

Dhaka Day by Day

Pathological Services are a Shambles

By S. Chowdhury

The quality of pathological investigation services available in the country is deteriorating fast because of an acute lack of quality control opined one of the senior-most pathologists of our country, Dr. Syed Mukarram Ali.

Talking to 'The Daily Star', he said that the state of Pathology was in a mess in our country. According to him there was no common standard of detection. Anyone who can get a license starts a pathological laboratory.

For this, he said, the Government of our country was to be blamed largely. For a long time now, the Government has been quite indifferent to this sector. It gave out licenses at random, without first checking the facilities or the equipment of the laboratory to be set up. As a result, we notice that there is no dearth of such laboratories in our country. As a matter of fact, we notice new ones cropping up at every nook and corner.

In his opinion, the government laboratories were a 'complete failure', like for example, those of the Institute of Post-Graduate Medicine and Research (IPGMR) and the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Since they themselves were inept to perform their jobs, they sent the samples of various tests required by their own patients to private pathological laboratories and sometimes to International Centre for Diarrheal Disease and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR) or to Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

However, he said that things were different in the past. Way back in 1966, the government pathological department of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, was the best in the country. At present its standard has deteriorated very much.

Dr. Ali said that from the government's point of view, this is happening due to the deficiency of manpower, both in terms of doctors as well as technicians.

When asked as to why it often happens

that, for similar tests, different laboratories have different results, he said it was due to the use of old and obsolete, out-dated techniques even now followed in matters of pathological investigation in our country. He further said, 'Our country is far behind in the modern techniques practised in the advanced countries of today.'

Talking about research, the veteran pathologist said, some institutions of our country like the Institute of Post-Graduate Medicine and Research (IPGMR), Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation in Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders, are carrying out some research work in this field. But this should be geared more towards day to day problems and relate more to them. There was a general neglect in this field, he added.

For example, he said, 'In most of the developed countries, the blood electrolyte tests for

diarrhoea is done continuously i.e., 24 hours a day, but in our country, it is done perhaps once or twice a week in the pathological laboratories. It is essential that such a system be started here also.'

Dr. Ali had a number of suggestions for improving this condition. One way of improving it, he said was by practising the method followed in the United Kingdom. 'There they are phasing out pathology from national Health Service Hospitals to private sectors, in the form of contract, which can be for one year, but at the same time constantly keeping an eye on quality control. Similar method can follow in our country also.'

Another step to be taken here, he said, was to go for full automation where possible in the field of pathological investigation. For, the method followed here at present was manual which could make mistakes, as this system tended to result in a lot of errors. This was the reason why people have lost confidence in the reports of our local laboratories, and thus have become dependent on checkups abroad, he observed.

