



With acute water crisis coupled with scorching heat, the number of children diarrhoea patients at ICCDR.B in the city has been on the rise. The picture was taken yesterday.

GOVT PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT Set up network to improve functioning Saarc delegates recommend

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Delegates from the Saarc countries have recommended setting up a regional 'government performance management network' to share experiences and emerging best practices in the region.

The member countries have also proposed institution of a Saarc award for innovations in government performance management and development of a system to facilitate government to government (G2G) consulting services in the Saarc region.

The recommendations made at the end of a workshop held in New Delhi on March 30-31 are likely to be placed for consideration at the next Saarc summit to be held on April 28-29 in Thimpu, Bhutan, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

In his inaugural address, Indian Cabinet Secretary KM Chandrasekhar said that in an increasingly globalised world,

government effectiveness holds the key to a nation's competitive advantage.

Experts agree that in the long run, race among nations will be won or lost not on the basis of comparative advantage arising from resource endowment, but by the competitive advantage created by effective governments, he added.

The workshop aimed at sharing the knowledge and experience on government performance management practices in Saarc countries was inaugurated by Secretary General of Saarc Sheel Kant Sharma along with the senior officials from India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The workshop on 'Government Performance Management' was organised by India in response to a decision taken at the meeting of cabinet secretaries from the Saarc Countries held in November 2009.

4 killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

At least four people were killed and 19 others injured in separate road accidents in Chittagong, Mymensingh and Gaibandha yesterday.

UNB from Chittagong reports: Two people were killed and eight others injured in separate road accidents in the district yesterday.

Police and locals said Bashi Das, 40, of Borma village in Chandanish upazila died on the spot and five others were injured when a bus from Cox's Bazar hit them in front of Borma Degree College as the driver of the vehicle lost his control over the steering.

The injured were admitted to local health complex.

In another accident, a young man was killed and three others were injured as a truck hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Burishchar on Chittagong-Kaptai road.

Police and witnesses said the Chittagong-bound truck hit the Kaptai-bound auto-rickshaw at about 12:10pm,

leaving its four passengers injured.

The injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where Yasin, 30, succumbed to his injuries.

Our correspondent from Mymensingh adds: A college student was killed and eight others were injured, five critically, in a road accident on Mymensingh-Tangail highway at Kanchijuly in the town yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Hizbullah, 23, son of Abdul Wahab of village Tokail in Phulpur upazila and a third year student of Govt Ananda Mohan College.

Police said the accident took place when a Mymensingh-bound passenger bus from Tangail collided head on with a tempo in Kanchijuly area, injuring nine people, six critically around 3:00pm.

The injured were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where Hizbullah succumbed to his injuries, police and hospital sources said.

Of the injured, including a student now undergoing treatment at MMCH, three were identified as Nayeb Ali, 40, Aminul Islam, 22, a student and Nazim Uddin, 30. The identity of others could not be known immediately.

Police seized the bus but its driver managed to escape.

Our correspondent from Gaibandha says: The driver of tractor trolley was killed and three others sustained injuries when it fell into a roadside ditch at Rifayetpur on Gaibandha-Bonarpara road yesterday.

Locals said the ill-fated tractor trolley was carrying soil for a brickfield. The vehicle suddenly skidded off the road at Refayetpur after its driver had lost his control over the steering, leaving the driver dead on the spot.

The victim was identified as Habibur Rahman, 22, resident of Board Bazar in Gaibandha town. Three other helpers on board of the trolley received injuries. They were rushed to local health complex.

Call to create mass awareness about autism

METRO DESK

Speakers at the prize giving ceremony of an essay contest on Saturday called for creating mass awareness about autism.

The Bangladesh Society for Child Neurology, Development and Disability (BSCNDD) organised the essay competition titled 'Autism in children: Context Bangladesh' for the students of undergraduate medicine, psychology, special education and early child development on the occasion of the 3rd World Autism Awareness Day.

Mohammad Salahuddin, a student at the Department of Psychology, Dhaka College under Chittagong division-2 won the first prize while Gazi Yesinul Islam and Tapati Chowdhury, both of Sir Salimullah Medical College

Hospital, became second and third respectively.

Tanjilut Tasnuba, a student at Institute of Education and Research, Dhaka University became fourth while Md Mydul Islam Khan of Rangpur Medical College bagged the fifth prize.

All the 27 participants were awarded certificates at the programme at the gallery of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Prof Monimul Huq chaired the programme while National Prof MR Khan was the chief guest.

Prof Deen Mohammad, principal of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, was also present as special guest while Prof Naila Zaman Khan, Secretary General of BSCNDD, delivered the keynote address.

The prize money was provided by MGH, a Bangladeshi multinational,

while Square Pharma sponsored the overall ceremony. Over 500 people, including

medical students, doctors and other health professionals took part in the function.



Winners of an essay competition on autism pose for photograph with the guests at an award giving ceremony at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Saturday.



A fire breaks out in a high-rise building in the city's Green Road area yesterday.

One to die for killing wife in Faridpur

UNB, Faridpur

A court here sentenced a man to death for killing his wife around three and a half years ago.

The condemned convict was identified as Ikram Khan at Joydebpur village in Alfadanga upazila.

According to the prosecution, Ikram beat up his pregnant wife Tania Khatun for dowry on December 8 in 2006, leaving her critically injured.

Tania was rushed to Boalmari Hospital

where she succumbed to her injuries on December 21 the same year.

Victim's father Akkas Ali filed a case against five persons, including Ikram, with Alfadanga police station in this connection the same day.

After examining the records and witnesses, the judge of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Khan Mohammad Abdul Mannan found Ikram guilty and delivered the verdict.

The court acquitted four other accused as the charges brought against them were not proved.

AL MAN'S GREED FOR LAND IN SITAKUNDA

Hindu fishermen under immense pressure

DU CORRESPONDENT

Hindu fishermen living at Sitakunda in Chittagong yesterday alleged that cadres loyal to local AL lawmaker Abul Kashem Master are threatening them to leave their houses to extend the land of a industry run by a follower of the lawmaker.

The cadres often come at the dead of night, loot valuables and ask Hindu people to leave the houses, said Sachindra Lal Dey, a leader of the minority community at the area, at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

He also alleged that local authorities, including police, are not playing their due role, rather they are providing support to the ruling party men.

"Before the last parliamentary elections, these ruling party men came and requested us to vote for Awami League. We responded to their call but they are torturing us today," said Sachindra, general secretary of the committee to resist repression on minority community.

Harilal Das, general secretary of Chittagong Fisherman Welfare Association, said the AL-backed men are continuously torturing fishermen at Shitalpur of Sitakunda and threatening them to leave their houses.

The leaders further alleged that criminals snatch away fishes giving low price whenever fishermen return after fishing.

If anyone protests, criminals assault him and vandalise his fishing equipment.

The minority leaders said a number of families of minority communities have already lost their lands as they left their houses following torture of local cadres.

Sachindra said they staged demonstrations on a number of occasions and submitted memorandum to the prime minister, the home minister and police high-ups but to no avail.

The Hindu leader urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to take immediate steps to save the fishermen, their families and lands from the grip of local ruling party people.

BNP grassroots confce in Ctg today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A conference of grassroots level representatives from 11 organisational districts of BNP under Chittagong division-2 will be held in the port city today.

BNP Standing Committee Member Khondoker Mosharruf Hossain will attend the conference at a community centre -- The King of Chittagong -- as the chief guest.

The conference aims to develop leadership from the grassroots level, an idea initiated by Tarique Rahman on January 04, 2005, BNP leaders said at a press briefing at a city restaurant yesterday.

The conference also aims to review and strengthen

organisational activities of the party, said BNP standing committee member and Chittagong divisional coordinator of the conference Mirza Abbas.

A total of 4,700 representatives will take part in the conference to be held from 10:30am to 2:00pm.

The participating organisational districts are Chittagong city, Chittagong (north) district, Rangamati, Khagrachhari, Comilla (north) district, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Noakhali, Feni and Laxmipur, said the BNP leaders.

Chittagong city BNP President Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, BNP Chairperson's Adviser Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin, Joint-Secretaries General

Barkat Ullah Bhulu MP and Md Shahjahan, Chittagong (north) district unit President Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury and General Secretary Md Aslam Chowdhury were present at the press briefing.

2 children drown in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Two children drowned in a pond in West Dhankunda area under Narayanganj Sadar upazila yesterday.

The dead were identified as Arif, 7, son of Bachchu Mian and Lamia, 5, daughter of Babul Mian.

Arif and Lamia fell into the newly dug pond suddenly while they were playing by the side of the pond in West Dhankunda area in Siddhirganj under the upazila. Local people rescued them in a critical condition and took to Narayanganj Hospital at Khanpur where on-duty doctors declared them dead.

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Basic Auditor Course for SA 8000:2008

Tutor : Mr. Thomas Kwok, Bureau Veritas Hong Kong.

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Last Few Seats