



PHOTO: COURTESY
Apollo Chief Executive Officer Michael S Potter, extreme left, Chief operating Officer Shahjahan Majumder, second from left, and Dr. M Ali, extreme right, jointly inaugurate Apollo Knee Centre, first of its kind in Bangladesh, at OPD level-1 of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka on Saturday. Under direct supervision of Knee Surgeon Dr M Ali, this centre is designed to address all knee related problems associated with trauma, arthritis and age related wear and tear. It will also act as one-stop solution centre to provide all knee-related surgeries, including ligament reconstruction, arthroscopic surgeries, meniscus surgeries and total knee replacement. Potter expressed his hope to be able to cater to the needs of patients with knee problems in this centre in the coming days.

Collective efforts a must to tackle natural calamities in S Asia

President tells Saarc Diploma Engineers Forum Meet

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday emphasised collective initiatives to tackle the natural calamities like flood, draught, earthquake and Tsunami as well as environmental degradation through exchange of weather and climate data among the South Asian countries.
"I believe that exchange of data on weather and climate as well as technological and IT knowledge are important to address these issues," he said, addressing the 9th Apex Body Meet and International Seminar of Saarc Diploma Engineers Forum (SDEF) at IDEB Bhaban in the city.

The president noted that about 1.5 billion people are the proud members of Saarc -- one-fifth of total civilisation. "The role of Saarc, therefore, is of paramount importance in developing the socio-economic, cultural, and living standard of this large population," he said.
He mentioned that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has made some proposals to the leaders of South Asia to free this region from terrorism and poverty.
The proposals, he said, include formation of a regional taskforce for eradicating terrorism, a unified currency, forming visa-free South Asia, exchanging information technology, establishing Saarc University and

Saarc Bank, developing and protecting flora and fauna in the region with a view to improving the quality of life and accelerating economic growth and social progress.
Zillur also said the Saarc Leaders have agreed to form a 'South Asia Forum' to expedite the activities of Saarc. The 'Saarc Charter of Democracy', a proposal made by Bangladesh, has also been accepted in the summit to evolve into multi-party democracy and good governance in the member states of Saarc, he said.
He noted that the agenda of food security, environment, agriculture, energy, trade and commerce, tourism, combating terrorism, and facing the natural disasters have widely

been discussed in the last Saarc Summit in Thimphu.
The president said with the implementation of those agenda, the socio-economic condition of the people of South Asia would greatly improve.
Describing poverty as a curse for the people of the Saarc region, he also stressed the need for collective efforts to eradicate poverty.
"Exchanging IT-knowledge and sharing experience as well as simplification of regional connectivity are imperative to eradicate poverty," he said.
He hoped that cooperation, positive attitude and competence of the technologists would help materialise the expectations of the people.

About the impact of climate change, Zillur said the South Asia is under massive risk of negative impact of climate change, which threatens to inundate the coastal belts and islands particularly low lying areas of Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives due to the rise of sea level.
RK Rawat, chairman of Saarc Diploma Engineers Forum, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Secretary General of SDEF, Laxman Bahadur Rayamajhi, co-chairman (Nepal) Apex Body SDEF, Kamalnath Jinadasa, co-chairman (Sri Lanka) Apex Body SDEF, and Akhlaq Ahmed, co-chairman (Pakistan) Apex Body SDEF also spoke on the occasion.

HAOR BOARD MEETS AFTER NINE YEARS

Continuation of dev projects by successive govts stressed

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has underscored the continuation of development projects by successive governments for the greater interest of the country as well as the people.
"It is not justified that a development project undertaken by Awami League government will be scrapped by BNP-Jamaat alliance government... this is not acceptable by any means," she said at the 2nd meeting of Bangladesh Haor and Wetland Development Board at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday.
The 2nd meeting of the board was held after long nine years with its chairman Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.
The first meeting was held on April 29 in 2001 after the Board was formed

