

Ctg court grants bail to 4 physicians again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday granted bail to four doctors who were sued for their alleged negligence during treatment of three-year-old Rafida Khan Raifa, who died at a private hospital in the city on June 29. The court, however also expressed shock at the death.

The court of Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Salem Md Noman granted the bail till the completion of investigation, after the doctors surrendered before the court on completion of their four weeks of bail, granted by a bench of High Court (HC).

The accused doctors are managing director of Max Hospital Dr Liakot Ali, child specialist Bidhan Roy Chowdhury and medical officers of the hospital Dr Debasis Sengupta and Dr Shuvro Deb.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) (Prosecution) Kazi Shahbuddin Ahmed of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) said the four doctors surrendered before the court on completion of their bail and sought bail again in the case.

"After hearing, the court granted bail to the accused on a bond of Tk 10,000 each until police complete their probe in the case," said the AC.

Rafida Khan Raifa, daughter of Rubel Khan, a senior reporter of Bangla Daily Samakal in Chittagong, died of medical negligence on June 29 at Max Hospital after she was admitted there with pain in her throat.

Following the death, Rubel Khan filed a case accusing the four doctors under section 304 (Kha), 201, 109 and 34 of Penal Code with Chawakbazar Police Station on July 18.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Children who contracted measles at Tripura Para of Hathazari were admitted to the upazila health complex. The photos were taken yesterday. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

DEATH, ILLNESS OF CHILDREN IN HATHAZARI

Report finds measles outbreak at Tripura Para

AMIR HASAN SHAHRIAR, Ctg

A report by Institute of Public Health (IPH) revealed that outbreak of measles at Sonai Tripura Para under Hathazari upazila in Chittagong caused illness among children who were hospitalised in a span of a week, right after four children had died in the same area.

Azizur Rahman Siddique, civil surgeon of Chittagong, confirmed the findings to The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

"The committee, formed to investigate the matter, sent samples of blood, cough and stool collected from six random children to IPH on Sunday. The IPH experts found the

presence of measles virus in all the samples," said the civil surgeon.

He, however, could not confirm if the same virus caused the death of four children at the beginning of the outbreak.

"As the deceased were not brought to hospital, doctors could not diagnose them. They were also cremated, so we had to rely on the information provided by their parents," he added.

Following the death of four children, including three siblings at Tripura Para, panic broke out in the locality. Meanwhile 22 children, aged between six and seven, were hospitalised last week with the same symptoms of fever, cold

and rash.

Dr Abu Sayed Mohammed Imtiaz, health officer of Hathazari upazila, said they brought all the ailing children to the health complex as their parents panicked after hearing the rumour of an unknown disease.

"The disease was not 'unknown', it was unidentified. If those four children were brought to the hospital in time, their lives could have been saved," said Imtiaz.

He also informed that out of the 22 children, three from the same family were admitted to Faujdarhat Cholera Hospital on Sunday.

Two of them had viral pneumonia, he said. "The family admitted all three children as they feared the third

child might also catch the disease."

Meanwhile, representatives of World Health Organisation (WHO), Directorate General of Health Services and Hathazari Upazila Health Complex visited the remote locality, around 25 kilometres away from Hathazari municipality, yesterday morning.

Dr Rezaur Rahamn, programme manager of 'Extended Programme on Immunisation' supported by WHO, said, "The locals live in a dismal condition without proper education, sanitation and safe drinking water. Moreover, they are reluctant to receive medical treatment from hospitals because of superstitions."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Amir Khasru gets anticipatory bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted anticipatory bail to BNP leader Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury in two separate cases filed in Dhaka and Chittagong.

The bench of Justice Muhammad Abdul Hafiz and Justice Bhisshadev Chakraborty granted bail to the accused after hearing two separate petitions filed by him.

The cases were filed on August 4 on charges of provoking the recent student movement for safe roads, and also conspiring with a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader aiming to destabilise the country. The bench also asked Khasru to surrender before the lower courts concerned after expiry of the bail terms. The HC granted bail on grounds that the cases against him were politically motivated to harass him, said his lawyer Sagir Hossain.

Two killed after falling off trains

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Railway police recovered two bodies from rail tracks near Mastan Nagar Railway Station area in Mirsarai upazila of Chittagong early yesterday.

The deceased were Manik, 35, of Comilla, and Hasan, 25, of Barisal. They were crushed under two separate trains. Two other passengers were also injured.

Police said Manik and two other passengers of Dhaka-bound Karnaphuli Express fell off the train around 6:00pm on Sunday, while Hasan fell off Chandpur-bound Sagarika Express in the same area around 6:30pm. The victims were travelling on the roof and stairs of the overcrowded trains.

Pabna road accident kills schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A schoolgirl was killed and her brother injured as a speeding truck hit their motorbike in Library Bazar area of Pabna town yesterday.

Mehedi Hasan Bishal, 15, was riding the motorbike to take his sister Bindu Khatun, 13, to school, said police.

Bindu was a sixth-grader of Pabna Police Lines School. Mehedi was admitted to a hospital.

Dr Akhlakul Hossain's sixth death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the sixth death anniversary of Dr Akhlakul Hossain Ahmed, a Liberation War organiser and a member of Bangladesh Constituent Assembly of 1972, said a press release.

He was also a member of the erstwhile East Pakistan Provincial Assembly.

On this occasion, a doa mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held at his Mohanganji residence in Netrakona today.

Dr Akhlakul Hossain Ahmed Memorial Trust will pay tribute at his graveyard and also hold a memorial discussion.



Virtual troublemakers under the scanner

CMP forms cyber crime monitoring cell

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) has formed a cyber crime monitoring cell with an aim to identify virtual troublemakers who spread rumours through instigative posts and videos on different social media platforms to create anarchy, and bring them to book.

The five-member monitoring cell, headed by CMP's Counter Terrorism Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) (Operation) Polish Kanti Nath, was formed based on an order by CMP Commissioner Mahmudur Rahman on August 20, following a letter of Police Headquarters (PQ), said police officials.

The other members of the monitoring cell are Inspector Aftab Hossain, Sub-inspector (SI) Sibben Biswas, SI Rashid Khan and SI Sanjoy Guha.

"The members of the cell will monitor suspected IDs on Facebook and other social

media platforms to identify the troublemakers who share instigative and fake posts and videos as well as spread rumours from Chittagong," ADC Polish Kanti Nath told The Daily Star.

"After getting the order, members of the monitoring cell have started working and identified several IDs on Facebook which are under the scanner of the monitoring cell," said the ADC.

According to the official letter issued from the CMP headquarters signed by the deputy commissioner (DC) (Sadar), the monitoring cell would place its weekly findings directly to police headquarters every Sunday.

Several police officials say creating anarchy by spreading rumors or instigative post is not new, as law enforcing agencies witnessed several issues earlier. The intensity of the evil practice is getting high day by day, they said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

PALLABI WATER TANK EXPLOSION Two more succumb to injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more members of the family who were burnt in a water tank explosion at a building in Dhaka's Pallabi on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha succumbed to their injuries yesterday.

The deceased are Bedena Begum, 50, and Laboni Begum, 18. They were undergoing treatment at the burn and plastic surgery unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Bedena's son and Laboni's husband, Rabbi, is now fighting for his life at DMCH with 38 percent burns.

Laboni died at 8:00pm and Bedena breathed her last at 10:00pm, said Dr Partha Shankar Paul, a resident surgeon of the burn unit.

Earlier Rabbi's father Surat Ali, 62, sister Aleya Begum, 30, and Aleya's daughter Mili Akhter, 4, died after the incident.

Rabbi's brother Mohammad Shakil, a tenth grader, and sister Chapa Akhter, a fourth grader, had survived the fatal accident as they were outside during the explosion.

The building's landlord, Mosharraf Hossain, 48, his son Jisan, 18, and relatives Awal Hossain Babu, 32, and Alamgir Hossain, 32, were also injured.

There was a problem in the water line and there had been bad odour in the house for the last three months. The tenants had informed the landlord about it.

Last Tuesday, a cleaner opened the tank and fixed the problem. But that very night, the tank exploded immediately after its lid was opened, which triggered a fire.

SCUFFLE WITH SHOP OWNER

8 DB officers withdrawn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Eight members of Detective Branch (DB) of Police in Narayanganj where withdrawn yesterday following a clash with a shop owner over a trifling matter.

Following a directive from the Police Superintendent, they were attached to the District Police Lines in Masdair.

Assistant Sub-inspector (ASI) of DB Aminur Rahman filed two cases in this connection.

The eight withdrawn officers are DB Inspector Masudur Rahman; Sub-inspectors (SI) Mizanur Rahman and Abu Sayem; ASIs Azizur Rahman; Dewan Toufiq; Bakul Miah; Aminul Haque and Constable Lutfor Rahman.

Additional Police Superintendent (ASP) of DB in the district Mohammad Nure Alam said, a three member probe body has been formed to investigate the matter, will file its report today.

If any police official is found guilty, action will be taken against him, the ASP said.

The cases were filed for obstructing law

enforcers from discharging duty and for attack on DB men, Officer-in-Charge (OC) Kamrul Islam of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station said.

On Sunday, SI Khairul Bashar of DB along with his family members went to fast food shop "Milefalak" located in front of Chowranghi Fantasy Park.

After taking milkshake, the SI refused to pay saying it was not good, witnesses said. An altercation ensued between the staff and SI Khairul.

Later, DB ASIs Aminul and Bakul also engaged in the altercation with sons of the shop owner. When the shop owner and Jubo League leader Jalal and his wife Rina rushed to the spot, the two ASIs swooped on them.

On information, three DB men rushed to the spot and were also beaten up by locals. Additional DB police that brought the situation under control sent the injured to a local hospital.

Of them, SI Mizan and SI Sayem, shop owner Jalal, his sons Al-Amin and Robin were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Public service law to protect honest civil servants: ACC chairman

BSS, Dhaka

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Iqbal Mahmood yesterday said the proposed Public Service Act 2018 would not be meant for protecting dishonest public servants, rather for defending honest ones.

"I believe the government cannot enact any law to protect corrupt elements. I rather see the proposed act as a protection of honest public servants instead of corrupt ones," he said while replying to a query about the proposed act at Segunbagicha's ACC headquarters.

But, he said, he didn't yet know what was exactly in the law about arrests (of public servants) as he saw contradictory news on it in different newspapers.

The ACC chief, however, sounded a note of warning against unscrupulous elements in public service, saying, "There is no reason for corrupt public servants to be pleased on passage of the law, as there would be no difficulty (for ACC) in arresting them."

Mahmood also said, "The ACC is an independent body and it is guided by law. The commission would remain independent."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Scarcity of water

FROM PAGE 3

"I hope that this World Water Week can become one stepping stone towards finding new ideas and solutions to address this reality."

With more variable water situations and booming water demand -- it is becoming clear that the stable abundance of water is over.

"This means that we will need to adapt the ways we manage and govern water. We need to find firm and flexible legal systems, smart and resilient technical solutions, as well as constructive ways of cooperation," he noted.

Asa Regner, deputy executive director of UN Women, said in some parts of the world, a woman's "body becomes part of the water machinery".

In sub-Saharan Africa alone, women and girls spent 40 billion hours per year just for collecting water.

Karin Wanngård, the mayor of Stockholm, said human beings

alone decided on the future of water resources -- whether to destroy them or to develop them. "We hold the future of water in our hands. Our future may not be decided yet but one thing is certain that water is our future in fluid form."

She also said, "We need a holistic approach to save water and ecosystem during this industrial age." The Stockholm mayor noted that the tendency to close our eyes and hope for the best without doing anything will simply not work. "We need to act. We need to decide how to use and reuse this resource we get from nature."

The World Water Week is the leading annual global event that provides a unique forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences on the water issues.

The latest edition of World Water Week has attracted over 3,300 participants and 370 convening organisations from 135 countries.

Law ministry inquiring

FROM PAGE 3

under the CMM of Dhaka.

Meanwhile, in an investigation by The Daily Star on the general recording section of Dhaka CMM

court it was found that only 325 people including 81 quota reform and road safety movement activists got bail from the CMM court on August 19 and 20.



A butterfly feeding on nectar on an autumn afternoon. The photo was taken on Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) office premises at Mirpur, Dhaka on Sunday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED