

'Reduce maternal mortality rate to 1.47 by 2015'

24 health facilities get award for excellence in providing emergency obstetric care services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The maternal mortality rate (MMR) is still 3.2 per thousand live births in the country, which should be reduced to 1.47 by 2015, said the speakers at an award giving ceremony at a city hotel yesterday.

They said though MMR has been declining, the pace is very slow and the span of Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) services should be increased along with increased awareness in the community.

The death of 12000 women every year due to pregnancy-related complications is unacceptably high and all efforts must be given to address the situation, said Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare AKM Zafar Ullah Khan as chief guest.

"Maternal mortality must no longer be considered as simply an issue of public health. It is a social injustice. It is the paradigm shift that has inspired all of us to be here in recognition of the need to prevent maternal death and disability as an issue of social justice and women's rights," said Carel de Rooy, Unicef representative in Bangladesh.



PHOTO: STAR

Health and Family Welfare Secretary AKM Zafar Ullah Khan gives away award for excellence in imparting Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday.

Director General of DGHS Prof Dr MA Faiz, and Director General of Family Planning DGFP Quamrun Nessa Khanam were present as special guests at the award giving ceremony on Emergency Obstetric Care 2007.

Line Director of Essential Service Delivery Dr Saleh Mohammad Rafique chaired the programme.

With a view to reducing the maternal mortality and morbidity the government has taken various

programmes including strengthening EmOC services.

Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) with the support of the Unicef has strengthened 191 facilities including 59 district hospitals and 132 upazila health complexes with equipment, capacity development and posting of skilled human resources.

It aims at ensuring 24-hour availability, geographical accessibility and affordability of EmOC services to those who were not

receiving the service.

To encourage the centres as well as the professionals providing EmOC, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the Unicef distributed the best performing award to 24 health facilities for their excellence performance.

The recipients are Jamalpur District Hospital, Tungipara Upazila Health Complex (UHC) at Gopalganj, Manikganj Maternal and Child Welfare Centre (MCWC), Feni District Hospital in Chittagong, Fatikchhari UHC, Khagrachhari MCWC, Kushtia District Hospital, Chowgachha UHC in Jessore, Magura MCWC, Joypurhat District Hospital, Charchat UHC, Thakurgaon MCWC, Hobiganj District Hospital, Baniabazar UHC and Sunamganj MCWC.

Besides, Patuakhali District Hospital, Kolapara UHC, Bhola MCWC, Magura District Hospital, Pabna District Hospital, Khagrachhari District Hospital, Fulata UHC, Nachol UHC and Banaripara UHC also received the award.

The best performing award for EmOC was introduced in 2004.

