

FIRST NAT'L HEALTH RIGHTS CONVENTION BEGINS

Poorer section deprived of health rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though right to healthcare is fundamental to human rights, medical service in the country is so divided and captured by a group of people that the poor are often deprived of proper treatment, former adviser to the caretaker government (CG) Advocate Sultana Kamal said at the first National Health Rights Convention in the city yesterday.

"We are living in such a discriminatory society that there is almost no provision of getting free medical

service for the poorer section," she said, adding that lack of seriousness on the part of the government is responsible for the situation.

Sultana said the poorer section of the country is much more deprived of their health rights and that raising awareness can play an important role in protecting the rights.

The convention was organised by Health Research and Rights Foundation and Population Services and Training Centre (PSTC) along with 52 other organi-

sations working to protect people's health rights with the slogan 'Health is not an opportunity, it is people's rights and should be made available to all on the basis of equity.'

Supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation, the two-day convention began at Biam auditorium.

Chairman of the organising council Prof Rashid-e-Mahbub said a seven percent allocation of the total budget is quite negligible for health sector.

"The per capita health expenditure is only \$4 in the country though

we need at least \$12," he said, adding that in Bangladesh health issue is yet to be established as a right and here people cannot ask for any justice or compensation for wrong treatment.

Farzana Naim of Manusher Jonno Foundation said, "If we analyse the mentality of health service providers, quality of service and condition of service recipients, we would find that we are talking about health rights only from welfare approach."

Presided over by Prof Nazmun Nahar, the inaugural session was also addressed by former vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Mahmud Hasan, Milon Bikash Pal of PSTC and Dr Nitai Kanti Das.

At the plenary session, Prof ABM Faroque of pharmacy department at Dhaka University, Advocate Rezwan Hasan, Abul Kalam Azad of Sramajibi O Dusho Sangstha, Abdus Shakur of Governance Coalition, Dr Salima Rahman of DRRS Bangladesh and Aminur Rahman of Gono Unnayan Sangstha spoke on health policy, legal aspects, health, education, mismanagement and suffering in public hospitals and different initiatives to protect the people's health rights.

Finance Adviser AB Mirza Azizul Islam, second from right, speaks at a dialogue on the state of Bangladesh economy and budget responses at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday. On his left is Chairman of National Board of Revenue Badir Rahman and on his right are former finance minister M Syeduzzaman, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Saleh Uddin Ahmed and CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya. Centre for Policy Dialogue organised the event. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO STAR

No disaggregated data on gender in budget

Gender experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no disaggregated data on gender in this year's budget, though the planning and finance adviser claimed it to be gender sensitive, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

"The planning and finance minister claimed that due attention has been given to formulate a gender sensitive budget, but he has not clearly mentioned how many women will be enrolled or empowered and what percentage of maternal mortality rate will be reduced in this fiscal year," Dr Atiur Rahman said.

Dr Rahman also said South Africa is currently presenting gender sensitive budget, while India has added the 'Gender Statement', but, in Bangladesh the budget does not

even provide separate data on the basis of gender.

The seminar styled "Efficiency in Spending the Allocation for the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA)" was held at the National Press Club in the city.

Bangladesh Nari Progiti Sangha (BNPS) and Institute for Environment and Development (IED) jointly organised the seminar where researcher Dr Protima Paul Mojumdar presented her research findings. Rokeya Kabir presided over the programme.

Dr Paul showed why the allocation remains unused in the MOWCA and observed that women empowerment is not only dependent on budgetary allocation, but also on the merit of spending.

According to Dr Paul, dependency on foreign aid, want of skilled

human resources and leadership, and the dissimilarities between objectives of national policy and the objectives of projects adopted in MOWCA are among the causes that hinder a wise spending of budget allocation.

She laid emphasis on thinking of projects like women entrepreneur development project or urban area based women development project.

Dr Mahmuda Islam, president of Women for Women, said the concerned officials should have been trained first so that they can properly use the allocation.

Former secretary and economist Dr Moshirul Islam, economist SA Samad, Prof Jahanara Haque, Prof Momtaj Latif, Dr Hannan Begum, Selina Khaleque, Tapati Saha and Dr Anwara Begum spoke on the occasion.

Rajshahi BNP leader Altaf arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police arrested Rajshahi BNP Vice President Altaf Hossain, a close associate of detained Mayor Mizanur Rahman Miru, from Shahab Bazar Zero Point in the city yesterday.

Altaf was arrested by Boalia police at around 1:00pm under section 16 (2) of the emergency ordinance.

Police said Altaf was the 22nd among the listed criminals of the city, an accused in 3 cases and 4 general diaries lodged with Boalia Police Station, including shooting present District BNP President Azizur Rahman during a meeting in 2005.

A prayer seeking one-month detention against him was sent to concerned authorities, said the police.

Sources said Altaf raked in huge wealth since he was close to Miru over the last 10 years, despite the fact that he was only a vegetable seller at Shahab Bazar.

He amassed a huge amount of money after he was made a member of Rajshahi Development Authority's governing body.

Joint forces recently demolished a two-storyed market owned by Altaf inside Rajshahi Medical College Hospital compound. He erected the market at a lower rate.

Altaf also constructed two luxurious buildings in Dargahpara and Terokhadi areas encroaching portions of government roads.

He was still earning a handsome amount from the fifth floor of Sona Dighi market, also leased illegally at a lower rate.

Concern aid for mudslide victims

UNB, Dhaka

Concern Worldwide, an international humanitarian NGO, will provide relief amounting to Tk 28 lakh for the people affected by the mudslide and waterlogging in Chittagong.

The relief includes one week rations (15 kg rice, 2kg pulse, 1kg salt, 1 litre vegetable oil and 5 packets ORS) which will benefit over 4000 poor families living in slum areas and adversely affected by the waterlogging, said a press release.

The work will be implemented through a local partner NGO, NISHKRITI, in eight wards of West Motherbari, Pathantuli, West Bakulia, Bakshirhat, Lal Khan Bazar, North Pahartali, North Halishar and Askarabad.

This assistance is one of the emergency efforts from Concern Worldwide which has been working in Bangladesh since independence.

Nine more fake students found at DU IR deptt

DU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University committee on admission forgery detected nine more cases at the Department of International Relations.

"The committee found nine cases of admission forgery at the international relations department after checking the papers of the students of 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 sessions," Assistant Professor Muhammad Azher Zafar Shah, also convener of the department committee on admission forgery, said yesterday.

Proctor Siddiqua Rahman Khan, also member on the university committee, said, "The department committee sent a letter to the university committee, confirming detection of nine such cases. The cases will be placed at the next meeting of the central committee on June 19."

The department committee earlier detected 80 cases of admission forgery at the department.

The syndicate at a meeting on June 5 directed the authorities to cancel the admission of 77 students who took admission through fraudulence.

Fourty-four of the students were from the public administration department, nine from international relations, 22 from economics and two from the political science department, and two from the Institute of Social Welfare.

The authorities at the meeting also decided to serve show-cause notices to 84 others detected as fake students, mostly from international relations department and the social welfare institute.

The university committee formed on October 10, 2006, headed by Pro-Vice-Chancellor AFM Yusuf Haider, found 170 cases of admission forgery, including the latest nine detected at the international relations department.

Obituary

Bss, Dhaka

Abu Sayed Chowdhury, former additional secretary and vice-chairman of Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), passed away due to a massive cardiac arrest in the city on Wednesday night at the age of 72.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives, friends and admirers to mourn his death.

The namaz-e-janaza of Sayed Chowdhury was held at Gulshan mosque after Asr prayers yesterday.

The body of Abu Sayed Chowdhury will be kept at the Bir Dem mortuary to let his eldest son pay the last tributes to his father, who will come from the US.

He will be buried at the Azimpur Graveyard tomorrow.

His qulkhani will be held at his residence at Concord Casamaria at House No. 3, Road No. 104, Gulshan-2 (adjacent to Sikder Hospital) after Maghrib prayers on Monday.

Golam Nabi

UNB, Dhaka

Golam Nabi, assistant secretary of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat, passed away at his residence in the city yesterday at the age of 57.

Nabi, who was also the general secretary of Officers-Employees Welfare Association, had been suffering from diabetes and cardiac problem since long.

Speaker Muhammad Jamil Uddin Sircar and Deputy Speaker Akther Hamid Siddique expressed deep shock at the death of Golam Nabi.

Dr Quazi Anwara Monsur



Dr Quazi Anwara Monsur, founder of Agrani Girls' School and College, passed away at her Dhamondi residence in the city yesterday at the age of 83, says a press release.

A leading educationist and campaigner for women's rights, Dr Anwara Monsur received Rokeya Padak in 1999.

She was also a director of Drik Picture Library. Her husband Dr Kazi Abul Monsur was the founder of the Public Health Institute.

She is survived by her daughter Dr Quazi Najma Karim, son photographer Dr Shahidul Alam and three granddaughters.

Her Qulkhani will be held at her residence, House # 58, Road # 15A (New), Dhamondi, after Asr prayers on June 17.

Cheholum

Cheholum of Md Abdus Sobhan Chairman, former president of BNP Debidwar unit in Comilla, will be held today, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 103/1, Dakkhin Muddapara in Dhanmondi, after Juma prayers today and at his village home at Gunaighar in Debidwar on Sunday.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the milad.



Participants at the First National Health Rights Convention that began at Biam auditorium in the city yesterday. From left are Dr Nitai Kanti Das, Prof Mahmud Hasan, Prof Rashid-e-Mahbub, Prof Nazmun Nahar and Farzana Naim.

Take steps to stop hill cutting, renovate Chaktai canal

Matin asks authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Communications Adviser Major General (retd) MA Matin yesterday directed the authorities concerned to stop all sorts of hill cutting, and take measures to renovate the Chaktai canal to avert landslides and waterlogging in the port city.

"From now on all sorts of hill cutting will remain stopped," declared the adviser saying that the order will remain in force until a new environmental law is introduced.

He asked the local administration and all other authorities concerned to take care that no hill is levelled for the petty interest of anybody.

The adviser said all the cases filed in connection with hill cutting would be reviewed.

He also expressed his surprise

seeing the destruction of environment by the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC).

He was shocked to see that CCC, a government organisation responsible for planned urbanisation, was leveling hills by itself for implementing a housing project disregarding all urban provisions and turning the city into a mess.

"If I were not here, I could never know how CCC is devouring hills spreading over such a huge area to implement a housing project," said the adviser while visiting the project site at Kaibalyadham under Pahartali Police Station in the afternoon.

The adviser directed for stopping implementation of the project 'Lake City Housing Project' that CCC was developing by cutting hills spreading over 30 acres of land.

He also ordered for reviving and speeding up proceedings of the cases filed against CCC for plundering environment.

Earlier in the morning, the adviser visited the Chaktai Khal, the backbone of the sewerage system of the city, and saw the dilapidated condition of the canal that triggered unprecedented waterlogging and consequent inundation of the city on June 11.

Matin said he would discuss the issue with the chief adviser to take up a project to renovate Chaktai Khal and save Chittagong from waterlogging and inundation.

He said drives would start soon to demolish illegal structures and evict encroachers from both sides of the canal.

The declaration of the newspapers were cancelled under sections 9 (3) (a), 9 (3) (b) and 10 for the press and publication Act 1973, according to an official source.

When contacted, Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Abdul Mannan told BSS that the actions were taken against various irregularities of the newspapers.

Declaration of 9 Chuadanga newspapers cancelled

Bss, Chuadanga

The declaration of nine local newspapers in Chuadanga was cancelled by the deputy commissioner yesterday under the relevant provisions of the press and publication Act 1973.

Of the local newspapers, six are dailies and three are weeklies.

The newspapers are daily Protidin Khas Khabar, daily Chuadanga Barta, daily Onno Alo, daily Bhorer Khabar, daily Akash Khabar, daily Prothom Rajdhani, weekly Chuadanga Samachar, weekly Chuadanga Zila Khabar and weekly Amader Khojkhobar.

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Chairman of Gulf Oil Bangladesh V Ramesh Rao and CEO TM Mazumdar will attend the conference along with selected distributors from across the country.

Gulf Oil is a multinational company operating in more than 150 countries and it is one of the oldest oil companies in the world.

Following a report published in The Daily Star on last Saturday, Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) along with Pallabi Police Station managed to bring the two sisters out of their self-imposed confinement and admitted to the department of Psychiatry of BSMMU.

Second Officer of Pallabi Police Station Mejbah Uddin said a team led by Elina Khan of Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) yesterday informed the police that Rita and Mita need treatment again and went to the residence of the two sisters in Mirpur area at around 4:30pm.

"At first, the two sisters got frightened seeing the policemen. Later, Elina Khan convinced them to come out and go to the hospital for treatment although they themselves thought they were quite all right," said Mejbah Uddin.

Rita and Mita had been suffering from a serious mental illness called schizophrenia, which might cause from mental breakdown, suspicion.

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The sun sets in the capital at 6:47pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in celsius	Humidity percentage
	Max	Min
<th