

## 'Doctors should be punished for negligence of duty'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Speakers at a roundtable in Khulna city bitterly criticised the present state of affairs prevailing in public hospitals where patients do not get proper medicare services due to negligence of doctors.

They urged the caretaker government to take necessary steps for ensuring rights of health consumers and take drastic action against the doctors for neglecting medicare services during office hours.

Marie Stopes organised the roundtable on 'Health consumers' rights and our duty' at a city hotel in Khulna yesterday.

Md Imrul Hasan, manager, advocacy of Maria Stopes, presented a keynote paper in the roundtable, which was moderated by Dr Fazlul Karim, director of Health in Khulna division.

It was addressed among others by Superintendent of Khulna Medical College Hospital Dr Hame Jamal, former lawmaker of Awami League Advocate Enayet Ali, Civil Surgeon of Khulna Dr AK Abdus Samad Mian, Deputy Director of Family Planning Md Ziarul Islam, President of Khulna Press Club Makbul Hossain Mintu and Secretary of Khulna press club Md Shaheb Ali.

## Housewife donates Tk 5 lakh to AMCH

Housewife Hasina Abdullah of Dhaka donated Tk 5 lakh to Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH), says a press release.

She handed over a cheque for the amount to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, president of Dhaka Ahsania Mission at the Mission Bhaban at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

The donation has been made for dedicating a bed of the Hospital in the name of her late husband Murad Abdullah, who had cancer and met a premature death.

Rafiqul Alam extended his gratitude to the donor and hoped that following her other benevolent persons will also extend their hands of cooperation in this noble venture.

There is a provision of dedicating beds, wards and cabins of the Hospital in the name of near and dear ones. In the mean time a good number of people have availed this option.

However, there is still need for a huge amount of money nearing Tk 150 crore for completion of construction and making the Hospital fully functional.



PHOTO: STAR

With a bunch of flowers in his hand, a boy waits for customers at Shahbagh intersection in the city yesterday, the Valentine's Day. He sells flowers to passers-by and commuters to supplement his family's income.

## 'Mutual trust a must for democratic social order'

BSS, *Dhaka*

Prof M Asaduzzaman, chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, said mutual trust is needed for democratic social order.

He said this while addressing as the chief guest a reception accorded to three former students of Bangladesh Agricultural University by Veterinary Science Faculty in Mymensingh recently.

The reception was accorded to Prof Mosharraf Hossain Miah, vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Prof Motaher Hossain Mondol, vice-chancellor of Haji Danesh University of Science and Technology, Dinajpur and Prof Iqbal Hossain, vice-chancellor of Sylhet Agricultural University.

Prof M Akhter Hossain, dean of faculty of veterinary science, presided.

Prof Asaduzzaman stressed the need for honouring the worthy citizens and "We should promote this culture in society so that others get enthusiastic." This trend will enhance creativity, mutual trust and respect and social harmony, which are essential for building a democratic social order, he added.

## Shibir, BCL clash at Barisal Polytech Instt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

At least 13 activists were injured in clashes between Islami Chhatra Shibir and Bangladesh Chhatra League on Barisal Polytechnic Institute Campus yesterday.

Campus sources said Md Mahbub Hossain, former branch president, of ICS social welfare secretary of the students union of Barisal Polytechnic Institute, came to the campus to collect academic scripts at about 11:00am yesterday morning.

At that time BCL cadres Rintu, Biplob, Rafiq, Ranjit, Rubel, Mijan, Saimun, Nipu, Wahid and others led by Abdur Razzak, Polytechnic branch president of BCL, attacked Mahbub and snatched money, watch and documents from him.

On information, Shibir activists rushed to the principal of the institute and demanded punishment to the attackers.

BCL cadres again attacked Shibir activists and at least 13 including

## Shia leader shot dead in Pakistan

AFF, *Dera Ismail Khan*

Unidentified gunmen on a motorcycle shot dead a minority Shiite Muslim leader yesterday in north-west Pakistan, sparking sectarian tensions, police said.

Jawad Hussain, 45, was shot dead by two assailants on a main street in the remote tribal town of Dera Ismail Khan, senior police official Aslam Khattak told AFP.

## India, Pakistan talk border policing

AFF, *wagah*

Indian and Pakistani military commanders yesterday began thorny talks over militancy, drug trafficking and sporadic gunbattles along their border and ceasefire line in Kashmir, officials said.

Major General Javid Zia, chief of Pakistan's paramilitary frontier force, arrived in India's northern Punjab state for the four-day talks which analysts see as another step towards normalised ties.

"The talks will cover problems faced by our two forces during joint patrolling of the international border and along the Line of Control in disputed Kashmir," Zia said.

## 'Launch drive against illegal clinics, hospitals in Rajshahi'

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi Protection Movement Council demanded drives against illegal clinics, diagnostic centres and hospitals that have no valid license and are providing low quality health care services to the people.

The Council in a statement yesterday said that such hospitals are cheating common people since no actions have yet been taken against any of them.

More than 100 clinics and pathological centres in the city areas are operating their business without valid license from the government agencies.

Hundreds of low quality clinics were installed at different remote areas, upazila headquarters and villages, the statement added.

According to the sources, most of the clinics are mushroomed at city's Laxmipur, Kazihata, Gourhanga, Talaimari, Barnali, Kalabagan, Kantakhali, Naohata and Ghosepara areas.

Rajshahi Civil Surgeon office sources said 46 clinics and diagnostic centres of the city areas have

collected valid license while more than 90 such health centres have no license. The civil surgeon office, however, failed to comment on the number of illegal clinics in the outskirts of city, upazila and other remote areas of Rajshahi.

While talking to newsmen, Rajshahi Civil Surgeon Fazlul Haque said the clinic owners have become more conscious about collecting their license in the recent days. The authorities also took punitive measures against several clinics and cautioned to improve the quality of the hospitals, he added.

Sources said quality health care service is not available in most of the clinics where patients of rural areas generally flock through middlemen.

Dishonest clinic owners deployed a good number of middlemen, mostly rickshaw pullers, who manipulate the patients at different public places like bus terminals, railway stations and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) premises.

Such owners collect a huge amount of money in the name of conducting critical operations and other fees from the poor patients.

The incidents of killing patients in wrong treatment have increased at city clinics in the recent days.

The owners even change the name of the clinics after committing wrong treatment to avoid protests and legal actions.

According to the sources, after committing a wrong treatment at Jibon Clinic at Kazihata area, its owner changed its name into Shah Clinic.

On the same ground, Care Nursing Home, Modern Hospital, Motherland Hospital, Fatema Hospital, Bridge hospital, Mahanagar clinic, Doctor's Nursing Home, Janasheba clinic, Sheba Nursing home, Al Arafa clinic, Meherunnesa clinic, Bhai-Bon clinic and Janata clinic however altered their names in the recent past, the sources added.

While talking to newsmen Rajshahi Protection Movement Council President Jamat Khan said they have been carrying out movements demanding establishment of a fair health care system and removal of illegal clinics and hospitals in Rajshahi for several years.