

OUTBREAK OF DIARRHOEA

Number of patients on the rise again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) witnessed reduced number of diarrhoea patients last week, the number is on the increase again.

Prof Shahadat Hossain, scientist and head of longer stay unit of the hospital, said

this yesterday.

He said some 540 patients sought admission to ICDDR,B till yesterday evening, but the number might exceed 700 by midnight.

"On Friday, some 519 patients were admitted to the hospital by 6:00pm and it crossed 637 by midnight," he said, adding, "If the trend continues for three to four days, we could say the diar-

rhoea situation is not improving."

According to ICDDR,B, some 588 patients were admitted to the hospital by 6:00pm on Monday and it crossed 700 by midnight. But on Tuesday, some 489 patients sought admission to the ICDDR,B till evening which was around 100 less than the day before yesterday.

The situation is not likely to improve soon until water supply in the city improves. The increasing number of diarrhoea patients might linger during April and May as temperature rises, said its scientists.

They suggested drinking boiled water as well as avoiding unhygienic food.

RTI Bill to be passed in current JS session

Says information minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Right to Information Bill will be passed in the current session of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS), Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad said yesterday.

"Our government believes in free flow of information and freedom of the press," he said and called on the journalists to use the press freedom with responsibility through correct and objective reporting.

The minister made the call while addressing a training workshop on "Code

of conduct for journalists' at the seminar room of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) in the city. Bangladesh Press Council organised the daylong workshop.

Like other professionals, journalists are also accountable to society and the state, the minister said and urged them to use their wisdom and intelligence while writing and broadcasting important and sensitive news.

A section of the media presented the news on BDR mutiny on February 25 in such a way which was not expected, he added.

"You (media people) are the bridge between the government and the people. You will inform the government of the problems of the people through your writing," Azad said, adding that biased and wrong information may lead to chaotic situation in society.

Acting Information Secretary Samar Chandra Pal and Principal Information Officer Iftekhar Husain also spoke.

Bangladesh Press Council Chairman Justice Kazi Ebadul Haq handed over certificates to the participants of the workshop.

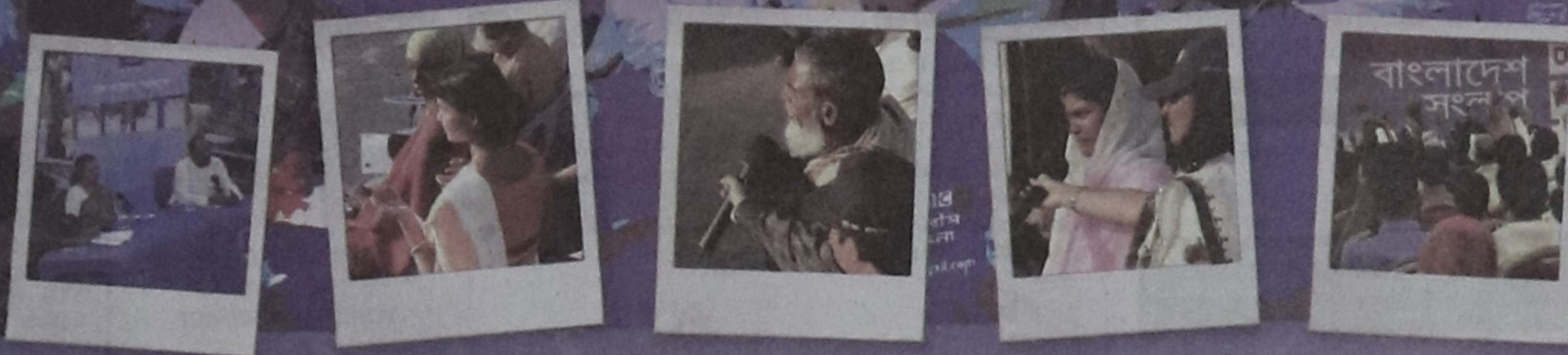
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