

ESSENTIAL DRUGS

Patients pay higher as list not updated

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Absence of an updated list of essential drugs is taking toll on the patients as they are forced to buy drugs at higher prices while hundreds of unnecessary drugs have flooded the market, experts said.

"If the government publishes a list of essential drugs, then it would be obliged to provide those drugs to the health facilities. The price of those drugs then would have to be made affordable for the patients and manufacturers would be bound to strictly control quality of those drugs," Prof of Pharmacy and former vice chancellor of Dhaka University AK Azad Chowdhury said.

There should be a list of essential drugs according to the people's disease pattern in a country as it helps to make a plan of drug manufacturing against the demand in the country, which leads to the control of the price of drugs, said Prof ABM Farook, Department of Pharmacy of Dhaka University.

If there were a list of essential drugs, the manufacturing companies would not be able to fix the prices according to their sweet will and people would be able to buy drugs at reasonable prices as the government would have full control over those drugs, he added.

There must be a list of essential

drugs comprising around 300 to 400 drugs, Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, Projects Coordinator of Gonoshwasthya Kendra, said

"We do not need flooding of the market with some 14,000 drugs of which around 8,000 are deceptive," he said, adding that a huge amount of money is fraudulently taken from the people who have very little knowledge of the economy of drug production.

According to the experts, the manufacturing companies influence the government authorities concerned not to prepare and update an essential drug list regularly. Because, once the essential

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Ex-MP Faruk sent to jail

UNB, Noakhali

Former BNP lawmaker Joynal Abedin Faruk, picked up by plainclothes police from Nikunja area in the capital on Friday, was sent to jail here yesterday.

Faruk was brought to the district headquarters at midnight on Friday and produced in the Court of First Class Magistrate M Golamur Rahman at 9:30am yesterday.

After rejecting the bail prayer, the court sent him to jail.

Police said the former lawmaker is a charge-sheeted accused in two cases with Senbagh Police Station--one filed in February this year in connection with misappropriation of 96 corrugated iron (CI) sheets meant for relief and another filed on December 22, 2006 for creating disorder in normal life by putting up barricade on road in front of the police station

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PHOTO: STAR

Sachin Tendulkar raises his bat after scoring his 37th test century at Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on the second day of the second Test match against Bangladesh yesterday.

Desa security man shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A security supervisor of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa) was shot dead by a gang of armed criminals yesterday night at Nilkhet in the capital.

The dead Mohammad Shahjalal Uddin, 35, a security supervisor of Desa at Kotowali, was also a caretaker of Nilkhet Mariam Jame Mashjid.

Sources said criminals on two motorbikes sprayed bullets on Shahjalal at around 7:30pm in front of Nilkhet residential quarters while he was returning to his residence on Hoseni Dalan Road in Lalbagh.

Locals rushed Shahjalal to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Hospital sources said they found four bullets in the victim's head, shoulder and chest.

Family sources said Shahjalal received people over allotments of 22 shops set up outside the Jam-e-Masjid area.

None arrested so far for killing army officer's son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law enforcers are yet to arrest anyone in Arefin Alam Rusho murder case until yesterday, more than two days into the killing.

Most of the nine picked up on Thursday on suspicion of having link with the killing were released yesterday as police did not find their involvement in the incident.

Security measures have been beefed up in Dhanmondi areas

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KILLING OF EXPATRIATE HOUSEWIFE

Murder he wrote for Kiwi insurance money

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Out of an insatiable greed for life insurance money of several million US dollars, Abdul Gafur, an expatriate businessman in New Zealand, instructed his brother to have Gafur's wife Afroza Akhter Polly, 26, killed.

Police recovered Polly's body dumped inside an abandoned barrel on a road in Jatrabari Tuesday night. She came to Bangladesh about a month ago and had been living with her husband in New Zealand for several years.

The brutal homicide story surfaced after law enforcers arrested Gafur's younger brother Belal on Wednesday. He, during interrogation, confessed to having hired hit man Sarwar for Tk 1 lakh, police sources said.

Belal confessed that his elder brother Gafur, who is a construction businessman, instructed him to have Polly killed so that he would be able to draw Polly's life insurance money. Belal also mentioned that Polly had a life insurance of several million US dollars in New



Afroza Akhter Polly

Zealand, sources said.

The sources quoting the statement of Belal said the relationship between the expatriate couple had not been well over the last few years as Polly allegedly had affairs in New Zealand.

