

ARREST OVER FB POST

1,120 Sust students demand withdrawal of case against peer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A statement, virtually signed by 1,120 students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust), demanded withdrawal of a case filed against a fellow student by university authorities.

Registrar Mohd Ishfaqul Hussain, on behalf of SUST, filed the case under Digital Security Act with Lalalabad Police Station on Monday, accusing Mahir Chowdhury, a final-year economics student.

The registrar mentioned the student made a post on Facebook, defaming former health minister Mohammed Nasim, after his death on June 11.

In the statement, students termed the case vindictive, and said they do not feel safe under the university authority.

They demanded withdrawal of the case, apology from authorities and revocation of the act.

Meanwhile, another statement released by 286 Sust alumni placed a four-point demand.

The demands are withdrawal of the case, ensuring freedom of speech for all SUST teachers and students, protection for all teachers and students who have different opinions and ensuring democratic environment on campus.



An attendant transports his ill relative on a wheelchair in the pouring rain yesterday. They had to go to and from the old Betar Bhaban in Shahbagh for a coronavirus test, while the patient had a 103-degree fever. The patient was admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Medical University a couple of days ago with severe kidney complications and later began displaying symptoms of Covid-19.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

‘DEATH BY WRONG TREATMENT’

Doctor beaten to death by patient’s relatives in Khulna

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

A doctor, who was assaulted by a patient’s family members on Monday night over the allegation of wrong treatment which led to her death, passed away while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Khulna on Tuesday.

The deceased, Dr Abdur Rakib Khan (59), was the director of Raisa Clinic and Diagnostic Centre in Khulna and principal of Bagerhat Medical Assistants’ Training School.

He breathed his last at 6:20pm at Shaheed Sheikh Abu Nasser Hospital in Khulna, said doctors.

On Sunday, a pregnant Shiuli Begum, a resident of nearby Mohammadnagar area, was admitted to Raisa Clinic. Due to some complications, Dr Rakib and other physicians had to perform a C-section on her in the afternoon, said Saiful Islam, younger brother of Dr Rakib, quoting the doctor’s wife Nilufar Rahman Shanta, who is also a physician and a director of the clinic.

At first, the mother and child were doing fine. Later in the night, the woman’s condition started deteriorating. On Monday morning, she was recommended to be taken to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

After taking her to KMCH, doctors there advised to take her to the capital. The family hired an ambulance and started the journey around noon. The woman died on the way.

Around 9pm that night, her family members came to the building where the clinic is situated, bringing along Shiuli’s body, and brought allegations of wrong treatment against Dr Rakib.

An argument broke out between a family member and Dr Rakib, who

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icddr,b begins clinical trial of Ivermectin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) yesterday started a clinical trial to evaluate the safety and efficacy of anti-parasitic medicine Ivermectin, the organisation stated in a press release.

The trial will be evaluating the drug as a standalone treatment, and in combination with the antibiotic doxycycline. The two-month study will be randomised, double-blind and placebo-controlled.

“The study will enroll 72 patients from four Covid-19 treating hospitals in Dhaka. Initially, the study has commenced with Kurmitola General Hospital and Mugga Medical College and Hospital and discussions with others are underway,” said the press release.

The participants will be aged between 40-65 years, and only those suffering for less than a week, and that too with mild illness, will be chosen, to ensure a standard baseline.

Ivermectin is a drug for parasitic infections and it has previously shown to have broad-spectrum anti-viral activity in vitro, the statement added.

In-vitro means that the tests were conducted on cells inside test-tubes, or on petri-dishes, but not in living organism.

“The study aims to understand the virological clearance rate and days required for remission of fever and cough by using Ivermectin with or without doxycycline,” said icddr,b’s press release.

Tipu Munshi tests positive for Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commerce Minister

Tipu Munshi has become the fourth minister to test positive for Covid-19. His personal secretary Mashooqur Rahman made the confirmation.

