

No room for burn patients at CMCH

Fate of project for separate burn unit uncertain



Burnt patients are under treatment on the floor of Chittagong Medical College Hospital

DWAIPAYAN BARUA
The patients with severe burn injuries are lying on the floor of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) putting others at risk of contracting infection. Several burn patients were found lying on the floor on Friday outside the surgery wards (24, 26, 27) and the paediatric ward where the burn patients undergo treatment as there is no separate unit for them at the CMCH, the lone tertiary level hospital in greater Chittagong. As the dry season draws nearer the doctors concerned start getting shuddered to think of

the difficult task of rendering treatment to burn patients, who mostly report at this time of the year, at the hospital that badly needs a separate burn unit. The recent worst-ever factory fire that claimed lives of over 60 workers and injured about 100 at KTS Garments on February 23, reminded everybody of the need of a burn unit at CMCH. Dr Sharif Hasan, the only plastic surgeon of the hospital, said the burnt patients need special cares and treatments, which only an individual burn unit can provide. "Usually a severely burnt patient loses huge fluid (mainly water) and this has to be made up

through equal quantity of fluid from outside within 24 hours," Dr Hasan said. "But in absence of a burn unit there is no scope to measure the amount of fluid a burn patient loses," he said, adding, "As such, supply of fluid made on the assumption might sometimes lead to the death of a patient." Removal of bandages without soaking them with sterilising liquids or pastes (IV paste) during dressing by the unspecialised surgeons and nurses, causes the burn patients suffer unbearable pain. Due to intolerable pain of burning, the wounds of a burnt patient often remain uncovered

threatening transmission of germs among other surgery patients. "It forces us to keep a poor burnt patient outside the general surgery wards, mostly on the floors in a most unhygienic condition, and have his or her injuries worsened or infected in a quicker rate, said Dr Sharif. "So, it is essential to set up urgently a burn unit with 24-hour Operation Theatre (OT), laboratory, ICU, anaesthesia and other facilities to render treatment and lessen suffering of the patients at the hospital," he said. The KTS fire victims were sent to the ICU and given OT facilities as the Prime Minister ordered to take care of them. Otherwise, a burnt patient could hardly think of availing such facilities at CMCH in the normal time, said the surgeons at the hospital. The Ministry of Health approved a proposal for setting up a burn unit at the hospital in 2001, sources at the CMCH said. A Spanish donor agency was also keen to provide financial assistance for the project, which has failed to get nod from the present government reportedly on the plea of room crisis at the hospital, sources added. Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina during her visit to CMCH on March 1 after the KTS factory fire also enquired about progress of the project taken by her government. She asked the hospital authorities to try to know the fate of the project, which required to be revived. CMCH Assistant Director Dr Ismail Amanullah said they sent several letters to the ministry concerned in this regard. But they are yet to get any response.

WATER CRISIS IN PORT CITY

People wait in a queue for water at the proposed women's university area at Pahartali in the port city. Chittagong City Corporation supplies water three days a week for the residents of the area as there is no Wasa connection for water here.



ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Work for 308-bed modern hospital begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Earth-filling work for construction of 308-bed Imperial Hospital is progressing fast to make the first-ever general hospital of international standard in the port city to be operational in 2008. The lenders and stakeholders of Imperial Hospital Project at a meeting here last week discussed various aspects of the project and expressed satisfaction over the progress made so far towards its implementation, sources said. The hospital aims at delivering specialised treatment such as cardiology, nephrology, neonatology, neuro-surgery, orthopedics, oncology and internal medicine in Chittagong.

