

NILA ROY KILLING Naripokkho demands prompt arrest of murderer

STAR REPORT

Women's rights organisation Naripokkho yesterday demanded immediate arrest of the stalker and murderer of 14-year-old schoolgirl Nila Roy, who was killed in Savar on Sunday night.

"Nila was killed because she refused a romantic advance by killer Mizanur Rahman," said the statement. "She was sick and on her way to the hospital with her brother, when their rickshaw was stopped by an armed Mizan. He then forcefully took Nila to an abandoned house where he stabbed her," said a press statement circulated to media yesterday.

The murderer must be arrested and brought to justice immediately, Naripokkho demanded.

"The government has failed to ensure security for women. We are disappointed, angry and grief-stricken," said the statement, signed



Surrounded by an enthralled audience, two boys fight it out on screen playing a competitive video game at a store in Barishal's Rasulpur area yesterday. With home consoles, computers and smartphones gaining popularity for gaming thanks to convenience and affordability, arcade machines -- which once dominated the corner shops of alleys in cities and suburbs -- have become a rare sight these days. But such improvised models, using computers and wooden gamepads, can still be seen outside the capital.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

REGENT HOSPITAL SCAM DGHS high-ups colluded with Shamed: ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He knew that Regent Hospital did not have licence to treat patients, yet former DGHS director M Aminul Hasan recommended high-ups to allow it to provide Covid-19 treatment service.

He made the recommendation after an emergency visit to Regent Hospital's Uttara and Mirpur branches on March 19.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in its enquiry found that Regent Hospital Chairman Md Shamed with help of Aminul and three other DGHS officials managed to renew licence of the hospitals.

Not only that, the DGHS officials helped Shamed to misappropriate about Tk 1.37 crore through forgery, it finds.

Yesterday, ACC's deputy director Farid Ahmed Patwary filed a case accusing Shamed, Aminul, DGHS deputy director Dr Yunus Ali, assistant director Dr Shafiqur Rahman and research officer Dr Didarul Islam.

On July 21, Professor Dr Abul Kalam Azad resigned as DGHS director general amid criticism over his role.

Aminul was removed from his post as DGHS director. He however was later made principal of Institute of Health Technology (IHT).

Azad faced ACC's quizzing over Regent scam.

According to the case statement, following Aminul's March 19 recommendations, DGHS assistant director Dr Shafiqur Rahman created a proposal to renew licences of the hospitals and allow it to treat Covid-19 patients.

Signed by DGHS deputy director Dr Yunus Ali and director Aminul, the proposal was sent to additional director general Professor Dr Nasima Sultana and former director general Dr Abul Kalam Azad for approval.

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Increase number of vehicle fitness testing centres: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to set up more fitness testing centres across the country in two months to examine fitness of public transports.

The HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam came up with the order during hearing a writ petition filed in July 2018. The bench fixed November 23 for passing further order, petitioner Tanvir Ahmed told The Daily Star.

Tanvir, also a Supreme Court lawyer, said he argued before the HC that the number of vehicle fitness testing centres is very inadequate in the country and therefore, fitness of transports cannot be tested properly and adequately.

There are maximum 70 centres in the country for testing fitness of around 40 lakh vehicles, he said. The lawyer said the number of fitness testing has to be increased to reduce road accidents.

Citing a survey report prepared by an expert committee formed under an HC order issued on July 31, 2018, Tanvir said 33 percent transports of the country are unfit although many of them have fitness certificates.

BRTA's lawyer Md Rafiqul Islam told the HC that his client has already floated a tender for setting up 12 more centres.

Following the same petition, another HC bench on July 31, 2018 directed the government to constitute a national independent inquiry committee, including at least 15 experts, to conduct a survey on the fitness of public motor vehicles to avoid road accidents and submit the survey report to this court.

Nationwide Vitamin A+ campaign on Oct 4-17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A nationwide Vitamin A-plus campaign is set to be held from October 4 to 17, with an aim to administer vitamin capsules to children aged between 6 and 59 months.

Around 2.93 lakh health workers and volunteers will feed the capsules to around 22 million children at 1.2 lakh permanent centres in rural and urban areas from 8am to 4pm.

This time, there will be no makeshift or mobile centres used for the campaign.

The campaign will be held in different centres on different days. The date for any certain area will be announced locally three days earlier.

"Due to Covid-19 outbreak, we postponed this campaign in June. We feared we could not bring all children under the campaign coverage. Now,

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'Health sector itself infected with corona'

Says BNP leader Gayeshwar

UNB, Dhaka

BNP standing committee member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy has said the country's health sector itself has been infected with the coronavirus due to failures of the government.

