

FROM PAGE 16
"We fed the baby 2 millilitres of breast milk every three hours, collecting from her mother on Friday and increased it to 5 ml today (Saturday) as the baby could tolerate it. This is a positive sign," said Ashraf-Ul-Huq, head of the pediatric surgery department of the hospital.

The mother is yet to meet her daughter after being shifted to DMCH from a Magura hospital on Thursday, as the baby, now being treated at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), is susceptible to septicaemia for her low birth weight, doctors said.

Meanwhile, 10 days have gone since the attack but the police could not arrest anyone involved.

The baby suffered bullet injuries when her eight-month pregnant mother was shot in the abdomen during an attack by a Jubo League faction on another faction on July 23 in Magura, which left one killed and another person injured.

The bullet pierced through the unborn baby's right shoulder and injured her right eye. Miraculously though, she survived after a two-hour Caesarean on her 35-year-old mother at Magura General Hospital.

The baby was sent to DMCH on July 26 without her mother, as her situation was critical.

As advised by doctors, the mother was brought to DMCH from the Magura hospital to feed her baby breast milk, as the newborn needs it to survive.

Meanwhile, two other physicians joined the medical board working to save Suraiya at DMCH, raising the number of board members to ten.

The newborn is being treated for her jaundice, said Kaniz Hasina of the pediatric surgery department.

NICU does not have the facility to keep the mother and the baby together. "The baby has a risk of being exposed to infection as she had low birth weight and is suffering from bullet injuries. So we can't take her to her mother's ward," she added.

Another medical board led by Nilufer Sultan of the gynecology department and comprised of physicians from cardiology, medicine and surgery departments, examined the mother and said her condition was stable too, Ashraf said.

High yield

FROM PAGE 1
He suggested that the wholesalers have become the industry's main beneficiaries. "The profits accrue in their pockets and not ours."

Another grower, Subhash, said, "I pay Tk 400 a day per labourer to pick the fruit."

"Today I hired three labourers but the whole crop sold for only Tk 600, which is half the cost of their wages. At these rates there will be no guava production in Jhalakathi."

A major obstacle to growers' profits is the lack of easy road linkages to markets.

However, the situation is rosy for wholesalers.

"For the last 15 years I have been coming here to buy guavas for sale in Bagerhat," said wholesaler Yunus Ali. "Guavas here are cheaper than in other markets, which means higher profits."

Many farmers were seen approaching boat after boat in the hope of selling their fruit at a reasonable rate, only to find frustration. Some farmers said they would return home without selling the crop.

"I have to starve today as I couldn't sell the guavas," said a downcast Nimay Chandra while sitting on his boat piled high with the fruit. "I won't be able to buy rice but my family is waiting."

2 arrested

FROM PAGE 16
that they had planned the rape Thursday afternoon, the OC said.

The 17-year-old girl, an employee of a superstore in Uttara, was gang-raped in the building, allegedly by one of her fellow colleagues and his two cohorts.

Rapid Action Battalion on Friday morning picked up her co-worker Arif, 20, at Uttara. Rab handed him over to the police station yesterday.

Forensic tests carried out at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday found evidence that the girl was raped, said Bilkis Begum, coordinator of the DMCH's One-Stop Crisis Centre. The girl was undergoing treatment at the centre.

She said a full forensic report would be available in a few days and that they would collect samples for DNA tests today.

A case was filed with Uttara Paschim Police Station in this connection on Friday.

Talking to The Daily Star, victim's brother said her sister had been working at the shop for around one month. She was forcibly taken to the building around 8:30pm on Thursday.

The trio threatened her with life and each of them violated her in turn on the first floor of the building. Around two hours later, she jumped off the building, and reached home with the help of a rickshaw puller, added the brother.

Merkel to run for fourth term in 2017: Der Spiegel

REUTERS, Berlin

Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has governed Germany since 2005, has decided to run for a fourth term and has started planning her 2017 re-election campaign, Der Spiegel news magazine said on Saturday in an unsourced report.

Peter Tauber, secretary general of Merkel's Christian Democrat (CDU) party and effectively its campaign manager, declined to comment directly when asked by Reuters about the report.

