

CHILD NEUROLOGY SOCIETY NAT'L CONFERENCE ENDS

Vow to provide neurological services to all children

METRO DESK

The two-day long 2nd national conference of Bangladesh Society for Child Neurology, Development and Disability (BSCNDD) ended at the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons in the city on Saturday.

Prof Monimul Hoque chaired the inaugural session while Valerie Taylor of CRP was present as special guest, said a press release.

Dr Mumtaz Uddin Bhuiyan, director (hospitals) of Directorate General of Health Services, reiterated the health ministry's commitment to increase services of Shishu Bikash Kendra into district level hospitals to be brought in the 6th Five Year Plan through the development funds, which are provided through a World Bank consortium.

Dr Naila Zaman Khan, secretary general of the BSCNDD, also reiterated the commitment of the society to reach all the children in home-based settings through Shishu Bikash Camps at the upazila level and the community clinics.

Naila Zaman demanded for increasing child neurology posts at the tertiary and specialised hospitals so that a tiered sys-

tem of referral can be developed from the grassroots.

The theme of the event was "Quality Neurological Services for Children: Reaching the Unreached."

Scientific papers and posters ranged from spectrum of neuro-developmental problems being presented to the government-sponsored Shishu Bikash Kendra's established within medical college hospitals across the country; outreach epilepsy and EEG camps being run in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and other outreach communities; to children with neurometabolic and neurodegenerative disorders and a range of mental health problems being diagnosed in specialised hospitals.

It suggested improvement in cognitive development of malnourished children with food supplementation and adequate psychological and educational stimulation; improvement in quality of life of children in inclusive schools and those being provided adequate rehabilitation.

A cultural function by children from Kalyani Inclusive School of Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation was held at the inaugural session.



Children from Kalyani Inclusive School of Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation performing at the inaugural session of the 2nd National Conference of Bangladesh Society for Child Neurology, Development and Disability in the city on Saturday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

CASE AGAINST KASHEM

Hearing adjourned till Apr 19

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the hearing of the tax evasion case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Kashem Ali till April 19 following a time petition by the prosecution lawyer.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Hoque of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order directing complainant Deputy Tax Commissioner Moniruzzaman of the case to appear before it on the scheduled date.

In the petition, Additional Public Prosecutor Shah Alam Talukder mentioned that complainant appeared before it yesterday but he did not take the case documents with him. So, he could not make the complainant give deposition without documents, Shah Alam said.

The Jamaat leader, also an executive member of its central committee, was present during the hearing.

Earlier on March 23, the same court framed charge against Mir Kashem and fixed yesterday for trial of the case.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed the case on August 19 last year against Kashem saying that he evaded Tk 11,28,235 in income tax on Tk 34,85,866 earned through Keari Limited as its chairman and director. It also states that Kashem repeatedly misinformed NBR about his actual income.

After the hearing, the court issued an arrest warrant against the Jamaat leader for committing such offence.

Tinni murder trial begins after nine years

COURT CORRESPONDENT

After nine years, trial of model Syeda Tania Mahbub Tinni murder case began with deposition of her father with a Dhaka court yesterday.

Judge Fatema Najeeb of the Seventh Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court recorded part of the statement of her father Syed Mahbub Karim and set May 11 to record his rest of the statement.

The trial against the lone accused Golam Faruq Ovi, a former student leader and Jatiya Party MP, began in his absence.

Mahbub gave his deposition saying how his daughter had been missing and came to know where her body buried without their knowledge.

On Nov 10, 2002, police recovered Tinni's body from under China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge over the Buriganga River and a case was filed with Keraniganj Police

Station on the same day.

Following the incident, SI Shafiuddin of the police station on different dates arrested Tinni's ex-husband Shafakat Ahmed Pial, Swapan Gazi, Gazi Sharifullah Tapan, Shafiqul Islam Jewel and Somnath Saha Bappy.

But the Criminal Investigation Department on November 8 of 2008, pressed charge against Ovi and dropped the names of Pial and others as the charges brought against them were not proved.

