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People's Right to Know

Dodgy doctors warned

PM vows stern action for skipping duties in rural hospitals

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sounded tough warning that the government will take stern action against the doctors who will not attend duties at the rural hospitals regularly.

"I request you to attend your respective hospitals regularly in the rural areas... if you don't do your duties properly, stern action will be taken," she said while inaugurating the World Breastfeeding Week-2010 at the city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the morning.

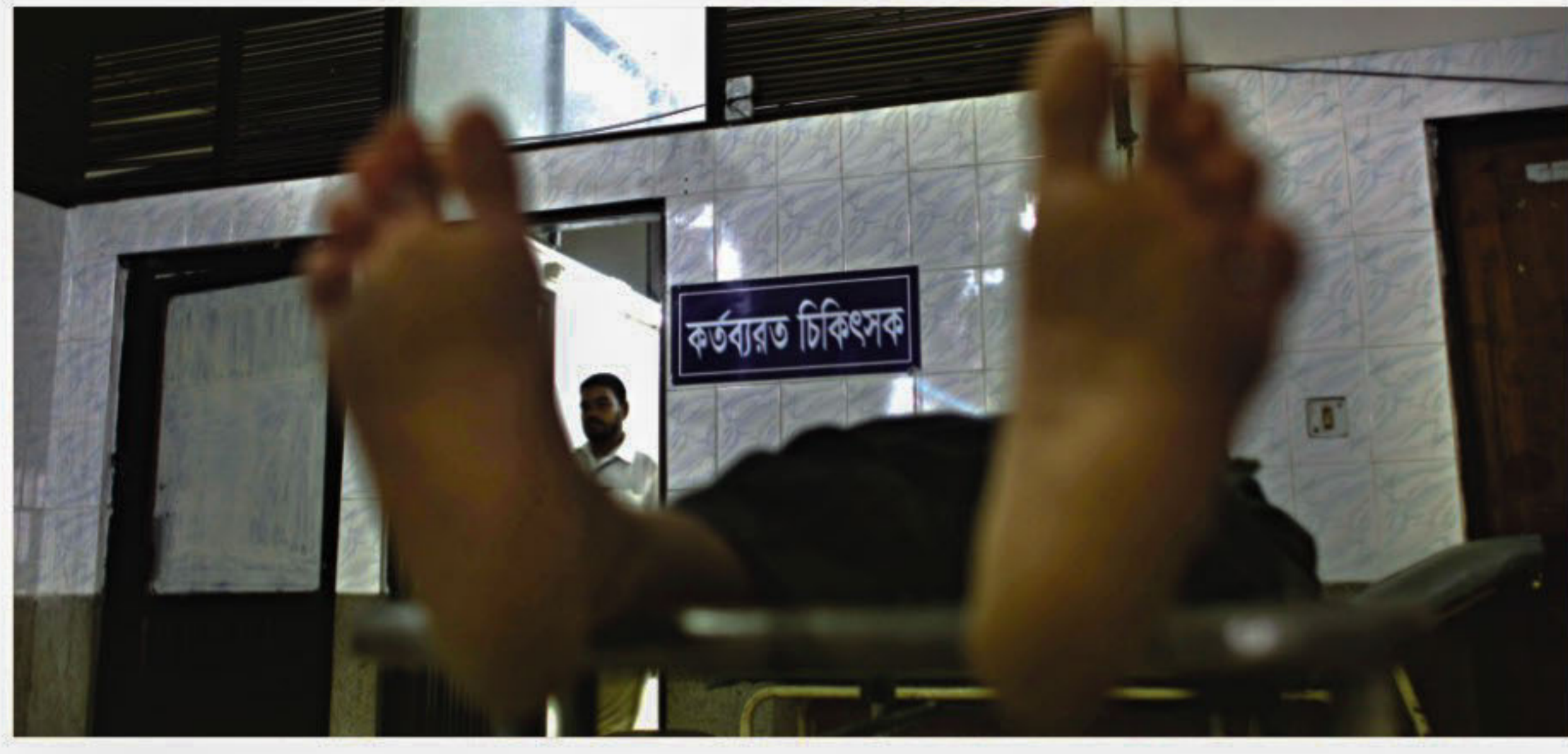
This year the Breastfeeding Week is being observed with the theme: Breastfeeding Just 10 Steps, the Baby-Friendly Way!

