

DOWN TO EARTH

A Hospital with Unrealised Promise

By A S M Nurunnabi

The very mention of the name of Suhrawardy Hospital brings to mind an institution where the best possible treatment in the country for cardiovascular diseases is available. This testifies to the important position of the institution. The hospital was established in 1963 in the so-called "second capital" of the then East Pakistan and it bears the singular architectural style of Louis Khan, an eminent architect. The hospital has since expanded a great deal to meet the demands of a fast growing metropolitan city.

The hospital complex that has now emerged comprises three main institutions: the National Institute of Ophthalmology, the General Hospital and the Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases.

This write-up deals with the Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases. The number of in-door patients of this Institute averages five to seven thousand whereas outdoor patients number forty-three thousand annually on an average. According to knowledgeable sources, the total number of patients suffering from various heart ailments will not be less than seven lakh. Because of this enormous number of heart patients, even a small percentage of them who seek treatment at this Institute creates a heavy load of work for the doctors and their staff here.

The Institute, with its 125 beds, is housed in a part of the hospital complex with very insufficient accommodation. The accommodation problem is so acute that on any day a good number of indoor patients can be seen lying on the floor. The government is said to be alive to the issue. It has already undertaken a scheme for setting up a new Institute building adjacent to the present site with 400-bed capacity. Part of the building which has been completed will soon be put to use. The government is also said to be trying to procure necessary equipment to meet the growing needs of the patients.

Viewed in the light of the many limitations that the Institute has been functioning, its record of performance is not negligible, as opined by a senior cardiologist. Last year it performed open heart surgery on 150 patients, and pacemakers were fitted in 108 patients. Cardio angiogram including coronary angiogram has been done in 350 cases. The same physician regretted that because we pitch our expectations about the Institute too high, we tend to underrate the services being rendered by the Institute as the only specialised treatment centre of the country. There is a general lack of appreciation of the

tremendous odds under which the Institute has functioned since its inception. The Japanese assistance in the late seventies played a major part in enabling the Institute to stand on its feet. The Japanese assistance ceased in 1980 and most of the equipments received under their assistance have since outlived their utility. The equipments are still being operated as far as possible with local technical skill.

Not that there are no glaring deficiencies. There is no lift (work on that project has since been taken up); the intensive care unit could not be expanded with more facilities.

courses regularly for diploma in cardiology and MS degree in cardio-thoracic surgery. The Institute has the facilities to treat both medically and surgically those patients who cannot be looked after in other hospitals. It is also capable of conducting complicated investigations like eco-cardiography and cardio angiogram including coronary angiogram. In appropriate cases it has the capacity to perform closed and open heart surgery. The Institute also plays a role in creating awareness among the people regarding the risk factors leading to heart diseases and the measures that can be



the floor-bound patients could not be avoided for want of space; a cleaner environment is desirable (patients saw rodents scurrying across the floor). Yet these or any other shortcoming are said to be more due to financial constraints and in some measure due to management lapses. It was admitted. But it was emphasised that we fail to appreciate the positive aspects of the role that the Institute has been playing.

The Institute, its is said, in pursuance of its objective to produce specialists in this branch of medicine, conducts

adopted for their prevention. For this purpose, it runs a course and arranges a workshop twice a year with the help of the WHO and the government of Bangladesh.

Though financial constraints are always pleaded as mitigating factor when any attempt is made for objective assessment of any organisation, it is generally felt by observers that many of the shortcomings of the Institute may be looked upon less critically by the patients if the Institute's functionalities prove themselves more considerate and humane in their approach to duties and services.

Exams begin today DU authorities warn of action against troublemakers

The Dhaka University authorities appealed to the students and all concerned to cooperate in holding the Honours and Master Degree examinations of the university due to begin today (Saturday), reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday the DU authorities also warned of stern action if anybody tries to create trouble during the examinations.

The statement said both the examinations had been shifted on several occasions due to unavoidable circumstances.

Most of the students are in favour of holding classes and examinations on schedule but, the authorities said, a handful of miscreants masquerading as students has repeatedly turned the campus situation abnormal.

The authorities urged all to help the university administration for smooth running of its normal academic activities.

BNP founding day Sept 1

The founding anniversary of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will be observed on September 1, reports BSS.

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder requested the party units throughout the country to observe the day through hoisting party flags in the party offices and holding milad mehfil, discussions and public meetings.