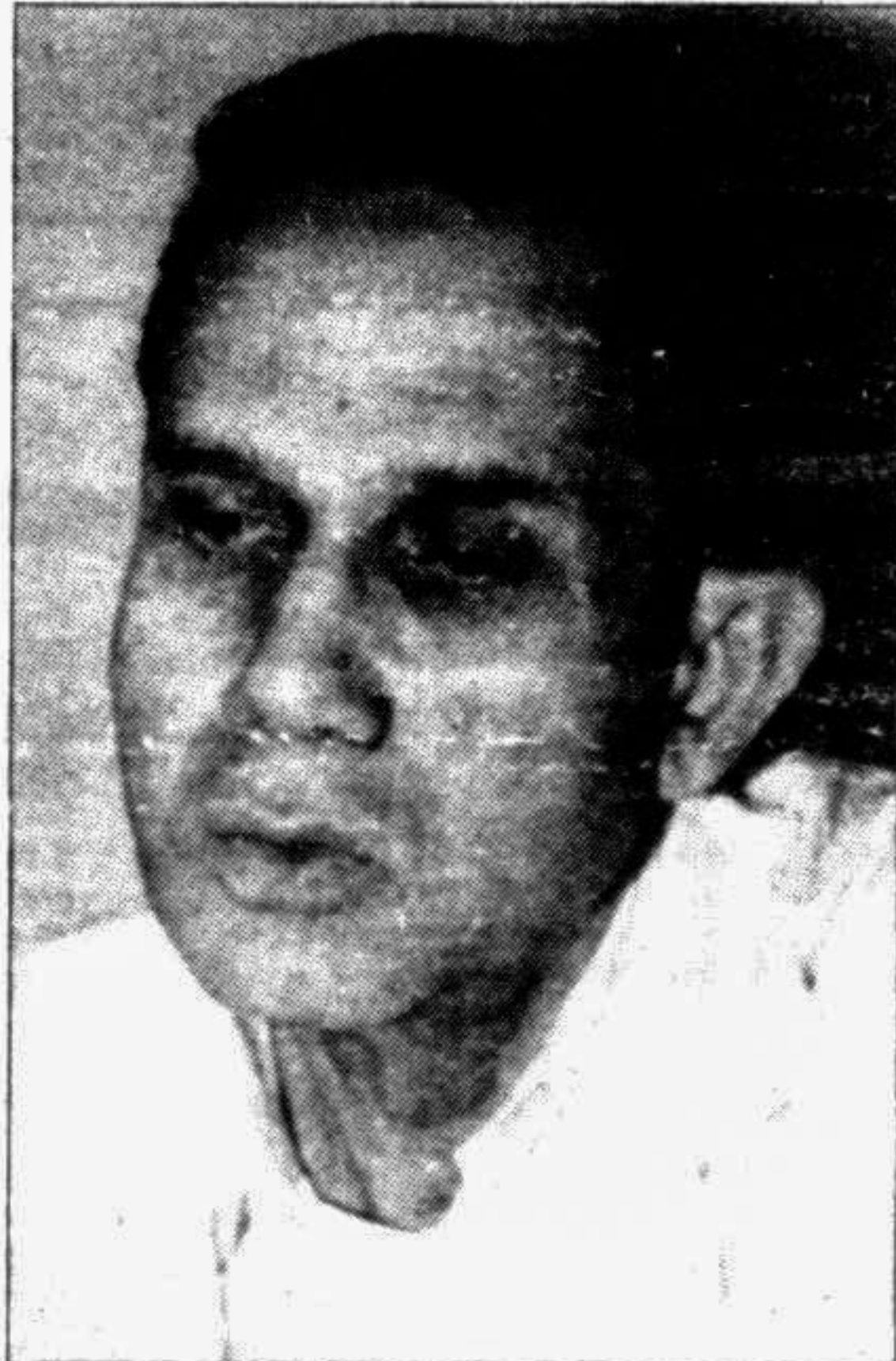
He said that in the area of Hematology and Chemical Pathology, full automation was possible. Therefore, in these branches of pathology, it should be introduced. He went on to say that either the government itself should set up automation in each hospital, which is quite expensive or give contract to private companies to bring in the latest and most sophisticated machines to serve the country and people.

Among the modern machines, he mentioned automatic tissue processor, chemical analyser, frozen section service, automatic knifesharpeners etc.

He, however, pointed out that it was possible many new laboratories may be having these facilities, but there was a dearth of competent men handling the same.

Presently, a Professor of Pathology, in the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons, he has to give lectures to students of post-graduate level. Expressing his disappointment, he said that, the quality and input of the students was quite poor. He went on to say that they now had much more opportunities than their seniors had in their time to get acquainted with the latest achievement in the field of medicine. But the students these days hardly made an effort to read the latest medical journals which were so readily available today. Students, he said should be more dedicated towards their profession; only then with collective efforts can something be done for the country. Besides, they should be properly guided by their teachers also.

'There is no short-cut in achieving anything; one has to go all the way,' he concluded.



Dr. Syed Mukarram Ali

Crimes on rise in Mirpur area

By Staff Correspondent

Police appear to be helpless to take alleged criminals of Mirpur to book. Hijacking, as such extortion of money and pilfers are rampant in the said area.

So to say, the hoodlums unleash a reign of terror among the 15 lakh people of Mirpur.

Police made a long list of

TV Saturday

- 4-30: Opening, Al-Quran;
- 5-00: Club Cup Football;
- 5-20: News in Bangla;
- 7-00: Football;
- 8-00: News in Bangla;
- 8-25: Remaining part of Club Cup Football;
- Ujiban;
- 10-00: News in English;
- 10-00: Drama series;
- 11-30: Khabar/ The news;
- 11-40: Closing.

those criminals. They are rounded up time to time but seen engaged in the same profession after bailed out by the court or serving their sentence in jail.