"It's the summer silly season - haven't you noticed?" Tauber replied on Twitter when asked about the report.

Merkel, who turned 61 on July 17, has not made any public comments about whether she would run for a fourth term, although she did hint in a speech in Cologne last year she would stand again. She is on holiday hiking in the Alps.

Merkel, who has guided Europe's biggest economy through the 2008 financial crisis and euro zone turmoil, regularly ranks as one of Germany's most popular leaders, which is unusual for a sitting chancellor.

There are no term limits in Germany and the last CDU chancellor, Helmut Kohl, served for 16 years before losing his bid for a fifth term in 1998 to Gerhard Schroeder of the Social Democrats (SPD). Neither were as popular among voters as Merkel.

In a country that cherishes stability, Merkel is only the eighth post-war chancellor. She has no obvious rivals in the CDU.

"Merkel has evidently decided to run again in 2017," Der Spiegel wrote. If confirmed, the news will cheer her conservative party, which depends on her popularity to hold the chancellery after suffering a string of state election defeats.

Der Spiegel said she held a strategy meeting recently with Tauber and party manager Klaus Schueler to discuss the campaign.

"The campaign operations should be based in CDU party headquarters," the magazine said. "As a result of that meeting, the first staff workers are being recruited."

Merkel is so popular in Germany that one SPD leader, Schleswig-Holstein state premier Torsten Albig, said recently the SPD should not bother putting up a candidate to run against her in 2017. "She's doing an excellent job," Albig told NDR TV.

There was speculation two years ago that Merkel would step down in the middle of her current term but that was denied by her spokesman Steffen Seibert, who said Merkel would decide about a fourth term nearer to the election due in late 2017.

Australia says will continue push for MH17 prosecution

AFP, Sydney

Australia vowed Saturday no let up in its quest to prosecute those who shot down flight MH17 over Ukraine, saying Russia's veto of a UN resolution raised further questions about its involvement.

Moscow Wednesday vetoed a move to establish a special tribunal to try those responsible, while Angola, China and Venezuela abstained.

Eleven of the 15 members of the Security Council voted in favour of the resolution, drafted by Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Ukraine.

All 298 passengers and crew on board the Boeing 777 were killed when the Malaysia Airlines plane was blown out of the sky over Ukraine during a routine flight between Amsterdam and Kuala Lumpur on July 17 last year.

It's guava time

FROM PAGE 1
believes in part the high yield is due to an absence of a disease locally called "chit" that attacks guava plantations.

"For the last decade or more, we couldn't achieve a better harvest due to this disease. But for now it is absent," he said.

A source at the Barisal Divisional office of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) told The Daily Star that on average a harvest of eight tonnes of guavas per acre can be anticipated this season.

Abdul Aziz Farajee, additional director of the Barisal office DAE, said, "We hope this year's harvest can gener-

ate a minimum of Tk 15 crore for growers."

"However, if local entrepreneurs, perhaps with the encouragement of political leaders, were to establish processing facilities, the benefit to the local economy could be even greater," he added.

Guava processing facilities could not only develop new markets for products such as guava jam but also bring new employment opportunities to guava growing areas.

But for now, as happens every year, even more so in a year with such a successful harvest, huge quantities of guavas are simply left to rot.

Border killing

FROM PAGE 16
It was also associated with higher levels of "good" cholesterol, HDL.

Repeating two hours of sitting time with actual activity in the form of "stepping" was even better -- with lower blood fat and sugar scores as well as an 11 percent lower average Body Mass Index (BMI -- a ratio of height to weight) and a 7.5 centimetre (three-inch) smaller average waist circumference.

"These findings provide important preliminary evidence on the potential benefits of standing for cardio-metabolic risk biomarkers," said the study.

"This has important public health implications given that standing is a common behaviour."

The team points to the potential benefits of more standing at the workplace, including through such measures as "standing desks".

Adults in today's world are highly sedentary, with average self-reported sitting time ranging from 3.2 to 6.8 hours per day in Europe, said the study. About 55 to 69 percent of adult waking hours are sedentary.