In the city, the party flag will be hoisted at the central office in the morning, the mazar of the party founder Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman will be visited at 9 am and a discussion will be held at Engineers Institution at 4 pm.

Bomb hurled at residence of Shahjahan Siraj

A bomb was hurled at Tangail residence of JSD (Siraj) leader Shahjahan Siraj, MP, last night.

The bomb exploded 10 minutes before the JSD leader reached his house at Akurtakur in Tangail town at about 10-30 last night from Kalihati. However, none was hurt.

Siraj told UNB by phone that before the explosion, some people knocked the door and enquired about him. But inmates of the house could not identify the persons as they did not open the door.

Quoting neighbours, Siraj said two to three persons were seen running away after the explosion.

The JSD leader immediately informed the SP of Tangail of the incident.

BNP failed to run country, says Obaid

Bangladesh Janata Dal Chairman K M Obaidur Rahman has called for unity of all patriotic and democratic forces to root out terrorism from the society, reports UNB.

Speaking as the chief guest at a "Representative Conference" of his party's student wing Bangladesh Chhatra Dal at its central office in Dhaka last night, he questioned the sincerity of the BNP government in dealing with the problem.

The government can contain anarchy and violence within seven days if it sincerely wants to do so, he said.

He urged the government to allow the police and the administration to function independently.

The Janata Dal leader called upon all irrespective of their party affiliation to work unitedly to free the educational institutions from violence.

Expressing concern over the present political and economic condition of the country, he blamed the government for failure to run the country. "I have never seen such an inefficient government," he said.

He said that the government had failed to solve problems of the Rohingya Muslim refugees, Chakma refugees and sharing of water of common rivers with India, including the Ganges.

The utter failure of the government in every sector has posed a threat to the existence of the country, he added.

Obaid called upon all opposition parties to rally round a common platform to face the situation arising out of the total failure of the government.

He advised the students not to be used as mercenaries by any vested group.

Presided over by Chhatra Dal convener Mozaffar Hossain Zakir, the conference was addressed, among others, by Vice-Chairman of Janata Dal S M Halim.

Violence makes DUCSU elections uncertain

By DU Correspondent

A turbulent Dhaka University campus has made the university's hall and central student union polls uncertain.

Although, according to a circle, there are poll possibilities in October this year, the DU authorities are not sure when to hold the polls, because of the continued violence. The present DUCSU and hall union committees have outlived their tenure by one year.

The government-backed student body Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Awami League's student wing Chhatra League (M-I) blame each other for the trouble that has deferred the elections indefinitely.

Some student leaders, talking to his correspondent, attributed the intra-party conflicts of the major student organisations to the volatile atmosphere.

DUCSU AGS and JCD leader Nazimuddin Alam said that JCD was always ready to go to the polls and added that the holding of the elections would bring dynamism in students' leadership.

Regular holding of the DUCSU polls could help bring the campus terrorism to an end, the JCD leader said.

The BCL (M-I) leader Pankaj Nath said that the DUCSU polls were uncertain only because of the absence of a peaceful atmosphere on the

campus. DUCSU and hall elections would remain a far cry if a consensus of all the student organisations in the DU was not reached, BCL leader said.

The DUCSU polls scheduled for August 5, 1991 was postponed following fierce gunfight on July 22 on the DU campus between the JCD and the BCL.

Later, the DU authorities had to withhold scheduled dates for four times.

The authorities first scheduled the polls for July 18 which was shifted to July 25 and then again to July 31 last year as the DUCSU and the hall union office bearers ended their tenure on June 6 last year.

The July 31 schedule was deferred to August 5 as all the major student organisations except the JCD and the Jamaat-e-Islami backed Chhatra Shibir threatened to boycott the elections.

The boycottees demanded postponement of the polls for a discussion between the authorities and the student organisations to resolve the controversial issues like the special admission of the passed-out student leaders and also to ensure peace on the DU campus.

At that time only the JCD, the Shibir and few smaller organisations submitted nominations within the July 20 deadline.

'Green belt' in coastal areas from next year

Plans are underway to create a 'green belt' in the country's coastal areas by planting trees from next year as part of the government's programme to prevent environmental degradation, reports UNB.

This was stated by Environment and Forest Minister Abdullah Al-Noman while opening a week-long exhibition on "Art and Environment" at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday.