"We all get salaries from the taxes paid by the mass people. None has the right to ignore the common people's rights," the premier said.

She asked the physicians not attending offices in the remote areas regularly to ask their own conscience whether they are doing the right thing.

"It is the official and moral duty of all to serve the interests of

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MEDICARE IN A SHAMBLES: A benevolent pedestrian, on the right of the bottom left photo, brings an unconscious man who fell victim to ogyan party at Mirpur at Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a taxi. He had to face a 20-minute-long police enquiry, right, and haggle the fare with an agent of the taxi driver, left photo, at the hospital gate before he could admit the victim to the emergency yesterday. It took the pedestrian 20 more minutes before he could get a doctor to examine the victim, top. This kind of hassle puts off people helping others in distress and raises questions about the emergency care the government provides.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Commission trade traps patients

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Patients in the country are increasingly becoming captive of an unholy nexus of doctors and diagnostic centres driven by unethical greed.

It has become a common knowledge in the society that doctors tend to prescribe unnecessary medical tests for their patients in exchange for commissions from diagnostic centres, driving up the cost of treatment.

There are 7,623 authorised private diagnostic centres in the country, 780 of which are in the capital, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Some doctors admitted to The Daily Star that the practice does exist, and doctors get 10 to 30 percent commission from each test they suggest.

"Usually, renowned diagnostic centres offer low commission. But less popular centres pay more, as they need promotion and doctors' attention," said a cancer specialist of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Medical University.

"If an x-ray costs 300 taka, the doctor gets 120 taka just for referring the patient to a particular diagnostic centre," said

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Tribunal hears war crimes of Sayedee

Decides to pass order in his Aug 10 presence

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday directed the prisons authority to produce detained Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayedee before it on August 10.

The order came after the hearing on a complaint case (information obtained by an investigating agency) from the prosecution that alleged that Sayedee committed war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity and peace during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

Sayedee is the fifth person against whom the prosecution placed allegations before the tribunal of committing offences under International Crimes Tribunal Act, 1973.

Describing the allegations against Sayedee alias Delu, Syed Rezaur Rahman, on behalf of the seven-member prosecution team led by Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo, prayed before the tribunal to issue arrest warrant against Sayedee.

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Jamaat wants trial of all crimes from 1971

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday said it would support the trial of crimes against humanity if all the crimes committed between 1971 and 2010 are tried.

Jamaat, many leaders of which were involved in war crimes during the 1971 Liberation War, however, said the government's present

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Rab claims Shibir link with outlaws

4 Shibir men held with arms, explosives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion yesterday claimed to have found link between Islamist Chhatra Shibir and banned Islamist outfits.

The elite force claimed that Shibir operatives are collecting arms and explosives from the outlawed organisations to carry out subversive activities in the country.

Rab yesterday arrested four current and former Shibir leaders from Dhaka and Gazipur and recovered a homemade gun, five shotgun bullets, six locally made bombs, five packets of Sulphur and Potassium, Tk 1.10 lakh, nine mobile phone sets and some books on Shibir moral.

The arrestees are Mohammadpur unit Shibir president Abdullah Jayed Bin Sabid, Mirpur Bangla College unit president Sultan Mahmud alias Ripon, former president of Shibir Motijheel unit Alamgir Hossain alias

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Food council sought for safe food

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the government to form a food safety council that would check food products for toxicity in the markets, thus minimising possible hazards to consumers' health.

Poribesh Bachao Andolan (POBA) organised the seminar on 'Immensity and Horrible Effect of Toxic Food: Our Role' at the Jatiya Press Club with Dr KM Fazlul Haque presenting the keynote paper.

Haque in his paper said the fruits, vegetables and fish contaminated with toxic chemicals posed serious health threats to people.

"Nowadays the number of patients with liver and kidney diseases and cancers are rising

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334 NGOs shut in four months

Corruption, misuse of foreign funds, patronisation of militancy alleged

ALPHA ARZU

The government cancelled registration of 334 non-government organisations (NGOs) in the last four months for their involvement in corruption, misuse of foreign funds and patronisation of militancy.

The NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB) launched a stringent drive to clean up the sector and seized moveable and non-moveable property of these organisations, which were operating in the name of social welfare, charity and volunteerism.

The move is significant as NGOAB had cancelled only 56 foreign-funded NGOs in the last two decades since 1990.

The bureau cancelled the registration in April, May, June, July and August-2, after a

series of probes into violation of rules and laws to run foreign-funded projects in the country.

An official at the NGOAB told The Daily Star, "We could not give you details of the cause of cancelling the NGOs' registration as the offences vary from organisation to organisation."

Speaking anonymously, an NGOAB director said some organisations were supposed to run their activities in orphanages and religious places. But the intelligence agencies and NGOAB investigators did not find any such activities and feared that those NGOs were involved in militant activities.

The director added some NGOs were also involved in various kinds of corruption including recruitment of consultants and higher

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Graft charges against Mahmudur accepted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted the charge against Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the daily Amar Desh, in connection with a graft case filed for not submitting his wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

After scrutinising the case docket and other documents, Judge Ismail Hossain of the Senior Special Judges' Court passed the order and fixed September 8 for the hearing.

The court also rejected a bail petition submitted by Mahmudur's lawyers.

Earlier on July 15, the ACC submitted the charge sheet against Mahmudur to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, showing 11 people as prosecution witnesses.

In the case statement, former energy adviser Mahmudur was accused of committing punishable offence by defying a notice

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Baby killed

Mother arrested, police tell of extra-marital affair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

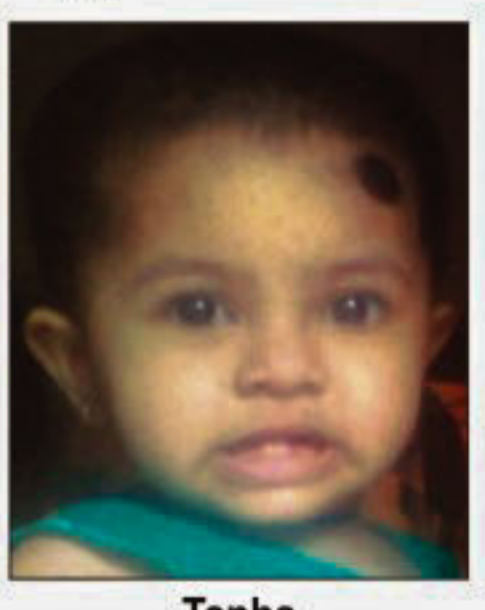
Khilgaon police yesterday arrested a woman from the capital's Sipahibagh area allegedly for killing her only daughter in association with her paramour and hiding the body.

They recovered the decomposed body of three and a half-year-old Jennifer Islam Tanha from a sun shed on the 3rd floor of a five-storey building where the victim's mother Hallima Yasmin Toma, 24, started living with one Rajib.

Rajib, an employee of a Chinese restaurant at Segunbagicha, is now on the run.

In police custody, Toma told The Daily Star that on July 29, Rajib gave her syrup as she complained of headache. After taking it she fell unconscious. The next morning when she gained consciousness she found Tanha missing and Rajib gone.

Toma said she had left her husband Faruk Gazi, a grocer at Mirpur-11, and moved in a flat with Rajib on July 27. She brought Tanha along with seven tolas of gold ornaments and Tk 1.5 lakh with her while leaving her husband.



Tanha



Toma

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HC asks Nandan to quit

Bars it from running business at residential plot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed Nandan Food and Beverage Industries Ltd to remove its mega shop from the residential plot in Gulshan by 25th of this month.

The court also asked the company to inform the court in writing by August 26 whether its order has been carried out.

The HC direction also barred Nandan from carrying out any business or commercial activities during the time.

An HC bench of Justice Mamoon Rahman and Justice Syeda Afsar Jahan came up with the order following a petition filed by owners of the land where the company built up commercial structures without permission of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk).

According to documents, Nandan took out a lease of the said one-bigha plot in 2001

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