

Patients' plea falls on deaf ears

3 doctors attend over 500 patients at CMCH emergency deptt a day

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Abdur Noor, a construction worker with serious injuries in his legs, was screaming in pain inside an auto-rickshaw in front of the emergency department of Chittagong Medical College

Hospital (CMCH) for 20 minutes. Mahbubul, who brought him to the hospital from Satkania some 35km off the city, looked so helpless since his repeated entreaties to get his fellow worker carried to a doctor's room fell on deaf ears

of the ward boys or other staffs. Two ward boys sitting on a bench and taking tea advised Mahbubul to wait until one of the six trollevs or three wheel chairs returned from different wards.

Finding no other options, Mahbubul took Noor on his lap with an exhausting effort and

headed inside. Noor developed for a bandage, which was not fractures in the legs when he

slipped from a rooftop during a construction work at Satkania. The fractures were detected in Xrav Noor got done from outside the hospital later. This is the picture of the emer-

gency department of CMCH, the lone government hospital for the people of greater Chittagong division, on Thursday.

Noor and his friend had more to see before they could reach the on-duty doctor at the emergency. Mahbubul had to rush for a

ticket laying Noor on the floor for making an entry when a brother intercepted them. At last they had a call from the

on-duty doctor who advised Noor for admission at the orthopedics department

available at the emergency.

When asked about the plight of Noor, Emergency Medical Officer (EMO) Dr Ajoy, also incharge of the department, said all kinds of patients turn up at the emergency for treatment. "We are here only to examine the state or sort of disease or problem the patients come up with and refer them to different wards accordingly, he

Emergency patients such as critically injured and poisoned or burnt ones are advised for admission while the general patients are sent to different outdoors, he said.

"But, we are to do something more such as primary or immediate treatment in several cases." the EMO said. But the patients said the eight-

Having no preparation for getting admitted, Noor requested room emergency department

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patient, said patients mostly suffer due to the cumbersome procedures one has to go through at the emergency department before treatment or admission to

the hospital. "The staffs hardly help the patients with information about the procedures. They rather behave very rudely with them, even with the serious ones sometimes." she said.

lacks in apparatus essential for diagnosis and the staffs often

Sharif, a third year student of

Chittagong Medical College, said

he had to suffer due to non-

availability of trolley when he

brought his uncle for treatment at

get ill treatment here by the staffs

wheelchairs are not sufficient for

the patients turn up at the depart-

ment everyday. Besides, all of

them are also not in a good

Tahmina Khatun, relative of a

Six trolleys and three wooden

the emergency a month ago. The poor patients very often

and officials, he said.

shape, said the patients.

misbehaved with them.

Saber, one of the 30 ward boys at the emergency department, said they frequently come across patients with grievous injuries.

"We are not moved so much as it should be as the unpleasant sights leave some bad impact on us and make us act a bit less politely," he said.

Kafil Uddin Chowdhury, an internee doctor, said the department should be equipped with machines required for immediate X-ray, ultrasonogram, identification of blood sugar and Electronic Cardiographs (ECG).

"The emergency department of such a large government hospital should have such facilities when even a modern ambulance has," he said.

Dr Ajoy said such facilities are a crying need for the department. He said with the existing facili-

es three doctors in three shifts

Paediatric surgery needs govt support in Bangladesh

Three faculties on paediatric surgery from Australia, United States and Spain talk to The Daily Star on the sidelines of an international conference in Chittagong



Prof JM Hutson

ABDULLAH - AL MAHMUD

With little support from government, Bangladesh could develop paediatric surgery further to provide treatment to children with congenital malformation of rare conditions, said world famous faculties on paedi-

atric surgery. Paediatric surgery, though in its early stages of development, is now progressing very well in Bangladesh, they added.

They were talking to The Daily Star during an international conference of Paediatric Surgeons in Saarc (Fapss) in the port city recently.

The government support could have brought the most advanced medicine and technology required for paediatric

Referring to the advanced surgery, they said. technology in the field, he said, Prof J M Hutson of Australia "Laparoscopy is a wonderful



Prof Steven Rothenberg

Hutson. Professor Jose Boix-Ochoa is the secretary of the World Federation of the Associations of Pediatric Surgeons and an

authority on Diaphragmatic Hernia and Gastro-esophageal quate number of textbooks," he Reflex (Dhgr). "Quality of pediatric surgeons

here is of very high standard. They are up-to-date despite many constraints," Prof Boix-Ochoa said.

About the constraints he said, "It's a problem of financial support. In our country we have other kind of technology. Government support, logically or financially, is available."

"Paediatric surgeons in Bangladesh are able if they have technology. You see, some kind of treatments have been developed in Bangladesh by Prof Tahmina Banu. It's novelty in the world. Now she needs

Prof Jose Boix-Ochoa

Bangladesh, especially for minimally invasive surgery, which require expensive equipment

"I think the prospects are good. The primary need is to have dedicated surgeons," he said. "And the surgeons here have the ability and deserve to bring new techniques," he said.

In this regard Prof Rothenberg said, "Their (Prof Dr Tahmina and her colleagues') interest and dedication to bring the most advanced technology and medicines to the children despite the difficulties they face inspired me to attend the confer-

ence in Bangladesh." "To deal with the constraints the aovernment should provide money for procuring necessary equipments and reach the benefits to the children," he said.

"Laparoscopic surgery allows us to perform many

morbidity. This results in quicker

recovery and much shorter

hospitalisation, which not only

benefits the child but the whole

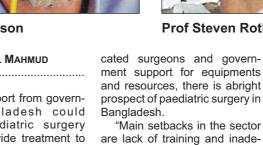
these techniques and lend my

experience," said Prof

"I am happy to help teach

family," he said

Rothenberg.



said.

