

Open child healthcare units at govt hospitals

PM asks authorities

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities concerned to take steps to set up modern child healthcare department along with cardiology unit at all the divisional hospitals immediately and then gradually at 19 greater district hospitals.

She gave the order when National Professor MR Khan and a delegation of Pediatric Cardiac Society of Bangladesh met the premier at her office

yesterday.

The prime minister also asked for increasing seats and treatment facilities in the pediatric section of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

During the meeting, the prime minister was apprised by the Pediatric Society that every year some 25,000 babies are born with cardiac problems, but only 5-10 percent children of the country, mainly of the affluent section, get modern cardiac treatment.

As a result, 90 percent of the total child cardiac patients die within five years of birth and 50 percent within one year.

Such tragedies take place even though with modern treatment most of the child patients could be cured, the child specialists said.

Sheikh Hasina also spoke on the health risks of children if they are given several vaccination injections at a time.

The prime minister opined for examining whether the children can be given the

vaccinations at regular intervals.

Health Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr Syed Modasser Ali, Prime Minister's Office Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, Pediatric Cardiac Society of Bangladesh President Prof SR Khan, Secretary-General Prof Manzoor Hussain and Treasurer Dr Mohd Zahid Hussain were present at the meeting.

Road accidents kill 6

METRO DESK

Six people were killed in separate road accidents in Brahmanbaria, Chapai Nawabganj, Jhenidah and Bogra yesterday.

Our correspondent in B'baria reports: Two motorcycle riders were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Bariara village under Sarail upazila in Brahmanbaria yesterday night.

The dead were identified as Md Kamal Mia, 30, and Md Ali Azam, 40, of Mugoltola village under Sarail upazila.

Quoting witnesses police said the accident occurred when Kamal and Azam were returning home in a motorbike, a speeding bus knocked their motorbike and crushed them under its wheels.

Our correspondent in C'nawabganj reports: One person was killed and four others were injured in a road

accident on Chapai-nawabganj-Sonamosjid road at Ranihati Bazar under Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mohammad Sohel, 18, a rickshawpuller and son of Ruhul Amin of Baganpara village under Shibganj upazila.

Quoting locals police said the accident occurred when a Sonamosjid land port-bound speeding truck hit his rickshaw, leaving him dead on the spot and four others injured.

The injured were treated at a local hospital and local clinic. Police recovered the dead body and sent to Chapai-nawabganj sadar hospital for autopsy.

Our correspondent in Jhenidah adds: One person was killed in a road accident near Kayergachi village on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Jhenidah yesterday.

The dead was identified as Saira Khatun, 55, of Baliaadanga village under Kaliganj upazila. She was returning home after burying her brother.

Locals and police said the accident occurred when Saira was returning home on a human hauler after the burial of her cousin, a speeding bus hit her human hauler, leaving her dead on the spot.

Staff correspondent in Bogra adds: Two motorcyclists were killed in a road accident at Pirob under Shibganj upazila in Bogra yesterday.

The dead were identified as Moazzem Hossain, 52, and Yunus Ali, 60.

Police said the accident occurred at around 4:00pm when their motorbike and a truck collided head-on, leaving Moazzem dead on the spot and Yunus Ali injured. Yunus succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital.

MBBS admission test results published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of MBBS admission test for 17 public medical colleges were published yesterday.

A total of 36,170 candidates vied for 2,310 seats in the examination that was held on Friday.

The results have been posted on website 'www.dghs.gov.bd'.

The interested candidates having TeleTalk connections would also be able to find their results through sending short messages by typing DGHS <space> college code-space-reg no and then sending the SMSs to 2777.

Some 40 seats were reserved for freedom fighter quota, 20 for tribal indigenous people quota and the rest 2,250 were general seats, said Prof Khondakar Md Shefayetullah, director of Medical Education of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Of the total successful candidates, 52 percent are male and 48 percent female, he said, adding that the admission process would be completed by October 29.