“The minister today provided sample at Evercare Hospital, Dhaka. They informed us a while back that he tested positive for coronavirus,” Mashooqur said yesterday.

The AL lawmaker from Rangpur, last took part in the parliament session on Monday, his PS said.

The minister does not have any major complication, he added.



DIGITAL SECURITY ACT

10-day remand sought for Kajol

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detectives have appealed for quizzing photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol on remand in connection with a case filed against him under the Digital Security Act.

Sub-inspector of Detective Branch of police Mohammad Rassel Mollah, also the case’s investigation officer, on May 14 submitted a 10-day remand prayer for quizzing Kajol.

The Daily Star came to know of the appeal yesterday. In the prayer, the IO said Kajol needs to be remanded to recover his Facebook account and to arrest his accomplices. The IO on May 3 submitted another petition to show Kajol arrested in the case.

The court, however, set June 28 to hear the petitions. Usmin Ara Bel, a member of Jubo Mahila League’s central committee, filed the case with Hazaribagh Police Station on March 10.

Meantime, a virtual court in Dhaka yesterday could not show Kajol arrested in another case filed under the same act as he was yet to be brought to Dhaka Central Jail from Jashore jail.

On June 14, Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jasim sent an email to the jail authorities, scheduling a virtual hearing for yesterday.

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Double blow for kidney patients in port city

Those infected with Covid-19 deprived of dialysis

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Cg

Sufferings of kidney patients, who are also infected with Covid-19, have doubled as there is no scope of dialysis for them in the port city.

According to experts, an end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patient needs dialysis at least twice a week.

Dialysis is a process through which the body waste of kidney-failure patients are filtered out artificially. It is vital that patients suffering from ESRD are given dialysis, said Prof Dr SM Nurul Huda, head of nephrology department of Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Among the government hospitals in Chattogram, only CMCH has the facility for dialysis. Besides, there is scope for dialysis in a number of private hospitals. However, the ESRD patients -- who are Covid-19 positive -- are deprived of this facility both in government and private hospitals.

In May, Dr Hasan Shahriar, Chattogram

divisional director of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), and his 73-year-old mother tested Covid-19 positive.

Being an ESRD patient, his mother has been going through dialysis twice a week but after she tested positive, she was unable to get her dialysis done.

Finding no other option, he took her to the capital and admitted her to a private hospital there.

On May 26, Rakibul Islam, who was undergoing treatment at the “Corona Unit” of CMCH, passed away as the 27-year-old could not get kidney dialysis.

Though the hospital had a dialysis machine, it did not have any “water treatment plant” for patients. As a result, Rakibul had to wait for four days and eventually died, said family members.

“When the mother of the health boss in the division is deprived of treatment, you can realise what regular patients are going

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Condition of Dr Zafrullah improving

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health condition of Gonoshasthaya Kendra Founder and Trustee Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury has improved.



“His condition is better than yesterday’s [Tuesday]. His lung infection is getting better and he has been given antibiotics,” said Jatiya Oikya Front’s Office Chief Jahangir Alam Mintu quoting Professor Dr Nazib Mohammad.

In a press release yesterday, Jahangir said that Dr Zafrullah is undergoing dialysis regularly. He no longer requires additional oxygen, but he is struggling to speak because of throat ache.

“He completely recovered from Covid-19. But he needs to be treated at the hospital for a few more days,” it reads.

Zafrullah, 79, was facing breathing difficulties on the night of June 4. He was then given oxygen. The next day, he was put on dialysis. His condition improved and has remained stable.

Since the detection of his infection, he has been undergoing treatment at Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital.

Ensure gender-responsive Covid-19 relief efforts

UN Women network urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspired by feminist and human rights principles, the Gender Monitoring Network facilitated by UN Women, called the Government of Bangladesh, through a press release, to ensure a gender-responsive, human rights-based inclusive response to Covid-19.

The 12-point call for action is endorsed by Ain O Salish Kendra, Bandhu, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Bangladesh Nari Sromik Kendra, Bindu, Christian Aid, Light House, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Naripokkho, and Prottoy Unnayan Shongstha.

