

NEWS IN brief

Two new vaccines for pneumonia, polio to be launched today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four international organisations will launch two new life-saving vaccines today aiming to protect Bangladeshi children from pneumonia and polio. Unicef, WHO, Gavi and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative will jointly introduce pneumococcal vaccine (PVC) and inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) at Dhaka Shishu Hospital around 11:00am, says a press release.

Abducted BNP activist found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A BNP activist was found dead in a nut garden at Kazi Bari in Bashikpur of Noakhali's Laxmipur district yesterday two hours after he was picked up by masked miscreants. Masked miscreants picked Md Golam Mawla, 35, from his tea stall at Chatkhil upazila in the morning, said witnesses. The body with multiple hack injuries was sent to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Man killed over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A youth was hacked to death allegedly by his neighbour over a land dispute at Gujara village in Sadar upazila of Moulvibazar yesterday. Saimun hacked Jila Miah, 35, son of Nanu Miah, with a machete before a tea stall where they were arguing over the disputed land. Jila was declared dead at Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital. The body was kept at the hospital morgue for autopsy. Police arrested Saimun at the village.

Kidnapped Dhaka trader rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Rapid Action Battalion rescued a land trader from a Mekani Chherra house in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal Thursday night eight days after he had been kidnapped from Dhaka, said Rab. Rab arrested six alleged kidnappers in Moulvibazar and Sylhet city for kidnapping Md Osman Goni of Sector-11 in Uttara of Dhaka.

RU teachers' association polls today

RU CORRESPONDENT

Election to the 15-member executive committee of Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (Ruta) will be held from today. Prof Ananda Kumar Saha of botany department, from pro-Awami League and left-leaning yellow panel, and applied chemistry professor Abu Bakar Siddique, from pro-BNP-Jamaat white panel, will contest for the president post. For general secretary post, Prof M Rezaul Karim Badal from yellow panel, and Prof Abdul Alim from white panel, are contesting. Ruta sources said.



Guardians of students form a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding that the O- and A-level examinations be held in due time amid the ongoing political violence.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Remanded accused found dead in police custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An accused, who was placed on a two-day remand by a Dhaka court yesterday in a robbery case, was found dead at Chawk Bazar Police Station in the evening. Jahangir Hossain, 24, hanged himself with a blanket from the doorframe of a toilet in the police custody, claimed Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, deputy commissioner (Lalbagh division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police. The incident might have occurred between 6:40pm and 6:55pm during a blackout in the area, the DC further claimed. A two-member committee headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner Sanjay Kumer Roy was formed to investigate the incident, he said. The body will be sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy following an inquest report to be prepared in the presence of an executive magistrate, he added.

Cyber security key challenge

Govt to create one lakh IT literate teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Moving ahead with its digitalisation vision, Bangladesh's key challenge now is ensuring proper cyber security, said CTO Forum, Bangladesh President Tapan Kanti Sarkar at the inauguration of Bangladesh's "first ever" international Tech Summit in the capital yesterday. The organisation and INFOCOM, an initiative from the house of Anandabazar Group, one of India's leading media conglomerates, are organising the two-day event at the Sonargaon hotel. The aim is to discuss the most recent developments, challenges and possibilities in Bangladesh and India's information and communication technology sector. The best brains, namely chief information, technology and information security officers and technology leaders, from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar will be talking on issues like digital leadership, cyber security, and IT skill development in five sessions. Today five technology executives and leaders in South Asia will also be conferred ICT Excellence Award 2015 in Dhanmondi Club. The organisers say it is an attempt to recognise contributions and efforts having a huge impact on day to day businesses.

Themed "Driving ICT innovations and security", it is an attempt to provide IT people a "powerful platform" to hold conversions, said DD Purkayastha, chairman of INFOCOM and managing director of ABP Pvt Ltd. This summit would be a catalyst for more collaboration between Bangladesh and India, said Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pankaj Saran. South Asia has the potential to be branded as the centre of gravity for ICT innovation and development due to the many resource endowments, he added. The summit is expected to benefit all participants including local companies, said Education Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan. He said the government plans to launch a separate course on cyber security at educational institutions to develop professionals. Ernst & Young India, a professional services firm, yesterday presented a paper, "Driving ICT innovation and security-Global and Bangladesh perspective". Bangladesh Bank Deputy Governor Nazneen Sultana, NCC Bank Vice Chairman ASM Mainuddin Monem and Harish Agarwal, partner of Ernst & Young India, also spoke.

Govt to create one lakh IT literate teachers

BSS, Dhaka

The government plans to establish ICT training and resource centres in 125 upazilas and create one lakh IT literate teachers at secondary schools and madrasas within the next two years to spread e-learning across the country, said official sources. Education Secretary Md Nazrul Islam Khan told the news agency that in light of the government's Digital Bangladesh vision, the education ministry has launched a number of e-education projects, including the one for IT literate teachers. "We have already introduced multimedia classrooms in 23,500 schools and trained over 20,000 teachers in multimedia. Now, we are establishing 125 upazila ICT training and resource centres and creating one lakh IT literate teachers by giving them training on e-learning," he added. According to sources, as a part of the plan to create one lakh IT literate teachers, Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS) has just completed training of 760 teachers in training of trainers (TOTs) course on March 18, 2015.

Road crash kills 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Two motorcyclists died hit by a truck in college road area of Srimangal on Thursday, said police. Habibur Rahman, 30, was a Rural Electrification Board assistant engineer and Sariful Islam, 28, its computer operator.