But there has been little research into the potential benefits of standing, as opposed to moving, to replace sitting.

The study took blood, height and weight measurements from the participants, gave them an activity monitor for a week, and then compared the health data to how much each person moved... or not.

In an editorial published with the study, Francisco Lopez-Jimenez of the Mayo College of Medicine in Minnesota said it showed that "the fight against sedentary behaviour cannot be won based only on the promotion of regular exercise."

"A person walking while at work for two hours, standing for another four hours, and performing some daily chores at home for another hour will burn more calories than jogging or running for 60 minutes."

stronger by showing respect to each other's country's force and people," he observed.

He also said they have reached such a mutual trust, understanding and confidence level that many small issues are solved at field level.

Asked about the issue of Indian insurgent groups based in Bangladesh, the DG expressed unwillingness to give any information before the meeting. However, a home ministry official said there was no such group in Bangladesh.

Replying to another query, he said through the exchange of Adversely Possessed Land, the activities of both BGB and BSF is likely to be smoother.

11 killed in Colombia military plane crash

AFP, Bogota

The crash on Friday of a Colombian airforce plane has killed 11 people officials said, blaming the accident on mechanical problems.

Earlier in the day, President Juan Manuel Santos had announced that 12 people died in the mishap, but officials walked that figure back a short time later.

Santos, in a Twitter message, expressed "regret" over the deadly accident and offered condolences to the families of those who died.

The Colombian leader said the military transport plane signaled that it was experiencing engine problems prior to the crash, which had no survivors.

The plane crashed in Las Palomas region, some 800 kilometers (500 miles) northeast of Bogota.

3 missing in trawler capsized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

At least three people went missing after a soil-laden trawler sank in the Padma river near Louhajang upazila in Munshiganj yesterday.

The missing are Jahangir, 28, Soheli, 25, and Jakir, 32. All of them hail from Pabna.

Munshiganj Assistant Superintendent of Police Shamsuzzaman told The Daily Star that the trawler was heading towards Narayanganj from Madankhali in Faridpur. It capsized near Louhajang due to rough weather and choppy water.

There were at least 30 people on board the trawler. Locals rescued 27 people immediately after the accident.

Members of Bangladesh Coast Guard and fire service continued their search for the missing people. However, strong currents and gusty wind were hampering the rescue operation.

The capsized trawler was yet to be recovered.

Two more soldiers killed in Ukraine

AFP, Kiev

Two Ukrainian soldiers were killed and 14 more injured over 24 hours in clashes between government forces and pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine, a security official in Kiev said yesterday.

Most of the casualties were near Donetsk, the major separatist hub close to the line of contact, Ukrainian army spokesman Andriy Lysenko said, adding that the situation is still tense.

Ukrainian officials also reported that five civilians, including a twelve-year-old girl, were injured in rebel-held town of Gorlivka by a separatist news agency.

New Taliban

FROM PAGE 16

Mansour blamed divisions in the Taliban on "enemy propaganda" and swore to continue to fight for rule under sharia, the Islamic legal and moral code, and to follow the vision of Mullah Omar.

He also cautioned against the killing of civilians. A United Nations report released at the end of last year said that for a second year, insurgents were responsible for about 75 percent of civilians killed.

"In the name of jihad, the killing of innocent people is not Islamic. We need to win the hearts of people, then we can rule their hearts," he said.

Mansour confirmed that one of his deputies was Sirajuddin Haqqani, the son of renowned jihadi leader Jalaluddin Haqqani, founder of the fearsome Haqqani militant network blamed for some of Afghanistan's deadliest suicide attacks.

Several Taliban leaders told Reuters on Friday that Jalaluddin also died a year and a half ago. But yesterday, a Taliban spokesman denied this.

Stand up

FROM PAGE 16

rather than sitting was associated with approximately two percent lower average fasting blood sugar levels and 11 percent lower average triglycerides [fats in the blood], said a press statement.