The charge sheet said Ovi allegedly killed Tinni to hide his "illicit relationship" adding that he was in Canada.

Following the charge sheet, the court issued an arrest warrant against Ovi asking him to appear before it on different dates, but Ovi did not comply with the court order.

Seized drugs destroyed in Ctg

BSS, Dhaka

The Coast Guard yesterday destroyed a huge quantity of seized drugs, including liquor and beer, at its Eastern Regional headquarters in Chittagong.

Director General of Coast Guard Kazi Sarwar Hossain, Additional District Magistrate of Chittagong, and a deputy director of Narcotics Control were present.

Lieutenant Commander MM Rahman of Eastern Coast Guard told the news agency that they destroyed 2,817 bottles of local and foreign liquor and beer which they seized from the outer anchorage and coastal areas during the last few months.

Unipay2u allegedly swindles investors Judicial probe demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The small investors of Unipay2u at a rally here yesterday alleged that the multi level marketing (MLM) company has collected Tk 1,000 crore from them through various fraudulent measures.

They demanded of the government to form a judicial probe committee for identifying the officials to give them an exemplary punishment for collecting the money from the investors.

The investors wrapping burial clothes in their head made the demand at the rally, arranged by 'Genuine investors struggle council' on Chittagong Press Club premises.

Genuine investors struggle council President SM Yusuf presided over the rally where it's Joint Convener Dr Tinku Bhattacharya and Jahidul Hasan Khan also spoke.

Later, they handed over a memorandum with a four-point demand to the deputy commissioner.

'Create environment that suits autistic children'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a discussion here yesterday urged the government and all concerned to create an environment, which suits the need of autistic children so that they can grow to be brilliant and bright individuals.

"Autistic children do not have disability but just have a different level of intellect," they said.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, as the chief guest, inaugurated the discussion organised by Autistic Children's Welfare Foundation at Shishu Academy in the city.

The minister said the present government plans to formulate new laws and establish new institutions so that autistic children can grow up as capable citizens.

The programme began with a cultural function performed by autistic children.

BGMEA first Vice-President Nasir Uddin Chowdhury; Department of Environment Director Jafor Alam; Basana Muhuri, assistant professor at Chittagong Medical College; and artiste Nakib Khan also spoke.



Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission Chairman Justice ABM Khairul Haque presents the commission's annual report of 2010 to President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Air chief apprises president of airbase in Cox's Bazar

UNB, Dhaka

The Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Shah Mohammad Ziaur Rahman yesterday apprised President Zillur Rahman about the newly-built airbase in Cox's Bazar, recently inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The air chief apprised the president during a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban.

Ziaur Rahman said the airbase is important to ensure security over Bangladesh's maritime boundary, expedite relief and rescue activities during natural calamities and also in national interest.

He informed that he is going to Saudi Arabia on April 17 on a four-day visit to attend an international symposium on 'Air Defence 2020+' at the invitation of chief of Royal Saudi Air force.

He said during his visit he would hold meeting with Chief of Royal Saudi Defence Chief and air chiefs of different participating countries to discuss on various issues related to bilateral cooperation and mutual interests.

The air chief apprised the president about the experiences he gathered during his recent visit to Sri Lanka marking the 60 years celebration of Sri Lankan Air Force.

Zillur hoped that bilateral relations between Bangladesh and other friendly countries would be further strengthened through the upcoming visit of the air chief.

The president also wished further prosperity and development of the Bangladesh Air Force.

SCHOOLGIRL MURDER College student arrested in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police arrested another person yesterday in connection with the rape and murder of a schoolgirl in Charghat upazila of the district the day before.

Shamsul Islam, officer-in-charge of Charghat Police Station, said college student Saddam Hossain was arrested from his home in the morning.

The three, Saddam, Rubel and Rinku, were sent to the Judicial Magistrate's Court in Rajshahi city with a prayer for a five-day remand for each.

The victim's father filed a case with the police station accusing four persons.

