



## Star HEALTHLINE

### Untreated, cross eye can cause PERMANENT VISION LOSS

#### STAR HEALTH DESK

Strabismus, usually known as cross eye, is relatively common among eye problems.

Between two and four percent of children have esotropia (inward deviation), and 1 to 1.5 percent have exotropia (outward deviation), according to Mayo Clinic.

Uncorrected strabismus can have far-reaching effects, including loss of vision and adverse effects on psychosocial development.

Esotropia, in general, is most urgent in terms of requiring immediate attention to manage any vision loss or adverse effects on stereoacuity.

Exotropia is generally a more intermittent and slowly progressive disorder, allowing for observation over time.

However, a child with any form of strabismus should be seen as soon as possible by an eye specialist to rule out vision loss or a visually dangerous or unexpected cause of the deviation.

Sometimes, esotropia isn't present from birth. A child's eyes might be fine up to age 3 or 4 years but then suddenly start to cross. If the crossing eye is detected early and eyes straightened with surgery in three to six months, the

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**Ekatrorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee observes a symbolic one-minute "blackout" at the Central Shaheed Minar at 9:00pm yesterday marking the 52nd "Genocide Day". The platform demanded international recognition for the 1971 genocide. Education Minister Dipu Moni, JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu, and Committee President Shahriar Kabir, among others, were present.**

#### DAILY DIARRHOEA CASES

## Admission crosses 1k at icddr,b

The disease breaks out in at least 10 areas of the capital

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Diarrhoea has broken out in at least 10 areas of the capital as more and more patients are being admitted to different hospitals.

Jatrabari has been identified as the worst affected area followed by Dakshinkhan and Rayer Bazar, said hospital officials.

The areas include Commissioner Road and Suti Khalpur in Dholpur, Kazla Bridge School Goli and Gobindpur in Jatrabari, Mollabari and Foyedabad in Dakshinkhan, Notunbazar Boro Biga Mor in Badda, and West Jurain Railgate near the Shyampurbridge.

For the first time in 60 years, the daily diarrhoea patient admission mark at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) exceeded the 1,000 mark on March 17. The hospital had admitted 1,141 patients that day.

In 24 hours till Thursday midnight, a total of 1,176 patients were admitted to the hospital. As many as 665

patients were admitted to the medical facility in 15 hours preceding 3:00pm yesterday, meaning around 44 patients were admitted per hour.

About 70 to 80 percent of the patients were adults.

Cases of diarrhoea have been on the rise in the capital since the second week of this month, with the icddr,b admitting majority of the patients.

The Dhaka Medical College



Hospital (DMCH), the largest hospital in the country, is also witnessing a rise in the number of diarrhoea patients for a week.

"We have been receiving 10-15 diarrhoea patients each day for a week, almost double than usual. But only 2-3 of them required hospital admission," Brig Gen Nazmul Haque, director of DMCH, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The icddr,b provides treatment to around 400-

500 diarrhoea patients on a regular day. The figure slightly increases before the monsoon.

During the first week of March, the hospital admitted 500 patients per day on average, which increased to 600 the following week.

"Only a scientific research can identify the reason behind the spread of the disease. People in the most affected areas are probably either drinking contaminated water or eating street food," Dr Baharul Alam, head of the hospital at the icddr,b, told this newspaper.

Officials said the number of diarrhoea patients peaks by the end of April every year.

"Germs which cause diarrhoea attack mainly the adults in April. This year, the disease has struck earlier than usual," said Baharul.

The physician advised people to drink safe water and avoid street food to ward off the disease.

The hospital authorities said patients are provided treatment free of cost and they are discharged within 24 hours usually.

## Second Godagari farmer dies

He was hospitalised after taking pesticide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Another farmer who drank pesticide in Godagari upazila on Wednesday died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital last night.

Robi Mardi, 27, son of Goyanath Mardi of Nimghutu village in Godagari, had been hospitalised since Wednesday night, hospital employees said.

Robi's cousin Abhinath Mardi, 36, died at his home in the same village on Wednesday night after also drinking pesticide.

Both men belong to the Santal community.

On Thursday, after police recovered Abhinath's body from his home, Additional SP Iftekhar Alam of Rajshahi said in primary probe police found that the two had drunk the pesticide for not getting water for their farmland.

Locals had said Abhinath and Robi badly needed irrigation water and were being ignored by Shakhawat Hossain, the operator of the Barind Multipurpose

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## Crashes claim 9 lives in 3 districts

DSCC cleaner killed in capital

STAR REPORT

Nine people including a cleaner of Dhaka South City Corporation died in road accidents in the capital, Narsingdi and Dinajpur yesterday.

Faruk Mia, 56, was sweeping the road near the south gate of the Baitul Muqarram National Mosque around 7:45am when a city bus hit him, leaving him critically injured, said Mohsin Habib, a sub-inspector of Paltan Police Station.

He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead around 9:15am, said the SI.

Locals intercepted the bus following the incident but the driver managed to flee, he said.

Faruk lived in the capital's Ganaktuli area with his family. The body was sent to DMC morgue for autopsy, the official added.

In Dhaka's Rupnagar, two trucks and a pick-up collided around 3:00am near Birulia Beribandh, leaving six people injured.

They were rushed to DMCH, where Badal, 45, driver of one of the trucks, and Md Rafique, 24, a helper of the pick-up driver, died, police said, quoting witnesses.

The four other injured are the driver and labourers on the pick-up.

Badal's father Khalilur said his son was driving

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#### UKRAINE RESOLUTION

## Momen defends Dhaka's stance

### Says Bangladesh voted yes on humanitarian grounds

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said Bangladesh remains vocal on humanitarian issues as he defended voting in favour of the latest resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine.

"We voted on humanitarian grounds. We're known as a humane country in the world... So, we agreed and voted in favour of the resolution," he told reporters after attending an event in the capital.

Asked why Bangladesh abstained during the previous resolution, the minister said the resolution was one-sided in which Russia was accused squarely.

"But war does not take place by one side. One hand cannot clap. We felt it was a partisan [resolution] and the war would not stop with such resolutions. To stop the war, both parties need to come forward with sincerity," he said.

At a briefing on Thursday morning, Ambassador of Russia to Bangladesh Alexander Mantytskiy said Russia highly appreciates Bangladesh's "responsible and balanced" attitude towards the earlier resolution.

"We express gratitude to the Bangladeshi side for its neutral position taken despite the enormous external pressure during the said voting," he said.

On the same day, the UNGA overwhelmingly approved a resolution on the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, urging an immediate ceasefire and protection for millions of civilians and the homes, schools and hospitals critical to their survival.

The result of the vote was: 140-5 with only

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