'How 50 constables, 14 sub-inspectors and seven asst sub-inspectors can save 15 lakh people from the clutches of the hoodlums,' a police official of Mirpur police station said in replying to a question of Daily Star correspondent.

He said that this is the biggest among 14 thanas in and around the capital.

'The authority is well informed about the matter but doing nothing to increase the staff. So the situation remained the same,' he said adding that 'we are trying our level best to

keep the situation under control.'

The official also said that the people residing out skirts are the victims of the 'criminals'.

As they stay isolated, the hoodlums have the advantage to extort money from them, sometimes in the broad daylight.

What's on today . . .

Pizza and Pasta promotion

A week-long Pizza and Pasta promotion starts at the Sonargaon Hotel today (Saturday).

The promotion will take place at the hotel's Cafe Bazar Restaurant during dinner from 7 pm to 11 pm. Pizza and Pasta, specialities from Italian cuisine appeal diners of all ages for their versatility and possible wide variety of choice.

Executive chef of the hotel Dalbah Hassan will treat the diners with a selected variety of authentic Pizza which will include among others the Pizza Pescatore, the Pizza Napoletana and Pizza Giardinara.

During the festival the Cafe Bazar Restaurant will be decorated befitting the occasion and the regular nightly themes will remain suspended.

Girl Guides' environment week

'Environment Protection and Tree Plantation Week' of Bangladesh Girl Guides Association begins today (Saturday).

Chief conservator of forest department ANA Katemi will inaugurate the programmes at the Bhawal Jatiya Uddyan at 5 pm.

Rangers, guides and members of Dhaka and Rajshahi Division of the Association will participate in the programme. On the opening day, at 8 am, a day-camp of the Guides of Barolpara under Kaliaokir of Gazipur districts will be held. About 200 Guides from Dhaka city, and different districts, and upazilas of Dhaka zone will take part in the camp.

ALPP meeting

The Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will meet today (Saturday) at 10 am at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban Chief Whip of the Party Mohammad Nasim has requested all AL MPs to attend the meeting.

Krishak Federation

Bangladesh Krishak Federation and Bangladesh Krishak will jointly hold a press conference today (Saturday) at 11 am at the National Press Club.

The press conference has been convened to announce action programmes of the parties to press the government to resolve various crises.

Taher's death anniversary

In observance of Col. Abu Taher's 15th anniversary of death, a discussion meeting will be held today (Saturday) at 4 pm at the Teacher-Student Centre of the Dhaka University.

Steel Industries' Press confce

Three steel industries will jointly hold a press conference today (Saturday) at 1 pm at the North Ball Room of Hotel Sheraton against a direction by the World Bank (WB) asking the Power Development Board (PDB) to purchase goods from an Indian company.

Chittagong Steel Works Limited, Karip Pipe Mills Limited and Jemcon Limited have convened the press conference.

JSD(Rab) programme

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rab) will organise rallies and procession at the country's upazilas today (Saturday) in support of their tomorrow's hartal call.

On the day, a rally will also be held in front of the Allawala Building at Motijheel Commercial area in the city at 5 pm.

Tomorrow half-day hartal has been called by the party to press home its 12-point demand.

Tin-shed residents' press confce

Mirpur Adha Pacca Tin-Shed Federation will hold a press conference today (Saturday) at 4.30 pm at the National Press Club to brief the newsmen about the miseries of over 4,000 residents at the tin-shed houses, built earlier by the Red-Crescent Society at Mirpur in the city.

Compiled by N.A.

Attack on JSP workers condemned

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Samik Party on Thursday condemned the attack on the workers of National Jute Mills recently by a group of outsiders in which several workers were injured.

Shah Muhammad Abu Zafar and M A Gafur, President and General Secretary respectively of JSP in a statement expressed that the similar incidents also took place in this mill before.

They further said that the Jatiyatadabi Samik Dal was defeated in the CBA elections held two months back.

Contraband worth Tk 31 lakh seized

The Air Freight Surveillance Team personnel seized contraband brought through false declaration worth Taka 31 lakh during last one week, a customs press release said in Dhaka, reports BSS.

The press release said the team Thursday seized VCR, VCP, coloured Television, telephone set and camera worth Taka six lakh from a passenger bound for Sylhet.

These items were brought from Singapore on false declaration.



Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at a rally on DU campus Friday called for resisting any bid to foil forthcoming DUCSU and hall unions polls. — Star photo

Terrorists out to create fresh trouble on campus: CUCSU

CHITTAGONG, July 19: CUSCU, APSU and some hall union leaders Friday called for intervention by the administration to clear Chittagong University campus, of what they called, 'terrorist group out to create fresh trouble on the campus', reports BSS.

They said when the leaders of teachers and students were trying to restore normalcy on the campus at the directive of the Acting President and Chancellor Justice

Jamuna Fertilizer starts production from Dec

The newly-built Jamuna Fertilizer Factory will start production from December this year, Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan told the Jatiya Sangsad Thursday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Mohammad Abu Bakar (Jamaat-Natore), the minister said the factory is expected to produce 561,000 metric tons of urea fertilizer annually.

Shahabuddin Ahmad, a terrorist group under the banner of Sangrami Chhatra Oikka had resorted to their old practices, including the hoisting of black flag and locking of Vice-Chancellor's office with an ulterior motive to frustrate the move.

In a joint statement here, the CUSCU and APSU leaders Demand for removal of CU VC reiterated

CHITTAGONG, July 19: Leaders of Chittagong University Branch of Islami Chhatra Shibir Friday reiterated their demand for removal of the Vice-Chancellor in order to restore normalcy in the campus, a Shibir press release said, reports BSS.

The Shibir leaders at a meeting held in the campus with the branch president AHM Hamidur Rahman Azad demanded immediate implementation of the suggestions of the one-man inquiry commission on the December 22 incident to restore normalcy in the university.

demanded ban on the entry of expelled students-to the campus, punishment to the killers of student leader Faruquzaman Faruq and arrest of the arms holders within the campus.

They also called upon students, teachers and guardians to extend their cooperation in restoring normalcy in the campus.

The signatories to the statement were, among others, CUSCU Vice-President, M Nazimuddin, General Secretary Azim Uddin.

APSU leaders Manzur Alam Shaheen, Anup Khastagir, Mokaddes Ali Majumdar, Jasim Uddin, Ashoke Barua, Alaol Hall Union Vice-President Mansurul Karim, General Secretary, Ilyas Kabir Rana, Shamsun Nahar Hall Union Vice-President Rubina Mahfuz Shampa and General Secretary Rubana Kafi Jharna.

Call to resolve crisis in newspapers

By Staff Correspondent

The leaders of the National Federation of Teachers Association (NFTA) in a statement on Friday urged the authorities concerned to come out with open and frank mind for immediate solution of the deadlock prevailing in the newspaper industry.

The statement was signed by Prof M Shareful Islam, Secretary General of NFTA and Bangladesh College Teachers' Association, Nazrul Islam, Secretary General of Bangladesh Teachers' Association, Prof Hasanul Bari, Secretary General of Bangladesh Government College Teachers' Association and Md Fazlur Rahman, Secretary General of Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association.

Training on child health concludes

Twentyseven village health workers from different Palli Shishu Clinics were given a one week training in various aspects of child health at the central office of Palli Shishu Foundation of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Are you planning for tomorrow?

Times are changing. Values too. Now a woman can make her own choices. Express her own individuality in many ways. There's so much in life to do and enjoy every moment in doing so.

OVACON—the carefully formulated contraceptive pill—gives you the desired capacity to plan for tomorrow.

So make each moment a cherished one. Each activity an expression of your own self. Fully content. With OVACON



OVACON—genuine low dose birth spacing pill to suit your lifestyle.



Weather

Heavy rains likely

By Staff Correspondent

Moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind with a few moderately heavy falls likely to occur at most places over Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions and at many places over Dhaka and Khulna divisions. Day temperature likely to rise by 1 to 3 degree Celsius over the country.

Heavy rainfall warning: heavy rainfall likely to occur at one or two places of Chittagong division and the regions of Mymeringh, Bogra and Rangpur during the next 24 hours.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change.

Extended outlook for another five days: No marked change.

City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 am
Dhaka	29.4	25.6	96	82
Chittagong	27.8	24.8	95	90
Rangpur	30.6	25.6	97	79
Comilla	31	25	92	88
Cox's Bazar	27	24.5	67	100
Sylhet	31.5	23.7	88	85
Khulna	30.5	26	91	100
Rajshahi	31.8	25	80	82