

Medical negligence often goes unchallenged

No mechanism yet to verify allegations

NAIMUL HAQ

Surgeons often go unpunished for medical negligence simply because no mechanism is in force to verify allegations.

Laxmi (not real name) from Mohammadpur suffered doubly in a private hospital where she was rushed in acute abdominal pain.

On completing laboratory tests, doctors detected that the woman was suffering from 'acute appendicitis', an inflammation of the appendix, a small tube of tissue that extends from the large intestine.

The surgeons on January 21 prepared Laxmi for a surgery to remove the appendix, a common practice to relieve pains but found it apparently in good condition and detected dark thickened blood all around, which was sucked out. They also found the right fallopian tube covered in dot-

ted blood.

With the operation in progress, a senior gynaecologist, called in on an emergency basis, said the thickened blood was the remains of the dead foetus that was pushed out of the fallopian tube.

The patient was then taken to the postoperative room where she rested unconscious from effect of sedatives. Her husband was kept in the dark.

Instead of acknowledging the gross mistake, the doctors said they acted on the basis of an ultrasonogram report that categorically found 'acute appendicitis'. They also carried out additional tests on blood and urine to confirm appendicitis.

This correspondent talked to three leading surgeons including two at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and Shahid Suhrawardy General Hospital about the diagnostic report and appendicitis surgery.

Surgeons cannot depend only on the ultrasonogram report for appendicitis surgery, they said, adding case history, clinical features and certain symptoms are sometimes more reliable.

They said a sonologist should never write 'acute appendicitis' in an ultrasonogram report especially in the case of a woman as the ovary lies almost in the same position.

But they said the patient would not have faced any risk even if the healthy appendix had been removed but surely would have suffered serious risks in case of removal of any other organ or parts of the intestine.

Contacted a junior consultant of the radiology and imaging department of the private hospital where Laxmi was operated on, said: "I am not the only one who confirmed the diagnosis. Errors may occur but very rarely."

Laxmi was pregnant with the foe-

tus not in the usual place of the uterus but in one of the two fallopian tubes, which left her in discomfort and the surgeons apparently removed the blood clotted around the fallopian tube.

The surgeon who led the team in the operating theatre, claimed: "Ultrasonogram is not always reliable and about five to ten percent of the appendicitis cases worldwide show errors as in the case of Laxmi."

He also said he did not think the sonologist made serious mistakes, adding: "He reported on the basis of the images he noticed. There was fluid as he mentioned in his report. I had only one option -- to cut open the abdomen and confirm it."

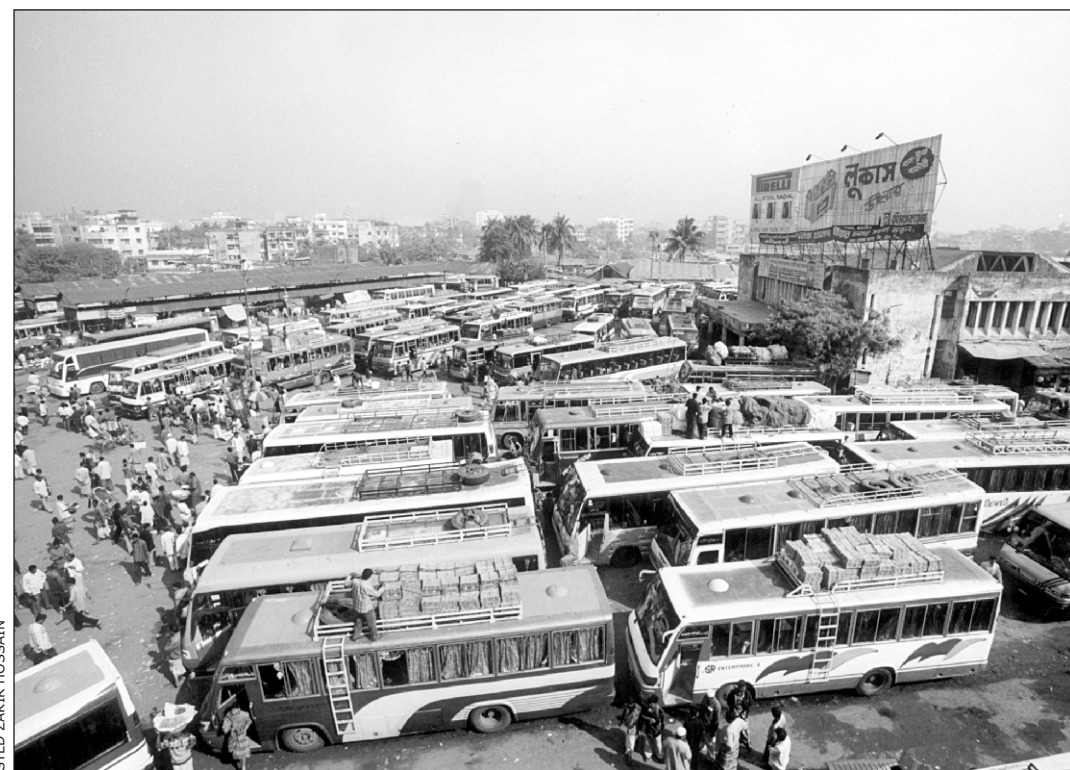
The surgeons at work needed two bags of blood for the patient, which was not ready. Blood was managed in a few hours, though -- but her attendant was not informed about it.



