3000 children born with thalassaemia a year

Voluntary blood donation not up to mark

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Patients suffering from thalassaemia, haemophilia, anaemia or leukaemia, who need regular blood Sandhani. supply from outside, are facing tremendous problems in getting it as the rate of voluntary blood donation is not up to the mark.

According to the reports supplied by the Department of Paediatric Haematology and Oncology of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), every year some 2000 to 3000 children are born with thalassaemia that needs regular supply of blood from outside sources.

"If a patient needs two bags of blood every month, then 1.20 lakh bags of blood will be needed for all thalassaemia patients in the country. It means 2000 bags of blood are required in every district hospitals in every month," said the experts.

But the fact is that the district hospitals outside Dhaka can collect very few units of blood voluntarily as the campaign is insignificant and people are less motivated to donate blood voluntarily.

Rahman Medical College and

Hospital in Bogra said their demand for blood every month is 1200 bags, and it is managed either from replacement donors or from

Sandhani, the medical collegebased organisation, is covering nine districts through its 18 units, and can supply only 40000 to 45000 units of blood a year, said organisation President Rashed Alam.

According to World Health Organisation, Bangladesh needs every year 2.5 lakh units of blood and blood components. Though it is supposed to be collected from voluntary blood donors, still 10.53 percent of it is collected from professional blood donors.

A screening report of Safe Blood said Dr Shahana. Transfusion Programme shows that only 29.13 percent blood comes from voluntary blood donors while 60.34 percent is collected from replacement

quantity of blood is still collected in our country from professional blood sellers," said Dr Syeda Masooma Rahman of Safe Blood Transfusion Programme of Dhaka Experts at Shaheed Ziaur Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

"If people are not motivated to donate blood, it tends to encourage the professional blood donors who sometimes even give blood twice a month that contain insignificant haemoglobin and increases the risk of spreading HIV/AIDS virus, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis," said Dr Shahana Zafor, officer-in-charge of Dhaka Blood

> With its five branches in Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong, Jessore and Dinajpur, the society collected and distributed 45000 units of blood in 2007 which is very insignificant compared to total requirement of blood in the country every year,

Centre at Bangladesh Red Crescent

people are coming to Dhaka Branch of Red Crescent Society to seek blood for emergency need of the patients. But we can supply blood to only 15 people which "It is unfortunate that a huge means we cannot meet the requisition of 40 percent people," she

> Supply of blood from outside is also needed for operative cases and people injured in road accidents. But as more people are not coming forward to donate blood

voluntarily, a person who needs emergency blood supply has to face serious problem in getting safe

So people will have to come forward to donate blood voluntarily, and a healthy person can donate blood in every four months. According to experts, donating blood in one hand saves lives of many and on the other hand it is good for the donor as by donating blood, the bone marrow gets stimulus to produce new blood cell.

"It is good to hear that the number of professional blood sellers has been reduced from 70 percent to 20 percent as motivation for voluntary blood donation has been strengthened. But the paid blood "Everyday on an average 25 donors or blood sellers are still continuing to supply blood in the country, especially outside Dhaka, said Dr Moniruzzaman.

Dr Moniruzzaman, also coordi nator of Research and Motivation of Voluntary Blood Donation Programme at Quantum Foundation, said a bag of blood can give direct support to four patients.

"However, the number of voluntary blood donors is not increasing as was expected due to lack of proper motivation," he added.





President lajuddin Ahmed takes salute (right) while members of the Armed Forces march (left) during the Independence Day Parade on the National Parade Ground in the city yesterday.

Informatics Olympiad begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Informatics Olympiad 2008 will begin at five divisional headquarters -- Dhaka, Chittagong Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet -- simultaneously tomorrow, says a press release.

Bangladesh Informatics Olympiad Committee (BIOC) and Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) are jointly organising the Informatics Olympiad 2008, the qualifying contest for the International Olympiad in Informatics from Bangladesh.

The Daily Star is the media partner of the event sponsored by Nestle Bangladesh Ltd.

The contest consists of two-day computer programming -- solving problems of an algorithmic nature. Those who are under 20 years and not students of university at the time of qualification are eligible for the contest.