on September 11 in 2000 during the previous tenure of the AL government. After that the Board remained ineffective.
Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad briefed the reporters after the meeting.
Hasina said it is unfortunate for the people that the development projects that were taken during the previous AL government were not continued by the BNP-Jamaat alliance government.
She said it is quite disappointing for the people that the governments would not ensure optimum use of the resources.
Hasina termed the haor and wetlands a valuable resource. "We can use these haors and wetlands for preserving water during the rainy season for use during the dry season," she said.
She said these wetlands are also

very useful for augmenting the groundwater level. "We've to save these haors and wetlands for the sake of our future," she said.
The PM emphasised farming fish, crabs, snails and oysters (jhinuk) in the haors and wetlands, saying that the environment and type of water in Bangladesh is quite suitable for this.
"We can earn valuable foreign exchange by exporting crabs, snails and oysters as these have huge demand in the foreign markets," she said.
She also emphasised farming of vegetables on the water using special beds for the purpose.
Hasina asked the authorities concerned to conduct a feasibility study to figure out the possibility of generating power using the water of haors.
She also asked the ministries concerned to take steps for dredging to

ensure smooth navigability in the rivers.
The meeting decided to implement the decisions that were taken at the first meeting of the board.
It was way back in 1974 that father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman ordered formation of the Haor Development Board, but his directive remained unfulfilled for long 26 years until the board was formed by the AL government in 2000.
Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (Retd) AK Khandaker, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen, Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas, Principal Secretary MA Karim, PMO secretary Molla Waheeduzzaman and PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were present at the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR
Members of Bangladesh Medical Association and other physicians stage a demonstration in front of the National Museum in the city yesterday protesting abduction and torture of Dr Prof AKM Rafique Uddin.

BNP trying to foil war crimes trial: Enamul

BSS, Dhaka

Minister for Social Welfare Enamul Haque Mostafa Shaheed yesterday said the main opposition is trying to foil the trial of those actively involved in the heinous crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation.
"When the trial of war criminals is taking place as per laws permitted by the country's constitution and also under the international legal framework, BNP is siding with those war criminals by calling a hartal on June 27," he said while addressing as the chief guest a meeting here.
Genius Forum organised the meeting on 'Trial of war criminals and rooting out impunity' at the Jatiya Press Club (JPC). Former law minister Abdul Matin Khosru was the main discussant while forum president MKMH Chowdhury Rana was in the chair.

Call to bring all tobacco products under tax net

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable discussion yesterday urged the government to bring all sorts of tobacco products under the Tobacco Control Act and the tax net to control their widespread use.
They said like smoking, use of jarda, gul and sadapata (white leaf) causes different diseases such as cancer, tuberculosis and stroke. But those are yet to be brought under the act and the tax net.
But the government should bring those sorts of tobacco products under the act and the tax net to control the widespread use of those, the speakers said.
The demands were placed at the roundtable styled 'Present perspective of tobacco control in Bangladesh and functions' organised by the Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance (BATA) at

the Senate Building of Dhaka University, said a press release.
Paribesh Bachao Andolan (Poba) Chairman Abu Naser Khan presided over the roundtable with former inspector general of police Dr Enamul Haq and Bangladesh Cancer Society President Prof Obaydullah Baki, among others, addressing it.
Around 57,000 people die, 4 lakh become paralysed and 12 lakh suffer different kinds of diseases every year because of using the tobacco and tobacco products. That is why the prices of the tobacco and tobacco products should be increased and the act should be implemented strictly to control the use, they said.
They also emphasised broadcasting and publishing reports and articles in the different print and electronics media focusing adverse impacts of the tobacco.

One found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sabujbagh police recovered the body of a labourer from the premises of Kamalapur stadium in the city yesterday.
The victim was identified as Haq Muala, aged about 18 years. He was engaged in installing signboards in different areas of the city. He stayed on Kamalapur stadium veranda.
The police recovered the body with several injury marks in the head and sent it to Dhaka Medical College for autopsy.
Abdus Salam, who stayed on the Kamalapur stadium veranda with Haq, said he saw the blood-soaked body of Haq in the morning.
The police suspect that criminals might have hit Haq in the head with blunt weapons.

