



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the first round of the 20th National Immunisation Day (NID) by administering two drops of polio vaccine to a child at Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday.

20th NID observed

BSS, Dhaka

In an effort to sustain its polio-free status, Bangladesh yesterday completed first round of the 20th National Immunisation Day (NID) across the country by providing two drops of polio vaccines to children aged 0-59 months.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina launched the first round of the 20th NID by administering two drops of polio vaccine and a vitamin-A capsule to a number of under 5-year children each at her Gono Bhaban residence in the morning.

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque, Health Adviser to the Prime Minister Syed Modasser Ali and State Minister for Health Captain (ret) Mazibur Rahman Fakir were present at the function chaired by Health Secretary Humayun Kabir.

Besides, the health minister attended a 'Shishu Mela' at Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital (JBFH) yesterday where he administered some children polio vaccines and visited art competition participated by children. Later, he visited the vaccination centres throughout the day in Gazipur.

The second round of the campaign will be held country-wide on February 11.

Health workers and volunteers were tasked to administer oral polio vaccines to 24 million children aged 0-59 months and vitamin A capsules to 20 million children aged 6-59 months at 140,000 sites located in health facilities and health centres, schools and other makeshift sites like buses, ferries and train stations or terminals throughout the country from 8 am to 4 pm, according to the health ministry and Unicef officials.

The government with support from Unicef, WHO, Rotary International and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, Atlanta) mounted a model response to immunise all under-5 children across the country when the first case of imported polio was detected in March 2006.

Prior to this case, the country had been polio-free for five years. Eighteen polio cases were thereafter detected in 12 districts across all divisions of Bangladesh with the last one reported on 22 November, 2006. Since 1995, Bangladesh started NIDs to eradicate polio. This was in addition to its nation-wide normal immunisation programme.

The government has been spending Tk 80 crore for observing the NIDs every year to remove the deadly disease from the country.

Indian bus driver found dead in city restroom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police found an Indian bus driver dead in a Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) restroom at Kamalapur in the city yesterday.

The deceased, Rajkumar Gupta, 47, was the driver of a BRTC bus of Dhaka-Kolkata route. He resided on Christopher road at Tengra in Kolkata in Paschimanga.

According to police, Rajkumar reached Dhaka with a trip from Kolkata around 11:00pm on Friday. Later, he went to the BRTC staff restroom on Kabi Jasimuddin road to sleep.

When BRTC staffs went to the room to call him for the return trip to Kolkata around 9:30am, he didn't respond.

Being informed, police broke open the restroom door, which was locked from inside, and found him dead.

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

Sub-Inspector Abdul Latif of Motijheel Police Station said Rajkumar had died in his sleep.

Police found no sign of injury on his body, he said adding that, the reason of his death will be identified after autopsy.

Worker dies in 13-storey fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A construction worker died after falling from the 13th floor of a 14-storey under-construction building in the city's Pallabi yesterday morning.

The victim, Chiranjeeb Sarkar, 25, son of one Dipen Sarkar, hailed from Chapainawabganj sadar upazila.

Shahabuddin Khalifa, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station, said Chiranjeeb, who was ill while working at the building in DOHS area of Mirpur-12, fell on ground around 8:30am. Critically hurt and bleeding, Chiranjeeb was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, he added.

A fellow of the victim, Ziaul Haq, said Chiranjeeb was watering some piled up bricks on the edge of the floor. Suddenly some bricks got loose and started falling. To save his feet, he stepped back and fell off the floor. Chiranjeeb had joined the work five days back, he said.

Acceptable media policy stressed

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed the need for an acceptable mass media policy.

"A silent revolution has been created in electronic journalism in the last few years. Online journalism has flourished to a great extent. So, formation of an acceptable mass media policy is necessary through holding talks with all stakeholders," they said while speaking at a seminar titled "Democratisation of mass media and expansion: An Evaluation."

Bangladesh Institute of Journalism and Electronic Media (BIJEM) organised the

seminar at its office in the city. BIJEM Executive Director Mirza Tarequl Qader moderated the event.

"Practice of democracy in the state is necessary to ensure democracy in the media," they said.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuyian, Prof Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam and Director General of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) Dulal Chandra Biswas spoke at the seminar, with BIJEM Adviser Dr Syed Shakhawat Ali Khan in the chair.



Nasiruddin Youseff, director of the liberation war-based film "Guerrilla", and Rizwan Bin Farouk, managing director of B2M Technologies Ltd, exchange documents after signing an agreement on Thursday. Under the deal, B2M Technologies Ltd will distribute mobile contents of the movie to all telecom operators in Bangladesh to promote the spirit of the war of 1971 among young people.

PHOTO: COURTESY

President's talks with Zaker Party today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zaker Party and Bangladesh Tarikat Federation are scheduled to hold talks with President Zillur Rahman today at Bangabhaban in the city to discuss on the formation of the next Election Commission.

Talks with Zaker Party will start at 11:00am while that with Bangladesh Tarikat Federation an hour later, sources said.

Started on December 22, the president so far completed dialogue with 14 political parties.

Of the 14, nine parties demanded that the president take initiative to restore the caretaker government (CG) system that the incumbent government scrapped through the constitution's 15th amendment on May 30 last year.

Since then, the main opposition BNP and some other political parties have been waging anti-government movements to demand restoration of the CG system and to hold the next general polls under the system.

Earlier, BNP announced that it will take part in the dialogue with the president scheduled to be held at 11:00am on January 11.

The ruling Awami League is scheduled to sit with the president at 11:00am the following day.

Tenure of the Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda and Election Commissioner (EC) M Sohel Hussein will expire on February 5 while that of EC M Sakhawat Hossain will expire on February 14.

Since December 22, the president has so far completed dialogue with 14 political parties



ABC MOURNS

SAMSON H. CHOWDHURY
(1926 - 2012)

With great respect and profound grief, we mourn the sad demise of eminent industrialist Mr. Samson H. Chowdhury.

Mr. Chowdhury, an inspiring icon of vision, wisdom, dynamism and high principles in the Bangladeshi business community, was a very good friend and lifelong wellwisher of ABC family.

We convey our deepest condolences to his bereaved family and all those whose lives he has touched. May his departed soul rest in eternal peace.



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WE MOURN



We are deeply shocked at the sad demise of **Mr. Samson H. Chowdhury**, Former President and Advisor of Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries & an eminent industrial entrepreneur of Bangladesh.

We, on behalf of the Global Capsules Limited stand in solemn prayers for the salvation and eternal peace of the departed soul. May Almighty give his family members the courage and fortitude to overcome this irretrievable loss.



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