Hutson.



(Top) The emergency department of Chittagong Medical College and Hospital, (bottom left) a patient walks to the emergency department with the help of a relative, (right) the patients wait for tickets at the counter.

put on sincere efforts to render medical service to over 500 patients at the department everydav

He, however, said the department has sufficient medicines, including anti-biotic and pain killers for instant treatment.

Prof Jose Boix-Ochoa of Spain and Prof Steven Rothenberg of the United States talked about different aspects of treatment, including the prospects of pediatric surgery in Bangladesh.

Prof Hutson is a director of the Department of General Surgery at the Royal Children's Hospitals in Australia with special skills in abnormalities of the pelvis such as anorectal anomalies, inter sex and urological problems.

Prof Hutson said with dedi-

new way to do surgery that enables children to recover quickly which saves money and time.

"Government support for

surgical training at home or

overseas training under schol-

arship would be an advantage.

Besides, specific government

grant for books in department

libraries could help over come

setbacks," said Professor

It is also essential to encour-

age relationship with foreign

experts so that they can

exchange technology and

expertise, he said.

"The initial equipment cost is great, but once the set is purchased it will save money. Even more importantly, it enables some operations to be done much better than an open operation," he said. "The equipment is delicate and needs trained nurses to deal with it and also special equipment to protect it during sterilization," said Prof

support of the government to get procedures with better visualitechnical utility," Prof Boixsation and understanding while Ochoa said. greatly decreasing the pain and

"Visit to Bangladesh helped me know how they deal with the problems, which are not common in other countries," he said.

Prof Steven Rothenberg is expertise in minimally invasive surgery (laparoscopic and thoracoscopic) in neuritis, infants and children.

Rothenberg said resources are the biggest setbacks for paediatric surgical treatment in

theweekthatwas

Workshop on forestry

A ten-day training workshop on "Forestry research methodology" began at the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science of Chittagong University (CU) on Tuesday.

Chittagong University Vice-Chancellor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest. CU Forestry Institute, Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI) and SDC jointly organised the

workshop Science Faculty Dean Prof NSM Yahiya and BFRI Director Dr Md

Ashraful Hoque were present as the special quests in the workshop with Forestry Institute Director Dr M Safiul Alam in the chair. Prof Nuruddin said regular affores-

tation and maintenance of the forestland will create huge employment opportunity side by side with benefiting the country economically. He said such a workshop to enhance the practical knowledge and skill and called upon the participants

for making proper application of the new theories and findings they will acquire from it for the welfare of the people and the country.

Killing of NGO worker condemned

Hill Women's Federation on Thursday condemned the killing of a tribal woman allegedly by settlers on December 5 in Khagrachhari.

> Justice Mohammad

Habibur Rahman, former chief advisor to a caretaker government, speaks as the chief guest at a function at the day-long Human **Rights Fair at the** Institution of

Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong Centre on Saturday. Academy for Educational **Development**

Federation President Sonali Chakma and General Secretary Antarika Chakma in a statement said a gang of four to five criminals brutally stabbed Josy Chakma, 28, a nongovernment organisation (NGO) worker to death on her way to office at the West Kathaltali area under Dighinala Police Station in Khagrachhari on Monday.

Josy was working for the micro credit project of Brac, a leading NGO, in the hill tracts and elsewhere.

The criminals also took away around Tk 28,300 from her. Josy, a pregnant woman, was rushed to the nearby hospital where the doctors declared her dead.

The leaders demanded immediate and exemplary punishment to the culprits responsible for the incident.

CU teachers, students stage hunger strike

Teachers and students of Chittagong University (CU) staged a four-hour hunger strike and formed a human chain in the port city on Wednesday with a view to creating mass awareness against the bomb blasts across the country.

Several hundred students and

teachers joined the half-an-hour human chain in front of the Chittagong Shopping Complex at Sholoshahar. They observed the token hunger

strike in the morning on the Sholoshahar Railway Station premises where several cartoons on the bomb attacks were displayed. Prof Anupam Sen, Prof Gazi Saleh

Uddin, Dr Moinul Islam and Ali Asgar Chowdhury joined the human chain.

Sanmar **Property Fair** begins

A nine-day "Sanmar Property Fair" began here in the port city on Thursday.

Sanmar Properties Limited, a leading real estate firm of the port city, organised the fair for the second time at the Sanmar Ocean City near GEC intersection.

Editor of The Daily Azadi MA Malek inaugurated the fair. Sanmar Chief Operating Officer Mofakkharul Islam Khasru and Manager (Marketing) Selim Bin Saleh were present.

Sanmar offers discount and gifts to the intending customers in the fair.

'Workshop on

human trafficking'

Speakers at a workshop on Wednesday called upon the people to be aware of the human trafficking from the country.

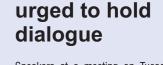
Antar, an NGO, organised the workshop on "Creating awareness against human trafficking with the participation of religious leaders" at Banskhali upazila hall room

Nur Mohammed Mazumder, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of the Banskhali

upazila, was present as the chief guest. A total of 27 members of the NGO participated in the workshop. District representative Towhidul Islam highlighted on the human trafficking while Mohammed Nurul Islam dealt with responsibility and precautionary measures in this

regard. The workshop recommended a plan for next six months to accelerate the movement for the cause.

Political parties



Speakers at a meeting on Tuesday underscored the need for dialogue among the political parties to address the present crises resulted from bomb attacks across the country.

They were addressing at the monthly meeting of Chittagong Unnayan Sangram Parishad at Bangabandhu Bhaban at Momin Road in the city.

A "Pradip Prajjwalan (candle lighting) programme was held in memory of those who died in accidents at the ship-breaking yards at Sitakunda. Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), a Chittagong-based non-government organisation, organised the programme at