

Hospital in sorry state

Beds, medicine inadequate at Rangpur Medical College Hospital

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Medicare facilities at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) have declined to such a level that majority of patients leave hospital before complete recovery, patients and sources in the hospital said.

Corruption and malpractice by a section of doctors, nurses, third and fourth class employees and supply contractors have added to sufferings of the patients, they said.

Patients are being deprived of proper treatment due to alleged supply of spurious medicine, artificial crisis of medicine, lack of treatment facilities and neglect to duty by the doctors.

Inadequacy of medicine in the hospital is a common complaint of majority of patients. Doctors prescribe them to bring medicine from outside the hospital. This compels most poor patients to leave hospital without undergoing full treatment as they often fail to purchase medicine at a higher price, a doctor said on condition of anonymity.

The poor patients are often supplied with spurious, low-quality medicines brought at cheaper prices, he said. They also do not get hospital beds, some patients said.

About Tk 2 crore has been sanctioned for procurement of medicine and medical instruments in the current fiscal, hospital sources said, adding a section of doctors, nurses and third and fourth class employees are selling out those medicine and medical instruments in local markets.



Many patients are being treated on the floors of different wards at RMCH for lack of adequate number of beds.

Police and locals caught many of them red-handed on several occasions. At least 12 cases were lodged with Kotwali Police Station against the culprits.

About 70 per cent surgical patients here suffer from infection. A medical officer revealed that the gauze supplied to patients is not up to the mark. These low-quality products are brought from Bogra and Rangpur

at cheaper price, he said.

A source in the detective branch of police told The Daily Star, a number of local manufacturing companies having no drug registration are supplying their medicine to RMCH regularly.

About six months ago, the detective branch (DB) of police led by SI Ashok Singh unearthed a fake medicine manufacturing factory at

Hazipara under Sadar upazila.

When asked, director of the RMCH Shahajahan Bishwas told The Daily Star that the allegations regarding low-quality medicine at the hospital are not true.

He further said, "The hospital could not supply 100 per cent medicine to the patients. But it does not mean that all patients are not getting medicine."

Sonadanga AL leader injured in attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A leader of Sonadanga thana Awami League was severely injured in an attack by some unidentified criminals at 12 noon in a tea stall in Gobarchaka area in the city. T M Arif is undergoing treatment in Khulna General Hospital.

According to eye witnesses, the attackers were led by drug peddler Hannan of Gobarchaka under Sonadanga Police Station. The attackers' bid to kill him failed as he ran away and took shelter in a nearby house, eye witnesses said. Police later rescued him and sent him to hospital.

Police said that the attack is probably a sequel to intra-party rivalry as the victim was aspiring to become the next general secretary of Sonadanga thana unit of Awami League. The post is now being held temporarily by another leader Shajahan Parvez.

This post fell vacant after Manzur Morshed Labu was killed by outlaws also at Gobarchaka in bomb attack in February last year.

A case was recorded with Sonadanga thana naming two persons as accused.

Road accidents kill 2 girls

BSS, Rajshahi

A young girl and a baby were killed in separate road accidents at Digram village under Godagari upazila of the district on Sunday.

Police said, Shawkat Ara, 20, daughter of Abdul Mazid, died on the spot when an Amnura bound minibus ran over her while she was crossing road at 2-30 pm.

A baby, aged about three, daughter of Abdus Salam, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding vehicle while she was walking along with her father at 1.30 pm. She also died on the spot.

Strong local govt needed to ensure food security

WFP media seminar in Khulna told

BSS, Khulna

A strong and accountable local government is a must for an effective implementation of food-based development activities, speakers observed at a WFP media seminar here yesterday.

The seminar was held as part of WFP's ongoing efforts to improve collaboration with media in advocating for food security for the ultra-poor. Thirty local journalists from the region attended the seminar.

Md Saiful Islam, Additional Divisional Commissioner of Khulna inaugurated the seminar as chief guest.

In his opening remarks, Islam termed media as a vital actor in disseminating development messages. Appreciating the role played by WFP in the region, ADC said, "through VGD (Vulnerable Group Development) and Nutrition for

Education activities, WFP is contributing to minimise the vulnerability of the poor people and improve their quality of life, especially of women and children."

WFP is holding a series of media seminar to build partnership with the media for acting as advocates for the ultra-poor.

WFP Representative Douglas Casson Courts called for concerted efforts in promoting food security and reducing vulnerability of the ultra-poor. "Journalists are important actors in the development process and they should be involved in determining the development agenda," said Courts.

Gouranga Nandy, Staff Reporter of the Daily Janakantha presented the keynote paper on the role of media in promoting food security for the ultra-poor.

Participating journalists were briefed about WFP activities in the region and its programme imple-

mentation processes.

The participants representing local print and electronic media shared their perspectives, highlighted common challenges and emphasised the benefits of receiving more information from development agencies. They also visited WFP's VGD activities at Batiaghata upazila in Khulna where they interacted with the ultra-poor women beneficiaries and learned about the impact of such interventions.

WFP supports the government in implementing VGD programme, Bangladesh's largest food aid development programme that exclusively targets ultra-poor rural women countrywide.

Almost half the rural households in Bangladesh are food insecure. Forty-five per cent children under five are stunted, over 10 pc wasted and 30 pc of newborn babies are underweight, according to WFP.

COLLEGE STUDENT MURDER IN BARISAL 2 to die, 3 get life, another awarded 7-year RI

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Barisal Speedy Trial Tribunal (STT) court Saturday sentenced two persons to death, 3 others to life imprisonment and another to seven years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for hacking to death a college student.

Tribunal judge M A Matin handed down the verdict of the sensational murder case in absence of Chan and Khokan who were condemned to death and Alamgir who received life term for the murder at village Karnakati under Sadar upazila.

Two others, Yusuf and Zakir, also got life term while Mosharrar was sentenced to 7-year RI.

The court acquitted 10 accused Jalal, Suruj, Isahuq, Swapan, Liton, Nazir, Sarwar, Sabuj, Humamun and jbanesa, from the charges, as they were found not guilty.

Prosecution story says Chan and Khokan had land dispute with their cousin Selim Fowlader of Karnakati village under Barisal Sadar upazila.

On November 28, 2003, the accused swooped on the house of Selim and abducted Kamrul Ahsan, college student and his brother in law, who tried to resist the attackers.

Kamrul was brutally tortured by the accused abductors and finally hacked to death within an hour and his body was left along roadside. Selim lodged a case with Barisal

Kotwali police station against 16 accused on the same day.

Nurul Amin, sub-inspector of police, investigated the case and filed charge sheet on January 8, 2004 and the case was transferred to Barisal STT on August 8, 2004.

The trial of this sensational murder case was finished within 26 working days after examining arguments of the both sides and 26 witnesses.

Advocate Majibur Rahman Nantu, special public prosecutor for STT, pleaded for the state while Advocate Enayet Pir Khan, Mokhesur Rahman, Abdul Majid Munshi, and Giasuddin Kabul defended the accused.

Ex-Dinajpur MP Amzad Hossain passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Awami League president of Dinajpur district unit, former parliamentary member and a freedom fighter advocate Amzad Hossain breathed his last at Zia Hearth Foundation in Dinajpur yesterday morning.

Amzad was taken to hospital following a cardiac attack. He was 62.

He left behind 2 sons and 2 daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Four namaj-e-Janaja were held before he was buried in his family graveyard. He was given a guard of honor for being a freedom fighter.

Dinajpur Awami League unit sources said Amzad was elected twice as parliamentary member from Dinajpur in '73 and '86.

Political leaders, journalists and local elites expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed condolence to the bereaved family.

Satkhira Mohila AL calls to oust coalition govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Oust the failed Four-party Alliance government led by BNP and Jamaat for establishing a people's government through a credible election.

Mohila Awami League general secretary Fazilatunnesa Indra told this while addressing the triennial of the district Mohila Awami League here as chief guest yesterday.

She called upon the people to join the ongoing agitation launched by the opposition parties to dislodge the government through mass upsurge.

The conference was held at Satkhira poura auditorium with Begum Rifat Amin in the chair. Satkhira district Awami League President Engineer Sheikh Mujibur Rahman inaugurated the conference. It was addressed, among others, by Satkhira district AL general secretary Nazrul Islam, Mohila AL leaders Safia Khatun, Begum Nasima Montu, Shikha Chakrabarty and Safia Karim.

Man jailed for rape attempt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A young man was sentenced to seven years rigorous imprisonment (RI) on Sunday for attempt to rape a minor girl at a village under Palashbari upazila.

Judge A M Md Sayed pronounced the judgement under the Women and Child Repression Act.

The prosecution case says, in 1997 the 11-year-old girl of village Shidhan was dragged to nearby banana garden by Balal Hossain of same village when she came out of her hut in the early morning.

As Belal was trying to violet her she cried for help. On hearing the cry, locals came to her help but the accused managed to flee.

Brother of the girl filed a case against Belal with Palashbari police station. The Judge found the accused guilty of offence and awarded seven years RI and fined Tk 1,000, in default to suffer imprisonment for another three months.

actionaid bangladesh VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ActionAid International (AAI) is a unique partnership of people who are fighting for a better world - a world without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys their right to a life with dignity. It works in over 40 countries in Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe. Its mission is to "work with poor and excluded people to eradicate poverty and injustice". ActionAid started working in Bangladesh since 1983.

Food Security Increased through Rights Promotion and Sustainable livelihood Training (in short FOSHOL) is a 48-month project working for the improvement of food security and livelihoods of agriculture dependent small and marginal farmers. The project is being funded by the European Commission (EC), implemented by ActionAid, CARE, ITDNG and Proshika and coordinated by International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). To the part of ActionAid, following positions are available to deserving candidates for immediate appointment.

1. Coordinator-Farming Systems

Major responsibilities: The selected candidate will be responsible to oversee the implementation of project's technical component, provide supervision and guidance to a team of professionals of varied agricultural disciplines. Capacity building of the technical team to ensure appropriate technical support to partner NGOs as well as strengthening capacity of the implementing partner on project's technical component is one of the major thrust of this position.

Key Qualifications and competencies: Post graduation in Agricultural Science with at least 10 years of experience in agricultural extension services, 5 years of which at managerial level. Strong understanding on farming issues of the resource poor farmers and ability to explore opportunities to improve the farming options, blending technical issues with socio-economic and political issues to have sustainable food security solutions for the farmers. The incumbent should be well versed in principles and practices of Participatory Research, Extension and Learning approaches with good communication, presentation and reporting skills and be willing to work in hard-to-reach areas of the country.

2. Coordinator-Livelihoods

Major responsibilities: Livelihood coordinator will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of project's livelihood components and allied issues. S/he will have to provide supervision and guidance to a team of professionals of varied socio-political and economic schools—organization development, marketing, participation and empowerment, linkages, networking, rights & governance, advocacy etc. Capacity building of this professional team to ensure appropriate support to partners is the major thrust of this position.

Key Qualification and competencies: Post graduation in Agriculture/ Social Sciences with at least ten years of experience in the relevant field, 5 years of which should be at the supervisory level. Good understanding on socio-economic and political issues that hinder food security of the resource poor farmers and explore opportunities of the farmers to address those. Familiarity with market dynamics and ability to identify better marketing options, rights, advocacy and governance issues for the poor farmers and devise tools and methodology to facilitate practicing those options and realizing their rights, accessing controlling over the services and common natural resources is the indispensable quality for this position.

3. Associate Coordinator-Agriculture

4. Associate Coordinator-Aquaculture

5. Associate Coordinator-Animal Husbandry

Major responsibilities: Responsible for capacity building support to project staff on specific technical component-Agriculture/Aquaculture/Animal Husbandry of the project. Assessing training needs, designing appropriate training modules, arranging/imparting training in the field and ensuring a continued learning environment for the staff and farmers, are major thrust areas of these positions.

Key qualification and competencies: Post graduation in Agriculture/ Aquaculture/Animal Husbandry (or DVM) with at least 8 years of experience in the relevant field, 4 years of which should be at the supervisory level. Strong understanding on farming issues of the resource poor farmers and exploring opportunities to improve the farming options of the farmers. Should be a good facilitator with proficiency in training need assessment, designing training modules and imparting training to project implementation teams, well versed in Participatory Research, Extension and Learning Approaches.