The contestants have to show basic skills in problem analysis, design of the algorithm needed, data structure, as well as programming and testing of their solutions.

Qualified students from divisional contests will participate in the national contest to be held at Notre Dame College in Dhaka on April 11.

No more than top four programmers from the winners of the national contest will be selected after a rigorous training session for the International Olympiad in Informatics, scheduled to be held from August 16 to 22 in Alexandria, Egypt.

Winners of the International Olympiad are recognised as the best young computer scientists of the world. Eligible students of school and colleges can register with the organisers in divisional venues to participate in the contest.

The divisional venues are Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, Rajshahi University, Premier University in Chittagong Metropolitan University in Sylhet and Notre Dame College in Dhaka.

For further information, please visit the website http://teacher.buet.ac.bd/mhkabir/ bioc/ or contact Dr Md Humayun Kabir, member secretary, BIOC, and associate professor, computer science and engineering department, Buet. Email: mhkabir@gmail.com.

1000 kg Jatka

seized in city

Members of the Rapid Action

Battalion (Rab) seized 1000 kg of

Jatka fish from Karwan Bazar whole-

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-

5:30am and seized the fish. Later,

the fish were sold at Tk 52,500 at an

auction in presence of the district

fisheries officer, Dhaka, the deputy

commissioner and a magistrate.

The money will go to the govern-

However, none was arrested in

ment exchequer, said Rab sources.

this connection as the fish traders

concerned escaped sensing the

presence of the elite force.

sale market in the city on Tuesday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unite to bring changes to politics Says Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain on Tuesday called on all to unite to bring changes to political culture of the country so that honest and competent candidates can be elected in the elections.

Changes in politics are a must so that people can resist those candidates who want to win the elections using money and muscle power, he said at a seminar organised by Bangladesh Nagorik Samaj.

Awami League presidium member Suranjit Sengupta, JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu and Acting Office Secretary of BNP Ruhul Kabir Rizvi also took part in the seminar held at the National Press Club in the city, with Nagorik Samaj President Khabir Uddin Khan in the chair.

ABM Osman Gani presented the keynote paper at the seminar.

jurist, said those who were involved in criminalisation of politics have put the whole generation in the path of destruction.

The country needs a competent leadership, he said, adding that the previous leadership was responsible for corruption, terrorism, militancy, politicisation of every institutions and 'election nomination trade'.

AL leader Suranjit Sengupta called on the government to start dialogue with the political parties soon to resolve the present crises.

"The government should sit with the political parties immediately and mention clearly when the election will be held and when the emergency will be lifted," he said.

The government has brought miseries to the people and that Kamal Hossain, also an eminent only the dialogue and understanding can help resolve the crises, he

> BNP leader Rahul Kabir Rizvi said people would not accept any extra-constitutional measures as they want to see the continuity of democratic process in the country.

> JSD leader Hasanul Haque Inu said the caretaker government and the Election Commission have created confusion in the minds of the people, but it is clear that the countrymen will not accept any stage-managed election.

"Understanding is a must for holding a credible election," he said. He also suggested forming a

national government to overcome the current crises and to keep the corrupt people outside politics.

'Reduce cost of going abroad with jobs'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day workshop for labour attachés ended in the city on Tuesday with a call for more government attention to reduce the cost of going abroad with jobs, ensure workers' welfare and explore new job markets.

At the first ever such workshop organised by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment at a city hotel, labour attachés suggested modernising banking facilities to check hundi (unofficial channel to

Speaking at the concluding ceremony, IOM Regional Representative for South Asia

send money).

Rabab Fatima said the terms of reference of the labour attachés need to be reviewed in the changed context of labour migration.

The workshop also stressed on advocating promotional strategies with special emphasis on female workers and urged the government to establish a compliance system to give license to recruiting agencies.

Talking to The Daily Star, a labour attaché said Middle East needs huge workforce both skilled and semi-skilled, but bad practices by middlemen and recruiting agencies are seriously damaging the image of the country.

Foreign Secretary Touhid Hossain and Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Abdul Matin Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.

