

1ST INT'L CONFCE ON CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE KICKS OFF

Open branch of Shishu Hospital at each divisional HQ: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to open two more branches of Dhaka Shishu Hospital in the capital and one in each divisional headquarters.

She gave the directive while addressing the inaugural function of the 1st International Conference on Congenital Heart Disease at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.

Cardiologists and paediatric surgeons from India, Pakistan, China, Singapore and Thailand are attending the three-day meet organised by the Paediatric Cardiac Society of Bangladesh (PCSB) and co-

sponsored by ISCU, Bangladesh chapter.

Hasina observed that children are affected by many complex diseases like congenital heart diseases, but full-fledged institutions have not yet been established in Bangladesh for treatment of such diseases.

She also said the government will introduce paediatric cardiology and paediatric cardiac surgery departments in the government medical college hospitals very soon and, on priority basis, expand both the departments in Dhaka Shishu Hospital and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

The prime minister also disclosed government plans to introduce primary healthcare

service for cardiac patients in the upazila health complexes, emergency cardiac medical facilities in district hospitals and specialised cardiac departments in all government medical college hospitals by 2013.

At government level, some services on cardiac complications are available at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and at CMH, but they are too few to cope with the requirements, she said.

Hasina also requested senior physicians to think whether measles, mumps, rubella vaccines can be included in the National Vaccination Programme.

"If these vaccines can be included in the national

programme, the rate of congenital heart diseases can be reduced significantly," she added.

Hasina said the previous Awami League government (1996-2001) took comprehensive programmes to expand quality health services to remote areas by setting up 18,000 community clinics.

But the last BNP-Jamaat government had stopped the project, she said, adding that the present government has decided to revive it.

The prime minister said her government will set up one community clinic for every 6000 people of the country, as it wants to deliver quality medicare service to the doorsteps of rural poor.

Regular salary to stop unrest in RMG sector

Panellists tell BBC Sanglap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a BBC Bangladesh Sanglap (dialogue) yesterday said wages of the garment workers should be paid in time to stop the growing unrest in the country's garment sector.

They called on the government to investigate whether there is any conspiracy of foreign forces in creating unrest in the nascent garment industries.

Adviser to Prime Minister HT Imam, BNP leader Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, Associate Prof Kaberi Gayen of Dhaka University and Executive Editor of the Naya Diganta Salahuddin Babar were the panellists at the discussion.

The PM's adviser said there is no unrest in the garment factories where workers are

paid their wages regularly. Answering a question from an audience about yesterday's garment unrest, HT Imam said, "It is not right that you would profit but won't pay your workers and ask the government to pay for you."

Exact information should be gathered from the garment factories why such unrest takes place, he said, adding that but the owners need to pay their workers first.

Hafizuddin said, "The workers today (Saturday) went into unrest as they were not paid for three months. They should be paid their wages. But at the same time, the workers should also know that vandalising cars and factories is not the right way to get their wages."

Kaberi Gayen said, "They [garment workers] are earning us the second highest foreign

exchange, so why won't they be paid their due wages. I think before finding out any foreign conspiracy, the workers should be paid first," she said.

Babar said unrest takes place as there is no effective workers' movement and the labour organisations are not playing their due role in this regard.

About the allegation brought against opposition leader Khaleda Zia by Awami League lawmaker Fazlul Karim Selim of her involvement in the August 21 grenade attacks and bomb attack on Taposh, the discussions said such comments should not be made by any responsible person without any proof.

The audience at the dialogue said if he [Selim] had any proof against Khaleda, he should make it public.



PHOTO: STAR

Students and environmental activists form a human chain at Red Field at Mirpur-12 in the city yesterday demanding protection of the field from land grabbers.

'Protect Mirpur's Red Field'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday urged the government to protect Red Field of Mirpur in the city from being occupied by the land grabbers.

"Open fields in the city are being occupied one after another. The city-dwellers have no space to play, to walk or to have fresh air. The government should be more strict to protect existing open lands from being

occupied illegally," they added.

The rally was organised jointly by Save the Environment Movement and Barnak Samaj Kalyan Krira and Sangskritik Sangha at the Red Field, said a press release.

The speakers said the Red Field is the only playground of the area where hundreds of children and young people come for play and recreation every day.

But some influential land

grabbers are now hatching conspiracy to occupy the field by constructing market and multi-storied building, they added.

Local people and school students joined the rally to press home their demand and took oath to protect the field at any cost.

Local MP Ilias Ali Mollah, Chairman of Save the Environment Movement Abu Naser Khan, folk singer Abdus

Kuddus Boyati and actor Manjur Hossain also addressed thereally.

Meanwhile, leaders of Narayanganj Paribesh Andolan yesterday urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to recover the grabbed lands, water bodies and canals.

They made the demand at a human chain formed in front of Narayanganj Press Club, said another press release.

Stop killing of helpless people

FM urges UN secretary general

DU CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday urged the UN secretary general to ensure optimum use of his office in halting the massacre and maiming of helpless people, especially women and children, in all parts of the globe.