The project includes a full fledged outpatient department with 40 independent consulting clinics to take care of 1000 patients a day, full range of diagnostic facilities, a Nursing Training Institute with a capacity of enrolling 50 students a year, a dormitory for 250 nurses and a patient attendants' dormitory (hotel), sources said. "With a view to providing international standard healthcare service, the Imperial Hospital Limited (IHL), a joint venture of Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex (CEITC) and Ispahani Group of Companies, is constructing the hospital on 7.30 acres of land at Pahartali in the port city," said IHL Chairman Prof Rabiul Husain. Mirza Salman Ispahani of

Ispahani Group is the managing director of IHL, is a public limited company in Chittagong with an authorised capital of Tk 100 crore. The total cost of the project, including the Nurses Training Institute, is around Tk 350 crore. M/S Kaplan McLaughlin Diaz (KMD), a USA-based healthcare, architectural and engineering consultant engaged for the design and drawing work, is at the final stage of the schematic design of the hospital project. Salman Ispahani said the project is expected to provide employment opportunity for around 1200 people of different categories. The hospital will provide treatment to 10 per cent of the patients free of cost.

He said senior consultant physicians as well as highly trained and experienced nurses and technical hands will be recruited from abroad to ensure healthcare services of international standard. The Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO), besides its participation in the equity, will have responsibility of the lead arranger of all loan components both local and international. Trinity Health International, the third largest healthcare group in the USA with staff strength of 47,000, will run the institution that would have its own independent uninterrupted power generation and supply, they said.



Villagers beat a leopard to death in Cox's Bazar on March 7 night.

Villagers hunt rare species of leopard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Villagers hunted a leopard of rare species (panthera pardus) at Chakaria upazila in Cox's Bazar on March 7 night. A forest official said a local union parishad chairman incited the villagers to kill the leopard, which is now on the verge of extinction. "No such act of human insensitivity on wildlife without any reason did take place in the last few decades since independence," said divisional forest officer Dr Tapan Kumar Dey, also project director of Dulahazara Safari Park. He said they might seek government permission to sue the chairman for his act. The leopard, seven-foot long, 2.5 feet height and weighing 60 kgs, fell victim to the attack of villagers when it emerged a shrimp enclosure at Pashchim (west) Baro Bheola village under Chakaria upazila from the neighbouring forest on March 7 night. As news of the leopard's appearance spread hundreds of villagers had encircled the shrimp enclosure and beat it dead before the forest officials came the spot, sources said. Local people said they were

forced to kill the leopard as it attacked two workers of the shrimp enclosure. Later, Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation (WMNC) Department officials with the help of police recovered the slain leopard and conserved it in the Natural History Museum of the Safari Park at Dulahazara, sources said. Dr Tapan said three, out of ten species of tigers, leopards and cats are extinct in the country in the last three decades. The rest seven species are also critically endangered in the country. "The leopard killed by the marauding villagers belonged to one of the extinct species. This species are now found only in a very few hilly and impenetrable forests of Sylhet, Garopahar in Mymensingh, Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts," he said. Wildlife expert Prof Quazi Zakir Hossain and Bangladesh Wildlife Trust Executive Secretary Dr Anwarul Islam expressed shock at the killing of this rare leopard. They urged all to inform the authorities concerned immediately if any such wild animal, particularly those of extinct species, appeared in any locality.

New CU VC accorded reception

Chittagong University (CU) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr M Badiul Alam on Thursday emphasised the need for collective efforts by the teachers, students and staffs to uphold the image of the university. He was addressing a reception accorded to him by CU City Club. He also called upon all to maintain highest transparency and accountability in the administrative activities of the university. "Teachers, students and the people concerned have to perform their duties with utmost sincerity to address the session jam at the university," he said. Social Science Faculty Dean Prof Moinul Islam, CU Teachers Association General Secretary Prof Dr Mozaffar Ahmed Chowdhury, Prof Dr Gazi Saleh Uddin, Prof Dr Imran Hossain, Prof Abdul Muktar, Prof Mohit Ul Alam and Prof Dr Deba Prasad Pal also spoke at the reception. Club President Prof Mohammed Sekander Chowdhury presided over the function.

