

Women friendly hospital attracts more expectant mothers

MAHBUBA ZANNAT, back from Cox's Bazar

The concept of women friendly hospital has become popular with different district Sadar hospitals and upazila health complexes as this initiative has encouraged more expectant mothers to come to hospitals for safe delivery.

The District Sadar Hospital in Cox's Bazar, which was recognised as Women-Friendly Hospital (WFH) in May 2007, received some 878 pregnant women who underwent caesarean section last year. But the number of such patients was only 300 in 2006.

The number of patients having normal delivery has also increased to 540 last year from 250 in 2006 due to the government's specific initiative to bring more expectant mothers to health facilities, said the hospital authorities.

With the support of Unicef, the government has recognised seven district sadar hospitals and upazila health complexes as Women Friendly Hospitals to ensure safe motherhood.

Making the Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital a women friendly hospital has added a new dimension to the conventional healthcare service, with mothers and newborns receiving more services and support from trained nurses



A nurse attends to a patient at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

PHOTO: STAR

and doctors. Emergency obstetric care is now available along with management of violence against women. There are Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Care corners and breastfeeding corners for mothers at the hospital.

"Doctors, nurses and ward boys have also changed their attitude towards pregnant women as they were given

special training. At the same time, the hospital authorities are now inclined to prepare a gender-sensitive budget," said Dr Misbah Uddin Ahmed, resident medical officer and public health researcher of the hospital.

The hospital authorities have increased its budget for safe motherhood to 4 percent from 2.5 percent, he added.

"As women are less privileged in society and often face various obstacles to coming to hospital for treatment, particularly for their delivery, the Women Friendly Hospital initiative provides additional services to mothers," said Dr Munawar Sultana, consultant of the district sadar hospital.

"It also aims to address gender equity alongside qual-

ity service, emergency obstetric care, neonatal care and management of violence against women," said Dr Yeasmin Rahman, deputy programme manager of Maternal and Child Health Programme of DGHS.

Records show that the situation has been improving in the district in the last two years, as the rate of delivery at home stood at 84.73 percent in 2008, which was 90 percent in 2001.

The maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) was 4.2 per thousand live births, which have come down to 3.2. Infant Mortality Ratio (IMR) has also decreased to 48 per thousand live births in 2008 from 62 in 2001, Civil Surgeon of Cox's Bazar Dr ABM Lutful Kabir said and termed it a major progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goal 4 and 5.

If manpower can be increased, the authorities would be able to provide high quality services to mothers and newborns, Superintendent Dr Nezamuddin Hawladar said.

The number of outdoor patients has increased by 25 to 28 percent and the number of patients being admitted to the hospital is almost double the capacity of the hospital, but the number of staffs is too inadequate, he added.

Foreign currency, stamps, drugs seized

RU CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in separate drives seized huge quantity of foreign currency, fake foreign currency, stamp papers, and drugs and arrested seven people from different areas in Rajshahi region yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab launched a drive at Puluria village under KahaJa Police

Station in Dinajpur and seized 38 notes of US dollar and 2,800 notes of fake US dollars from the house of one Wahidul. Rab also arrested one Shariful Islam, 26, in this connection.

In separate drives in Chapainawabganj Rab seized 100 pieces of Tk 50 stamps and 19,760 pieces of papers used in official purpose from Korta Courier Service office. Two businessmen -- Firozur Rahman, 32 and Durul Huda, 45

-- were arrested in this connection. Rab also seized 5 kilogram of marijuana and arrested Lal Chand, 38.

In a drive at Mita Rest House at Sabujpara under Kurigram, Rab seized 320 gram of heroin and arrested one Bablu, 22.

Rab also seized 257 bottles of phenisidyle form Dinajpur and 99 bottles from Rangpur and arrested two drug paddlers -- Azizur Rahman, 26, and Akbar Ali, 40.

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PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka Ahsania Mission in collaboration with American Cancer Society, Cancer Research, UK and Framework Convention Alliance organises a workshop at the mission's auditorium in the city yesterday.

Bhasani University VC resigns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Maulana Bhasani University of Science and Technology (MBUST) Vice Chancellor Dr Prof Monimul Haque resigned from his post showing personal reason yesterday.

He sent his resignation letter to the secretary of Ministry of Education, sources said.

When contacted, Prof Monimul confirmed The Daily Star about his resignation.

Prof Monimul said since his joining at the MBUST, he has been living on the university campus alone. His wife and only daughter are living at teacher's quarter of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), he added.

Pictorial warning on tobacco products stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for steps to print pictorial warning on tobacco products and proper implementation of Tobacco Control Act to discourage smoking.

As most tobacco users are illiterate, they cannot read the printed health warning. So, it is vital to use pictorial warning on tobacco products, the speakers added.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission in collaboration with American Cancer Society, Cancer Research, UK and Framework Convention Alliance organised the workshop on 'Inclusion of pictorial warning and labelling

issues in tobacco control law' at the mission's auditorium in the city.

Citing a recent study by Human Development Research Centre (HDRC), the speakers said about 37 percent of the people above 15 years use tobacco products in the country.

The study also said the annual expenditure on tobacco use stands at Tk9370 crore.

This huge amount can be used to meet the nutrition needs of one crore people by controlling the use of tobacco, the speakers said.

Jaglal Ahmed Chowdhury, chief editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha, stressed the

need to start anti-tobacco campaign at the school level.

Journalist Pranab Saha called for raising awareness about the Tobacco Control Act for its proper implementation.

M Hamid, chief executive officer of RTV, former BFUJ secretary general Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Editor of Bhorer Kagoj Shyamal Dutta, Assistant Editor of the Samakal Ajoy Das Gupta, Jai Jai Din Executive Editor Mahmud Al Faisal, and Editor of Bhorer Dak KM Belayet Hossain also spoke.

Ehsanur Rahman, executive director of Ahsania Mission, presided over the workshop moderated by Iqbal Kabir, technical officer of WHO.

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Chevron Bangladesh Operations Director Derek Magness inaugurates the 2.6 kilometre stretch of Kosba-Radhapur road at Bibiyana in Moulvibazar recently.

Chevron rebuilds community road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chevron Bangladesh has rebuilt a 2.6 kilometre stretch of the Kosba-Radhapur road at Bibiyana recently, says a press release.

Chevron Bangladesh Operations Director Derek Magness officially inaugurated the stretch.

The energy company had expressed its interest to rebuild the road ever since its employees and contractors extensively used the mud road for the development of the Bibiyana gasfield.

Superintendent of Bibiyana Gas Plant Gary Sims, Director of External Affairs Naser

Ahmed, Community Relation Manager Zulfikar Ahmed Chowdhury and other officials were present at the inaugural ceremony.

NDC team visits defence ministry UNB, Dhaka

A 47-member delegation of the National Defence College yesterday visited the Defence Ministry as part of their course curriculum.

Joint Defence Secretary Brig Gen M Zahidur Rahman received the delegation.

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