She made the appeal while addressing a function marking the 64th anniversary of the UN and 35 years of UN in Bangladesh as chief guest at a city hotel.

"We are saddened by so many wars around the world and so many internal armed conflicts in different parts of the world," said the minister, adding that poor people including women and children have become the worst victims

of this madness.

She said the UN could not stop those because the member states have failed to rise above paltry and sometimes wrongly perceived national interests.

Dipu assured that Bangladesh would stand ready to do all it can in this regard.

She hoped that the United Nations (UN) must take the lead in tackling the challenges across the globe including climate change, food security, global economic recession and attaining the millennium development goals (MDGs).

She said the UN is the most powerful forum to safeguard the interests of small and underdeveloped countries.

The minister said Bangladesh's eagerness to join

the mainstream of the UN after its independence reflected its unwavering commitment to the values of democracy, human rights, rule of law, equity and justice.

Mentioning the significance of the exemplary partnership between the UN and Bangladesh, UN Resident Coordinator in Dhaka Renata Lok Dessallien reaffirmed the UN's dedication and full commitment to support Bangladesh in consolidating democracy and the MDGs.

"We stand ready and will do our utmost to respond to the needs of the government and the people of Bangladesh," she added.

Bangladesh received UN membership on September 17, 1974.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 29th death anniversary of Abdus Samad Bepari, one of the founders of Kurmitola High School and president of undivided Satarikul Union.

On the occasion, Dhaka Forum and Beraid Gonopathagar (public library) will arrange a doa and millad mahfil on the library premises.

1,202 flats

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According to the proposal, National Development Engineers Ltd, being the lowest bidder, would initially construct a building having 78 flats at a cost of Tk 23.67 crore.

Three proposals related to construction of roads and drainage system at Purbachal housing project would also be placed at the meeting.

The total work would be done in 19 packages. Of these, the firm M/s Ismail Hossain will work in three packages, Rafique Construction in two, Tanzir Construction in three and Niaz-Noona JV in two packages.

A proposal has been placed for the excess work of constructing Dapdapia Bridge on Barisal-Patuaakhali road at a cost of about Tk 28 crore. Originally, the project cost was Tk 139 crore, but now an additional Tk 28 crore has been added to the original estimate.

Another proposal has been placed for procurement of 10 railway locomotive compartments. The lowest bidder Hyundai Rotem Company would supply the compartments for Tk 199 crore.

A proposal would be placed for procurement of 1 lakh tonnes of wheat at a cost of Tk 151 crore from Ampang Food Industries.

In the current fiscal year the government has set a target of importing 7.5 lakh tonnes of wheat. An agreement for 1 lakh tonne has already been signed. A proposal for import of another 1 lakh tonne has been placed in the meeting.

Another proposal would be placed for import of 1.5 lakh tonnes of Murel of Potash (MOP) to be imported by the state from a Belarus company.

Establish teachers' rights for quality education

Speakers tell meeting

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a daylong view exchange meeting here yesterday called on the government to introduce an unbiased education policy and establish rights and honour to teachers for quality education in Bangladesh.

The speakers stressed the need for establishing a technical school at each upazila or thana level to ensure effective education in every part of the country.

Seminar on memory power concludes

UNB, Dhaka

A two-day seminar on 'Memory and concentration power' concluded at National Sports Council auditorium at Purana Paltan in the city yesterday calling upon people to identify invisible doctor inside human body.

BK Chandra Shekhar, holder of Guinness World Record on memory power, was the keynote speaker at the seminar, organised by Holistic Health Care Centre.

Invisible doctor lives inside human body and this invisible doctor can show the ways to overcome crisis and problems. Human life can be happy and remain free from diseases through regular exercise, intake of moderate food and assistance of this invisible doctor, said Shekhar.

Director of Birdem Laboratory Services Prof Dr Shuvagata Chowdhury attended the inaugural session as the chief guest.

Some 900 people from different sections of society took part in different sessions of the two-day seminar, the first of its kind in the country.

Jatiya Shikhhak Karmachari Front (National Teacher-Employee Front, Rajshahi organised the view exchange meeting on 'National Education Policy-2009' at Rajshahi Zilla Parishad auditorium.

Divisional Coordinator of the Front Principal Shafiqur Rahman presided over the meeting.

Education Policy Formulation Committee member Principal Kazi Faruque Ahmed said the education policy will help the nation move forward if it is implemented properly.

The speakers recommended ensuring medical treatment of teachers and employees, introducing sti-

pend for poor and meritorious students, recruiting subject-wise teachers and providing students with vocational training facilities at every upazila.

Lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha, Prof Zinnatun Nesa Talukdar MP, Ruet Vice Chancellor Dr Sirajul Karim Chowdhury, Acting Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Shariful Islam Babu, former chairman of Rajshahi Education Board Prof Nurul Alam, Bangladesh Teachers' Society Chairman M Ajizul Islam, Bangladesh Technical College Teachers' Society Secretary Principal Muhammad Ali Chowdhury also spoke.

Three killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Three people were killed in separate road accidents in Thakurgaon and Bogra yesterday.

