

## Sale of contraband drugs rampant

Traders call strike in port city protesting seizure of illegal, fake medicines

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Sale of contraband and fake drugs continued unabated in the port city causing suffering to the patients as well as the loss of revenue to the government.

The incident came to the light when members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) raided a shop in the city's wholesale drug market at Hazari Lane last week.

A section of traders have been importing and selling the foreign drugs illegally for long to meet the demand of those drugs that are badly needed in different complicated diseases like heart disease, diabetes, cancer and maternal complications.

Traders said several contraband drugs for different diseases have great demand in the market as many doctors prescribe them.

The contraband drugs like Glucophage for diabetes from France, Banocide from India, Alzolam, Vertine 8 of heart disease, Gestin for maternal complications and Primolut N to control bleeding from Pakistan, Neorobean Forte from India, Otofleur for allergy from India are available in the country's markets.

"We have to keep these medicines for the sake of business. Otherwise, we have to loose customers," said a pharmacy owner preferring anonymity.

"Those who market these medicines and those who prescribe go unchallenged when sellers like us are to face harassment," he said, adding that marketing and prescribing of such medicines should be stopped first.

Kanchan, a pharmacy owner, alleged that many medicines shown as foreign products are produced locally by some vested quarters while doctors prescribe these medicines.

Meanwhile, the Crime Prevention

Company (CPC)-3 of Rab-7 during a drive on November 4 night seized huge quantity of contraband drugs worth around Tk 20 lakh from Popular Medical Hall and arrested three people, including son of the shop owner and two staffs.

The raid, however, infuriated the traders who denied the allegation of selling contraband drugs. They enforced a two-day strike to protest what they said 'harassment' to them by the law enforcement agency in the name of raid against contraband drugs.

The traders of wholesale drug market also enforced a daylong strike on November 5 protesting the seizure of drugs and arrest of three from Popular Medical Hall. They also enforced another strike on November 7 protesting the arrest.

They alleged that the Rab men seized some legal drugs during such raids alongside contraband items.

Tapan Kanti Biswas, proprietor of Popular Medical Hall, alleged that the law enforcers during the raid also seized legal drugs worth Tk 6 lakh, including costly insulin. He said they have legal documents of those drugs.

Bangladesh Chemist and Druggist Association Chittagong chapter President Samir Kanti said they welcome such drives but not the harassment to traders in the name of raid. Samir said they want that the law enforcers to make a seizure list during the drive in front of all that they denied.

Denying the allegation of seizure of legal drugs, Additional Director of Rab-7 ASP Mohammad Sajjad Hossen said the drive is conducted by the Drug Administration Department while Rab only assist them.

When contacted Superintendent of Drug Administration Department Akhter Hossain said they seize only the contraband items not the legal ones.



Government Art College, Chittagong at Badsha Road. The photo was taken on Monday.

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## Govt Art College to be upgraded

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

Government Art College, Chittagong is being upgraded to Institute of Fine Arts merging with the Fine Arts department of Chittagong University (CU).

CU syndicate at a meeting on October 25 approved the long waited proposal to set up the institute under the university on the Art College premises at Chatteswari Road in the port city.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Abu Yusuf told The Daily Star that the demand for an independent institute for fine arts had been pending for long.

"The institute could not be established earlier due to some difficulties and opposition from a quarter. Now, I feel proud to see the long cherished dream going to be materialised and hope it will surely help expand the practice of fine art in this region," Prof Yusuf said.

He said they have sent all the deci-

sions and proposals of the syndicate to the education ministry and the University Grants Commission (UGS) in this regard.

The government has responded positively, he said, adding that the institute will function under CU and a university teacher will be its director.

He said the government will hand over the lands and infrastructure of the institute to the university through a gazette notification and the CU Fine Arts Department will be shifted to the institute from the campus.

Art College in the port city had been limping with manifold problems since long and will get rid of the crises after establishing the institute.

Welcoming the initiative, Chittagong Charushilpi Sammilan Parishad Convener Ahmed Newaj said after establishing an independent institute the students will be able to concentrate on study fully. The students would now be able to engage themselves in creative works that they

could not do so far as the CU campus is 22 kilometres off the city.

"A department and an institute are not same thing. In the institute the students would get huge scope for creative works in a congenial atmosphere," he said.

CU Fine Arts Department Chairman Prof Jasim Uddin said establishing an institute was their dream for long and the university authorities came forward overcoming the problems that halted the initiative earlier.

Mohammad AK Fazlul Huq, acting principal of Fine Arts College, said the college is now facing serious shortage of teacher.

There are only 10 teachers against 30 posts to provide education to around 200 students under four disciplines at honours level. Of them, only five teachers are of related disciplines, he said, adding that the crisis will be solved if the institute is set up as early as possible.

The Fine Arts College was established in the picturesque site of city's Chatteshwari area in 1973 and it turned into a government college in 1984.

Sources said CU authorities at a syndicate meeting on September 23 in 1997 decided to upgrade the college into an institute merging Fine Arts Department with it.

The then government also issued a gazette notification in this regard on March 11 in 1999.

But, filing of a writ petition by a CU teacher delayed the process until the Supreme Court dismissed the petition and directed the authorities concerned to upgrade the college into Institute of Fine Arts on July 20 in 2002.

Besides, only a few days before the SC order reached it, the then BNP-Jamaat backed CU authorities at its 389th syndicate meeting on July 29 in 2002 cancelled its previous decision to establish the institute.

## the week that was



Chittagong City Corporation takes out a colourful procession from Chittagong MA Aziz Stadium on Saturday to thank the prime minister and celebrate selection of Chittagong as venue for two matches of 2011 World Cup to be co-hosted by Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.

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## Danish support for dev assured

Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh Einar Heibogaard Jensen on Wednesday assured Bangladesh of continued support for economic and social development under Business to Business (B2B) programme giving priority to its technology and investment in the country's private sector.

The Danish envoy said this while he was launching the commercial production of Cold Play School Products Ltd (CPSPL), a Danish-Bangladesh joint venture project at Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ), as the chief guest.

Martin Bille Hermann, Head of Asia Department, Danish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, CEPZ General Manager Ataul Haq, Michael Cold of Cold Legeredskaber, Denmark and Helal Uddin Ahmed and Nazmul Abedin of

Multi Safh Bags Ltd. Bangladesh were present at the launching ceremony.

The three million US dollar joint venture project was producing various kindergarten play items like Snow Slider, Water Slider, Air Mats, Bouncing Mats, Trampoline, Sack Chairs, Foam Sets, Cyber Wheels, etc for exporting to Europe, particularly to Scandinavian countries, sources said.

CPSPL would employ around 500 Bangladeshi workers while the local operators already are working in the unit with extensive overseas production training in Denmark supported by the Danish government under B2B programme, they said.

## Seminar on dengue

Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners Association (BPMPA)

organised a seminar on dengue at a local hotel in the port city on Friday.

Speakers at the seminar stressed the need for training the general physicians of first line defence on national guidelines for treatment and prevention of dengue.

Chittagong Medical College Principal Prof Dr Gofranul Haque addressed the seminar as the chief guest and Prof Imran Bin Yunus, editor of national guidelines for Dengue, as the key-note speaker at the seminar chaired by BPMPA President Dr QM Ohidul Alam.

BPMPA General Secretary Dr Sheikh Shaiful Azam was accorded reception at the seminar for being elected president of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Chittagong unit.

Earlier in the morning BPMPA organised a medical camp at Maizpara School of remote Purba Dhalai area under Hathazari upazila. A medical

team lead by Dr Sarwar and Dr Nasir provided treatment to some 700 patients and performed blood grouping of 50 people at the camp.

## Seminar on artificial impregnation held

A scientific seminar on 'Intra uterine insemination (IUI)' in the port city on Friday emphasised proper preparation of semen and application of practical aspect of IUI for successful artificial impregnation.

Centre for Specialised Care and Research (CSCR), a leading diagnostic centre-cum clinic, organised the seminar at its hall room to discuss thoroughly different aspect of IUI.

Prof Dr Mahabub Kamal Chowdhury presided over the seminar where Prof

Dr Shamsun Nahar gave the address of welcome.

Associate Professor Dr Shahanara Chowdhury and Dr Maruf Siddique presented two papers titled "Selection of patient and patient preparation for IUI" and "Semen preparation and practical aspects of IUI" at the seminar. Prof Dr Syeda Nurjahan Bhuiyan and CSCR Chairman Prof Dr M Manjurul Islam also spoke at the seminar moderated by Assistant Professor Dr Rawshan Morshed.

## Need for moral teaching underscored

University plays a great role in building eligible leaders and worthy citizens. There is no alternative to moral teaching for building an honest leadership.

Prof Dr Abdullah Omar Nafees, Chairman of International Islamic University Chittagong (IIUC) Trust and former deputy speaker of Saudi Arabia, said this while he was speaking at the inaugural function of the 7th biennial conference of IIUC at a local hotel in the port city on Thursday.

IIUC Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Md

Mahbub Ullah, IIUC Trust Secretary Muhammad Shamsul Islam MP, former Kuwaiti religious affairs minister Sheikh Yusuf Jaseem Hajji, OIC Islamic Solidarity Fund Chairman Naser Hamdan, former UAE minister Prof Dr Abdur Rahman Al Baqar and former IIUC VC Prof Dr AKM Azharul Islam also spoke at the ceremony chaired by IIUC Trust Chairman Prof Dr Omar Nafees.

## BN contingent leaves for Sudan

A 93-member contingent of Bangladesh Navy (BN) left Shah Amanat International Airport, Chittagong on Thursday to join UN Peace Mission in Sudan.

The BN contingent (BANFRU 5) comprising 16 officers, 75 soldiers and 2 civil employees, left the port city by a UN chartered aircraft Jordan Aviation (JAV 7637).

Commodore Commander, Chittagong Commodore AMM Aourangzeb Chowdhury and other high naval officers were present at the airport to see the contingent off.

Bangladesh Navy is sending contingent to UN Peacekeeping Mission since

1993, said a press release signed by ISPR Director Lt Colonel Kazi Md Kabirul Islam.

## 27 challenged persons get certificates

Concern Services for Disabled (CSD) distributed certificates among 27 challenged participants of Rani Saha Sewing Programme on Friday.

Dr Prokrity Chakrobarty as the chief guest gave away certificates at the 7th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of CSD at its Fatehabad head office. Rani Saha Sewing Programme is an annual event financed by Pranab Saha.

CSD President and social scientist Dr Anupam Sen presided over the AGM where CSD General Secretary Bishwajit Gupta Bishu and Treasurer Baduzzaman Khan presented the organisation's annual report and annual audit report respectively.

CSD advisers Prof Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam, Dr Sayesta Khan and Dr Shipra Dostidar were present at the ceremony moderated by veteran journalist Arun Dasgupta.



Professor Emeritus Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam, second from right, along with Premier University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Anupam Sen, third from right, inaugurates the water supply project set up by Concern Services for Disabled at Fatehabad Nandirhat under Hathazari upazila on Friday.

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