

Every dist to have medical college hospital soon: PM

UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government has a plan to set up one medical college hospital in each district, aiming to provide better healthcare services. She said this while speaking at the 43rd annual conference of the Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh in the capital's Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh. Mentioning the challenge in establishing medical colleges in all districts, Hasina said getting faculty members will be a major problem as "...many physicians are not interested to go outside Dhaka city, but we're trying our best to address the problem." She also mentioned that the government has already established medical colleges in different districts and divisional headquarters, in addition to setting up five medical colleges in five divisions of the Bangladesh Army.

For ensuring better healthcare services, she said, "We've increased the bed numbers...taken steps for ensuring round-the-clock healthcare services for people." She also reiterated a plan for setting up a medical university in Sylhet. The government has already taken steps to set up two medical universities in Chittagong and Rajshahi. Separate laws have been enacted in this regard. Also steps have been taken to create more specialist physicians and expert nurses to meet the huge demand, she added. The prime minister directed the physicians and



A young driver of a pickup van being beaten up by members of Armed Police Battalion (APBn) in front of Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital yesterday. The victim had come out of his vehicle, as per witnesses, to protest the damaging of his wing mirror by a requisitioned human hauler the law enforcers were using and which had swerved and overtook him from his left. After beating and choking him, which led to him bleeding, the APBn men forced him onto their vehicle. The abuse went on for some time before the victim was released on the spot. The photos were taken around 2:30pm. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Man killed for resisting daughter's stalkers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanj
A rickshaw-van puller was stabbed to death in Narayanjanj in the early hours yesterday by some persons whom police say had either carried out a planned murder or were trying to abduct his school-going daughter. Locals of Fatullah upazila's Raghunath area caught and handed over to police seven men after beating them up around 2:45am. Police recovered two knives and two microbuses from the scene and detained another man later in this connection in the capital's

Shyampur. Six of the detainees were each taken on a three-day remand following a police appeal before a Narayanjanj court seeking 10 days for each. A murder case was lodged at Fatullah Model Police Station by the victim's wife accusing 12 persons by name, including one Tuhin, 21, son of Abul Hossain of Shyampur's Kadamtoli, as the main accused and eight unnamed persons. Tuhin is on the run. Manindra Chandra Adhikari, 45, was trying to stop the abduction of his daughter, a class IX student, the police station's officer-in-charge (OC),

Kamal Hossain, quoted the locals as saying. Numbering around 12, the attackers arrived in the two vehicles led by Tuhin, an employee of a Shyampur shop renting out sound systems, he said quoting the victim's family as saying. Manindra's daughter told journalists at the police station that she met Tuhin six months ago at a programme marking Kali puja. When she stopped communicating with him two months back, Tuhin started to believe that Manindra had forced her to do so as the father was against interfaith relations, she said. SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Arrest warrant issued for Janakantha editor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar
A Moulvibazar court issued an arrest warrant against daily Janakantha's editor and publisher Atiqullah Khan Masud and executive editor Sodesh Roy yesterday. Lawyer Abdul Mumit Chowdhury filed a case on February 18, accusing Masud and Sodesh of publishing "defamatory statements" against Supreme Court and Chief Justice on its op-ed pages on February 4, according to the case. After taking cognizance of the case, the court issued a summons asking them to appear before it on March 16, but they did not.



Queen Mother of Bhutan Tshering Pem Wangchuck visits Brac's Ayesha Abed Foundation production centre in Manikganj yesterday, during her five-day visit to explore possibilities for collaboration between the two countries. PHOTO: COLLECTED

NAVIGABILITY LOSS OF RIVERS Low transboundary water flow, siltation key causes

Shipping Minister Shajahan tells river dredging seminar
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Low trans-boundary water flow and increased siltation are some of the foremost reasons why rivers in Bangladesh are losing navigability, said Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan at a seminar on river dredging in the capital yesterday. Declining river water flow is resulting in the waning of fish production and irrigation and environment degradation while the situation is causing severe hindrance to flood water flow, adversely impacting the economy, he said. Relevant experts underscored the urgent need for developing skilled manpower and procuring modern equipment for efficient river dredging. Dredging of 53 routes, costing Tk 11,000 crore, and procurement of 20 dredgers, costing Tk 2,048 crore, are ongoing, said the minister citing two major dredging programmes. At least 100 dredgers will be needed for six more major upcoming projects, he said, calling upon private entrepreneurs to meet the demand. With 21 cutter suction dredgers of different capacities, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) is now looking after routes totalling 6,000 kilometres (km) during the rainy season, which shrink to 3,900km during the dry season. BIWTA can dredge 70 to 80 lakh cubic metres of sediment while routinely maintaining navigability but with increasing demand, lifting of at least 250 lakh cubic metres will be

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STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

This week, the *Star Weekend* has an array of interesting articles for you. The spotlight talks about the sheer ignorance towards the dilemma of mental health in our country. There is also an article that talks about the representation of gender and sexuality in the media. Don't forget your copy of *Star Weekend* tomorrow, Friday!

মা ও শিশুর স্বাস্থ্য সেবায়
মাতৃকালীন ভাতা দারুণ সহায়

উপায় জানতে বা অভিজ্ঞতা জমাতে যোগাযোগ করুন
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বা ইউএনও অফিসে

মানুষের জীবন
manusher jono