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Toll from two bus terminals

DCC cancels deal with private operator



Sayedabad bus terminal.

CITY CORRESPONDENT

An initiative of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) to improve passengers' service by private operators at Sayedabad and Mohakhali bus terminals fizzled out and extortionists are now taking tolls from buses.

The DCC cancelled its contract with Rora Enterprises, the private operator of Sayedabad and Mohakhali bus terminals, and is planning to take action against the firm, a DCC official said. He could not give details.

Contacted, Rora managing director Major (rtd) Akhteruzzaman last night said he was totally ignorant of the cause behind the cancellation of the contract. It was a unilateral decision, he added.

Earlier on Sunday, Rora banned its staffers from collecting tolls from buses using official identity cards and called on police to take action against the guilty.

In a statement, Akhteruzzaman said the unauthorised toll collection from the buses was denting its image and went against the contract with Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) that did not hand the maintenance responsibility over to the private operator yet.

"I have decided to cancel all previous identity cards as the allegation is against my organisation," Akhteruzzaman said.

But it was reported earlier that the DCC handed over the responsibility for maintenance of Sayedabad, Mohakhali and Gabtali bus terminals to private operators for better service to passengers.

Rora took charge of Sayedabad and Mohakhali terminals and Diba Enterprise was tasked with the management of Gabtali terminal in a contract signed on September 24 last year and the operators started collecting Tk 30 in toll from each bus from October 1.

Steps to study solid waste management plan for city

ABDUL KADER

With the slogan 'Clean Dhaka-Green Dhaka' the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has initiated preparation of the master plan on solid waste management.

The study costing Tk 13.30 crore would be completed in 14 months. It covers around 360 square kilometres under the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and new urban planning areas.

The study of urban, domestic, industrial and medical wastes will be conducted by 2015 to formulate planning of solid waste collection, transportation and final disposal, planning of institution building, financial management, public participation and planning of facility, operation and maintenance management of solid waste.

Besides the study will be in order to develop capacity of implementing agency regarding

solid waste management, consciousness of stakeholders by involvement and developing a partnership among the DCC, private or community and NGOs in Dhaka.

This was explained on Monday by Dr. Katsuhide Nagayama, leader of the study team at a meeting between JICA and the advisory committee formed for the study, held at the JICA office in Dhaka.

Dr. Mitsuo Yoshida, senior advisor, institute for International Cooperation of JICA, Kihachiro Urushibata and Dr. Akinori Satoh deputy leader each of the team, who will look over technical and social aspects respectively, Naoki Haran for organisation and institution, Akio Ishii for solid waste collection and transportation among others were present.

Among the advisory group members, Dr. Mizanur Rahman Shelly, JICA advisor, Prof. Matiur

Rahman and Ashrafur Alam Sarkar of Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DTCB) were present.

The advisors suggested the formulation of such a plan involving community including public representatives, social workers and organisations, which will ensure a sustainable and scientific management of solid wastes of the city, saying that the current managing of solid waste of the city is haphazard and all the solid waste being generated daily remain unutilised though 80 per cent of them are organic.

Everyday the city is generating about 5000 tons of solid waste. Only 42 per cent of them are collected by the DCC while the rest lay littered on the streets.

A counterpart unit comprising engineers and officials of the DCC will collaborate with the JICA study team to prepare the master plan.

useful telephone numbers

COURIER SERVICES

International
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666
Bangladesh Int'l Courier- 953636
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057
Enem Express- 9330699
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Modhuban Courier Service-

9550884
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169
Pacific Courier- 9568446
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249
Sky International service- 9660442
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155
Union Courier Service- 9341722
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd.- 8826429, 8810223

National
Asian courier Service Ltd.- 8313543
BAE- 9884851
Central Courier Service- 9881118
Confidence Courier Service Ltd.- 9567036
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9,
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222

Dolphin Courier- 9558802
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249
Sundaran Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751
World Runner Express Ltd. 9112068, Fax - 880-2-9112068

TIPS

Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm

LIBRARY & INFO

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers
Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

OUTING

Museum and Zoo
National Museum- 8619396-9
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Friday 3 pm - 8 pm, Thursday closed
Muktijuddha Jadughar- 9559091
Open: 10:30 am - 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed
Bangabandhu Smiti Jadughar- 8110046
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Wednesday closed
Ahsan Manzil
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed
Shishu Jadughar- 9666466
Open: 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday Closed

CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No.	Route	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulistan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6C	Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachattr
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtoli	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahal
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan