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. Due to stringent budgets, hospitals are unable to acquire much-needed equipment or to upgrade or even replace the existing ones.

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, where hospitals regularly dispose of medical implements in relatively good condition to upgrade or to purchase newer models. Frequently, second, third or fourth generation medical equipment in good condition outgrow their use due to expansion. need for greater capacity or just the ease of operation of a newer model. These equipment are then refurbished and sold at a considerably lower price than their

new counterparts. 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 equipment is quite large throughout the world. He said that his company has sold refurbished medical equipments to many countries in Latin America, China and

other Asian countries. 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. Adbul Aziz, an American Muslim, point-

ed 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 redirect these equipment to where the sophistication has not come to that level," he pointed

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

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 hos-- Star photo pitals in the Third World nations severely lack proper medical equipment," he noted, adding, refurbished medical equipment are perhaps the only op-

tion 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.



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

Government favours constructive criticism

1.70 cr unemployed

in country

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 Commit-

Qualitative change to be brought in rural areas

A delegation of the World Bank, led by Shinji Asanuma, **Director Country Department** and Asia Regional Office, Saturday called on Minister for Education and Culture Prof. A. Q. M. Badruddoza Choudhury at the latter's office in Dhaka.

The Education Minister informed the members of the delegation that the BNP government would launch a massive programme for spreading basic education among the vast people.

State Minister for Labour

and Manpower, Barrister

Rafiqui Islam Mia sought coop-

eration of all concerned to

ployment problems of the

ing a meeting of National

Trade Union Federation lead-

ers in Dhaka on Saturday.

The minister was address-

He appreciated the role of

Barrister Islam stressed the

labourers in establishing a

democratic government in the

need for an up-dated and

proper plan to solve the

unemployment problems.

There were now one crore and

seventy lakh unemployed peo-

ing to 23 national trade union

federations attended the meet-

ing to discuss at least labour si-

constructive suggestions from

all concerned, to overcome all

the difficulties prevailing in

Labour Minister invited

tuation of the country.

labour sector.

The labour leaders belong-

ple in the country, he added.

solve the labour and unem-

country, reports BSS.

country.

tee of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in Dhaka on Sat-

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder also spoke on the oc-

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.

The meeting was attended.

among others, by the Secretary

of Labour and Manpower

Nooruddin Al-Masood and Di-

rector of Labour D.F. Chowd-

Sunday

Opening and recitat-

Hashi Khushi: Childr-

ion from Al-Quran

News in Bengali

en's programme

Sports programme

Special programme:

Bangladeshi Army in

Drama Serial: Ossine

Mahe Ramzan

Saudi Arabia

Rag Rang

Closing

Rabindra Sangit

News in Bengali

News in English

Khabar/ The news

Shikkhak 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.

DMC teachers

call for peace

on campus

Dhaka Medical College

M. A. Hadi and General Secretary Dr. Kamrul Hasan called upon the students of the college to sink their differences and create an atmosphere conductve 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 Agriculture Marketing Department at Khamarbari in Dhaka.

The Agricultural Minister said that the present government would give due stress on research and extension of different agricultural procucts 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

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 fourmember 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.

ACROSS

Collection

of tents

12 Field of

13 Meadow

15 Falsifier

17 Jot

14 Evergreen

16 Circle part

18 Broadcaste

20 Seed of a

22 Running

23 Diminish

24 Legume

27 Classified

32 Police car

33 Mellow

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 OPfor the United States and Canadian immigration, he

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

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 heetic hour as the last date of reaching the coupon to British Airways is April 3.

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)

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

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SNATCHSTEALS

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Answer to Previous Puzzle 34 Lets go 36 Bow of ship DEBATE EXALTS EMDELIVER

37 Emmets 38 Mother 39 Tease; annoy 42 Hospital EATSIRESZOO attendants

46 Sea in Russia 47 Time gone by 49 Fixed period

50 Baseball 51 Dove cry 52 Comfort 53 Antiered

animals 54 Sunburn 55 Attracted 31 Shoemaker's

1 Unruffled 2 Solo 4 Forgive

3 Wine drink 5 Wolfhound

6 Indian 7 Parcels 8 Steeples 9 King of 10 Poker stake

21 Blissful 23 Conflag-24 Nightclub 25 Female sheep

27 Divert 28 Sailor: 29 The self

11 Toll 19 Printer's

30 Condensed 32 Rational

35 "On Wings 38 Greek lette 39 Poison 40 Seed coating 41 Damp; wet 43 Scorch

45 Merganse 48 Tibetan

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development also spoke.

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tradition of service to

the land which is now

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Electrification ingredient of

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 Chairman of Rural Electrification Board, Brig. Golam Mawla

Medical equipment on sale at Baitul Mukar-

Dr Mosharraf Hossain said that late President Ziaur Rahman initiated rural electrification programme in 1977 to develop the socio-economic condition of the rural people. He said, rural electrification programme had already been proved as one of the essential ingredients of rural develop-

Judiciary officials call on Hafiz

A delegation of the BCS 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.

Monohordi Samity

Samity will hold a reception today (Sunday) at Public Library Auditorium at 5 pm in honour of newly-elected MP Sarder Shakhawat Hossain. The function, to be presided over by former DU VC and now Member of the Public Service Commission Dr. M A Mannan, will be attended by former MP Advocate Nurul Majid Humayun. The BFUJ President Reazuddin Ahmed will also attend it.

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.

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.

She left behind two sons and three daughters to mourn her death. Noted journalist, Mr Hadayet Hussain Murshed, associated with the Dainik Bangla, and a free lancer is one of her sons.

Khodeja Begum was held at Battul Mokarram Mosque Saturday after Zohr prayer. She was buried at Azimpur Grave-

(Judiciary) Association called on the Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz at

PROGRAMME

today

The Dhaka-based Monohordi Upazila Jubo Kalyan

Obituary

The Namaz-e-Janaza of

🐰 Weather 🎆

Temperature to rise

5-20

8-00

9-00

10-30

11-15

11-30

Rain or thundershower with temporary gusty wing 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.

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

and Mymensingh 2 cm each, Faridpur and Madaripur 1 cm

recorded at Jessore. The lowest temperature of 18.6 degrees

Celsius was recorded at Mymensingh.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. change.

Saturday: Humidity (%) Temperature in Celsius City 9 a.m. 32.3 22.0 Dhaka 25.0 Chittagong 22.4 Cox's Bazar 21.0 Rajshahi 22.5 Khulna 35.2 20.5 32.1 Sylhet 22.8 32.5 Comilla 20.9 32.8 Dinajpur The maximum temperatures of some regional cities : 37 degrees Beijing Calcutta Hong Kong Delhi Colombo Karachi

By Staff Correspondent

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

where they fall by two to five degrees Celsius.

Rainfall recorded in Chandpur 4 cm, Patuakhali, Barisal The highest temperature of 35.6 degrees Celsius was

Extended outlook for another five days : No marked

The Temperatures and Humidity of some cities on 6 p.m. 77 62 21

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