Rajshahi Superintendent of Police SM Rokon Uddin said the police extracted some information from the arrestees in primary interrogation.

Meanwhile, the victim's body was taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Road crashes kill 6, injure 50

METRO DESK

Six people were killed and 50 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Gopalganj and Thakurgaon yesterday.

Staff Correspondent reports: A cobbler was run over slipping off a bus he was trying to board at the city's Gulshan area yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Bishwanath Das, 22, son of late Naresh Chandra Das of Boro Berait of the area.

Sub-inspector of Gulshan Police Station Muntasir said a Khilgaon-bound bus of Falgun Paribahan from Badda rammed him in front of the CocaCola gate around 11:00am.

Locals rushed the victim to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Police seized the bus but the driver and helper managed to flee, the SI added.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Our correspondent from Gopalganj says: Two people were killed and 40 others injured when a bus fell into a roadside ditch on Ghagar-Poisarhat

road at Kotalipara upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Hakim, 20, the bus helper of Gobra village of Sadar upazila and ice cream vendor Lais Sheikh, 12, son of Rezaul Sheikh, of Aambari village of Kotalipara upazila.

The injured were taken to different hospitals and clinics including Khulna Medical College Hospital, Gopalganj Sadar Hospital and Kotalipara Upazila Health Complex.

Police quoting witnesses said the Gopalganj-bound bus of Lamia Paribhan from Kotalipara turned turtle at about 10:00am near Majhburi bus stand while it was giving side to another bus coming towards the same direction.

Our correspondent from Thakurgaon adds: A man was killed in a road accident on Thakurgaon-Baliadangi road at Duoshuo village of Baliadangi upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Hamid, 55, of Baliadangi upazila.

Police said the accident took place when the Thakurgaon-bound bus crashed him as he fell down on the road

due to wheat plants that were kept on the road for drying, leaving him dead on the spot.

Our correspondent from Gaibandha says: Two children were killed and their mother was injured in a road mishap on Rangpur-Bogra highway at Dhaprth yesterday.

The deceased are Shifat, 4, and Rumana, 9. The injured mother, Shahana, admitted to Sadullapur Health Complex.

Police said the accident occurred when a speedy bus hit them while the mother along with the two children were crossing the road.

Our correspondent from Natore adds: Nine HSC examinees were injured in road accident as a water-laden fire service vehicle hit their three-wheeler on Lalpur-Gopalpur road in Shimultala area under Lalpur upazila yesterday.

The injured were identified as Arzina Khatun, Pappu Hasan, Farzana Khatun, Shahina Khatun, Jannatul Mostary, Sabina Yasmin, Rangjila Khatun, Sharmin Sultana, Adhora Chaudhory.

Retrofit buildings to avoid quake risk Razzak urges high-rise owners

BSS, Dhaka

Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzak yesterday said the government has taken various measures to increase earthquake preparedness for minimising damages of earthquake.

The measures, include purchasing of modern equipment, giving training to volunteers and creating awareness on earthquake, he told a seminar on "Apprehension of earthquake: Bangladesh" at the auditorium of Daffodil International University (DIU) here.

He called upon owners of high-rise private buildings to retrofit their buildings to avoid risk of earthquake.

The DIU and the Dhaka Sub-Editors Council (DSEC) jointly organised the seminar.

The DIU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Aminul Islam and Chairman of Board of Trustee of the university M Sabur Khan addressed the seminar.

The country may face strong earthquake as it has experienced nearly 150 minor tremors from 2007, the minister said adding, "Considering the threat of earthquake, we have purchased search and rescue equipment of Tk 70 crore and we will purchase such equipment of Tk 150 crore more."

Nearly 62,000 volunteers are being given training to take part in the rescue operation of earthquake, he added.

Razzak urged all to comply with the building code while constructing their buildings.



Temporary workers and employees of Bangladesh Telecommunications Co Ltd stage a sit-in in front of Telephone Bhavan in the city yesterday demanding regularisation of their jobs.

PHOTO: STAR