commissioner and assistant commissioner for 33 police stations to strengthen service delivery management.