

## PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH-RELATED COMPLICATIONS

## 12,000 mothers, 1.2 lakh newborns die every year

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called on the media to play a significant role to create awareness about maternal and neonatal healthcare issues, since 12,000 mothers and 1.2 lakh newborns die every year in the country due to pregnancy or childbirth-related complications.

They also urged all the government, non-government and UN bodies that are dealing with the issue to prepare messages in local language avoiding jargons so that people can understand them easily.

The Department of Mass

Communication (DMC) and UNICEF Bangladesh jointly organised the daylong workshop on 'Maternal and neonatal health' at Press Institute of Bangladesh.

The workshop aimed at evaluating the new maternal and neonatal health pilot project and taking new action plan.

DMC field level officials and representatives from Bangladesh Betar, Health and Family Planning Department, NGOs, UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO took part in the workshop.

With the technical support of WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF, the DMC is operating the pilot

project in four districts - Jamalpur, Thakurgaon, Moulvibazar and Narail - for experiment.

The project will be extended to 16 districts if the pilot project becomes a success.

The project aims at creating awareness with the help of media, including screening short drama, film-based report, performance of folk songs and holding discussions and workshops.

UNICEF Representative Patricia Portela De Souza highlighted concrete communication action and linking communities with available health services to save lives of women and babies.

"We need to work together throughout the year to deal with the issue where commitment and outcome would get highest priority," said Dr Atef El Maghraby, MNH project coordinator of UNFPA.

Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Information Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, PIB Director General AKM Shamim Chowdhury, Director and Line Director of Directorate of Family Planning Dr Zafar Hakim and DMC Director Sarder Aminul Islam also spoke at the workshop with DMC Director General Tasir Ahmed in the chair.



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid bedecking the statue of Madhusudan Dey with a garland at a memorial meeting marking his 38th death anniversary in front of Madhu's Canteen on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

## Bring back glorious days of student politics

Former leaders urge student organisations

DU CORRESPONDENT

Former student leaders yesterday called on the student organisations to act responsibly to bring back the glorious days of student politics.

They also said elections to Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) should be held immediately to bring qualitative changes in student politics and ensure a congenial atmosphere on campus.

Former student leaders who are now active in national politics made this appeal while addressing a meeting on 'Liberation war is our pride, Madhu Da is our inspiration' on Madhu's Canteen premises of Dhaka University.

The discussion was organised to mark the 38th death anniversary of Madhusudan Dey, the owner of Madhu's Canteen who was killed by the Pakistani army and their local collaborators during the liberation war in 1971.

The speakers said Madhu Da played a significant role in the student movements before the liberation war from behind the scene.

Speaking on the occasion, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said Madhu's Canteen is a part of the country's tradition and culture. He said a unitrack education policy would be implemented in the light of the previous education commissions.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof

AAMS Arefin Siddique chaired the function while former vice presidents of DUCSU Lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon, CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim and BNP leader Aman Ullah Aman, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, AKM Jahangir Hossain, Khairul Kabir Khokon, Sharif Nurul Ambia, Najmul Haque Pradhan, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Safi Ahmed, Obaidur Rahman Chnuu, Morshed Ali and Ragib Ahsan Manna also spoke.

Top leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League, Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Chhatra Maitree and Chhatra Federation were present at the occasion.

## Matin refutes allegation of corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former shipping adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin yesterday refuted the allegations of corruption and irregularities brought against him in connection with awarding the contract of container handling at Chittagong Port to Eshack Brothers Ltd.

Countering a Bangla daily's recent report against him, he said, "There is reason to believe that a certain quarter did this to malign me in society and before the public."

Matin welcomed the formation of a sub-committee by the parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry to investigate allegations of corruption and irregularities brought against him.

"I think it is a good move of the parliament. I am looking forward to appear before the sub-committee, if they summon me, where I would be able to explain and justify my position. Then, I believe, the truth behind the allegations would be revealed before the nation," Matin told a crowd of reporters at his Panchlaish home in Chittagong yesterday morning.

He, however, said "I do not deserve the criticism. If God permits, the truth will be revealed one day. However, considering all the happenings, my realisation is that this country is not meant for good people."