He said the government was also planning to plant fruit bearing trees across the country from next year. Plants are being nurtured at the government nurseries, he added.

The exhibition has been organised by non-government organisation "Commitment" in cooperation with the Shilpakala Academy at the academy's art gallery.

Noman said the government is working on a massive afforestation programme to raise the forest areas from 8 per cent to the required percentage of 25 for ecological balance.

A seven-year afforestation

programme will be taken up shortly at a cost of Tk 240 crore with assistance from the World Bank besides a Tk 156 crore afforestation programme, he said.

The minister stressed the need for creating mass awareness among the people, particularly the illiterate, about environment pollution.

Termining painting as an effective media, Noman said the artists through their works can help make the people aware of various environment aspects.

He called upon the NGOs to involve themselves in the tree plantation programme to supplement the government efforts toward maintaining ecological balance.

Presided over by "Commitment" president Abul Kalam Azad, the function was addressed by Director General of Shilpakala Academy Mobarak Hossain Khan and eminent art critic Mostafa Monowar.

Prof Nazrul Islam of Dhaka University presented a keynote paper on art and environment.

Pak NA asks Delhi to keep sanctity of Babri Mosque

ISLAMABAD, Aug 28: Pakistan's National Assembly has urged India to take appropriate measures to ensure protection and preservation of the sanctity of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, reports PTI.

A resolution to this effect, drafted by consensus, was

3-hour demands

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three-point demands including immediate arrest and punishment of the killers of Farhad Hossain, a second year student of the college, who was killed on August 26.

The student leaders demanded compensation for the family members of the victim. They also demanded legal steps against the police actions on a students' procession on Thursday.

The Home Minister gave the student leaders a patient hearing and assured them that their demands would be met.

After assurance of necessary actions from the Home Minister, the student leaders agreed to hold their planned condolence meeting at the Dhaka College premises instead of in front of the National Press Club today.

The student leaders who met the Home Minister including Mir Newas Ali and Abdul Awal, VP and GS respectively of Dhaka College Students Union, Mohammad Kabiruzzaman and Khondaker Sayed Hamid, president and general secretary of Chhatra League (M-I), Dhaka College unit, Z Mortuja Chowdhury Tula, president, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Dhaka College unit, Mahbubul Hoque Ripon and Mridul Chowdhury of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Dhaka College unit, Jamanul Islam Jewel, Chhatra League (JSD) and Mohammad Zakaria Habib Raju, Dhaka College unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Mottri.

Principal of Dhaka College Latifur Rahman was also present at the meeting.

moved by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sidique Khifan Kanju on the request of Jamaat-I-Islami members, Liaqat Baloch on Thursday.

The resolution observed that neither historical nor archaeological evidence supported the contention regarding presence of Ram Mandir at the site of Babri Masjid.

It said that the Masjid, which was part of Muslim heritage in the sub-continent, is in imminent danger of desecration and demolition.

Meanwhile, India today rejected the resolution adopted by the Pakistan Assembly on Ramjanma Bhoomi Babri Masjid issue, saying it believed the expectation raised after the recent meeting of the foreign secretaries of the two countries that Pakistan would show greater degree of understanding, non-interference and cooperation in bilateral relations.

Reacting sharply to the resolution, an External Affairs Minister spokesman said here it constitutes an interference in India's internal affairs and is totally unacceptable.

Pakistan, he said, has no locus standi on the Ramjanma Bhoomi Babri Masjid issue.

30 Fundamentalists get life-term in Tunisia

TUNIS, Aug 28: Some 30 leaders of Tunisia's banned Islamic Movement, Annahda, were sentenced today to life imprisonment by a military tribunal which also passed lesser jail sentences on most of the 140 other defendants accused of plotting against state security, reports AFP.

Those convicted included Annahda President Rached Channouch, a 51-year-old philosophy teacher from Gabes, southern Tunisia, who founded the movement in 1981 and who now lives in exile.

The Midnight File

Clashes leave 180 dead in Tajikistan

DUCHANBE, Aug 28: Nearly 180 people died in southern Tajikistan today in clashes provoked by pro-Communist hardliners, the anti-Communist opposition in the former Soviet Asian republic charged here today. Two witnesses who arrived in Duchanbe from the scene today told AFP that close to a thousand armed men from the town of Kullab attacked the town of Kurgan Tioubey, which is some 100 kilometres (60 miles) to the west and controlled by anti-Communist forces.

