

CMCH RUNS WITHOUT CT SCAN SERVICE

Poor patients bear the brunt

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Patients are not getting Computed Tomography (CT) Scan service at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for the last three weeks due to 'mechanical glitch' in the machine.

To add further misery, other services of the Radiology and

Imaging Department at the hospital also have been feeling pinch of such 'technical' faults quite routinely since November 9.

While the patients bear the brunt of this kind of happenings, the hospital authorities have not shown the slightest of lethargy in realising enhanced service charges, no matter whether the services are ensured or not.

The CT Scan service at the department was suspended due to film crisis for three weeks in August after its formal commissioning on April 29 this year. The authorities took no quick initiative though the technologists had

outside the hospital everyday. Around 40 patients at different departments, including Neuro Surgery, Neuro Medicine, Medicine and Surgery, receive the service at the radiology department a week, sources said.

A medical technologist at the department preferring anonymity said the problem of the machine is minor yet the authorities have not taken any initiative till date.

"The programme board of the

department, said local representatives of the company sent the programme board to Dhaka last week for repair following their request.

In such a situation, Toshiba lost interest to repair or install the damaged parts as per the contract, said the sources.

Dr Anisul Mawla, head of the department, said local representatives of the company sent the programme board to Dhaka last week for repair following their request.

"We are to import the board if they fail to repair it locally for which the hospital has no allocation," said Dr Mawla.

Official decision of the hospital authorities is required in this regard, he added.

The weak and unconscious patients especially at Neuro Surgery (ward-28) and Neuro Medicine (ward-18) departments are facing untold sufferings in absence of CT scan service, he said.

The hospital would charge each patient Tk 2,000 to Tk 4,000 for CT scan while they are to pay now Tk 4,000 to Tk 10,000 in private diagnostic centres for the same.

Meanwhile, the hospital authorities started realisation of enhanced charges for X-ray service for the indoor patients from November 1 decided by the immediate past government on September 18.

As per the decision the indoor patients, who were provided with the X-ray service free of cost, are to pay Tk 55 to Tk 70 for each film.

CT Scan machine is lying idle since November 9 for lack of a memory card."

Sources said the one year warranty of the machine, which



The CT Scan machine of Radiology and Imaging Department at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

informed them about the matter beforehand. The poor indoor patients are now forced to get their prescribed CT Scan done at higher cost from

Raozan Plant limps along

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

The Raozan Power Plant is now an everlasting 'headache' both for Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) and the people of Chittagong and the adjoining districts as the plant has never been able to reach target since its inception back in early nineties.

None of its two 210-megawatt units could live up to their capacity as of yet. Instead they turned out, over the years, to be the most inefficient ones among the country's 26 power plants in terms of smooth opera-

tion and generation. The No-1 unit set up at a cost of Tk 650 crore went into formal operation on March 28 in 1993. Tk 925 crore second unit started its journey on November 28 in 1997.

The units did not take much time to appear with their dismal show. Random shutdown and overhauling, owing to either regular technical faults or gas shortage, have been a chronic scenario at Raozan Power Plant.

The plant went out of order around 300 times as of today, the officials said. The figure stands out as the worst of all the 26 power plants in the country, they

added. Unit No-1 of the plant became out of order on November 13 due to shortage of gas supply and technical glitch for which engineers concerned took no less than 12 days to restart it on November 25, said an official requesting anonymity.

"So far, it went out of order for 173 times since 1993 and the unit No-2 for 125 times since 1997 due to various reasons such as technical or mechanical faults, schedule or unscheduled shutdown, overhauling and gas crisis," he said.

PDB engineers, however, tried to defend themselves saying that the low quality machinery

and equipment cripple the plant frequently.

"Some of the vital machinery and equipment supplied by a Chinese company are so poor in quality that we can't help watching the incident of technical faults as mere spectators that led to the unexpected shutdown of the plant," said a former official who worked for many years at the plant.

Although each unit is supposed to generate 210mw power, neither of the units have so far been able to reach target, he added.

Plant officials said the normal generation of the units range between 170mw to 180mw.



Chittagong Group Theatre Forum stages "Kandabitang," a drama on political unrest, on Chittagong Shilpakala Academy premises on Friday.



A construction worker cuts iron rods on a sidewalk in front of a kindergarten school at Jamal Khan, posing danger to schoolchildren as well as passers-by, but the authorities turn a blind eye to the menace.

the week that was

Workshop on interview held

A daylong workshop on "How to face an interview?" was held on Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) Chittagong Campus on Saturday.

Around 80 students of Business Communication Department took part in the workshop.

Rotary Club of Chittagong Mid City Vocational Service Director Ahmed Zibran Sunny was the key speaker while director of BSS Group Nafid Nabi, Acquiring Manager of Standard Chartered Bank Mahub Jamil and Assistant Relationship Manager of Brac Sheikh Abdus Salam also spoke.

Zibran narrated the necessary steps for facing interview through multimedia presentation. A mock interview was also arranged to encourage the participants.