"The health sector has collapsed due to the government's failure and corruption. The health sector itself is infected with corona," he said at a programme yesterday.

Taking the metaphor further, the BNP leader also said both the government and the health sector now remain in ventilation, putting physicians in a serious problem.

Jatiyatabadi Matsyajibi Dal arranged the discussion programme on the country's fisheries sector at the Jatiya Press Club.

He feared that several thousand people may start visiting India every day once the visa process and Dhaka-Kolkata bus service resume, as people have completely lost trust in the country's health system. This will leave hospitals and chambers of doctors here empty, he claimed.

The BNP leader also said the country is passing through a dangerous crisis of democracy due to the absence of a representative government.

"There's no alternative to a movement to overcome this crisis," he said, calling upon party leaders and activists to get united and organised in order to launch a strong movement with effective programmes.

Speaking on the state of the fisheries sector, the BNP leader said the country's natural fish resources are declining gradually due to a rise in population, therefore it is now necessary to make people aware of food habits and encourage them to set up fish farms.

He also urged the government to provide fish farmers with various facilities and incentives, including soft loan, for boosting fish production in the country.

KUWAIT-BANGLADESH FRIENDSHIP HOSPITAL

Doctors start sit-in after hotel asks them to vacate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors of Kuwait-Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital started a sit-in protest at the hospital director's office, demanding accommodation as they were driven out from a designated hotel yesterday noon.

Many disgruntled doctors decided to stay in the director's room or at the hospital corridor unless and until the authorities ensure their accommodation.

Over 50 doctors were protesting. Many of them alleged that the authorities of Hotel Hansa suddenly told them to check out by noon yesterday.

"Where can we go now?... We decided to go to the [hospital] director's office with our luggage," said a medical officer of the hospital.

"We put our lives at risks when people are afraid to go out. We have been treating Covid-19 patients since the beginning and this is how we're rewarded," said the frustrated doctor.

"We have to either stay in the director's room or at the hospital corridor as even our relatives do not want to give us accommodation for a single night," another doctor said.

"Where would our colleagues, whose families live outside Dhaka, stay now? It is the government's duty to ensure our

accommodation with transport service and security," he added.

On July 29, the health ministry issued a circular that the government had decided not to pay the hotel bills of the health workers, including doctors, treating Covid-19 patients and cancelled the hotel accommodation.

Instead, a doctor in Dhaka will get a daily allowance of Tk 2,000 and Tk 1,800 outside Dhaka, a nurse will get an allowance of Tk 1,200 in Dhaka and Tk 1,000 outside Dhaka, and a health worker will get Tk 800 in Dhaka and Tk 650 outside Dhaka, it added.

The circular asked the authorities concerned to implement the order soon.

Amid protests, the authorities extended the deadline several times and finally asked them to check-out yesterday.

Before that the authorities asked hospital's doctors to stay in six government establishments in the city.

The doctors then formed an Accommodation Committee which visited the six establishments but authorities of the establishments discouraged them with various excuses, doctors alleged.

"We can go home only after we test Covid-19 negative after completing our

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Metro rail staffers get two Covid-19 field hospitals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With hopes of boosting morale of engineers and workers, the metro rail project authorities have opened two field hospitals for their staffers infected with coronavirus.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader virtually inaugurated the hospitals at a programme yesterday, said a press release.

They were set up at Gabtoli and Panchabati to improve Covid management at the project sites, the minister said.

In Uttara's Panchabati Construction

Yard, a 14-bed hospital was set up, while another 10-bed hospital was established at Gabtoli Construction Yard.

The minister said necessary staffers, including doctors and nurses, have already been recruited for the hospitals, along with the installation of equipment including cardiac monitors and oxygen cylinders following health department's approval.

He also urged the project authorities to accelerate works at the Agargaon-Motijheel section to reduce public suffering.

The project -- formally known as the Mass Rapid Transit-6 or MRT Line-6 -- is being implemented to build an elevated rail line from the capital's Uttara Third Phase to Motijheel at the cost of Tk 22,000 crore. Once completed, the metro rail will carry 60,000 passengers per hour.

However, physical work for the project came to a grinding halt after the government shutdown the economy in late March to contain the spread of Covid-19. Executives of the project are now hoping to speed up the construction works.

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Development work at this two-kilometre road in Mohammadpur -- stretching from Mohammadia Housing all the way to Beribadh -- has been going on for over a month. For more than two weeks, the road has been cordoned off for the works. This is causing immense suffering to the residents of the densely populated area, especially due to the rainfall of the last few days.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

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