Chandgaon HR body formed

Association of Human Rights and Poverty Eradication formed their Chandgaon Thana Committee at a meeting on Wednesday. The associations' central committee panel lawyer Advocate Mohammed Yunus was present as the chief guest with Pahartali Traders' Welfare Association General Secretary and human rights worker Mohammed Mohsin in the chair. In the meeting the leaders formed an 11-member committee with Mohammed Siraj Uddowla President, Arun Roy Vice President and Mohammed Musa Alam Babul General Secretary. Other office-bearers are: Joint Secretary: Jahangir Alam, Treasurer: Dr Swapan Kumar Sarker, Organising Secretary: Mohammed Jahangir Alam and Publicity Secretary: Mohammed Tazul Islam. Executive committee members are Jahangir Alam, Selina Akter, Mohammed Shamsul Alam, Rupam Kanti Barua and Subrata Dev.

Third Int'l Film Festival begins

The 3rd International Film Festival Chittagong-2006 began in the port city on Friday. Chittagong Film Centre (CFC) organised the eight-day long festival in cooperation with Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies at Muslim Institute Hall and Studio Theatre auditorium. Sangeetacharya Jagadananda Barua inaugurated the festival with the festival committee Chairman Bidhan Barua in the chair. The inaugural ceremony was followed by screening of Kantatar, a Bengali film, directed by Bappaditya Bandopadhyay. A total of 57 films of 47 countries were supposed to be screened during the festival. To celebrate the 50 years of Bengali films, eight award winning films -- Ora Egaro Jon, Titas Ekti Nadir



Sangeetacharya Jagadananda inaugurates the Third International Film Festival Chittagong-2006 at the Muslim Institute Hall auditorium in the city on March 10.

Agrani Bank shifted to new bldg

Agrani Bank, Asadganj branch started its activities at its new building on Tuesday in the port city. Agrani Bank Director SM Nurul Haque inaugurated the operation in the new building as chief guest. Haque said the bank will provide a better service to the subscribers with newly installed modern facilities. Deputy General Manager of Chittagong Region Mohammed Sirazul Islam presided over the function where bank executives FRM Hafiz Ul Islam, Mohammed Mofazzal Hossain and Enamul Haque were present as the special guests.



United Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd Managing Director Dr M Ramiz Uddin Chowdhury speaks at the Annual Marketing Conference of the company in Chittagong. Company Director Jasim Uddin Chowdhury, Sales Manager Yousuf Ali Talukder and Adviser Kallol Roy Chowdhury are also seen.

Seminar on capital market held

Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) organised a seminar for the students and teachers of BGC Trust University to create awareness among the investors on Wednesday. Vice Chancellor (VC) of the university Dr Nurul Mustafa in his speech said knowledge on capital market for the students is a must. "It is impossible to accelerate the industrialisation without capital market," he said. Business Administration Faculty Dean Dr Kanchan Kumar Purohit, CSE Corporate Development General Manager Golam Rabban Chowdhury, Legal Affairs Deputy Manager Sonia Hossain and Acting Chief Executive Officer AB Siddique were present at the seminar.

Youth Festival held

The three-day Connecting Futures Youth Festival was held in the port city that began on Thursday. Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury inaugurated the festival organised by the British Council as

the week that was

Nam, Simana Periy, Agami, Chaka, Chitra Nadir Parey, Kitan Khola and Matir Maina were screened in the festival. The festival programme also included open forum seminar, publication of souvenirs and selection of best film for viewers' award through viewers' votes. Actor of the Kantatar Iqbal Sultan, Music Director Abhijit Basu, filmmakers, film personalities and festival committee members were present in the opening session. The festival aims at enhancing social tolerance among diverse section of people through creation of a platform for young people to share, learn and develop mutual understanding and respect among themselves. Mohiuddin in his speech said the festival will provide a better opportunity of interaction among the young people of the country. "Our young people are capable to show their talent if they get the favourable environment," he added. British Council Culture and Science Programme Manager Syed Masud Hossain presided over the ceremony. Executive Director of Centre for Development Communication (CDC) Mohammed Jahangir, Abu Naser Rajib, Tanvir Hafiz, Mostafa Shibly, Minhaj Islam and GM Murtaja spoke.