Christians launch strike in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Lebanon), Aug 28: Right-wing Christians, faced with losing their traditional majority in Parliament, launched a commercial strike Friday to try to block Lebanon's first general elections in 20 years. For the second weekend in a row, stores were shuttered in East Beirut and other Christian areas to protest the balloting, which began last Sunday in the country's north and east, reports AFP.

Jahanara Imam demands

Try war criminals in special tribunals

By Staff Correspondent

Jahanara Imam said Friday that the country's independence was now threatened by the 'unruly activities' of the anti-independence forces.

She was addressing the fourth national conference of Bangladesh Jubo Union at the Engineers' Institution which was addressed, among others, by poet Sufia Kamal, Foyez Ahmed, Shamsur Rahman, Jubo Union president Mahbubuzzaman, secretary Hilaluddin and convener of the conference preparatory committee B A Rashid.

Chairman of the preparatory committee actor Asaduzzaman Noor presided over the function.

Jahanara Imam said that the defeated forces of 1971 had raised their heads again against the pro-liberation forces and accused the BNP government of having secret ties with that clique.

She said that there was now no question of negotiation with any anti-liberation group. "This was a do-or-die question for the patriotic citizens of the country."

She said that the problem could be solved by trying 'war criminals' of 1971 in special tribunals.

Begum Sufia Kamal urged the youth forces to make efforts to unite the nation against the 'unholy' forces threatening the independence.

She said that if the atrocities being perpetrated by the Jubo Command were not stopped immediately the country would face dire consequences.

Later, a procession was brought out which paraded upon the National Press Club.

Shamsur Rahman called upon the Jubo Union workers to continue their struggle to save country from the grip of vested quarters. He recalled the contribution of the Jubo Union to the progressive movements and the humanitarian services rendered by it since its inception.

Asaduzzaman Noor observed that the anti-liberation forces were taking the opportunity of the country's volatile political situation.

Nirmul body's national confce Sept 14

City unit of Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday at a protest rally took a fresh vow to resist Jamaat-Shibir-Freedom Party for its 'anti-liberation activities' and to uphold the spirit of Liberation War, reports UNB.

The committee announced that a national conference of delegates would be held in Dhaka on September 14.

Presided over by City Convener Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, the rally on Bangabandhu Avenue was addressed among others by Prof Mannan Chowdhury, Sheikh Asad, Monirul Haq, Aminul Haq, Shamsur Islam, Habibur Rahman Khan and Monirul Haq Monir.

The speakers blamed the government for its failure in mopping up the assaults of Rashed Khan Menon MP. Instead, innocent persons are being harassed, they added.

Later, a procession was brought out which paraded upon the National Press Club.

Somalis want UNHCR to send them to US

By Asiuzzaman

Demand for resettlement in any European country or America prompted the Somali refugees to attack the local office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), diplomatic sources said Friday.

They have been pressing the UNHCR to broker a deal for quite sometime," the sources requesting anonymity said.

The sources could not say whether the UNHCR would approach any foreign mission in Dhaka for their resettlement.

A group of six Somalis attacked and damaged the UNHCR office in Dhaka on Monday. Police arrested five of the attackers, including two women.

More than 100 Somalis entered Bangladesh in between 1990 and 1991 and sought refugee status claiming themselves as the victims of their country's civil war and famine.

It was not clear or proved whether they were actual victims of the strife-torn nation or fled the country to try their luck elsewhere.

The sources said that the UNHCR would hold a meeting this week to review the situation. The monthly remuneration of the refugees may be revised in the meeting, the sources added.

A source said that every refugee got Taka 2,700 per month but it was not confirmed by any UNHCR official.

The arrested Somalis were produced before the court on the following day of the incident and only two women were granted bail. The other three were now in Dhaka Central Jail.

Dhanmondi police were investigating the matter.

The source, who has an thorough idea about UN system, answering to a question on whether the UNHCR can take any punitive measure against the attackers, a source conversant with the UN system said "the UNHCR cannot do so as they are refugees."

Special prayer for peace in Bosnia offered

A special prayer was offered at Baitul Mukarram national mosque yesterday for immediate end of human atrocities, killing and torture on Bosnian Muslims, reports BSS.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan was present on the occasion.

The munajat was conducted by Khatib of Baitul Mukarram mosque Moulana Obaidul Haque.