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Cop's motorbike runs over seven-year-old boy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A seven-year-old boy was killed when a police officer's motorbike hit him at village Bandherhat in Bera, Pabna, yesterday morning.
The boy, Sourav Guho, son of Achinta Guha of Gopalpur village in Pabna Sadar upazila, along with his parents came to village Bandherhat to visit his grandfather's house.
He was a student of nursery section of Pabna Gopalpur Shishu Shiksha Niketan.
Family sources said the motorbike of police officer Md Piarul Islam knocked down Sourav when he was crossing the road at about 9:00am. Piarul Islam is also the head of Aminpur police camp in the upazila.
A pall of gloom descended when his parents and relatives brought the body back to their home in Pabna town at noon.

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PHOTO: COURTESY
Abul Kasam Khan, president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), distributes 30 oxen for fattening, two milk cows, one deep fridge, one power tiller for agriculture and some goods for retail shops among the poor villagers at Dergram village in Manikganj on Saturday. Center for Zakat Management (CZM) selected villagers in this regard.

DU COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPTT Students protest evening course

DU CORRESPONDENT

The students of the computer science and engineering department at the Dhaka University formed a human chain in protest against the decision of launching an evening master's programme.
They also boycotted classes for several hours to press home their demand of canceling the decision taken by the university authorities to introduce the programme at the department.
The protestors formed the human chain in front of the science library on the Curzon Hall premises of the university around 12:30pm.
The agitating students said they do not want any 'commercial' course at the department right now.
There is a shortage of teachers at the department. In addition to that most of them are engaged with teaching at different private universities, the students told reporters.
"They [teachers] cannot take our in-course and mid-term examinations timely," said a third year student requesting anonymity for fear of a reprisal. "They cannot publish the results on time too."

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE Int'l help to meet challenges of food security sought

BSS, Dhaka

Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque yesterday sought international cooperation to meet challenges of food security in the backdrop of the climate change.
He was speaking at a symposium in Washington on 'Global Agriculture and Food Security' organised by the Chicago Council of Global Affairs, in partnership with several policy and advocacy organisations, a foreign ministry press release said in the city yesterday.
He said the government has attached importance to ensuring food security for all and taken necessary steps to this end.
The government's 'Food Security Action Plan' will be placed during the current year, he said.
Dr Razzaque said the people in Bangladesh

face the odds of nature with resilience. In this connection, he mentioned about cyclone Aila when people stood up to meet the challenge caused by the devastation of cyclone.
He told the participants that Bangladesh is going to organise a seminar on food security on May 26-27 in Dhaka.
US Agency of International Development (USAID) Administrator Rajiv Shah unveiled the implementation strategy of the Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative undertaken by the US government.
The administration of President Barack Obama has added significant impetus to the issue of food security. The US Congress has already tabled a bipartisan "Global Food Security Act".
US Congressmen, high officials and experts attended the day-long symposium.
Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Akramul Qader was present.

2 muggers injured in gunfight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two muggers received bullet injuries in two separate incidents at Uttara and Motijheel areas in the capital Saturday night and early yesterday.
The injured were identified as Abdur Razzak, 39 and Nizamuddin, 24. They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.
Rab-3 officials said at around 12 midnight yesterday they spotted a gang of five muggers at Jasimuddin Road under Motijheel police station. They fired at the Rab members when they challenged them. The Rab members also fired at them.

Abdur Razzak received bullet in his leg, while the others managed to flee the spot.
Rab said Razzak along with others had been involved in mugging in Motijheel, Kamalapur and Fakirapool areas for long.
Meanwhile, a gang of four muggers were on the prowl when a patrol team of Rab intelligence spotted and tried to catch them.
Rab personnel opened fire as one of the muggers tried to hit a Rab member with a dagger.
Rab arrested wounded Nizam and his close aide Mosharraf while two others Ripon and Babul managed to flee.

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