Later, the guests handed over certificates among the participants.

'Enforce use of metre in auto-rickshaws'

Consumers' Rights Protection Committee (CRPC) on Thursday demanded immediate steps to enforce use of metre in the CNG-run auto-rickshaws, an end to the price hike of essentials and reduction in loadshedding.

The demands were placed at a meeting at its office with CRPC Secretary General Shahriar Khaled in the chair.

The CRPC leaders said police inaction to introduce the metre-based CNG-run auto-rickshaw fare raised questions among the commuters, who are being subject to regular harassment and sufferings by the ill-mannered drivers.

They thanked Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Muhammed Munir Chowdhury for his recent drives against the auto-rickshaws that don't comply with the laws. They urged the caretaker government to increase the number of mobile courts for intensifying such drives.

HM Sohel, Mahiul Islam, Nurul Amin Manik, Momena Akter Nayan, M Jahid Hossain, Zaker Ahmed Khokan and Manirul Haq Munna spoke at the meeting.

CU to accord reception to Prof Yunus

Chittagong University (CU) Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Badiul Alam on Saturday assured the university correspondents of different dailies of all out support and cooperation during professional duties.

He said the university has decided to accord a reception to Nobel Peace

Prize winner Prof Muhammad Yunus where they will offer him to be professor emeritus of the university.

"The journalists played a significant role in maintaining a congenial academic atmosphere on the campus over the last few months when political unrest disrupted normal life across the country," he said.

He was talking to the university correspondents at a courtesy meeting at the Administrative Building.

He also briefed them about the development activities at the university, including construction of second science faculty building, internet connection, sports complex and modernisation of the social science faculty auditorium.

CU Registrar Zahirul Islam and Proctor Prof Dr Didarul Alam Chowdhury were also present.

'Cancel MBBS admission test'

General students of Chittagong Medical College (CMC) on Saturday formed a human chain demanding cancellation of the MBBS admission test results held on November 17 alleging that the question paper was leaked out.

The students of different batches of the college staged the demonstration in front of the academic building carrying placards with a call for stopping the admission process and holding fresh admission test.

Later, the students at a brief rally demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for the leakage of the question paper.

The speakers urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps for investigation into the allegation of question paper leakage.

Shahinur Rahman Jony, Sarwar Islam Apu and Iftekarul Alam addressed the rally.

They brought out a silent procession on the college campus that paraded different city streets.

Free dental camp held

A day-long free dental medication camp was held at Dewanhat Over Bridge area in the port city on Thursday.

Chittagong Lions Club organised the camp. Governor of Lion District 315-B4 Dr Sri Prakash Biswas was the chief guest at the camp while Vice District Governor Kabir Uddin Bhuiyan was present as special guest.

Cabinet Secretary Mahubul Haq Khan, Treasurer Tapan Kanti Dutta, Joyinal Abedin, District Chairperson Hasina Chowdhury, Secretary Mohammed Ismail Chowdhury and Mohammed Ibrahim were present.

Dr Mujibul Haq Chowdhury provided the medication while around fifty poor dental patients received it.

Seminar on Foetal Surgery held

A seminar on fetal medicine and surgery was held at the Department of Paediatric Surgery at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) here on Saturday.

Fetal medicine and surgery is the latest development of medical science where a foetus is treated or operated upon inside the womb to remove the congenital malformation of baby before its birth.

Miss Evelyn Dykes, acting post-graduate dean of NHS Education for Scotland, discussed about different aspects of fetus, including study of developing fetus, different types of fetal abnormalities spinal cord defects, gastrointestinal, renal tracts, abdominal (bowls) and facial abnormalities and tumours, at the seminar.

Fetal abnormalities can be detected by prenatal diagnosis and removed by fetoscopic surgery - Fetendo, Fetal Image Guided Surgery (FIGS) or open surgery (Hysterotomy), she said. The prenatal diagnosis must be made before fetal treatment and surgery to determine time, place and mode of delivery, she added.

However, the success rate of the treatment and surgery of fetal abnor-

malities remained yet to be known, as the cases of failure are not reported, she said, emphasising a proper survey in this regard.

Around 100 paediatric surgeons and physicians attended the seminar held under the supervision of CMCH Paediatric Surgery Department head Prof Tahmina Banu.

Dr J Hart, who is leading a seven-member team of British surgeons and specialists on a two-week visit to Bangladesh, was also present at the seminar.

Sangeet Bhaban reunion

Eid reunion and installation ceremony of newly formed executive committee of Sangeet Bhaban was held here on Friday.

Artiste Kaberi Sen Gupta introduced the office-bearers of the new executive committee at the first session of the programme.

AKM Shahjahan Patwary and Nur Nabi Miron were elected president and general secretary of the 27-member new committee.



Students of Chittagong Medical College stage a demonstration on the CMC campus on Saturday protesting the leakage of question papers prior to MBBS admission test.