The signatories called on the government to declare gender-based violence (GBV) response services essential and life-saving, and allocate additional resources to ensure continued operation of justice, health and social services for women who are affected or at-risk. It also called on the government to ensure women and girls in marginalised communities have access to public health messaging as well as GBV prevention and response messages, including on child marriage.

In addition, the government must take necessary actions to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse in quarantine and isolation centres and during relief distribution.

Besides, the government must design economic response and recovery packages with a gendered lens and assess their impact on women and men. At the same time, the government should urgently expand the existing social safety net and cash transfer programmes targeting the newly vulnerable women, girls and gender-diverse people to ensure food security.

The network also focused on paying attention to the role women are playing as frontline health workers and community health workers.



Despite a lockdown in place in port city’s Pahartoli (Ward-10) area from Tuesday, many seem to be oblivious. While this group of RMG workers had no other option but to go to the factory inside the area, others tried to step outside without any reason before being stopped by law enforcers and guards, inset.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



Garbage vans filled to the brim remain parked throughout the day on Sylhet-Sunamganj road at Sylhet city’s Pathantuli area. As a result, foul stench covers the vicinity and liquid leaking from the vehicles makes the whole road dirty. Although city corporation takes the trash away once every day, locals have to suffer for the rest of the day. This is not a new problem; residents say they have been dealing with this for a long time. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Doctor jailed ‘for harassing patient’

Says he’s being framed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A doctor was arrested in Sylhet on Monday night, hours after he was confined to his chamber by locals, allegedly for sexually harassing a teenage patient.

The girl that night filed a case, and the doctor was sent to jail the next day by Sylhet court.

However, the doctor -- Jobayer Ahmed, a general practitioner of Dr Jobayer Medicare and Pathology Centre in Beanibazar upazila -- and his family say some influential locals have framed him, and they will continue the legal fight.

Citing the case statement, Beanibazar Police Station’s Officer-in-charge Abani Shankar said, “The teenage girl went to the doctor’s chamber on Monday when the doctor sexually harassed her and she ran out screaming.”

“We reached the spot at around 8:30pm and saw that many people confined the doctor. We arrested him as the patient filed a case the next day,” he said.

That night, Dr Jobayer posted on his Facebook saying he was being framed by a group of locals who had previously attacked him.

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FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

National, int’l orgs come forward to help hospitals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different national and international organisations have come forward to assist Bangladesh government in its fight against Covid-19.

The donation of supplies have come at a time when many of the country’s hospitals are suffering from critical supply shortages of medical equipment that are needed to diagnose and treat coronavirus patients.

The Australian government and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will install two screening and triage tents at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital and OGSB Hospital. Female patients, particularly pregnant ones, will get additional services in the centres.

According to a joint press release, 72,000 women will be able to avail services there in the next six months once these are established.

The Australian government and UNFPA also provided 4,172 “dignity kits” to women, girls and third-gender people to ensure protection from Covid-19 and dengue. The kits contain clothes and hygiene materials such as sanitary napkins, underwear, soaps, sanitisers and mosquito repellent.

Salma Adil Foundation and Bangladesh Medical Association, Chattogram jointly installed a sample-collection booth at Chattogram Medical College Hospital dedicatedly for doctors with Covid-19 symptoms.

According to Dr Mohammed Faisal Iqbal Chowdhury of BMA Chattogram, doctors can give samples every day from 9am to 1pm.

With cooperation from Chattogram Metropolitan Police commissioner Md Mahabubor Rahman, Aziz Al Kaiser, an entrepreneur and chairman of City Bank, donated a high flow nasal cannula to Chattogram General Hospital. The non-invasive respiratory support is used for patients with severe respiratory problems or hypoxic respiratory failure.

In an informal handing over ceremony, Aziz Al Kaiser appealed to the affluent people of our society to contribute to the fight against Covid-19.