

Call to formulate Health Rights Protection Act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The First National Conference on Health Rights ended yesterday with a call for formulating a 'Health Rights Protection and Implementation Act' against the backdrop of present deprivation of health service consumers.

The two-day conference in a declaration known as 'Dhaka Declaration' also called for raising the budget allocation for health sector from present 6.60 percent to 25 percent.

The declaration demanded a modern health service management system removing irregularities and eradicating corruption through medical audit and accountability.

It also called for ensuring medical ethics among the service providers and medical centres so that all

citizens especially the poor and middle class people would have easy access to health services.

At the same time, upazila and district level hospitals should be equipped and provided with more facilities, beds, medicines and manpower, said the declaration.

It also called for a drug policy containing state commitment to provide safe, quality and essential drugs within the people's purchasing capacity.

Speaking as chief guest at the concluding session, Prof Muzaffer Ahmed, chairman of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), said health rights is not the right to get health service only, it is the total rights of people for sound health.

"Health service management should be developed to ensure quality health service," he said.

adding a medical geography is needed as the disease pattern varies in different areas of the country.

Prof Muzaffer said health includes food free from adulteration, food habit and disease prevention mechanisms along with proper health service and awareness among people.

Highlighting the present discriminatory situation in health sector and shabby condition of upazila hospitals and union level medical centres, the speakers said it should be improved to ensure health rights of people.

Besides, medical jurisprudence or forensic medicine is very important to go for legal battles against the violators of 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' at Biam auditorium in the city.

Presided over by Prof Rashid-E-Mahbub, former president of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), the concluding session was also addressed by Dr Nitai Kanti Das and Executive Director of PSTC Milon Bikash Pal.

Mahmud Hasan read out the declaration paper.

The two-day conference was organised by Health Research and Rights Foundation and Population Services and Training Centre (PSTC) along with 52 other organisations 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' at Biam auditorium in the city.

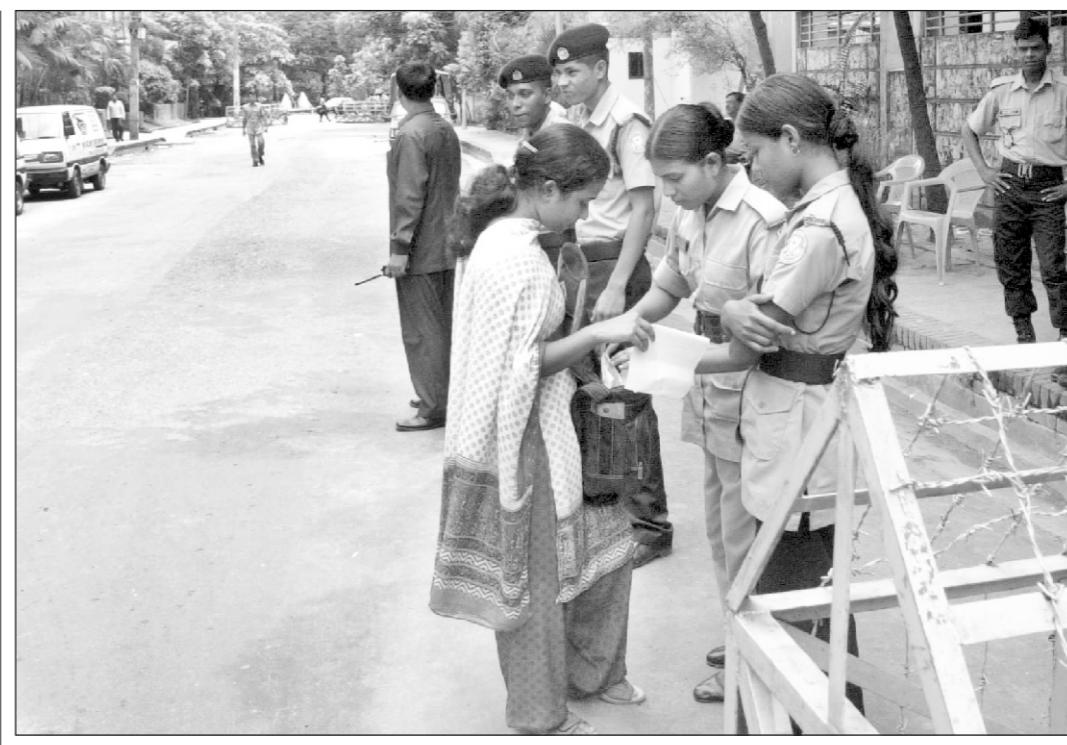


PHOTO: STAR
Law enforcers search the bags of a girl at Dhanmondi Road No 5 in the city yesterday as security has been beefed up in the areas adjacent to Sudha Sadan.

DU prepares Tk 144.85cr budget for 2007-08

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University has prepared a Tk 144.85 crore budget for financial year 2007-08.

The budget envisages a deficit of Tk 2.4 crore.

The major portion of the budget will come from government allocation.

Besides, an amount of Tk 15 crore will be mobilised from internal resources which is Tk 3 crore higher than that of previous year.

There is an added allocation in the proposed budget for salary, pension and some other general heads.

Around Tk 95 crore has been proposed for teachers' salary and other allowances while Tk 21.65 crore for pension.

Tk 13.7 crore has been earmarked for education.

Treasurer Syed Abul Kalam Azad will place the budget at the senate session on June 26.

In the last financial year, a Tk 126 core budget was announced, but the revised budget reached at Tk 133.70 core.

The government provided Tk 119.20 core although it was supposed to provide Tk 114 core.

A Tk 14.50 core was collected from internal resources although the original target was Tk 12 core.

Cinema burns down in Sherpur

UNB, Sherpur

A cinema burned down in a devastating fire in Kakoli market area of the district town yesterday morning.

Witnesses said an electrical short-circuit sparked off the fire at Padma Cinema at about 7:00am, destroying machine room, films, furniture and other instruments.

However, no-one was injured in the incident.

Receiving information, fire fighters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after two hours of struggle with the help of local people.

Cinema hall authorities estimated the loss at Tk 25 lakh.

Police Super Krishnapada Roy visited the spot and additional police forces have been deployed there.

Domestic help commits suicide

UNB, Dhaka

A domestic help allegedly committed suicide at a house in the city's Mirpur area early yesterday.

Nilufa Akhter, 18, who worked at the house of businessman Hafizur Rahman at South Bisi in Mirpur-1, committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of a room sometime between 12:00 midnight and 3:00am, police said.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue in the morning.

Body formed to survey sanitation coverage

BSS, Dhaka

National Sanitation Task Force constituted an independent monitoring and evaluation committee to survey the national sanitation coverage and report back within three months.

The task force at its last meeting chaired by Secretary of the Local Government Division Safar Raj Hossain formed the committee headed by Professor Dr Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) to review the real field level progress of the national sanitation coverage.

The committee is formed with representations from the World Bank, UNICEF, DFID, DANIDA and civil society bodies, NGOs and the media, officials told BSS here on Thursday.

The national target of achieving 100 percent sanitation coverage by the year 2010 was declared in 2003 when a UNICEF baseline survey found a very low coverage of sanitation with only 33 percent while 45 percent were open or hanging latrines.

UNICEF officials informed the task force meeting held on June 6 that a BBS-UNICEF joint sample had found Bangladesh was able to cut down the number of open or hanging latrines to only 7 percent of total sanitation coverage throughout the country.

The Task Force members described it as a success of the people of Bangladesh and suggested formation of an independent committee to rigorously monitor and evaluate the progress in the sanitation sector.

Outgoing Vietnamese Ambassador Ngo Van Hoa pays a farewell call on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday. During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

Two sisters among six killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Six people were killed in separate road accidents across the country yesterday.