Shefayetullah said, "Massive steps were taken to prevent question paper leakage. Activities of the medical coaching centres were suspended for 10 days from October 1 to October 10."

Intelligence agencies were also deployed to keep an eye on the coaching centres since October 1, he mentioned.

The admission tests in the private medical colleges would also take place by mid November, the officials said.

This is for the first time the admission test in private medical colleges would be held simultaneously under the ministry of health and family welfare with the same question paper against 3,035 seats.

The results can be found on 'http://www.thedailystar.net/medicalresults.htm'.

500 sued in Ctg soccer clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police filed a case accusing over 500 people in connection with the clash that took place between soccer fans and cops centering a football match at MA Aziz Stadium on Saturday evening.

The clash following a football match of Mayor Inter-Ward Football Tournament left some 30 people, including 15 policemen injured.

"One of the injured cops - Sub Inspector Mahbubur Rahman of Kotwali Police Station - filed the case on Saturday night accusing some 500 people," said Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohiuddin Mahmud.

Police said the case was filed for assaulting police, hindering law enforcers while performing professional duty and damaging properties.

During the clash the unruly feuding fans also broke a Gas Gun into two pieces and damaged several teeth of one constable with punch, they alleged.

One Md Rafiq was arrested in this connection and produced before the court in the afternoon, said investigation officer (IO) of the case Badal Bishwas.



Vendors re-occupy the road around Karwan Bazar kitchen market in the city yesterday immediately after they were evicted by police.

PHOTO: STAR

'Try war criminals soon to curb militancy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Forum for Secular Bangladesh (FSB) yesterday said delaying trial of the war criminals would only give religious fanatics scope to find out ways to escape trial.

Trial of war criminals is a must to curb militancy, they added.

Referring to a newspaper report on an Islamist militant's confessional statements involving an army official, the FSB leaders expressed concern over the militants' links and termed it an alarming sign.

The government must carry out a careful assessment of its implications, they added. They told this to reporters after a discussion on 'Rise of Islamist militancy in

Bangladesh and its objectives' at the WVA auditorium in the city. FSB organised the discussion as part of the premiere show of a documentary film titled 'Portrait of Jihad' by journalist and writer Shahriar Kabir.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury, chairman of the advisory committee of FSB, said, "The government must take immediate action to remove all recruits who have links to any Islamist outfits."

The nation would not achieve its dreams of the War of Liberation unless the militancy is eliminated, he added.

FSB Vice-Chairman Prof Muntasir Mamun said the government should have been more cautious before making important appointments.

At the discussion, FSB Chairman Shahriar Kabir said the ruling party had pledged to bring war criminals to justice, but they failed to do so even 10 months into their tenure.

The war criminals of 1971, who mostly belong to Jamaat, are still roaming freely, he added.

He also demanded that the confessional statements of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Shaikh Abdul Rahman and Bangla Bhai be made public.

Justice Ghulam Rabbani, chairman of Citizens' Commission on Trial of War Criminals, and Ayesha Khanam, chairperson of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, also spoke.

Minor girl violated in Gazipur

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

An eight-year-old girl was violated by her classmate's younger brother in the rapist's house under Bhawal Mirzapur area in Gazipur on Saturday evening.

Police said the victim's neighbour Habibur Rahman, 20, violated her while she was studying in a room with his sister.

Police said locals rescued the girl, who is a student of class one of a local primary school, and sent her to Gazipur Sadar Hospital where she was undergoing treatment.

They said the perpetrator came to the room where the victim was studying with her classmate and asked his sister to leave the room.

At one stage, he gagged the victim's mouth and violated her, leaving her critically injured.

Following the incident, perpetrator Habibur fled the spot.

Officer-in-Charge Abdur Rashid of Gazipur Sadar Police Station said the victim's father Abul Hossain filed a case in this regard under Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amended) Act.

4 snatchers arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four snatchers and seized a microbus, fake driving license and sedative gels from their possession at Karwan Bazar in the city yesterday.

The arrestees are Swapna, 27, Chan Mia, 35, Kabir and Delwar Hossain. They are residents of Hazaribagh and Jatrabari area in the city.

Rab sources told The Daily Star that Rab personnel arrested them from in front of No. 1 DIT Market at Karwan Bazar at around 3:30am.

Sources said the snatchers tried to snatch belongings from two pedestrians near Mohakhali bus terminal around 3:00am, but as locals rushed to the spot hearing the victims' screaming, the snatchers escaped in a microbus.

Following the incident locals informed a petrol team of Rab, which immediately conducted drives and arrested them.

SWECHCHHASEBAK DAL Soheli made president, Sarafat secretary BNP announces names after 13 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP yesterday announced the names of new president and secretary of Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebak Dal after 13 years and that again without holding any council whatsoever.

The central committee of the associate body has two-year tenure only, but BNP brought the much-delayed changes into the committee, formed in 1996, with a lapse of 11 years.

The changes were made only through announcing the names of two top slots by issuing a press release.

Though mandated in the organisation's constitution, no council was held and the formation of a full committee is also kept hold.

"Former JCD president Habib-un-Nabi Soheli and ex-organising secretary of Swechchhasebak Dal Mir Sarafat Ali Safu were appointed as president and general secretary of Swechchhasebak Dal," said a party release.

It also said, "This appointment has been made with the consent of BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia. At the same time, the committee formed on March 10, 1996 has been dissolved. The full committee would be announced soon."

Asked about the formation of a new committee without holding a council, newly nominated president Habib-un-Nabi last night said according to the provision of the organisation, the committee can be formed through either direct announcement or council.

Call to discuss issues of national interests in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum leaders yesterday called on the government to discuss all the issues and contracts related to the national interests in parliament to ensure accountability and transparency.

They also urged the ruling party to take effective measures to rein in the prices of essentials, to ease traffic jam and keep the law and order situation under control.

Expressing his gratitude to the BNP chairperson and party men for electing him, Soheli, who contested in the December 29 parliamentary election from Dhaka-8 but defeated, said they would announce full committee soon with the directive of Khaleda.

Earlier, the BNP chairperson on July 1 announced the new committee of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) with Sultan Salahuddin Tuku and Amirul Islam Khan Alim as president and general secretary via media, which was also created a lot of criticism.

A faction of JCD leaders and workers protested the announcement, saying that all the leaders of the committee were not regular students, even though there was tremendous pressure from JCD to form a committee with regular students.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 8th death anniversary of Prof Dr Nawab Ali Ahmed, one of the founders of the 'Society of Surgeons' in the country and father of Prof Dr Rubaiul Murshed, writer of a weekly column titled 'Have a nice day' in The Daily Star, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Ahmed Medical Centre at Dhanmendi in the city after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Lieutenant (ret'd) Golam Kibria passed away due to heart and lung complications at Apollo Hospitals in the city yesterday at the age of 60, says a press release.

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

He was buried at Azampur graveyard (new) after namaz-e-janaza at Gulshan Azad Mosque in the city yesterday. His Qulhwani will be held after Asr prayers tomorrow at House-2/A, Road-104, Gulshan-2 in the city.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend his Qulhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Kibria retired from the Pakistan Army before the liberation of Bangladesh. After retirement he also worked with Rural Electrification Board.

Kazi Mazharul Huq

METRO DESK



Kazi Mazharul Huq, a system analyst of ERA InfoTech Limited, a sister concern of Bank Asia Ltd, passed away on Wednesday at the age of 35, says a press release.

Erfanuddin Ahmed, president and managing director of Bank Asia, expressed shock at the premature death of Mazharul and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

A milad mahfil will be held at ERA InfoTech Ltd office (Bengal Centre, 28 Topkhana Road) in the city at 5:00pm today seeking divine blessing of the departed soul.

