

Dhaka Day by Day

Hospitals ailing with lack of medical equipment

by S.Y. Bakht

Hospitals and clinics in Bangladesh are often found to be severely lacking proper medical equipment.

Shortage of medical equipment — often quite expensive — in hospitals and clinics can perhaps be met with the importing of refurbished or reconditioned equipment from the developed countries.

According to Mr. Bilal Abdul Aziz, a representative of a large US company dealing in refurbished medical and scientific equipment visiting Dhaka recently, the market for these equipments is quite large throughout the world.

There is also a good market in the US, as budget constraints faced by many hospitals due to the ongoing recession compel them to buy them.

"Circumstances affecting in hospitals do not always allow for acquisition of costly medical equipment, even when the need for such equipment is great. Refurbished medical equipment offers an excellent alternative, often at 40 to 60 per cent below the new equipment price with very much the same warranties for accuracy, reliability and appearance," he explained.

Mr. Abdul Aziz, an American Muslim, pointed out that as the United States is the largest importer and user of medical equipment, it provides a large base to use and analyse the huge variety of medical equipment made around the world.

Basic improvements in newer models of standard and commonly used medical equipment — X-ray, electro-cardiogram and other

diagnostic machines — include better functioning, enhanced efficiency and user friendliness. As such, he said, many of these kind of machines are replaced not so much because of new technology but simply because the newer model is easier to use.

"This gives our organisation the scope to re-direct these equipment to where the sophistication has not come to that level," he pointed out.

Before resale these equipment undergo a rigorous process of rebuilding or reconditioning to meet the original manufacturers specifications and all refurbished medical equipment is strictly regulated by the Federal Drug Administration, a US government regulatory agency, he explained.

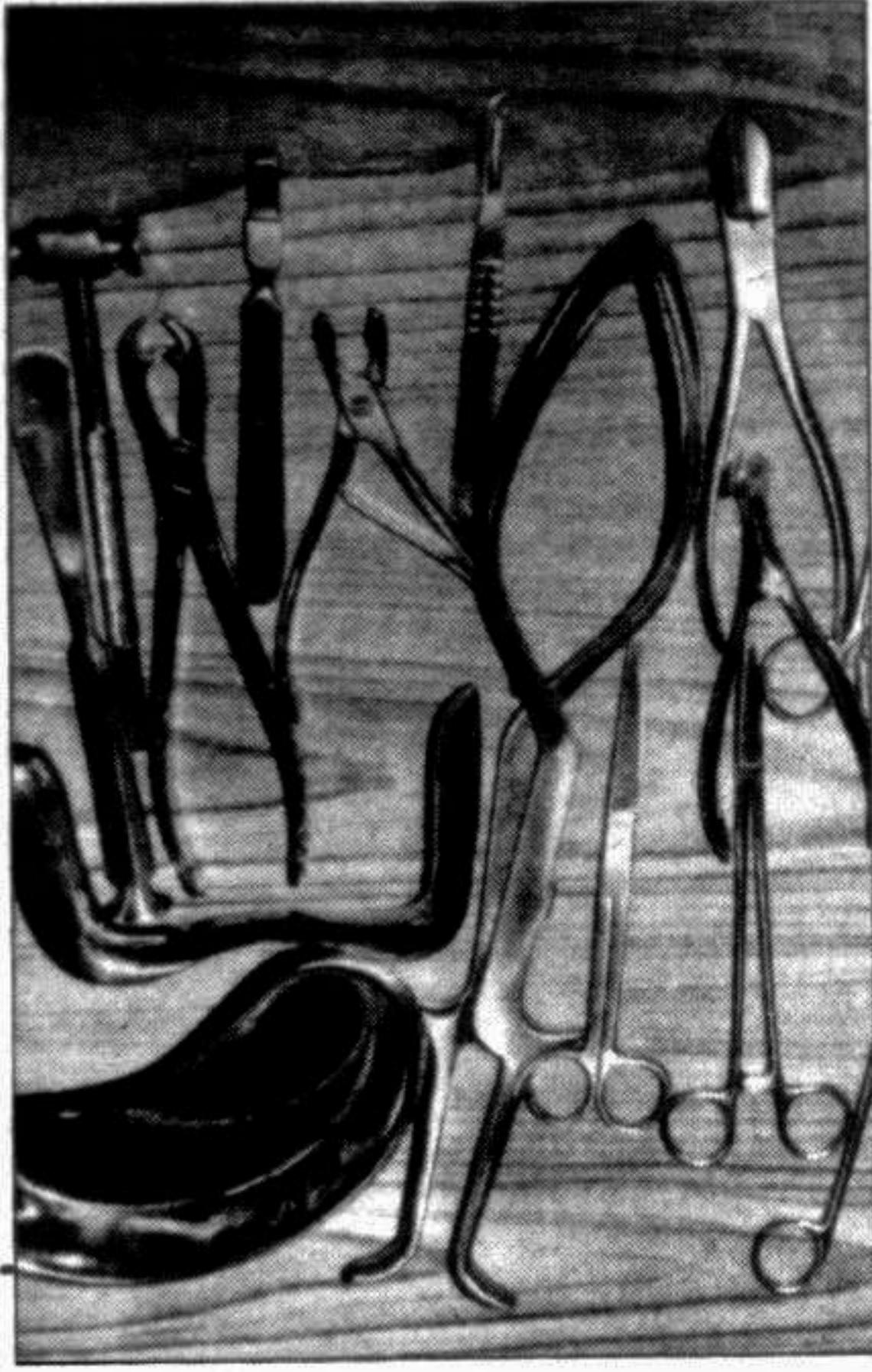
The refurbishing process includes replacement and restoration of all components to factory tolerance or specifications. In addition, testing, sampling and visual inspection of all components of the refurbished equipment is also carried out, he added.

