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Govt to bear living cost of unexpected children

BSS, Dhaka The government has finally decided to execute the provision of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act-2000 for giving subsistence support from the state to the kids born due to rape.

CONTEMPT OF COURT Warrant issued to arrest DC of Moulvibazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT A High Court bench yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Moulvibazar deputy commissioner for defying its orders without any reason.

This is the first time the HC directly issued an arrest warrant against any government high official after separation of the judiciary from the executive.

TAX EVASION Ex-minister's daughter-in-law lands in jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT A Dhaka court yesterday sent Farzana Khan, daughter-in-law of former BNP minister Shajahan Siraj, to jail in connection with a tax evasion case in which she was earlier sentenced to six years' imprisonment in absentia.

Judge Mozammel Hossain of Special Judge's Court-3, Dhaka passed the order after Farzana along with her lawyers appeared before the court to seek bail.

19 fall sick in Pabna Anthrax suspected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna At least 19 people might have been infected with Anthrax in Pathail Hat village of the district's Santhia upazila, health officials suspect.

District and upazila health officials and an ICDDR,B medical team visited the spot in last two days. They collected sample for test.

The villagers experienced symptoms of the disease after eating meat of a cow last week, Monsurur Rahman,

Two factories fined for river pollution

One never used its ETP, another does not have wastewater tank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment in a drive fined two factories Tk 77 lakh yesterday for discharging untreated liquid waste in canals flowing to the Meghna river.

Sycotex Dyeing, an export-oriented textile mill, had set up an effluent treatment plant but never used it. The mill continued discharging untreated liquid waste in a nearby canal that flows to the Meghna river.

The mill has so far emptied nearly 250,000 cubic metres of untreated liquid waste in the river, according to an estimation of a mobile team of the department.

Adhunik Paper Mill in the same area released liquid waste in a nearby canal and had not constructed a waste water tank in violation of the conditions of the environmental clearance certificate.

Moreover, the mill set up another unit without permission from the Department of Environment.



A mill discharges untreated toxic liquid into a Munsiganj canal that flows directly to the River Meghna. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO COURTESY: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

Delwar critical of Blair for praising Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday criticised former British prime minister Tony Blair for applauding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"It was they [western countries] who imposed a military government on the nation through cancelling the January 22, 2007 general election by conspiracy," Delwar said in a firm voice while talking to reporters at a press briefing at the party's Nayapalton office.

He also said now they [conspirators] are talking big but there is no democracy in the country. "The government wants to destroy the opposition so that it can stay in power for long. But people will not accept it," he added.

Tony Blair praised Sheikh

A hospital in crisis

Misery of patients, students mounts as Suhrawardi hospital limps with lack of manpower, equipment

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Healthcare and educational services at Suhrawardi Hospital and Medical College (SHMC) are in bad shape as the institution still lacks adequate equipment and manpower.

For lack of anaesthetists, surgeons and emergency Operation Theatre (OT), patients can't avail of emergency surgery facility, said doctors. Patients even lose valuable time to get the serial for a surgery.

Director of the hospital AKM Mujibur Rahman said, "We need orthopaedic and vascular surgeons, ICU and other capacities to run the casualty department. For the absence of these services

we cannot run the casualty department and can't go for critical surgeries."

Though there is separate OT for each department of every medical college and hospital, the orthopaedics department gets its share for only once in a week.

Since the hospital is devoid of casualty department, a significant number of patients are referred to other hospitals. This consumes valuable time and deteriorates the conditions of those patients.

"On an average everyday about 30 out of 100 patients are referred to different hospitals as we don't have enough ability to treat them," said the on-duty Emergency Medical Officer Dr Saiful.

The emergency OT is used only for gynaecological surgeries. For the dearth

of manpower, general, orthopaedics, ENT and ophthalmologic surgeries are not carried out at the emergency OT.

The hospital was upgraded into a medical college hospital in 2005. After that an increased number of patients are visiting the hospital and the service quality remains unchanged, said doctors.

The college started its operation under Begum Khaleda Zia Medical College project. Since it is yet to be brought under the government's revenue budget, its fund falls short of recruiting the required staff.

As the posts of doctors at outdoor and emergency units are under the project, it is difficult to fill those up. Every time the

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Relatives move a patient from Suhrawardi Hospital and Medical College (SHMC) a week back. Every day about 30 out of 100 patients are referred to other hospitals as SHMC lacks capacity to treat them. It is even devoid of a casualty department.

PHOTO: STAR

Dowry drives pregnant woman to kill herself

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A three-month pregnant woman committed suicide by setting herself on fire at Kalapani in the city's Pallabi on Saturday as her husband threatened to deny the child's paternity over a dowry dispute.

