

## Deal to improve newborn health

UNB, Dhaka

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday signed an agreement to improve the health of newborn children in Bangladesh. "Helping Babies Breathe", a newborn health care programme, will be funded by the US government through its development agency USAID and implemented in Bangladesh by Save the Children.

Through this initiative, BSMMU will work with birth attendants by training them to help newborns who have breathing difficulties after birth.

Through this program, USAID will provide \$1.4 million to BSMMU over next three years to train more than 20,000 skilled birth attendants throughout the country.



**Human chain**  
Swadhinata Sangrakkhan O Manabadikar Bastabayan Foundation will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

**Seminar**  
Research and Development Collective (RDC) and Antajya Forum will organise a seminar; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 10:00am.

**Citizens' rally**  
Citizens Rights Movement will arrange a citizens' rally; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

**Discussion**  
Bangladesh Youth Forum will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

**Human chain**  
Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talks to Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak through video conference at her office yesterday. (Story on page 1)

PHOTO:  
PMO

## DU boy assaulted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University (DU) student was brutally beaten up at the capital's Shahbagh by a group of students of three private universities yesterday.

The victim, Shoyeb Nabil, a first-year student of Psychology department, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition and later, shifted to LabAid Hospital, DU Proctor Prof MA Ali told The Daily Star.

"Nabil is being observed in Intensive Care Unit (ICU)", the proctor added.

Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said a group of six to seven students of three private universities swooped on Nabil at Sagabagh intersection at around 5:00pm as he protested an altercation between a bus conductor and the students of the private universities over bus fare.

A case was filed in this connection accusing unknown persons.

Meanwhile, protesting the incident, a section of DU students, numbering around 300, took to the street at Sahabagh intersection at around 5:45pm.

They, however, called off their protest at the request of DU authorities.

## Law and order has improved in 2 yrs

### Claims PRP survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a function yesterday said the Police Reform Programme (PRP) is supporting the transition of Bangladesh Police from a colonial style force to a democratic one.

PRP, in collaboration with Bangladesh Police, organised the function at a hotel in the capital to present the Mid-term Review findings of PRP phase-2.

Additional Inspector General of Police Md Mokhesur Rahman, also national project director of PRP, said majority of the people, who took part in a survey conducted by PRP last year, have said that the country's law and order situation has improved over the last two years.

The respondents in the survey also said to have witnessed a change in the behaviour of the police, he said.

"I believe that these are the signs that indicate that police performance is slowly improving and that the public are beginning to see that as well," he said.

"One of the factors that helped the police achieve this success has been the work conducted by the PRP," he added.

PRP is a long-term comprehensive capacity building initiative to create a secure environment for the people based on respect for law and human rights and equitable access to justice.

The programme puts specific focus on the poor and the disadvantaged, and women and children.

Home Ministry Senior Secretary CQK Mustak Ahmed, UKaid Senior Programme Manager for Governance Daniel Davis and UNDP Bangladesh Country Director Stefan Priesner, among others, addressed the function.

## DU expels two BCL activists from Zia hall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities yesterday expelled two students, also the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), from a dormitory for keeping home-made weapons illegally.

The authorities also recovered sharp weapons, iron rods and hockey sticks from their room at Ziaur Rahman Hall.

The expelled students are Rafiq-un-Nabi Mithu, first year student of law department, and Naimur Rahman Naim, third year student of Political Science department.

Provost Prof Dr ABM Faroque told The Daily Star that the weapons were recovered during a drive in several rooms on the first and second floors of the hall.

"We conduct such drives to keep the law and order of the hall normal and free it from criminal activities", he said.

Prof Faroque said "The students have been expelled from the dormitory for an indefinite period."

## BNP for disclosure of PM's wealth info

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member MK Anwar yesterday demanded disclosure of wealth statements of the prime minister, ministers and their family members.

"The prime minister should make her and her family members' wealth statements public," he said while addressing a human chain programme.

Anwar, also a former minister, said "Make your wealth statements public and live up to your electoral pledge."

Opposition lawmakers organ-

ised the programme on the premises of the parliament complex demanding withdrawal of cases filed against Tarique Rahman, BNP's senior vice chairman.

Mentioning the names of owners of the six newly-approved banks, the BNP leader questioned how they could earn such a huge sum in three years.

"The World Bank found evidence of corruption in Padma Bridge project and now the government is confusing people by signing agreement with Malaysia," he added.

Anwar said over 7000 cases filed

against the ruling AL leaders have been withdrawn but the government did not withdraw the cases filed against BNP leaders including Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman.

"All the cases which were withdrawn by this government will be revived in future if the government fails to withdraw cases of Tarique Rahman," he said.

Liberal Democratic Party chief Col (Retd) Oli Ahmad and Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Faroque, among others, spoke in the programme.



Opposition lawmakers form a human chain in Sangsad Bhaban area in the capital yesterday demanding withdrawal of cases against BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman.

PHOTO: STAR

## Mascot Plaza fined for noise pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) in a drive punished a shopping centre, a hotel and a developer for creating unbearable noise pollution in the capital's Gulshan and Uttara area yesterday.

The DoE fined Mascot Plaza at sector-7 in Uttara Tk 5 lakh and the hotel City Homes at sector-6 in Uttara Tk 2.5 lakh for creating noise pollution with generators far beyond permissible level, says a DoE press release.

On the other hand, the DoE fined Anwar Land Mark Tk 1 lakh for interfering with people's sleep through terrible noise pollution by constructing buildings at Gulshan-2 at night.

Under 'Operation safeguard civic rights', the DoE Director (enforcement) Muhammad Munir Chowdhury fined them and ordered them to control noise pollution immediately.

Although the permissible noise levels in the areas are 55 and 60 decibels respectively, the department in its drive found the highest 98.2 decibels and lowest 75.9 decibels there, the release said.

## Cancellation of new RU exam policy demanded

RU CORRESPONDENT

Science faculty students of Rajshahi University (RU) laid siege to the administrative building yesterday demanding cancellation of new examination policy for 2011-12 academic session.

Students of the session under eight departments of the faculty also formed a human chain to press home their demand. They also boycotted classes.

The students said the authorities increased the minimum credit to pass in the examination from 30 credits to 34 credits, out of total 38, from 2011-12 session under the new policy.

"Students would not be promoted to the next year if they fail to get 34 credits," they alleged.

The agitating students were locked into an altercation with Proctor Prof Chowdhury Muhammad Zakaria when the proctor was trying to force the students to withdraw their programme, a witness said.

Students alleged that Prof Zakaria threatened to cancel studentship of some of them for leading the protest. They threatened to launch indefinite agitation, including boycott of class, if the new policy was cancelled immediately.

The first year students of mathematics, physics, chemistry, statistics, pharmacy, bio-chemistry, population science and applied mathematics departments took part in the two-hour programme.

Denying the allegation, Prof Zakaria said he had just requested the students to withdraw their programmes assuring them of talking the issue with the authorities.

Science faculty dean Prof Tofazzal Hossain Tarafdar said he had nothing to do with the matter as the new examination policy was approved by the syndicate.

Pro-vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Nurullah said they would look into the matter.

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