30 army, 3 navy personnel get honorary promotion BSS, Dhaka

Thirty army and three navy personnel have been awarded honorary promotion and commission on the occasion of the Independence and-National Day, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Defence.

The honorary lieutenants promoted to the rank of honorary captain of the army are: Mohammad Solaiman (Artillery), Md Harunur Rashid Fakir (Engineers), Zahurul Hogue Khondokar (East Bengal), Md Habibur Rahman (East Bengal), Md Liakat Ali Molla, (BIR), SM Moniruzzaman (BIR), Md Alauddin Sarkar (BIR), Md Sawkat Alam Morol (East Bengal), Md Maksuduzzaman Khan (East Bengalo, Ahmad Kabir (BIR), Md Ansar Ali (EME) and Md Abdul Baki (AEC).

The junior commissioned

officers of the Bangladesh Army who got commission in the rank of honorary lieutenant are: Master Warrant Officer Md Aftab Uddin (Artillery), Master Warrant Officer Kazi Golam Haider (Signals), Master Warrant Officer Md Khalilur Rahman (Signals), Master Warrant Officer Md Eskander Salim (Signals), Master Warrant Officer Md Monirul Islam (BIR), Master Warrant Officer Md Firoz Uddin (East Bengal), Master Warrant Officer Md Salim Uddin (BIR), Master Warrant Officer Khursed Alam (BIR), Master Warrant Officer Md Joynal Abedin (East Bengal), Master Warrant Officer Md Nazrul Islam (East Bengal), Master Warrant Officer Moha Nurul Hoque (ASC), Master Warrant Officer Sheikh Tofayel Ahmed (Ordnance), Master Warrant Officer Nasir Uddin (Ordnance), Master Warrant Officer Md Nazrul Islam (EME), Master Warrant Officer Md Lokman Hossain (EME), Master Warrant Officer Md Abdul Hai Gazi (CMP), Master Warrant Officer Shamsul Hoque (ACC) and Master Warrant Officer MdShahjahan (AEC). The Master Chief Petty Officers

(MCPO) of the Bangladesh Navy who have been granted honorary commission in the rank of Honorary Sub-Lieutenant are: AKM Kawsar Ahmad, MCPO (X) (QRP- 1), MA Munaf Gazi, MCPO (L) and MAltaf Hossain, MCPO (R).

Call to release Hasina

Fire breaks out in CMC dorm

A fire broke out in a room of a girl students' dormitory of Chittagong Medical College early Wednesday, damaging furniture and books of the inmates.

Hall authority said the fire origi-Nibas at about 12:45am.

On information, two units of fire fighters rushed in and put out the

None was injured in the fire

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court on Tuesday allowed the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to interrogate detained former home minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury at the jail gate in connection with a case filed mation and amassing wealth through illegal means.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani passed the order after ACC Assistant Director Moniruzzaman Khan, who is the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted a petition in this regard.

The case was filed on December 18 last year against Altaf with Ramna Police Station for concealing information or giving false information about moveable assets worth Tk 59 lakh and amassing wealth of Tk 2.56 crore beyond known sources of income.

daughter Jubaida Akter.

It also said Altaf in his wealth statement mentioned low prices of assets he purchased in his and his wife's names. The FIR said Altaf gave false

information about loans and did not mention anything about the five firearms worth Tk 2 lakh, which

tion about three savings accounts with the Standard Chartered Bank. Altaf submitted his wealth

statement to the ACC on July 25 year for his alleged involvement in

corruption.



Children take part in a drawing competition with the theme of renewable energy, organised by the Energy Research Centre of Dhaka University.

KITE COMPETITION Sky over DU turns colourful

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The bright blue sky over the Dhaka University (DU) campus yesterday wore a different look and colour as

occasion of the Independence Day.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

programmes.

Different political, social and cultural

organisations yesterday observed

the Independence Day in befitting

manner and amid various

and also stood silent for a minute.

liberation forces is yet to be done.

at the National Mausoleum.