Salma Akhter, 21, suffered 90 percent burns and died at the Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) around 8:00pm on the day.

Her father Abdul Jalil, of Satura under Manikganj district, filed a case yesterday with Pallabi Police Station under the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act.

Police picked up Salma's husband Rakib, 25, at the DMCH burn unit Saturday night and shown him arrested in the case yesterday.



Salma Akhter

Salma's sister-in-law Farjana Akhter Mita said she had talked to Salma after the incident and quoted her as saying that she had a quarrel over dowry with her husband around 10:00pm on Friday. Rakib asked Salma to get Tk 50,000 from her parents and threatened to leave her if she did not do so.

Salma, who earlier took Tk 9,000 from her parents on two occasions, expressed her parents' inability to give any more money, Mita said. At one stage, Rakib even said he would deny the child's paternity if Salma fails to get the money.

Following the dispute, Salma poured kerosene on her and set her ablaze.

Abdus Salam, Salma's younger brother, said Rakib and his sister married for love in March.

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DEMO FOR ARREARS 25 hurt as RMG workers clash with police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

At least 25 people including eight policemen were injured, four by rubber bullets, during a clash between law enforcers and readymade garment workers at Moukuli in Rugganj upazila of Narayanganj yesterday.

The clash ensued when police barred the garments workers from blocking the Dhaka-Sylhet Highway.

Over 2,000 workers of Shikder Apparels Garments Ltd, who were demonstrating for payment of arrears, blocked the highway for about one and a half hours till 1:30pm, causing severe traffic congestion on both sides of the road, sources said.

They also vandalised eight to ten vehicles on the highway. Forkan Sikder, officer-in-charge of Rugganj Police Station, said the workers gathered inside the factory at about 11:00am and staged a demonstration demanding their arrears.

During the agitation, the workers also damaged the windowpanes of the factory.

Later, the workers took to the highway and put barricade for about one and a half hours since 12:00 noon, he said.

As police reached the spot to bring the situation under control, demonstrators hurled bricks on them prompting the law enforcers to charge truncheons.

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GRAFT CASE Proceedings against Khoka stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed for one year the proceedings of a corruption case against Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on June 29 this year filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station against Khoka on charge of irregularities in recruitment process of five DCC officials in 2006.

An HC bench of Justice

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Standard Chartered saadiq Islamic Financial Services Iftar & Sehri timing for Dhaka & neighbouring areas Today's Iftar 6:29 pm Ending time for tomorrow's sehri 4:14 am

INTERNAL FEUD Narail BCL man stabbed

A CORRESPONDENT, Narail

A leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League was injured seriously in an attack by the activists of rival faction near Masimdia Sultan Setu under Narail Pourosova yesterday evening.

The injured Ashrauzzaman Mukul, 19, vice-president of BCL pourashava unit, lost four fingers of his right hand in the attack.

Following internal feud, Apu, Mossabber, Baharul and Midul of the rival group swooped on Mukul with sharp weapons and stabbed him

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AUSTRALIA

Polls deliver historic firsts despite deadlock

AFP, Sydney

Australia's knife-edge vote looked certain to bring a hung parliament, but it has also delivered the country its first Aboriginal and Muslim politicians in the lower house, and its youngest.

Neither the ruling Labor party or conservative opposition managed to secure enough seats to claim office in the closest race in decades, with the balance of power to fall to a handful of independent and minority MPs.

Among those elected to Australia's first hung parliament in 70 years is Bosnia-born union worker Ed Husic who claimed a seat for the Labor party in Sydney as the country's first Muslim MP.

Baby-faced Wyatt Roy, 20, was elected to

parliament as its youngest ever member, just hours after voting for the first time.

Roy, a university student, snatched the key northern seat of Longman for the conservatives, with 52 percent of the vote.

"I don't think I was ever the likeliest candidate and I'm very, very proud of the work that the local campaign team did here," Roy said.

"There's a lot of people out there in the community who put a great deal of faith and trust in me and I can't tell you how humbling an experience that really is."

The conservatives also looked on track to deliver Australia its first Aborigine to the lower house, with Ken Wyatt ahead of his rival in the Western Australian seat of Hasluck.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Muggers injure cop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang stabbed a police constable after they failed to rob him in Abdullahpur of the capital early yesterday.

Victim Bakhter Ali, 50, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and then to Rajarbagh Police Line Hospital.

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Prayer Timing August 23 Table with columns for Azan and Jamaat and rows for Fajr, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, Esha.

Piles, Constipation, Dysentery, Cancer

Advertisement for Piles, Constipation, Dysentery, Cancer treatment by Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlul Haque, including contact info for Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital.