

# MATERNAL MORTALITY IN BANGLADESH

# Rate reduced but

# number still high

## Experts tell Prothom Alo-Unicef roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has significantly reduced the maternal mortality rate since 2000 and will probably achieve its goal of reducing it to 145 per 100,000 live births by 2015.

But there is no reason to be complacent as it is utterly unacceptable that so many mothers are dying while giving birth, said experts at a roundtable on maternal health organised by the Prothom Alo and Unicef at the daily's office in the capital yesterday.

Citing UN estimations, MM Neazuddin, secretary to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, said the rate has come down to 170 per 100,000 births in 2013 from 322 in 2000.

However, the progress has not been made equally across the country. While Khulna has the lowest maternal deaths--64, Sylhet has the highest--425, he informed.

Dr Sayed Abu Zafar Mohammad Musa,

director of Primary Health Care, said the areas that are lagging behind must be prioritised providing health facilities.

Muhammad Sharif, Maternal and Child Health director at the Directorate General of Family Planning, said 69 percent of the deliveries take place at homes in the country.

"Ensuring that the deliveries take place at healthcare institutions where trained personnel and facilities are available will also save a lot of lives," he said.

He suggested the union health complexes and community clinics across the country provide facilities of childbirth.

Ishtiaq Mannan, chief of party (MCHIP) at Save the Children, said the government should immediately ensure that health service providers, especially doctors, stay at their workplaces in the rural areas. The programme was moderated by Associate Editor of Prothom Alo Abdul Qayyum.

## 'FATAL TORTURE' OF TEA VENDOR IN COP CUSTODY

## HC asks govt to report

## on taken steps by June 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to inform it by June 18 about the steps taken over the recent death of a tea vendor in Savar due to "torture" in police custody.

In response to a writ petition filed by ZI Khan Panna on behalf of the rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra, the court also asked for the probe report by the date.

Family members of the victim, Md Ripon Miah, 26, of Ashulia, earlier said Ripon was tortured to death for "ransom", but police claimed he died in a road accident, according to a report published in The Daily Star on May 23.

Ripon's wife Sathi Akter alleged that police picked up Ripon from Nabinagar around 10:30pm on May 21 when the couple were crossing a road.

Later, the cops demanded Tk 1,000 from Sathi. While trying to arrange the money, she was informed that Ripon had been admitted to Gonoshasthaya Kendra hospital. Sathi rushed to the hospital to see her husband dead. A three-member committee, led by Shyamol Kumar Mukherjee, additional police superintendent of Dhaka, has been formed for investigation.

Yesterday, the HC issued a rule upon the government to explain why abuse of power by police in connection with Ripon's death should not be declared illegal.

The petition was filed on the basis of reports published in newspapers, including The Daily Star.

## Moudud charged with govt land

FROM PAGE 3

Manjur is now living in London.

The IO appealed to the court to issue an arrest warrant against Manjur.

Moudud said the charges brought against them were false and fabricated.

On December 17 last year, the ACC filed the case against the two for grabbing the land worth around Tk 300 crore.

The case statement says Moudud and his brother grabbed the land -- stretching over around one bigha and 13 katha -- at Gulshan between 1978 and 2006.

The ACC said the land was listed as an

abandoned property that had belonged to a Pakistani citizen, Inge Maria Flatz, who left the country before 1972 and died in Vienna.

However, on August 2, 1973, Moudud falsely showed that Flatz issued a power of attorney in favour of him.

Terming it a "forged and fraudulent transaction", the commissioner said the ACC obtained the death certificate of the woman which states that she died much earlier than the date when the power of attorney was issued.

## UK detectives in town

FROM PAGE 3

about our investigation into the disappearance of Mujibur."

The detectives also talked to Enamul Haq, the investigation officer and officer-in-charge of Sunamganj Police Station, he added.

