



AD-DIN HOSPITAL

Six newborns die in 2 hours

Technical fault suspected in post-operative room; probe body formed

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Six newborns died at Ad-Din Medical College in the capital's Moghbazar yesterday morning, with health officials suspecting a technical failure in the hospital's post-operative room may have caused the tragedy.

The infants, aged between one and three days, died within a span of a few hours from 6:00am yesterday. The exact cause of the deaths could not be confirmed immediately, but authorities said investigations are underway.

Hospital sources said the deceased babies had not yet been named as they were only between one and three days old. Therefore, they are being identified by their mothers' names.



Police sealing off the hospital's post-operative ward.

Among the mothers is Nazma, whose twin babies both died. The other four mothers – Fahima, Mim, Faria and Jannat – lost one child each.

Prof Zahid Raihan, additional director general (administration) of the Directorate General of Health Services, said, "We do not think the sudden deaths of six children occurred due to treatment complications. We suspect some technical issue or fault may have been responsible."

Anisur Rahman, special superintendent of police of the Criminal Investigation Department (Dhaka Metro South Unit), said something in the post-operative room may have caused the newborns to suffocate to death.

"We are investigating to determine what caused the suffocation," he told The Daily Star at the hospital premises.

Several victim families accused the hospital authorities of mismanagement that led to the deaths.

Speaking to The Daily Star, DGHS Director General Prof Pravath Chandra Biswas said the post-operative room is located on the first floor of the hospital, while the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) is on the fifth floor.

"The rooms should have been near each other. We found it [the distance between the rooms] problematic."

He said the hospital's treatment, technical issues and structural setup are being investigated.

A three-member committee, led by Mustafizur Rahman, joint secretary of the health ministry, has been formed to investigate the incident. The committee, which also includes two members from the DGHS, has been asked to submit its report within three days.

DG Pravath said they have shut down the post-operative room and seized treatment-related documents for investigation.

The 700-bed medical facility is one of eight hospitals and four medical colleges run by the Ad-din Foundation.

The foundation's Executive Director Sheikh Mohiuddin, who is also executive director of Ad-din Women Medical College, is the incumbent president of the Bangladesh Private Medical College Association.

HOW THE INCIDENT UNFOLDED

Health officials and hospital authorities said there were six newborns and their mothers in the post-operative room.

There were five other mothers in the room whose babies had already

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



'Her body has already turned blue'

Family prepares for funeral



MAHATHIR MOHAMMED

Inside the dimly lit post-operative ward 2 of Ad-Din Medical College Hospital, grief hung heavy.

Near the reception desk, Jakir Hossain stood trembling with desperation, repeatedly asking hospital staff for the discharge file of his newborn niece.

"Where is the file? Why is it taking so long?" he cried out.

His voice cracked between anger and helplessness.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Eid is where home is

War, financial stress overshadow celebrations for Bangladeshi migrants in Middle East

PORIMOL PALMA

For millions of Bangladeshi migrant workers across the Gulf and wider Middle East, Eid-ul-Azha arrives with a symphony of mixed emotions.

It's the time of the year when the distance between a dormitory in Kuwait or Lebanon and a family home in Bangladesh feels most profound.

"Whether we eat well or earn more, it means little without those who we cherish the most in life. So, when Eid comes around, we miss our families back home dearly," said Jiyabur Rahman, who lives in a satellite town on the outskirts of Lebanese capital Beirut.

An estimated 15 million Bangladeshis work abroad, most in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, and Bahrain. They send home nearly \$30 billion annually – a lifeline for the national economy. Yet their personal struggles and sacrifices often remain unseen.

The US-Israel war on Iran, Tehran's retaliatory strikes on Gulf states, and Israel's bombardment of southern Lebanon since March have left hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshi migrants in fear.

Many report job losses, wage cuts, and soaring prices of essential commodities that erode their savings.

In the quiet corners of worker dormitories in these countries, Eid festivities are often

Whether we eat well or earn more, it means little without those who we cherish the most in life. So, when Eid comes around, we miss our families back home dearly.

JIYABUR RAHMAN
Expatriate in Lebanon

unrecognisable.

For Dulal Sarker, a 45-year-old migrant in Kuwait, Eid morning yesterday began with prayer, followed by a simple breakfast, and ended almost immediately with going to bed.

"What else can we do?" he told this correspondent via WhatsApp. "It's a holiday and we have nothing to do."

The vibrancy of the local marketplaces, where compatriots usually gather to share news from home, was out of question for migrants like Dulal this year.

With the month drawing to a close and many yet to receive their salaries, the lack of

SEE PAGE 3 COL 4

Five more die with measles-like symptoms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five more patients died with measles-like symptoms in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, raising the death toll from measles and measles-like symptoms to 560.

However, no confirmed measles deaths were reported during the period, keeping the total number of confirmed fatalities at 88. The number of deaths with measles-like symptoms rose to 472 since March 15.

During the 24-hour period, 1,056 new suspected cases were recorded nationwide, while 62 measles cases were confirmed. Of the five deaths, two each were reported from Dhaka and Mymensingh, and one from Rajshahi.

The country has been battling one of the worst measles outbreaks in recent memory, with children accounting for almost all of the deaths.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Hundreds of illegal shops line both sides of the railway tracks in Dhaka's Jurain area under Jatrabari every day -- and yesterday was no exception. Despite the constant risk to life, hawkers and shoppers continue to crowd the area in search of livelihoods and daily necessities, raising fears of major accidents. The crowd has swelled severalfold ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

100 DAYS OF BNP GOVT

Govt plans big for edn, execution doubts remain

Experts call for coherent approach, clear mechanisms for oversight, accountability

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The BNP-led government flagged education as a priority in its first 100 days, unveiling plans for curriculum revision, compulsory sports from Class IV, free uniforms, midday meals and a commitment to raise education spending to 5 percent of GDP.

It also identified 43 priority areas, announced a 12-point education agenda and launched a 180-day programme covering technical education and classroom digitisation.

However, educationists say it is unclear how the government will finance and implement the plans and how it will monitor their progress. Moreover, concerns remain over teacher shortages, students' dependency on coaching centres and guidebooks, and political influence in university appointments.

"The overall plan, strategy and basic goals are still not clear. The initiatives look fragmented, separate and partial," Manzoor Ahmed, professor emeritus at Brac University, told The Daily Star.

Separate plans should be designed for different types and levels of education -- school, madrasa, technical and vocational, and higher education, he noted.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1