

Diarrhoea situation improves slightly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Diarrhoea situation in the capital improved slightly yesterday as different hospitals experienced reduced number of patients in comparison with the day before yesterday.

Some 548 patients were admitted to the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) till 7:00 pm which was less than the Friday figure.

According to the Dhaka Shishu Hospital sources, 30 percent of the patients who sought treatment yesterday were diarrhoea patients, which also showed a fall from that on Friday.

But it doesn't mean that the overall diarrhoea situation has improved, as the number might increase at any time if the supply

of pure drinking water could not be ensured, the experts said to The Daily Star—asking all to drink boiled water and avoid unhygienic foods.

Women MPs take oath today

UNB, Dhaka

The newly elected members of parliament from the reserved seats for women will be sworn in at the oath-room of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban today.

Speaker M Abdul Hamid Advocate will administer the oath to the MPs of Awami League at 11:00am while the MPs of Jatiya Party and Bangladesh Nationalist Party at 11:30am and 12:00 noon respectively.



Children pose for photograph with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a prize giving ceremony at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday on the occasion of National Children's Day. Bangabandhu Shishu Kishore Mela organised the event. (Story on Page 1) PHOTO: PID

Probe deaths of BDR jawans in custody

Speakers tell BBC dialogue in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Speakers at a BBC dialogue here last night said the deaths of BDR jawans in the custody of security forces should be investigated transparently as there are allegations of physical and mental torture on them.

Extrajudicial killings can never be accepted. It is needed to ensure proper investigation and justice to the massacre during the BDR mutiny, they added.

The speakers said human rights organisations, including Amnesty International and the local ones, have also raised questions over deaths of the jawans as the victims were facing questioning by different probe bodies for days.

BBC Programme Organiser Kamal Ahmed moderated the dialogue at Jalalabad Gas Auditorium in the city, while ruling party lawmaker Hafiz Ahmed Mazumder, TIB's Sachetan Nagorik Committee Sylhet Convener Shahidul Islam, city BNP General Secretary Nasim Hossain and Assistant Prof. Farzana Siddiqua of Shahjalal University were the

panellists.

Around 200 students, businessmen, housewives and professionals joined the dialogue and question-answer session that ended at 7:40pm.

The speakers said militant groups are still active in the country. They should be eliminated at any cost to save the country and its people, adding that social resistance against them is urgent as they do not enjoy mass support in real sense. Law enforcers will have to stay alert.

Political blame game over this serious issue also should be stopped immediately and there should be dealt unitedly, they mentioned.

The panellists said militancy is not yet a big challenge for Bangladesh. Its nature varies from one country to another and it exists all over the world now. However, the root of militancy must be stamped out first.

Only madrasas cannot be blamed for spreading the militancy, they said, taking advantage of their poor state, mastermind militants are running their missions through some NGOs.

Besides, the total education system, including

madrasa education, needs a thorough reshuffle, they commented.

The issue of creating investment opportunity in Sylhet region as well as in other parts of the country for the non-resident Bangladeshis was also discussed at the programme.

The speakers stressed the need for infrastructural facilities and one-stop service for setting up small and large-scale industries in the greater Sylhet region.

900 bottles of phensidyl seized in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Narcotics Control Department (NCD) recovered 900 bottles of phensidyl from a private car and arrested two people in this connection in Kotwali area in the city yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Sheikh Bakul, 28, and Habibur Rahman, 26.

The NCD team also seized the car at the toll plaza on the Buriganga Bridge.

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