(CPB) leaders paid tribute to memo-

ries of the martyrs by placing wreaths

Jahangirnagar University (JU)

also observed the day in befitting

Workers Party of Bangladesh

INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED

Bangladesh

at the central playground. participated in the Tibbet which was earlier inaugurated by Independence Day Kite Competition 2008 amid great fanfare chancellor of DU.

hundreds of kites were flying in

and enthusiasm. like flower, fish, bird and snake were Club runner up. Hawri Kite Club flying in the sky as a good number of secured the third position. eager spectators looked at them with

organisation of Old Dhaka, organ- giving ceremony. ised the competition marking the Independence Day.

the ideals and dreams of the mar- programmes.

Renowned artists of the country paint pictures on War of Liberation at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday. The event was organised on the

Kohinoor Chemical Company Ltd sponsored the event while Ekushey Television and Radio Furti the sky during a kite competition were the media partners.

Pledge to build prosperous

JU Vice Chancellor, deans of

different faculties, proctor, teachers,

students, officers and employees

placed wreaths at the National

day programme to observe the day.

Nazrul Institutelaunched a three-

They paid homage to the martyrs

Prof Rafiqul Islam, chairman of

tive director of the institute, spoke at

prosperous country and to translate

tyred freedom fighters.

Communist Party of Bangladesh the discussion held at the institute Bangladesh Gono-Azadi League,

Mausoleum.

(WPB) placed wreaths at the at the National Mausoleum and

In a statement, WPB leaders said the Nazrul Institute Trustee Board,

though 37 years have already passed Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam and

the trial of war criminals and anti Mohammad Abul Kashem, execu-

National Mausoleum in the morning organised a discussion yesterday.

About 200 competitors from 22 Different kite groups and youths teams took part in the competition Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, pro-vice-

Hazaribagh Kite Club became the Kites of different sizes and shapes champion while Jhigatola Jagorani

Commerce and Education Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman Dhakabasi, a socio-cultural was present as chief guest at the prize Furti, were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Zillur Rahman said kite competition is indeed an exceptional programme full of recreation and amusement.

Gulshan Joggers Society organ-

Members of the society, belong-

ing to various professions, spoke at

the discussion highlighting the

contribution of the war heroes to the

trial of the identified war criminals,

Bangladesh Chhatra Union,

Bangladesh Rehabilitation and

Assistance Centre for Addicts,

Bangladesh Jubo Moitree and Gazi

the day through different

They also demanded immediate

Left Democratic Front

ised a discussion at Gulshan Lake

Parkyesterday.

said a press release.

The discussants underscored the Bhaban Shopping Centre Dokan

need to work concertedly to build a Malik Kallyan Samity also observed

These kinds of traditional games | 2002. should be arranged more frequently to uphold the country's culture and heritage before the young generation, he added.

Inam Ahmed Chowdhury, chief adviser of Dhakabasi, Altaf Hossain, senior vice-president | saying that he has assets worth Tk (sales and marketing) of Kohinoor | 3.25 crore. Chemical Company Ltd, and Ehsan Mahbub, head of sales of Radio

Court allows ACC to interrogate Altaf at jail gate

against him for concealing infor-

In the first information report (FIR), it was mentioned that Altaf kept the wealth in his name and the names of his wife Suraiya Akter and

he purchased between 1974 and He also concealed informa-

He was arrested on May 28 last

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday demanded unconditional release of former prime minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, now in prison on charge of 2 raided the market at around corruption.

Peshajibi Shamonnoy Parishad, a body of professionals, and Buet unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League in separate programmes made the demand.

Doctors, engineers and agriculturists, under the banner of Shomonnoy Parishad, formed a human chain in front of the Square Hospital.

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) on the other hand, also formed a human chain at the university campus in similar demand Chhatra League placed a six-

Chhatra League unit at

point charter of demands in their programme including unconditional release of Sheikh Hasina, formation of a special tribunal to try the war criminals, control over price hike of essentials commodities, immediate withdrawal of state of emergency, declaration of schedule for national elections and scrapping the idea of forming truth commission.

UNB, Ctg

nated from an electric short circuit at room no. 202 of Kanta Chhatri

incident.