Following the confessional statement of Belal, police arrested Sarwar from his hometown in Sirajganj Thursday night. He also confessed to his involvement in the killing, the sources claimed.

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OVERSEAS HOTEL JOB ASSURANCE

46 Garos swindled by 'Singaporean woman'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Singaporean woman allegedly swindled nearly half a crore taka from 46 Garo Christians tempting them with lucrative jobs in hotels and restaurants in Singapore.

The 46 indigenous people, who gave the woman Tk 1.10 lakh to 1.50 lakh each, selling or leasing their land properties or borrowing at high interest rates, are now leading an inhuman life with no jobs to earn.

They cannot even return to their own houses as they do not have any means to repay their loans, said a group of the cheated Garos at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday.

They said the Singaporean woman named Dolly Devi used to regularly go to the Nangrima Christian Church at Kalachandpur at Baridhara in the capital in early 2004 and developed a relationship with the local Garo Christians.

"Once at a weekly prayer, Dolly Devi, who claimed to be a Christian, became emotional

about the teachings of love and peace in Christianity," said Bijoy Richil in his written speech.

She expressed her wish to arrange employment at Singaporean hotels and restaurants for the floating Garos in Dhaka so that they can improve their fate.

Many Garo men then started collecting money by selling or leasing land properties or borrowing from local moneylenders.

The Garo people soon gave Dolly Tk 46 lakh in total, along with their passports. Dolly had told them that the opportunities for employment and deadline for paying the money is limited, Bijoy said at the press conference.

As the deadline approached, Dolly informed that the visas of all 46 applicants had arrived. Upon such information, most of the Garo aspirants resigned from their jobs, did some shopping for their "sure" travel to Singapore, and bid farewell to relatives, Bijoy said.

"But she changed the dates many times and we could not go to

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EXTORTION, TERRORISM

Charges pressed against ex-MP Nadim, 17 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police pressed charges against former BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa and 17 others in a case filed for extortion and conducting terrorist activities in Durgapur upazila.

Sub-inspector Golam Mohammad of Durgapur Police Station submitted the charge sheet to a first class magistrate court on May 18.

The other accused are Durgapur Municipal Chairman and local BNP Secretary Saidur Rahman Mantu, BNP adherents Mominur Rahman, Enamul Haq, Shahin, Tuhin, Shamsul, Gaffar, Mantu, Abu Bakkar, Ansar.

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Prayer Timing		
May 27		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-43	6-47
Esha	8-05	8-35
Source: Islamic Foundation		



PHOTO: STAR

The six-storey building at Dayaganj Sweepers' Colony in the capital, part of which subsided on Friday night. Dhaka City Corporation workers yesterday started demolishing the building.

SUBSIDENCE

DCC starts demolishing faulty building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday started demolishing the northern part of the newly-constructed six-storey building at Dayaganj Sweepers' Colony in Sutrapur that subsided Friday night.

A team of 10 to 12 construction labours started the risky demolition work around 12:30pm using only elementary tools.

Meanwhile, the DCC temporarily suspended three of its engineers following the incident. The suspended engineers are Mezbahul Karim, executive engineer, Mojibur Rahman, assistant engineer, and Nirmal Chandra Dey, deputy assistant engineer, a DCC press release says.

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka told newsmen about the suspension orders during his visit to the spot from 11:30am to 2:30pm yesterday. He also expressed concern over the failure of DCC, including the engineers, in preventing such incident.

The mayor also ordered the concerned construction firm Atik

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US troops raid Sadr stronghold

5 rebels, 3 GIs killed

AFP, Baghdad

US-led forces seized a suspected militant with ties to Iran and killed five others in an early morning raid in the east Baghdad Shia stronghold of Sadr City yesterday, the US military said.

However, an Iraqi defence ministry official said an air strike

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Blast kills 8 in Assam market

AP, Guwahati

A bomb exploded in a busy market in India's restive northeast yesterday, killing eight people and injuring 19, and authorities said they discovered and defused a large bomb hidden on a crowded passenger train headed for the area.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but police were

investigating whether the United Liberation Front of Asom, a separatist rebel group, was involved. The Ulfa, which has been fighting since 1979 for an independent homeland in Assam, has set off more than 20 bombs in two months, police said.

In the market blast, the explosives were packed in a

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