Replacing two hours of sitting time with actual activity in the form of "stepping" was even better -- with lower blood fat and sugar scores as well as an 11 percent lower average Body Mass Index (BMI -- a ratio of height to weight) and a 7.5 centimetre (three-inch) smaller average waist circumference.

"These findings provide important preliminary evidence on the potential benefits of standing for cardio-metabolic risk biomarkers," said the study.

"This has important public health implications given that standing is a common behaviour."

The team points to the potential benefits of more standing at the workplace, including through such measures as "standing desks".

Adults in today's world are highly sedentary, with average self-reported sitting time ranging from 3.2 to 6.8 hours per day in Europe, said the study. About 55 to 69 percent of adult waking hours are sedentary.

But there has been little research into the potential benefits of standing, as opposed to moving, to replace sitting.

The study took blood, height and weight measurements from the participants, gave them an activity monitor for a week, and then compared the health data to how much each person moved... or not.

In an editorial published with the study, Francisco Lopez-Jimenez of the Mayo College of Medicine in Minnesota said it showed that "the fight against sedentary behaviour cannot be won based only on the promotion of regular exercise."

"A person walking while at work for two hours, standing for another four hours, and performing some daily chores at home for another hour will burn more calories than jogging or running for 60 minutes."

25 Syria rebels killed in failed Aleppo attack

AFP, Beirut

At least 25 Syrian rebels were killed in a failed attack on a makeshift army base outside the northern city of Aleppo, a monitoring group said yesterday.

Nine regime forces were also killed in fighting that erupted after several rebel groups launched the attack late Friday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Three senior rebel commanders were among 25 fighters killed, said the Britain-based monitor.

Syria's official SANA news agency reported that "a number of terrorists were killed and wounded" by government forces in the west of the city.

The Observatory said sporadic fighting was continuing on the western outskirts of Aleppo on Saturday morning, with regime planes carrying out air strikes and rebels firing rockets on loyalist positions.

Once Syria's economic powerhouse, Aleppo has been ravaged by fighting and divided between government control in the west and rebel control in the east since shortly after fighting began there in mid-2012.

In early July, two rebel alliance launched attacks against regime forces in the western outskirts of the city, sparking some of the heaviest violence since the country's war arrived in the city in 2012.

The assaults were largely repelled however, though rebels have continued sporadic attacks.

Elsewhere, the Observatory said the

Five Libyan troops killed, 18 missing after 'ISIS attack'

AFP, Benghazi

Five Libyan troops loyal to the internationally recognised government were killed Friday and another 18 are missing after an attack on an eastern checkpoint allegedly carried out by the Islamic State group, a state news agency said.

A military source told the LANA agency, loyal to the recognised government, that "five soldiers were killed... and 18 other soldiers are missing in an attack carried out by the Libyan branch of the Islamic State group" on Friday.

CNG autos defy ban

FROM PAGE 16

issued a circular, imposing the embargo, which went into effect yesterday.

But the government's move to get these dangerously slow vehicles off the highways had little or no effect. On several occasions in the past, the government decided to stop the movement of such vehicles but could not implement the ban.

Our correspondents from different districts reported that a good number of CNG-run auto-rickshaws, illegal battery-run easy bikes, Nosimon, Korimon and Bhotbhoti plied highways throughout the day yesterday.

Selim Hossain, who drives an easy bike on Natore-Rajshahi highway, told our Natore correspondent, "I have no alternative to earn. I ran my vehicle today [yesterday] and tried to avoid getting caught by highway police."

Road Transport and Highways Division Secretary MAN Siddique said some of these vehicles plied the highways yesterday as it was the first day of the ban. "We hope that the movement of these vehicles on the highways will surely be stopped gradually," he told The Daily Star.

"We have directed all divisional commissioners, DIGs, DCs and SPs to take necessary measures to check the operation of these vehicles," Siddique added.

Police and executive magistrates yesterday conducted drives at different points on highways to stop the movement of the vehicles.

Protesting the ban, transport workers and operators yesterday blocked two major highways, creating long tailbacks.

Vehicular movement was halted on Dhaka-Chittagong highway for around 20 minutes as auto-rickshaw drivers and owners formed human chains and staged demonstrations at Kanchpur, Madanpur, Shimrail and Mograpara intersection in Narayanganj, report our correspondents.