Dhaka College

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Station, according to police. The students of the college went on a rampage on Wednesday and Thursday in the area demanding punishment of the killers of Farhad and eviction of Bakushah Market from Nilkhet.

However, heavy police contingent and Bangladesh Rifle personnel were patrolling the area to prevent any fresh violence. **Editorial on Page 4**

NAM summit

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Foreign Ministers meeting on August 29 and 30. India, Iran, Ghana and Cuba recalled that Myanmar had left the NAM in 1979, challenging the relevance of the movement to the changing times.

Myanmar, then Burma, apparently realised its mistake and expressed its keenness to rejoin the movement at the Belgrade Summit in 1989.

India has been demanding the release of all political prisoners in Myanmar, including the Nobel Prize Winner Ms Aung San Suu Kyi and the transfer of power by the military regime to the elected representative.

Meanwhile, NAM officials formally approved an application by the Philippines for membership, raising the number of full members in the movement to 107.

A conference spokesman said that Armenia, Thailand and Croatia were recognised as observers and Bosnia-Herzegovina and Slovenia as guests.

Menon

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provement during the time, the sources said and added that the anaemia problem was also going away.

Meanwhile, the bilirubin (indicator of jaundice) remained static at 12 per cent while the body temperature ranged between 99 degrees and 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

The CMH sources said Menon was given normal diet including soft-boiled rice yesterday.

Referring to the press report, they said the Workers Party MP was now fit to go abroad for advanced treatment, particularly for liver treatment.

Meanwhile, the Defenders, a Canada-based human rights organisation expressed its deep concern and condemned the attempt on Rashed Khan Menon.

In a message to the Bangladesh Human Rights Commission received on Friday, the Defenders said, "Our recent monitoring of Bangladesh politics shows the phenomenal growth in terrorism."

The message said, "We believe that every person has the right to profess his political opinion without any fear of prosecution. One must not forget that killing and torture have failed to stop the progress of any political ideology."

"The advancement of democracy and the protection of fundamental rights is depending on the successful suppression of violence," the message said.

PM giving 'lip service'

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anti-liberation Jamaat and its leader Golam Azam. Hasina alleged.

She said it also rejected the Opposition's resolutions in parliament for fixing jute price at Tk 500 per maund, establishing one primary school in each village of the country, banning liquor and making radio and television autonomous.

"People in power and their relations are engaged in corruption taking over control of trade and commerce and misappropriating relief goods," Hasina alleged.

People also started losing confidence in the administration which has already been politicised by the ruling party, she said.

Terming the present government 'neo-autocrat', the Opposition leader said Prime Minister Begum Zia is faithfully following the policy and programme of the past autocracy. She was also critical of the post-75 governments of Ziaur Rahman and Ershad.

The Prime Minister is giving 'lip service' to democracy but there is no sign of democracy in words and deeds of her government, Hasina said.

Radio and television have become the 'box of Bibi-Golam', she alleged and wondered how her (Hasina's) speech in parliament on no-confidence motion against the government could be telecast after being censored.

Hasina accused the gov-

ernment of resorting to repression on its political opponents by misusing the administration. She also held the government responsible for backing terrorists for attacks on the pro-liberation forces, including Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Mosharrif Hossain, MP, and for killing Ratan Sen.

In this context, the Awami League chief said that failing to secure the majority, Begum Zia had met with Jamaat leader Golam Azam for his support to form her government.

She reiterated her demand for repealing the Indemnity Ordinance and ensuring independence of judiciary to consolidate democracy and rule of law.

Presided over by Rajbari District Awami League president Syed Rafiqul Sakhin, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Kazi Abdur Rashid, MP, Abdur Rouf, MP, Abdul Awal, MP, Magreb Ahmed and Kazi Keramat Ali.

Shopowners

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students, beaten to death allegedly by a section of shopkeepers of Baku Shah Market Tuesday.

In a joint statement, the federation leaders Amir Hossain Khan, M A Zaman Manju, Helaluddin Helal and Md Shahabuddin demanded the arrest of the killers of Farhad Hossain.

The federation statement said "Hossain was not killed by the Baku Shah Market shopkeepers but terrorist groups used the incident to grind their axe."

The statement expressed concern over the shopowners over the deteriorating law and order situation and requested all concerned to abstain from largescale damage of the public property.

It also demanded the government arrange security to the businessmen of the city.

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