He said that a number of local hospital and clinic administrators have shown an interest in acquiring refurbished medical equipment.

"This area is catastrophic, according to the World Health Organisation, most hospitals in the Third World lack proper medical equipment," he noted, adding, refurbished medical equipment are perhaps the only option for these countries.

An owner of a local diagnostic clinic, familiar with the availability of refurbished equipment, said that the efficacy between earlier and present generation equipment is only about 5 to 10 percent while the price variation is about 60 to 70 percent. He said that right now all the medical equipment used in the country is purchased in new condition as many people are unaware of the availability of cheaper refurbished ones.

Medical science has advanced tremendously over the years. Many new diagnostic and other medical equipment are being introduced and are constantly being upgraded. Along with improved medications, these equipment can play a vital role in the diagnosis and treatment of numerous ailments.



Medical equipment on sale at Baitul Mukarram — Star photo



The city unit of Jatiya Chhatra Dal brought out a procession Saturday to protest the rise in prices of essentials. —Star photo

Government favours constructive criticism

Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman has emphasised the need for constructive criticism by the opposition parties both in and outside Parliament so that the lacuna and lapses of government efforts towards national development could be identified and corrected in time.

He was speaking at a function organised by Gulshan Number-One Market Committee of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in Dhaka on Saturday.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder also spoke on the occasion.

Mostafizur Rahman said that no people's government could effectively implement the hopes and aspirations of the nation without constructive cooperation and objective criticism of the opposition parties.

Speaking on the occasion, Barrister Salam Talukder said, the nation looked forward to its elected government with great expectations. He said, the government would pay heed to these expectations sincerely and meticulously to repair the damage to the socio-economic fabric of the nation done over the years of autocratic misrule.

He called upon all sections of people to help establish a welfare oriented and corruption free society, so that the dignity and image of the nation was upheld both within the country and abroad.

1.70 cr unemployed in country

The meeting was attended, among others, by the Secretary of Labour and Manpower Nouruddin Al-Masood and Director of Labour D.F. Chowdhury.

The minister was addressing a meeting of National Trade Union Federation leaders in Dhaka on Saturday.

He appreciated the role of labourers in establishing a democratic government in the country.

Barrister Islam stressed the need for an up-dated and proper plan to solve the unemployment problems. There were now one crore and seventy lakh unemployed people in the country, he added.

The labour leaders belonging to 23 national trade union federations attended the meeting to discuss at least labour situation of the country.

Labour Minister invited constructive suggestions from all concerned, to overcome all the difficulties prevailing in labour sector.

DMC teachers call for peace on campus

Dhaka Medical College Shikshak Samity on Saturday urged political parties and all concerned sections to take effective initiative to bring back congenial atmosphere in the educational arena of the country, reports BSS.

In an emergency meeting of the Samity, its President Prof. M. A. Hadi and General Secretary Dr. Kamrul Hasan called upon the students of the college to sink their differences and create an atmosphere conducive to their proper education.

They also condemned the attacks on the rooms of two professors of the college and called for a stoppage of such incidents.

Recalling the deterioration in the atmosphere for education, the Samity leaders said the students in the past years had suffered losses in their education which had affected the whole nation.

They said the students must be made well educated for the interest of the country and the nation as well and asked for working together for ensuring a peaceful atmosphere in the educational arena.

Encourage farmers to grow more fruits, vegetables

Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Majid Ul Haq on Saturday asked the agricultural officials to strengthen their field-level activities to make the country self-reliant within the shortest possible time upgrading the socio-economic standard of the farmers, reports BSS.

He was addressing the officials of the Agricultural Extension Department, Cotton Development Board, Agricultural Information Service and Agricultural Marketing Department at Khamburbari in Dhaka.

The Agricultural Minister said that the present government would give due stress on research and extension of different agricultural products including rice, wheat, maize, oilseeds and other food crops and cotton, jute, sugarcane and other cash crops.

He also called upon the agricultural officials to encourage the farmers for growing more country fruits and vegetables to meet the demand of the people.

Lakhs seize world's biggest offer!

By Asiuzzaman

Lakhs of people are eagerly waiting with a dream of a free travel to London by British Airways.

The people started rushing to the post offices everyday following a full-page advertisement by the British Airways on March 22 that it would carry 50,000 free passengers across the world to as many as 95 destinations.