Auto-rickshaw drivers and owners put barricade at Bawshiya point in Gazaria of Munshiganj for one hour from 11:00am, causing a long tailback on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Besides, auto-rickshaw drivers and owners blocked the Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Pachdona and Nilkhuthi in Narsingdi for around one hour from 4:00pm.

Symbol

FROM PAGE 16

An executive engineer of PWD, however, said it was Wasa's duty to clear drains of waste.

When his attention was drawn to the fact that the surface drains along the road belong to his department, he argued that the main drainage lines, which belonged to Wasa, were blocked, leading to blocking of surface drains as well.

Islamic State group had issued warnings to local internet providers to halt private wifi supply in the town of Albu Kamal in eastern Deir Ezzor province.

The jihadist group issued a similar directive in its de facto Syrian capital Raqa in July.

The ban there sought to prevent residents from accessing the internet privately, instead forcing them to go through monitored internet cafes.

The Observatory said the bans appeared to be motivated by a desire to create a news blackout but also to thwart foreign fighters who might be trying to return home without IS permission.

BNP hasn't

FROM PAGE 16

Brahmanbaria lawyers that we want an election and we will take part in it. But that election must be held under a neutral administration. It was our clear stance, but some newspapers misinterpreted it and created confusion. There is no change in our position in this regard," she said.

Addressing a views-exchange meeting with the newly elected office bearers of Rajshahi District Bar Association at her Gulshan office, BNP chief Khaleda said, "People won't get any chance to exercise their franchise if a Hasina-style election is held. So, the national election must be held under a neutral government and the BNP will participate in it."

She said the BNP, if voted to power, would introduce a new and positive trend of politics. "We need to forget the politics of vengeance."

She said the BNP would remain as it is -- a people's party.

Pointing to a recent incident in which an unborn child was shot inside her mother's womb during an intra-party clash in Magura, Khaleda lambasted the ruling party men and questioned why the criminals involved in the incident were not arrested.

Khaleda alleged that the government was not standing beside the flood-affected people as it was busy plundering public money. She called upon her party men to extend their helping hands to the flood-hit people.

About her party grassroots, Khaleda said, "The leaders and activists alone will make their committees comprising competent, honest and dedicated people."

"We have directed all divisional commissioners, DIGs, DCs and SPs to take necessary measures to check the operation of these vehicles," Siddique added.

Police and executive magistrates yesterday conducted drives at different points on highways to stop the movement of the vehicles.

Protesting the ban, transport workers and operators yesterday blocked two major highways, creating long tailbacks.

Vehicular movement was halted on Dhaka-Chittagong highway for around 20 minutes as auto-rickshaw drivers and owners formed human chains and staged demonstrations at Kanchpur, Madanpur, Shimrail and Mograpara intersection in Narayanganj, report our correspondents.

Auto-rickshaw drivers and owners put barricade at Bawshiya point in Gazaria of Munshiganj for one hour from 11:00am, causing a long tailback on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Besides, auto-rickshaw drivers and owners blocked the Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Pachdona and Nilkhuthi in Narsingdi for around one hour from 4:00pm.

The BAAIGM on April 23 issued a letter to DNCC to take proper steps to improve the drainage system and get garbage off the road.

"We have to wade through ankle-to-knee-deep dirty water, especially during rain, as rain water along with sewage enters the premises of the hospital," said Nazneen Islam, a daughter of a staff of BAAIGN.

Patients suffer immensely due to the poor condition of the road, she added.

People at the hospital experience foul smell, said Saleha Begum, a staff member of BAAIGM.

Mohammad Roni, of Shohider Tek of Agargaon, said residents of the area saw some action by the authorities concerned to clean up the drains around 10 days ago, but that brought little change.

The road has now become a breeding ground for mosquitoes, he added. "I have had a loss of around Tk 70,000 due to waterlogging," said Nazrul Islam, a shopkeeper who sells scrap items on the road.

The authorities concerned should take steps immediately and clear the drains of waste regularly, he added.