Former vice-president of the Sunamganj unit and the UK chapter of the BNP, Mujibur

along with his driver went missing after he attended the opposition's hunger strike in Sunamganj town on May 4 to protest the recent abductions, killings and forced disappearances, said family members of Mujibur.

The UK chapter of the BNP staged demonstrations seeking help of the British government to rescue Mujibur unhurt.

## Private agencies may send workers

FROM PAGE 3

However, Mosharraf also mentioned that the agencies must send workers from the ministry's database where around 1.9 million jobseekers have already been registered for foreign jobs.

Currently, an aspirant worker has to pay around Tk 30,000 to the government for

plantation jobs in Malaysia while the recruiting agencies earlier used to charge a minimum of Tk 2 lakh to 2.5 lakh each as the migration cost.

Expatriates' welfare Secretary Khondaker Showkat Hossain said they would fix a migration cost for the recruiting agencies.

## Obituary

CITY DESK



Mussaddeq Uddin Chowdhury alias Jamal, son of late Moinnuddin Chowdhury

of Dhaka, died at his Redlands residence in the USA on May 6. He was 61, said a press release. He was buried in Melrose Abbey in Anaheim of California.

## SC scraps

FROM PAGE 5

remain on bail granted by the HC prior to the acquittal verdict, Aman's lawyer Ahsanul Karim, said.

## No info about missing Ctg jeweller

FROM PAGE 3

demanding the case be transferred to the DB.

The association organised several protest programmes, including a press conference on May 18 and a rally the following day, demanding the immediate rescue of Palash.

Atik Ahmed Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Chawkbazar Police Station, told The Daily

Star that they had tracked down the mobile phone, with which Palash made the last call. It was found in a remote area in Feni, he said.

"Our team has visited the spot recently."

He added, "It's mysterious that none has yet asked for ransom, so we are not sure whether it is an abduction...We expect to unveil the mystery soon."

## Chief prosecutor returns to court

FROM PAGE 5

The defence counsel cross-examined the witness, and the proceeding was adjourned till May 28.

TRIBUNAL-2

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday completed recording the cross-examination of Abdul Matin alias Jamal, a freedom fighter from Nasirnagar in Brahmanbaria and the 16th prosecutor in

the case against Syed Mohammad Qaisar, a state minister in Ershad's regime.

Qaisar's lawyer SM Shahjahan completed his cross-examination, and the three-member tribunal adjourned the proceeding until today.

The tribunal also adjourned the case against Jamaat leader Abdus Subhan until May 29 following a prayer from both the prosecution and the defence.

## Man falls ill at court, dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An accused died of illness after he was produced before a Dhaka court yesterday.

The deceased was Mosharraf Hossain, 48, son of late Anwar Hossain.

Ramna police arrested him on November 24, 2012 for possessing heroin and filed a case against him.

Mosharraf was in Dhaka Central Jail and produced before the court yesterday in the case. He was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on arrival, said police. The body was sent for autopsy.

## DU fires teacher

FROM PAGE 3

Prof Nasrin Ahmed to investigate the incident. The committee concluded that Alo could not prove his claim.

Following the report, Alo's degree was revoked on September 13, 2013.

Contacted, Prof Tajmeri Islam, a syndicate member, yesterday said it was unusual that Alo was terminated as a teacher as there have been other cases of fraudulence in theses, but none were fired.

She also questioned why the three supervisors, who Alo had worked on his thesis with, were not penalised.

## BNP's Anwar invites

FROM PAGE 3

Anwar said the government had created anarchy to stay in power. He called upon Hasina to hold a fresh election under a non-party administration; otherwise, he said, "you will have to face dire consequences."