The company dubbed it as the world's biggest offer and said in Bangladesh the lucky date is April 23. On that day, the Airways will carry the winners of the offer all the way to London free, the advertisement added.

Only 273 Bangladeshis would be taken on that day but about 30 passengers will be benefitted by the offer, because rest of the passengers had booked the flight earlier. Over one lakh letters have been received only in Dhaka

GPO in last one week, official source said. "Everyday we are receiving about 15 thousand letters addressed to that box," Assistant Post Master of Delivery Section in Dhaka GPO, told The Daily Star.

"The influx is almost like OP-1 for the United States and Canadian immigration," he added.

The Airways has failed to bring everyday's mail due to lack of their accommodation, he added.

Some brokers in front of GPO are screaming "London-London-London, flight has come" and selling the coupons at high prices.

A vendor said the business is brisk but regretted it is for a short period.

The coupons are being sold in other parts of the city, he said adding this is a hectic hour as the last date of reaching the coupon to British Airways is April 3.

Saifur leaves for Seoul

Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman left Dhaka on Saturday for Seoul to attend the 47th annual session of ESCAP (Educational Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) beginning today (Sunday), reports BSS.

Rahman is leading a four-member Bangladesh team at the four-day ministerial level meeting.

The session will review progress of ongoing ESCAP projects in member countries and identify new projects.

The Finance Minister will return on April 4.

Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Asso meet today

The Biennial General Meeting, Election of National Council and Annual Dinner of Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association will be held today (Sunday) at the Principal Ibrahim Kha auditorium of "Kakali High School", Road No. 18, House No. 179, (Near Road No. 15 bus stand) at 5 p.m.

All members of the Association have been requested to attend the meeting in time, says a press release.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS
1 Collection of tents
5 Viper
8 Strike
12 Field of study
13 Meadow
14 Evergreen tree
15 Falstaff
16 Circle part
17 Jot
18 Broadcaster
20 Seed of a cereal
22 Running
23 Diminish
24 Legume
27 Classified
31 Shoemaker's tool
32 Police car device
33 Mellow
34 Lets go
36 Bow of ship
37 Emmets
38 Mother
39 Tasse, annoy
42 Hospital attendants
46 Sea in Russia
47 Time gone by
49 Fixed period of time
50 Baseball team
51 Dove cry
52 Comfort
53 Antlered animals
54 Sunburn
55 Attracted

Grid for crossword puzzle with clues and answers.

Electrification ingredient of development

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, Dr Khondker Mosharraf Hossain on Saturday said that the BNP government would gear up the rural electrification programme to develop the standard of living of the rural masses, reports BSS.

He was addressing the officials of Rural Electrification Board in Dhaka. Energy Secretary, Azimuddin Ahmed and

Judiciary officials call on Hafiz

A delegation of the BCS (Judiciary) Association called on the Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz at his office in Dhaka on Saturday, reports BSS.

According to a press release, the members of the delegation informed the minister of the various problems relating to their service. They also apprised the minister of the housing and transport problems of the officials of the judiciary department/division.

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PROGRAMME today Monohordi Samity

The Dhaka-based Monohordi Upazila Jubo Kalyan Samity will hold a reception today (Sunday) at Public Library Auditorium at 5 pm in honour of newly-elected MP Sarder Shakhawat Hossain.

Lions meet The 2nd regular monthly meeting for the month of March, 1991 of the Lions Club of Dhaka Golden will be held today (Sunday) at 5:00 pm at Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka, says a press release.

Obituary Khodeja Begum (64), wife of late Lawyer Shahadat Hossain of Fakir Bari Road, Barisal, died of kidney ailments at Rushmono Clinic in Dhaka Friday evening, reports BSS.

Weather

Temperature to rise

Rain or thundershower with temporary gusty wind likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong division and the regions of Khulna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Faridpur, and Dhaka. Weather will remain dry elsewhere over the country. Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degrees Celsius.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6.14 p.m. and rises on Monday at 5.51 a.m.

Rain and thundershower occurred at most places over Dhaka division and few places over Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Chittagong division. Weather was dry over Rajshahi division. Day temperature was nearly unchanged over the country except in Tangail, Feni, Sitakunda and Bogra where they fall by two to five degrees Celsius.

Rainfall recorded in Chandpur 4 cm, Patuakhali, Barisal and Mymensingh 2 cm each, Faridpur and Madaripur 1 cm each.

The highest temperature of 35.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Jessore. The lowest temperature of 18.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Mymensingh.

Table with columns: City, Temperature in Celsius (max, min), Humidity (%), 9 a.m., 6 p.m.

EVERGREEN NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/SHIPPERS. FEEDER VESSEL M.V. NGS RANGER VOY-0891 IMP. ROT NO. 231/91 IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE CHITTAGONG OUTER ANCHORAGE ON OR ABOUT 31.03.91 WITH EVERGREEN CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE EX FOLLOWING VESSELS: VESSEL EVER GLAMOUR 0351RW-016 PORT CHARLESTON NORFOLK TOKYO VESSEL EVER GLEAMY 0334RE-032 PORT HAMBURG LEHAVRE ROTTERDAM