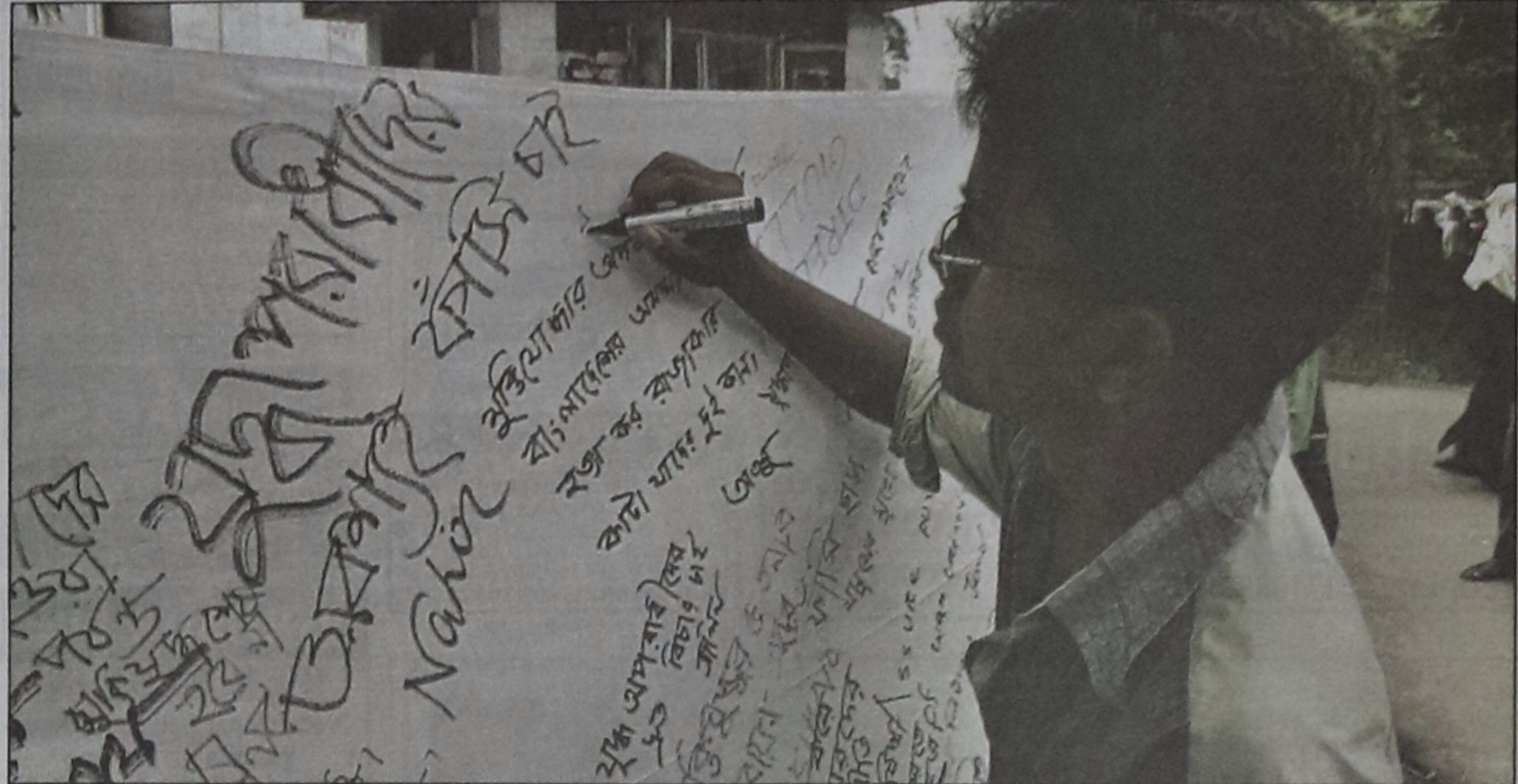


PHOTO: STAR

A student of Dhaka University puts his signature on a white canvas demanding trial of war criminals during a mass signature campaign on the campus yesterday.

Demand for trial of war criminals reiterated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Dhaka University and freedom fighters took to the streets yesterday demanding trial of the war criminals.

The students formed a human chain under the banner of 'Juddhaporadhidher Bichar Mancha' (platform for the trial of war criminals) and organised a mass signature campaign on the Curzon Hall premises in support of their demand.

Holding hands in hands in a row, the students chanted, "We want a Bangladesh free of war criminals."

They also called for boycott of the Jamaat-e-Islami whose top leaders were involved in war crimes during the War of Liberation in 1971.

The students collected signatures on a big white canvas for an

appeal for the trial of war criminals. Slogans on the canvas read: "War criminals, leave the country right now" and "Bury Razakars".

They will also stage a cultural programme on the campus today to mobilise support for the trial.

Besides, students associated with debating activities formed a human chain near the Aparajeyo Bangla on the campus to press the demand for the trial of war criminals.

Meanwhile, Dhaka city unit of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad formed a human chain from Bangla Motor intersection to Maghbazar demanding punishment to the war criminals.

Hundreds of freedom fighters joined the programme carrying festoons, banners and placards.

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PHOTO: STAR

Schoolchildren and other residents of Kajlar Par at Jatrabari in the city use boats as a mode of transport as this low-lying area has remained waterlogged for about two weeks due to rain. This picture was taken yesterday.

Poet Samudra Gupta to be buried today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of poet Samudra Gupta will be kept at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city from 11:00am to 12:30pm today for the people to pay their last respects to him.

If it rains, the body will be kept at the TSC of Dhaka University, a press release of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) said yesterday.

The poet, whose real name is Abdul Mannan, passed away due to gallbladder cancer at Narayana Hospital in Bangalore, India, on July 19.

The namaz-e-jaana for the poet will be held at Dhaka University Mosque after Jor prayers and he will be buried at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at Mirpur.

Meanwhile, Left Democratic Alliance, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and Charan Sangskritik Kendra expressed deep shock at the death of the poet.

India supplies 19,212mts rice in seven months

UNB, Dhaka

Government of India has so far supplied 19,212mts of rice and 1,000mts of skimmed milk powder to Bangladesh from December 2007 to June 2008.

India announced to provide 40,000mts of rice, 10,000mts of wheat and 1,000mts of skimmed milk powder in 2007 for relief and rehabilitation of people of Bangladesh affected by floods and other natural disasters, said a press release.

A commercial vessel namely MV Baek Sa Bong carrying about 3,000mts of rice arrived at Chittagong Port on July 18 and unloading of cargo is currently underway.

IER students boycott class

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of the Institute of Education and Research (IER) of Dhaka University (DU) boycotted their classes yesterday protesting the assault on four students of the institute by a group of activists of Jatayatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of BNP.

Around 15 JCD activists led by Russel, Kawser, Rajon, and Rokan attacked four students—Mizan, Joy, Arif and Bunti with rods, hockey sticks, cricket stumps and wood sticks in the IER building on Sunday over a trifling matter between Mizan and Amirul Islam Noufel, younger brother of Russel.

IER students at a press conference at Dhaka University Journalists' Association office demanded cancellation of studentship of Noufel, a first year (14 batch) student of IER.

To press home their demands, they will wear black ribbons today and continue until studentship of Noufel is cancelled permanently.

Hasan Toufiq read out the written statement at the press conference while Ahmedul Azam and Yasminara Khatun were present among others.

IER students submitted a memorandum to Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz in the morning demanding cancellation of Noufel's studentship.

Meanwhile, IER authorities at an academic committee meeting decided to expel Noufel from the institute.

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আপনার স্বীকৃতি আমাদের সুখ
বিশ্বমাঝে বাংলাদেশের মুখ

যে ৪টি বিভাগে এক যেকোন বিবেচনায় এ পুরস্কার দেয়া হবে তা নিম্নে উল্লেখ করা হলো:

১। 'স্বল্পে প্রচেষ্টা সফলতম উদ্যোগ'

সুদৃশ্য ব্যবসার অধিকতা, সফলতম উদ্যোগ, উদ্যোগের সফলতা, উদ্যোগের পদ্ধতি, উদ্যোগের প্রভাব, উদ্যোগের স্বতন্ত্রতা।

২। 'স্বল্পে প্রচেষ্টা উদ্যোগ'

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সহযোগী প্রতিষ্ঠান: প্রথম আলো, The Daily Star, Channel 4

সিটিব্যাংক, এন.এ. বাংলাদেশ: গুলশান। মতিঝিল। আগ্রাবাদ। ধানমন্ডি। ঢাকা ই.পি.জেড। চট্টগ্রাম ই.পি.জেড

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