## Convict with death tries to commit suicide in court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A convict in a murder case yesterday tried to commit suicide in the dock after a judgement was delivered sentencing him to death by a Dhaka court.

Judge Rezaul Islam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 sentenced Shukkur Miah to death and Mohammad Sharif to 31 years' rigorous imprisonment for killing businessman Jahangir Alam Ripon. The court acquitted 10 others as the allegations brought against them were not proved.

Following the order, Shukkur of Ibrahimpur in the city's Kafrul area, attempted to commit suicide by slitting his throat with a blade. He said the judge convicted him, even though the charges brought against him were false and fabricated.

The on-duty policeman took him to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) for treatment.

Ripon was killed by a gang of miscreants led by Shukkur Miah in front of his Ma Departmental Store at Ibrahimpur in the city on November 19 in 2005.

Later, victim's mother Alam Ara Begum filed a case against Shukkur and 11 others in this regard.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shah Abdin Uddin Ahmed, a teacher and litterateur in Brahmanbaria and father of Shah Md Murtasim Billah, joint news editor of Dainik Bhorer Dak and former president of Dhaka Sub-Editors Council, passed away due to old-age complications at his residence in the city on Saturday at the age of 96, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, five daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Panahul Alam Jahangir

METRO DESK

Panahul Alam Jahangir, an electrical engineer of Mirsarai in Chittagong, passed away yesterday at the age of 72, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter to mourn his death.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 38th death anniversary of Abdul Kader Mian, a freedom fighter, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Debiganj upazila masque in Panchagarh and food will be distributed among the destitute.

## Tk 170.25cr DU budget proposed

RAKIB AHAMMED

Education and research will once again remain neglected as Dhaka University (DU) authorities are going to place the proposed budget for next fiscal making "very low allocation" in these sectors.

The authorities will place a Tk 170.25 crore budget before the Senate at its annual session scheduled to be held on June 25.

Of the total amount, only Tk 15.70 crore has been earmarked for education-related sectors like research, purchasing books and chemicals, and establishing cyber centres.

The authorities expect that Tk 5 crore will remain deficit in these sectors as the allocated fund will not be sufficient to meet the cost of purchasing books, providing fees for online journals and bill for rented bus for non-resident students.

These sectors would see only an increase of Tk 20 lakh from last year.

Like every year, the lion's share of the budget Tk 109.75 crore would be spent as salaries and allowances for teachers, officials and employees.

Tk 27 crore has been allocated for payment of pension while Tk 17.50 crore for maintenance and repair work, said Treasurer Prof Mizanur Rahman while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

He said income from internal sources has been estimated at Tk 18 crore.

"DU expenditure is met depending on government's allocation and we cannot spend more as our own income is very limited," he added.

"The entire budget is low in terms of university's present students, teachers and structures. Every year, we meet various demands under fund constraints," he added.

## Concern over 2 students' killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) expressed concern at the killing of two students of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute in the hands of law enforcers, says a press release.

The commission also urged the government to arrange independent enquiries into the incidents and publish the reports.

## 'No tribal land sold in city'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chairman of Tribal Welfare Association (TWA) yesterday said no land at Mirpur in the city was sold to Heed Bangladesh.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium, Promod Mankin MP said a vested quarter is trying to destroy the goodwill of the organisation intentionally through distribution of false leaflets.

He said a human chain was formed on May 29 under the banner of 'Brihattar (greater) Mymensingh, Sylhet, Gazipur and Dhaka Zilar Adivasi Bhumir Rakhyar Committee' where the organisers accused TWA leaders of embezzling Tk 5.10 crore by selling one bigha of land which they got from the government in 1990.

Mankin said as they did not get the possession of the land since last 16 years they just started the process of selling the land following a decision of the working committee meeting.

He said the committee also decided to purchase a land in Mymensingh with the money which they will get by selling this land and arrange a permanent office of TWA in Dhaka.

## CONSTRUCTION OF TIPAIMUKH DAM Dhaka to protest if harmful: Ramesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will protest the construction of Tipaimukh Dam if it portends to cause any harm to the country, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen said yesterday.