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MORE INFORMATION: [daca.itamaraty.gov.br](mailto:daca.itamaraty.gov.br).  
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"BRAZILIAN EMBASSY -- Symphony Building, 4th Floor, Road 142, Gulshan 1, Dhaka-1212".  
No personal delivery of any kind will be accepted. D-365

### UNICEF Vacancy Announcement (Re-Advertisement)

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following post. For detailed Job Descriptions, please visit our website: [www.unicef.org.bd](http://www.unicef.org.bd)

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Last date of receiving applications: **5 June 2014**


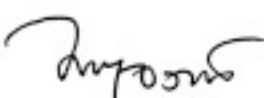
Application with CV and a copy of filled in P-11 form should be sent to the Chief, Human Resources, BSL Office Complex, 1 Minto Road, Shahbag, Dhaka. Please mark on the envelope the post applied for. Only short listed candidates will be invited for written test/interview. Any attempt to unduly influence UNICEF's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.

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 <div>Bangladesh Milk Producer's Co-Operative Union Ltd. Head Office: Dugdha Bhaban 139-140 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208.</div>				
<b>Invitation for International Tender.</b>				
Procuring Entity Name		Bangladesh Milk Producers' Co-Operative Union Ltd.		
Procurement Method		Open Tendering Method (One Stage Two Envelope)		
Source of Funds		Own Fund		
Invitation for Tenders No.		PD/Generator/LC-20/2014/626		Date: 20.05.2014
<b>Tenders Name &amp; Brief Description</b>				
Sl. No.	Tender Package No.	Item Name	Cost of Schedule (Non refundable)	Tender Security (BDT/US\$/EURO)
1.	PD/Generator/LC-20/2014/14	Generator	Tk. 1,000.00	Tk 1,80,000.00
Validity of tender offer		120 days from the date of submission of tender		
Validity of tender security		148 days from the date of submission of tender		
Name & address of the office for selling the tender documents		(a) Accounts Division, Head Office, 139-140, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka (b) Accounts Section, Dhaka Dairy Plant, Mirpur Sec.-7, Dhaka. & (c) Divisional Commissioner office, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.		
Name & address of the office for receiving of the tender documents		(a) Procurement Division, Head Office, 139-140, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka (b) Security Section, Dhaka Dairy Plant, Mirpur Sec.-7, Dhaka. & (c) Divisional Commissioner office, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.		
Starting date for selling tender documents		24.05.2014 during office hour.		
Tender last selling date		06.07.2014 during office hour		
Tender closing Place, Date & Time		(a) Procurement Division, Head Office, (b) Security Section, Dhaka Dairy Plant (c) Divisional Commissioner Office.	07.07.2014 at 12.30 PM	
Tender opening Place, Date and time		Head Office: Conference Room 139-140 Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208.	07.07.2014 at 2.30 PM	
Other Instruction		All other terms & conditions are mentioned in the tender schedule		
<b>Procuring Entity Details</b>				
Name of the Official Inviting Tender		Shamima Begum		
Designation of the Official Inviting Tender		Addl. General Manager (PPM.)		
Address of the Official Inviting Tender		Bangladesh Milk Producers' Co-Operative Union Limited 139-140, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208.		
Contact details of the official inviting tender		Tel : 8870432, 8879279 (PABX) 8870444, 8870445, Ext-102, 140 Fax : 880-2-8870433, E-mail: <a href="mailto:procurement@milkvita.org">procurement@milkvita.org</a>		
<b>Other Information</b>				
Special Conditions		i) Tender must be submitted in two envelopes and clearly marked as "Technical Offer" and "Financial Offer" Financial offer will contain Tender submission Letter (form PG4-1), Price Schedule for Goods (PG4-3B) & Price Schedule for related Services (form PG4-3D). All other Documents including Tender Security (Earnest Money) will be in the Technical Offer. If any Financial (Price related) document found in the Technical Offer Tender will be outright rejected. ii) In case, the tender can not be received on the day mentioned for reasons beyond control of BMPCUL (Milk Vita), the same will be received on the next working day at the same time & venue. iii) The authority also reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.		
This tender will be conducted as per the Public Procurement Rules-2008 of Bangladesh.				
 (Shamima Begum) Addl. General Manager (PPM.)				

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