

# NHRC chief calls for finding alternative to hartal

Chairman of National Human Rights Commission Prof Mizanur Rahman yesterday called on the political leaders to look for a suitable alternative to hartal, saying hartal had lost its effectiveness and become anarchic.

There is no doubt that hartal is a democratic tool for realising demands but opposition parties have abused it for their narrow political interests and made it dreadful to common people, he told reporters at his office in the capital.

Urging the civil society to play an active role in getting rid of the existing situation, Prof Rahman said women and children were being used as human shields in anarchies created in the name of political activities. It is tarnishing the country's image abroad, he added.

The NHRC chief made the call after holding its two-monthly meeting where the organisation overruled present human rights situation in the country, including the status of sensational cases.

Mizanur urged the government to withdraw all false cases against Limon Hossain of Jhalakathi, a victim of Rapid Action Battalion's shooting, which led to amputation of one of his legs.

Regarding his role about the recent death of Shamim Reja in police custody in Narayanganj, he said, "We demanded legal action against the police men involved, protesting their withdrawal, as it is not a punishment at all."

Shamim had been shown arrested in a murder case after his detention.

# RELOCATION OF CTG HILLSLOPE RESIDENTS Haunted Bachchu finds comfort in tent

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg

It was July 1, 2011 and it had been raining heavily since early morning. So, Bachchu went to a nearby shop to buy some breakfast for his family. He never saw his wife and four children alive again. He returned only to find all of them buried under mud.

The landslide killed a total of 17 people who were living on the foothill shanties of Batali Hill in Chittagong city. It occurred after a portion of the protection wall with a massive chunk of earth collapsed on the shanties following incessant overnight rain.

The tragedy, which took all his family except a daughter, still haunts Md Bachchu Miayn, 50. But this year, there is some comfort for him—he was relocated to a tent on Railway Kuyar Par field in Tiger Pass area. "I am feeling safe and comfortable in the tent," he said. "We are now free from the fear of landslide."

Bachchu is sheltered in tent no-6 with his new wife.

In order to save lives from probable landslides this monsoon, the Chittagong district administration has decided to re-house the poor families living on the city's risky hills and hills slopes in plain land tents for a period of three months.

Bachchu lamented, "Had such safety

2,500 families living at risky hills

90 of them temporarily relocated to as many tents on plain land

500 more tents to be set up

# Babunagari's health improves, but not out of danger: Doctors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hefajat-e Islam Secretary General Junaid Babunagari's health improved yesterday but he was not completely out of danger yet, said doctors.

Babunagari is being treated at the ICU Complex of Birdem hospital in the capital.

He was shifted to the hospital from Dhaka Central Jail on Saturday.

"Babunagari tripped and got injured in the right knee which became infected. We drained pus," Dr ASM Arief Ahasan told journalists.

He added the Hefajat leader's kidneys were dialysed twice as they were not functioning properly.

A medical board formed to oversee Babunagari's treatment will sit tomorrow to decide on his further treatment, informed Arief.

Birdem Director Brig Gen (ret'd) M Shahidul Haque Mollick said Babunagari did not need life support since his admission and he could sit up and talk.

Babunagari was arrested in Dhaka on May 6. Later, he was remanded for a total of 22 days in three cases.

# Child's wrists, neck slashed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four and a half years old boy was mysteriously slashed at different parts of his body in his house in the capital's Konapara, Demra yesterday.

It was not known who attacked him. Istiaque Ahmed Bulbul was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with slashed wrists and slit marks in his throat.

His uncle Jashim Uddin said Istiaque was taking nap in a room, while her mother Parveen Akhter was sleeping in another of their flat in the ground floor of an under-construction building.

"Around 1:45pm, she woke up to Istiaque's cry and found his wrists bleeding and a bloody slit mark in his throat," he said.

"Bhaiya (brother) did it," the boy said at DMCH.

Jashim, however, said Istiaque's two elder brothers were not at home during the incident. "The oldest, Mahmudul Hadan Jewel, 21, stays in Comilla and Tanvir Ahmed Riaz, 12, was at my house, which is near my sister's residence."

Istiaque's father Shah Alam, a contractor and local BNP leader, was also not at home.

The main door of the flat was open during the incident.

Doctors said the boy grew weak due to profuse bleeding. He was sent to National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, as his blood vessels were severed.

Demra police said they were investigating the incident. The family could not suspect anyone.

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