"If they [India] construct dam causing harm to Bangladesh, we will protest it and if necessary we will build resistance against the move. We will encourage India to construct the dam if Bangladesh's interests are not harmed," he said.

The minister was talking to reporters after an inter-ministerial meeting at the food and disaster management ministry conference room.

"We want there is no possibility of harmful things for Bangladesh due to construction of Tipaimukh dam," he said adding, "India has assured Bangladesh in this regard positively."

The minister said a team comprised of experts and journalists would visit the Tipaimukh dam site soon.

"But before that we will sit

together with all political parties and take decision on the matter," said Ramesh.

He said once the committee is formed comprising lawmakers of all political parties, it will visit the spot of the proposed dam and submit its reports after coming back to Bangladesh.

Asked when the committee would be formed, the minister replied 'very soon'.

He said, "We want that Bangladesh-India bilateral relationship would be developed more."

Asked how the country would be benefited from construction of the dam, Ramesh said they could not say it until they visit the spot. He however said, "Any kinds of dam causes loss."

About the main opposition BNP's protest against the move to construct the dam, the minister said then Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed did not protest the move, which was started in 2002 when the BNP-Jamaat coalition was in power.

## Govt distributes Tk 10cr relief for Aila-hit people Tk 20cr for renovation soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Realising that the scarcity of drinking water in the cyclone Aila-hit areas, the government yesterday distributed relief worth Tk 10 crore for buying, transportation and distribution of water on an emergency basis.

"We will also disburse Tk 20 crore for repairing of the damaged houses," Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque told reporters after an emergency meeting with four other ministers at his ministry.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen and Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas attended the meeting.

Briefing newsmen, Razzaque said Tk 116 crore -- 41 crore in cash and rice and wheat worth Tk 75 crore -- would be provided for construction and repairing of coastal embankments damaged by the cyclone.

According to the water

resources ministry, a total of 200 kilometre embankments have totally been damaged and 1128 km partially.

The minister said army would solely construct embankments in Sharanakholia of Bagerhat, Assasuni and Shyamnagar of Satkhira district, while the water development board would build and repair others.

He said Tk 103 crore would be needed to repair roads in the cyclone-hit areas. Directions have already been given to repair them damaged roads.

**HEALTH MINISTER'S BRIEFING**  
The health minister said the government has set up control room in every upazila and district in the affected areas and kept adequate number of medical teams on alert all time, adding that 891 medical teams have been providing healthcare service in the areas.

Unicef has provided around 60,000 bags of saline and 12.5 million water purification tablets, adding that so far 200 people have been suffering from diarrhoea. He added.

## JS body to probe irregularities in telecoms sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday formed an inquiry committee to investigate alleged irregularities in the state-run telecoms sector in between 2001 and 2008.

The probe body headed by lawmaker Abdul Kuddus, who will also investigate irregularities occurred by the private telecom operators if needed, said Hasanul Haq Inu, chairman of the standing committee, told journalists after a meeting of the committee at the parliament building.

He said, "Our focus would be to investigate irregularities happened in the state-run telecom organisations in the last seven years," adding: "If needed, we must go for investigating private sectors as well."

The telecom standing committee asked the probe body to submit its report within next three months, Inu said.

## Thai FM due today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thai Foreign Affairs Minister Kasit Piromya will arrive in Dhaka on a two-day official visit today, says a statement of Thai Embassy.

He will pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and meet with Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and other cabinet ministers and high-ranking officials to discussion on a wide range of bilateral issues.

During his stay, Piromya and his wife Chintana Piromya will visit the Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery at Kamalapur tomorrow. He will donate rice to the monastery's orphanage programme.

ZIA'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY

## Khaleda distributes food

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday distributed foods among the destitute in different area in the city on the occasion of the 28th death anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman, founder of the party.

Khaleda started the programme of food distribution from Shahinbag in Tejgaon at 11:00am and later she distributed food at least in 30 spots in the city, including Karwan Bazar, Shewrapara, Kazipara, Mirpur, Gabtali, Uttara and Azampur.