Some higher

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front of the ruling Awami League, at a press conference at Modhur Canteen on Dhaka University campus. The allegations came two days after law enforcers in a raid on Chittagong College and Govt Hazi Muhammad Mohsin College in the port city recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition and held 80 alleged Shibir activists. "We've learnt the principals and all the departmental heads of both the colleges believe in leftist ideologies. They directly assisted the Shibir men in building arsenals in the two colleges," claimed Shohag. "Many more such arsenals exist on the campuses of a number of educational institutions, including Rajshahi and Chittagong universities," he said, adding: "We can even provide a list of these institutions if the education ministry and the administration want." He demanded immediate closure of the dormitories of the two colleges in Chittagong, a major reshuffle in the college administrations and appointment of "progressive teachers and staff" in the colleges. Contacted, Principal of Chittagong College Prof Jesmin Akther said, "I am a government official, not a politician. I have nothing to say about it." Echoing her comments, Anjan Kumar Nandy, principal of Govt Hazi Muhammad Mohsin College, said transfer orders for teachers come from the education ministry and there is little teachers can do about their postings. "If there is any specific allegation against anyone, the law enforcement agencies can investigate it," he added.



(From left) Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pankaj Saran; Harish Agarwal, partner of Ernst & Young India; DD Purkayastha, chairman of INFOCOM and managing director of ABP Pvt Ltd; Education Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan; Bangladesh Bank Deputy Governor Nazneen Sultana; NCC Bank Vice Chairman ASM Mainuddin Monem and CTO Forum, Bangladesh President Tapan Kanti Sarkar at the inauguration of Bangladesh's "first ever" two-day international Tech Summit in the capital's Sonargaon hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Enrollment certificates

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demanding certificates. "Real journalists in and outside the capital are worried about fake journalists." This is why the press council is going to take such an initiative, he said. Besides, the council will propose the government to amend the Penal Code enabling the press council to deal with the defamation cases filed against journalist, as those are now dealt by ordinary courts. If the BPC is empowered to try journalists on the charge of defamation, the cases will be disposed of speedily reducing the harassment from both the parties, he claimed. Dhaka University Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique, who is also a

professor of the mass communication and journalism department, said it will be better if such certificates are provided to journalists examining a certain level of their competence and qualifications. He, however, stressed the importance of arranging adequate trainings for novice journalists both at home and abroad. President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul said any decision on the media needs to be taken in consultation with all the stakeholders, including the professional bodies. Echoing him, Jatiya Press Club President Kamal Uddin Sabuj said, "It's not possible for the press council alone."

Compensation talks offer

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returned their ancestral land and provided compensation and rehabilitation and release of 11 persons and withdrawal of a case filed in connection with protests on March 15. The government decision to set up the headquarters can not be changed, BCB officials told yesterday's press conference in Khagrachhari. However, there could be discussions on compensation, said a BCB statement read out by the battalion commanding officer.

The district administration will hand out the compensation and there will be all out efforts if any person, who has been truly affected, is left out, it added. Indigenous people have been demanding since May 2014 that the government do not set up the headquarters through the eviction. At least six indigenous people and four members of law enforcement agencies were injured on March 15 in a clash when a protest procession brought out by indigenous people was barricaded by joint forces comprising army, police and ansar personnel.

No water supply for twelve days

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turned into a hell." Due to the water crisis, new admissions have been slashed. The RMO said usually 120-140 patients were admitted to the hospital in a given time but now there were only 80-90. Anowara Behum, who travelled 10km from Sayestabad, said she had been admitted to the diarrhoea ward but was forced to leave for home amid the crisis. RMO Delowar Hossain said he wrote to the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), which is supposed to fix the water pump, and personally informed its officials

of the situation on March 9, a day after the pump malfunctioned. Ripon Hossain, assistant engineer of DPHE, said they were working on the pump, but it would take one more week to restore supply. Asked about the delay, the RMO said he urged the DPHE officials repeatedly to accelerate the repair works and denied sluggishness on his part. The DPHE engineer recognised the delay and said it occurred because some labourers fixing the pump had abandoned the work for two to three days. He did not say why they had left work.

BANGLADESH-INDIA MATCH Cricket fans protest partial decisions of umpires

DU CORRESPONDENT

Cricket fans under the banner "Bangladesh Cricket Fans Unity" formed a human chain on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting partial decisions made by umpires in the quarterfinal match between Bangladesh and India. They also urged AFM Mostafa Kamal, president of International Cricket Council, to resign in protest. Several hundred cricket fans gathered on the campus with placards saying "ICC: Indian Cricket Council", "Bangladesh played well, India paid well" and "Bangladesh has not lost, Cricket has lost."



Cricket enthusiasts under the banner of "Bangladesh Cricket Fans Unity" form a human chain at the base of the Raju sculpture at TSC on the Dhaka University campus yesterday, protesting partial decisions made by umpires in the Bangladesh-India quarterfinal match of the world cup in Melbourne.

PHOTO: STAR

Double blow for arson victims

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and Rubel 25 percent burns, said doctors at Chandpur General Hospital where they were initially admitted. The three finally reached Dhaka Medical College Hospital at 5:00pm. Locals say a 10km stretch from Sreerayer Char and Daudkandi on the bypass is heavily infested with robbers, but there have been hardly any remedial measures from police. Officer-in-Charge of Matlab (North) Police Station Syed Mahbubur Rahman said

two or three robbery attacks were reported every week on the bypass road. However, Abul Kalam Mia, OC of Daudkandi, where the bypass falls, denied even knowing about yesterday's robbery and initially refused to give his name to this correspondent. The Matlab OC said they had strengthened patrol in their area, while Superintendent of Police of Chandpur Amir Jafar said he would talk to Daudkandi police about the frequent robberies.