6. Associate Coordinator-Organization Development and Marketing

Major Responsibilities: Responsibilities for capacity building support to the project staff to facilitate organization development and marketing activities of the farmers groups. Devise appropriate tools and methodologies to facilitating development of people's organizations. Identify interventions to be implemented by the people's organizations and design tools and mechanism for the staff to facilitate those interventions. Develop marketing strategy and identify appropriate marketing interventions to be implemented by the farmers. Assess training needs of the staff in these areas and provide appropriate formal and on-the-job training to project facilitation teams.

Key Qualification and competencies: Post Graduation in Public/Business Administration, Development Management or Anthropology with bright academic records and intense experience (at least 8 years on the job) of

Note: Salary is negotiable and commensurate to education and experience.

Please send your CV along with a cover letter outlining your suitability for the post applied, recent pp sized photograph, mentioning the post applied for in the envelop to: Human Resource Department PO Box # 6107 Gulshan post office, Dhaka 1212, by 19th of May 2005.

ONLY SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE INVITED FOR THE WRITTEN TEST AND INTERVIEW. ANY PERSONAL PERSUASION BY (OR ON BEHALF OF) THE CANDIDATE WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF THE SAME.

ActionAid is an equal opportunity employer; candidates from all races, religions, ethnicity etc. are encouraged to apply. The organization is gender sensitive with a supportive and enabling environment for women to work and grow. Women candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

BGMEA BTMC Bhaban, 7-9 Kawran bazaar, Dhaka NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER SEALED TENDERS containing "Technical Offer" and "Financial Offer" in 2 (two) separate envelopes are hereby invited by the undersigned from reputed manufacturer of Passenger Lifts or their authorized agents in Bangladesh for "Supply, Installation, Testing & commissioning of 3 (three) Nos. 1250 kg Passenger & 1 (one) No. 1250 Cargo Lift" for 15-storied BGMEA Complex of BANGLADESH GARMENT MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION (BGMEA) at Panthapath Link Road, DHAKA. The intending tenderers shall have to apply in their letter heads to the undersigned along with the following documents in support of their eligibility and obtain prior permission for the issuance of the Tender documents:- 1. Documentary evidence to prove that the tenderer has at least 5 (five) years experience in Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning and after-sales service and maintenance of the offered brand of lifts in Bangladesh. 2. Attested photocopies of valid Agency Certificate/Agreement from the respective manufacturers of Passenger Lifts. 3. Attested photocopies of valid ABC contractory & supervisory electrical license. 4. Attested photocopies of the valid Trade License, upto date Income Tax clearance certificate and VAT registration certificate. 5. Attested photocopies of satisfactory completion certificate(s) from the Employer(s) for supply, Installation, Testing of commissioning of 20 (twenty) Nos. 1250 Kg passenger and 5 (five) Nos. 1250kg Cargo Lift of USA/Germany/Italy/Japan/France/Switzerland/South Korea Origin in Bangladesh. The experience certificate shall be accompanied by the respective work orders. 6. Attested copies of documentary evidence to prove that the tenderer has at least 50 nos. lifts under maintenance in Bangladesh of the same brand and origin which the tenderer intends to offer for this tender. 7. Financial Solvency certificate from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh indicating OD limit from the applicant's Bankers. Tenderers without having the required eligibility as stated above need not apply for issuance of Tender Documents. Tender documents will only be issued to the permitted eligible tenderers. Tender Documents, Volume-I (Technical Offer) will be issued from the office of consultant on cash payment of Tk. 5,000.00 (Taka five thousand) only (non-refundable) per set and Tender Documents, Volume-II (Financial Offer) will be issued from the Accounts Department of BGMEA, Dhaka on cash payment of Tk. 5,000.00 (Taka five thousand) only (non-refundable) per set from 10-05-2005 to 17-05-2005 during office hours. The Tenderers shall have to submit an earnest money L.S. Tk. 5,00,000.00 (Taka five lac) only in favor of BGMEA Complex in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any schedule bank along with the Technical Offer. Tenders submitted without earnest Money shall be rejected outright. For any clarification regarding submission of Tender, The tenderers may contact the office of the Consultant, DECON-DUL-CFL Consortium at 86, Dhanmondi R/A, Road # 9A, Dhaka-1209. Phone:- 9123154 & 9130362. Tenders will be received in the office of the undersigned upto 12.00 hours on 28-05-2005 and only the Technical Offers will be opened at 12.15 hours on the same day in presence of tenderers who wish to be present. BGMEA reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. Secretary