She completed her second day of food distribution programme last night by distributing foods among the destitute in Mohakhali area.

BNP standing committee member Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, vice-president Sarwari Rahman and joint secretary General Mirza Abbas accompanied her.

While talking to reporters, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain alleged that administration created obstacles during their food distribution programme in different areas.

BNP chairperson will finish her food distribution programme today.

## UN COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE FROM DEC 6 'Include ocean acidification to save marine ecosystem'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The framework conference in Bonn this week will ultimately shape the Copenhagen negotiations at the UN Conference on Climate Change from December 6 to 18, it added.

Ocean acidification is expected to cause massive corrosion of coral reefs and dramatic changes in the make-up of the biodiversity of the oceans and to have significant implications for food production and the livelihoods of millions of people, the statement said.

It called on the world leaders to explicitly recognise the direct threats posed by increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to the oceans and its profound impact on the environment and society.

The statement called for acknowledgement that ocean acidification is a direct and real consequence of increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, is already having an effect at current concentrations and is likely to cause grave harm to important marine ecosystem as CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations reach 450 parts per million (ppm) and above.

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## JNU summer vacation from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The month-long summer vacation of Jagannath University (JNU) will begin today, says a press release.

Administrative activities of the university will remain closed from June 6 to 11.

## ACI Pure Salt Deshke Jano contest ends

METRO DESK

ACI Pure Salt Deshke Jano, the biggest ever-online quiz competition in the country, ended yesterday.

The competition, which began on April 27, was held in three phases.

The first and second phases were held online till May 25 while the third and final round (grand finale) took place at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday where the top 100 scorers took part.

Commerce Minister Mohammad Faruk Khan was present on the occasion as the chief guest of the event.

The grand finale of the event will be telecast on Channel 1 on June 5 at 8:15pm.

Each of the top ten scorers received Tk 1 lakh courtesy of ACI Pure Salt.

They are Mohammad Rifat Hayder, Sarwar Morshed, Md Manzur Sharif Sayem, Md Nazmul Haque, SK Md Hasan Sagor, Md Faruk Hossain, Sabuj Sheikh, Md Haroon-Or-Rashid, Mahdi Al Masud and Mohammed Azam Khan.

Media partners for the competition were the Daily Samakal, Channel 1 and Radio Foorti.

## 2 HC benches refuse to hear bail petition of 81 RU Shibir men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two division benches of the High Court (HC) yesterday refused to hear a bail petition jointly filed by 81 Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) leaders and workers of Rajshahi University (RU) in a case filed on charge of attacking the police on the campus.

Petitioners' lawyers, however, submitted the same bail petition to another HC bench for its hearing.

As the lawyers placed the bail petition before the HC bench of Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana and Justice Md Shamsul Huda for hearing in the afternoon, the bench told the lawyers that it can't hear the petition the same day (yesterday) due to its burden with other cases.

Then the lawyers moved the petition to the HC bench of Justice Md Imman Ali and Justice Md Fazlur Rahman for its hearing which also declined to entertain the petition.

The accused Shibir leaders and workers, including its president Delwar Hossain Saidee, appeared before the HC benches for anticipatory bail in the case.

Advocate Tajul Islam, a lawyer for the petitioners, told The Daily Star that they submitted the petition to the HC bench of Justice MA Wahhab Miah and Justice Marzi Ul Haq for hearing after refusal of two other benches to hear the bail petition.

Police filed a case with Motihar police station against 86 Shibir leaders and workers on charge of attacking on law enforcement agencies and restricting them from discharging their duties on the RU campus on May 23.

WEATHER TODAY				
Rain likely				
UNB, Dhaka				
Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Khulna divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.				
Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Met Office said.				
The sun sets in the capital at 6:42pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.				
Country's highest temperature 36.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.0 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.				
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:				
City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.1	28.2	63	88
Chittagong	29.2	26.4	88	83
Rajshahi	34.3	26.0	74	74
Khulna	36.0	26.5	73	61
Barisal	35.0	26.8	70	92
Sylhet	30.7	22.0	88	66
Cox's Bazar	29.3	25.5	80	--