Our correspondent from Mymensingh reports: At least two minor girls of a family were killed and another four, including parents of the victims, were injured in a road accident at Ragharama on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway under Trishal upazila in the early hours of yesterday.

The victims were identified as Smriti, 9, and Sathi, 7, daughters of Raihan and Nilima.

According to police, the accident took place when a microbus bound for Mymensingh from Dhaka hit a truck standing beside the high way as the driver of the microbus lost control over the steering, killing the two sisters on the spot and injuring four others.

The injured including parents of

the victims and the driver of the microbus were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) for treatment.

Police seized the microbus but the truck fled the scene. A case was lodged with Trishal Police Station in this regard.

UNB from Dhaka adds: Four people were killed and 52 others injured in road accidents in Naogaon and Narsingdi districts yesterday.

In Naogaon, two people were killed and 12 injured in separate road accidents in Porsha and Mohadevpur upazilas in the morning.

In the first accident, a Porsha-bound human hauler hit a roadside tree at about 11:00am as its driver Babu Mia, 40, lost control over the steering, killing him on the spot and injuring two passengers.

The identities of the deceased could not be known immediately.

The injured were admitted to local hospitals and clinics.

Police seized the bus, but its driver and helper managed to flee.

In Narsingdi, two people were killed and 40 others injured in a road accident at Ghasitia in Shibpur upazila.

Police said the accident occurred at about 12:30pm when a Sylhet-bound bus from Dhaka ploughed through a rickshaw and then fell into a roadside ditch, leaving the rickshawpulver and its passenger dead on the spot and 40 bus passengers injured.

In the second accident, a Porsha-bound human hauler hit a roadside tree at about 11:00am as its driver Babu Mia, 40, lost control over the steering, killing him on the spot and injuring two passengers.

Yet in another accident, a bus rammed a tempo at Bagachara in

Lightning kills mother, daughter in Jamalpur

UNB, Jamalpur

A woman and her daughter were killed and a man was injured when lightning struck them at Sarishabari yesterday.

Sources said lightning struck Maleka, 40, and her daughter Hanifa, 15, when they were cooking in their kitchen at village Chand Simla at about 6:00pm.

Meanwhile, Chand Mia sustained injuries in lightning strike at village Satpoa at the same time.

The result will be sent to all district primary education offices soon for proper display on the notice boards.

Besides, the result will be available at the website (www.dpe.gov.bd), said the press release signed by acting director general Ratan Kumar Roy.

Husband held on charges of killing wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife was tortured and strangled allegedly by her husband and two other in-laws at Banani in the city on Thursday night.

Gulshan police arrested Zulfiqer Ahmed, husband of the victim, Marzan Begum, late on Thursday night after her brother Noor Mohammad filed a murder case accusing Zulfiqer, his brother Faruquddin and his wife Munni Begum of killing his sister Marzan.

Police said the two other accused are absconding.

Police quoting the case statement said Zulfiqer and other members of the family used to torture Marzan over silly matters. Earlier, the victim's brother filed a general diary on Thursday when Marzan was undergoing treatment at a city hospital following torture.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Sub-Inspector Rezaul Karim said Zulfiqer denied killing his wife and claimed that Marzan committed suicide.

Police produced Zulfiqer before a Dhaka court and prayed for a seven-day remand but the court granted three days of remand.

Death anniversary

Today is the 29th death anniversary of Khawaja Ahsanullah, the youngest son of Nawab Sir Salimullah, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his family graveyard at Begum Bazar in the city at 10:00am.

Mahmudul Haque Chowdhury

Today is the ninth death anniversary of Mahmudul Haque Chowdhury, former senior sub-editor of The Bangladesh Observer, says a press release.

He also actively took part in the liberation war.

On the occasion of his death anniversary, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his village home at Matiagodha in

the city at 10:00am.

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