Our correspondent in Thakurgaon reports: One person was killed in a road accident at Ashrampara in Thakurgaon yesterday.

The dead was identified as Rafiqul Islam Royal, 18, an activist of s Bangladesh Chhatra League and son of Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury under Sadar upazila.

Police and locals said the accident occurred at about 4:30pm on Friday when two motorcycles collided head-on, leaving Royal critically injured.

He was rushed to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital and later shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries yesterday morning.

Local Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League leaders expressed deep shock at his death.

UNB in Bogra adds: Two people were killed and four others injured in a road accident at Ranabirbala under Sherpur upazila in Bogra yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Saleha, 50, widow of Rajuddin of Baraitali village in Kajipur upazila in Sirajganj, and auto-rickshaw driver Abdus Salam, 24.

Police said the accident occurred when a Bogra-bound bus collided with the auto-rickshaw on Sherpur-Dhunot road at 10:00am, killing its passenger Saleha on the spot and injuring five others.

The injured were treated at Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital where Salam died in the afternoon. Police later seized the bus.

Agencies gave hints

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and wages of the workers from BGMEA funds and deploying adequate police force as well as increasing intelligence vigilance were also recommended.

The report stated that fear of unrest was looming at the entire RMG sector due to "tyranny" and "non-cooperation" by some factory owners. It added owners of three factories did not become sympathetic to their workers even after the latter staged demonstrations and formed

human chains to press home their demands.

As their salary and wages were not paid, these workers were passing a miserable life without paying their house rents and dues at grocery shops, said the report. It added already different labour unions were keeping close contacts with those workers.

The intelligence agency also mentioned that more than 2,000 workers of three factories who were sacked by the authorities have been

demanding their salary, wages and arrears for the last few weeks.

These three RMG factories have shut their offices without paying wages, salaries and arrears of the workers, said the report.

It was suspected that the sacked and unemployed workers along with their colleagues at different factories at the instigation of some labour leaders might launch a massive demonstration any time, the report gave the alert.

EU parliament body team arrives

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Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Nirj Deva leads the delegation. Four other MEPs and three officials comprise the team.

The European Union (EU) gives high priority to the climate change issue and is committed to help the countries on the front row battle the consequences, said Nirj Deva ahead of the visit.

"We are talking about real problems threatening the real people. What we need is funds and not only talks," he said, according to a press release of the EC delegation in Dhaka.

During the visit from Nov 1-3, the delegation will meet

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, food and disaster management minister, foreign minister, chairpersons of the parliamentary committees on Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Ministry of Environment and Forest and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

The delegation will also hold meetings with country representatives of international organisations in Bangladesh and members of local civil society.

On November 2, it will visit two EU funded projects, Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme

(CDMP) and Vulnerable Group Development for Ultra Poor (VGDUP) Programme, in Sirajganj.

The Committee on Development is one of the 20 standing committees of the European Parliament. Like all parliaments, the European Parliament has three fundamental powers: legislative, budgetary and supervisory. The standing committees, as specialised bodies, examine matters under their remit and submit their position, in the form of reports containing draft resolutions, for final adoption by plenary. Only when a resolution is finally adopted

by plenary does it become the official position of the European Parliament.

The Committee on Development is the Parliament's main actor in promoting, implementing and monitoring the development and cooperation policy of the Union, notably through: (a) bilateral political dialogue with developing countries and in the relevant international organisations and inter-parliamentary fora, (b) aid to, and cooperation agreements with, developing countries, (c) promotion of democratic values, good governance and human rights in developing countries.

Govt to probe all extra-judicial killings

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Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members and four national leaders were brutally killed in 1975, he said, adding that all this constitutes crimes against humanity.

The programme was jointly organised by the Promoting Access to Justice and Human Rights in Bangladesh Project of the Ministry of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme.

Shafique Ahmed said the

government has taken initiatives to appoint an ombudsman as per provision of the constitution in order to ensure the constitutional rights of the people.

A committee headed by the speaker of parliament will elect the ombudsmen within a very short time, he said.

He said the ombudsman can probe allegations against any governmental, semi-governmental or statutory office or organisation, and can recommend proper steps for

the government to take.

Presided over by Law Secretary Kazi Habibul Awal, the inaugural function was addressed by State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam, Vice-chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council Abdul Baset Majumder, Chairman of Legal Education and Training Institute of Bangladesh Bar Council and former SCBA president M Amir-UI Islam, president of the Supreme Court Bar Association AFM

Mesbahuddin and UNDP Country Director Stefan Priensar.

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam said law officers have to play effective role in building awareness among citizens about their legal, fundamental and human rights.

Amir-UI Islam said facilities for healthcare, education, food and treatment have to be ensured for establishing human rights of the poor.



Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:19pm today and rises at 7:05am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 17.6 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	31.0	22.6	67	62
Chittagong	31.5	21.6	74	69
Rajshahi	30.0	18.8	78	86
Khulna	31.8	19.0	69	78
Barisal	31.7	20.0	85	91
Sylhet	31.9	20.8	64	72
Cox's Bazar	33.0	22.0	67	72