Anwara Khatun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anwara Khatun, mother of Harun-or-Rashid, a left-leaning political leader, passed away at her residence in Jessore yesterday at the age of 82, says a press release.

She left behind her five sons and three daughters to mourn her death.

Workers' Party President and General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon and Bimol Biswas expressed deep condolence at her death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Aava Rani Das

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Aava Rani Das, mother of Ashok Kumar Das, Moulvibazar correspondent of the Bangladesh Observer, passed away due to a stroke at a private clinic in Sylhet city yesterday at the age of 67.

She left behind her two sons, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her cremation ritual was held at Salyerpur cremation ground in Moulvibazar town yesterday.

Moulvibazar-3 constituency lawmaker Syed Mohsin Ali, president and general secretary of Moulvibazar Press Club MA Salam and Sarwar Ahmed condoled the death.

Health minister, JICA boss visits Safe Motherhood Promotion Project in Narsingdi

METRO DESK

Health and Family Welfare Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque and Chief Representative of JICA Bangladesh Dr Takao Toda visited Safe Motherhood Promotion Project (SMPP) in Narsingdi on Saturday.

The SMPP is a project of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare technically assisted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), says a press release.

The project aims at improving health status of pregnant and postpartum women and neonates in the targeted districts over the four-year implementation period.

Narsingdi was selected as the pilot district to demonstrate effective and innovative community and health facility-based approaches for future replication to other districts in Bangladesh.

At first the team visited Community Support System (CmSS) at Musapur union in Raipura upazila of the district where CmSS members explained to the guests their group activities to prevent maternal and neonatal death in the community.

The health minister was impressed at the initiative. He also asked the local government to come forward to assist community clinics and a community initiative like this.

Following the CmSS visit, they moved to Raipura Upazila Health Complex (UHC).

The UHC was renovated with JICA assistance to initiate Caesarian Section in May 2008 and service quality management in the hospital has been strengthened. Since then, the number of deliveries at the hospital has dramatically increased.

The health minister appreciated the JICA support in this regard and asked the UHC to strengthen the hospital management committee with the active participation of the local representatives.

Lawmakers Advocate Nurul Mazid Mahmud Humayun, Lt Colonel (ret'd) Md Nazrul Islam, Md Zahurul Haque Bhuiyan and Md Anwarul Ashraf Khan, the director general of Health Services and the director general of Family Planning were also present.

34 more attacked with swine flu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prevalence of swine flu shows a fall in the country as 34 more people have been infected with the H1N1 virus last week whereas the number was 42 the previous week, government sources confirmed.

Since June 18, 680 people of 21 districts have been infected with the flu, they said.

At a press briefing at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), the experts also said that no new district has been infected with the virus by this time.

Different city hospitals are also experiencing reduced number of patients in the separate outdoors and swine flu corners.

Many of the hospital

authorities are now thinking of closing the corners as the situation has been improving in the country.

When asked about running these separate corners with reduced number of patients, Mushtaq Husain, senior scientific officer of IEDCR, said the hospital committees can close the service if they think that is not needed.

"But since winter is the flu season in the European countries and many people from Europe would visit the country during that time, we should not slack about the screening and service programme," he said adding that the government should strengthen the school programme and take necessary preparations to combat any critical situation.



PHOTO: STAR

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque speaks at a view exchange meeting at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, and Rabeya Sultana of ActionAid. (Story on Page 3)



No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over all the six 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 6:35pm today and rises at 6:55am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.6 degrees Celsius also at Jessore.

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	32.1	24.5	69	76
Chittagong	30.8	25.3	93	70
Rajshahi	33.4	23.2	80	83
Khulna	34.0	24.0	76	84
Barisal	33.7	23.7	77	83
Sylhet	32.4	23.2	79	81
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.4	72	75