

Ensure healthcare services for the poor

President urges physicians

BSS, Sylhet

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon physicians and investors not to make the medical services a profit-making business only, but also ensure healthcare services for the poor.

"You have to bring about positive changes in your mindset considering the greater interest and welfare of larger section of the people," he said while laying the foundation stone of the National Heart Foundation Hospital, Sylhet.

The president said healthcare facility is a basic expectation of a nation. But in many cases people are not getting the desired services from a number of public and private hospitals, he said.

The government hospitals lack doctors and nurses side by side with financial and infrastructure constraints despite increase of population and emergence of new

diseases, he said.

Expressing his satisfaction over huge private investment in the health sector, the president said business should not be the only consideration of such investments. Everyone concerned should make it sure that poor people get services from the private hospitals, he said.

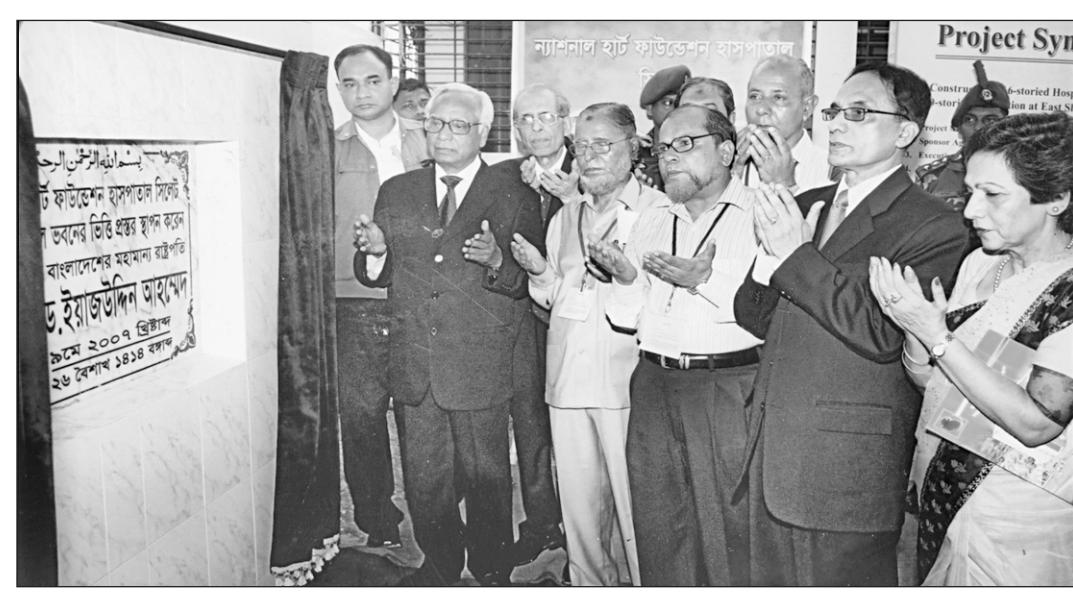
Health Adviser Maj Gen (retd) Dr ASM Matiur Rahman, Social Welfare Adviser Geeteera Safiya Chowdhury and Secretary General of National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh Brig Gen (retd) Dr Abdul Malik attended the function as special guests.

General Secretary of National Heart Foundation-Sylhet Dr M Aminur Rahman Laskar and President of its advisory committee Hafiz Majir Uddin Ahmed addressed on the occasion while President of National Heart Foundation-Sylhet Prof M Enayet Ullah chaired the programme.

Describing the heart disease as one of the main health problems in Bangladesh, the president said in the absence of effective and timely measures the disease might take a serious turn.

The president hailed the role of National Heart Foundation in cardiac treatment and hoped the new branch of the foundation in Sylhet would earn the trust of people by rendering modern treatment.

Project Sylhet



President Iajuddin Ahmed offers munajat after laying the foundation stone of National Heart Foundation Hospital in Sylhet yesterday.

Dhaka won't allow anti-Indian activities
Pranab says at parliament

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladesh has assured that its territory would not be allowed to be used for activities directed against India, Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said yesterday.

"Assurances have been given that Bangladesh territory will not be allowed to be used for activities inimical to India. We have emphasised to them that there is need for concrete and sustained action towards fulfilling this assurance," he said in parliament during question hour.

He also said some insurgent groups were indulging in anti-Indian activities and New Delhi had taken up the issue with Dhaka at the highest level.

Mukherjee said India had given a list of Indian insurgents and criminals to Bangladesh. "We hope the Bangladeshi government will take appropriate steps," he added.

He said the caretaker government in Bangladesh has been informed about the assurances given by the previous government.

Mukherjee also said, "Illegal infiltration is taking place. We have taken up the matter with the Bangladeshi government besides initiating measures, including strengthening the Border Security Force and construction of border fencing to curb illegal influx into the country."

One gets 31yrs' RI for trying to smuggle currencies

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to 31 years rigorous imprisonment for trying to smuggle foreign currencies worth Tk 2.2 crore on June 10 last year.

Judge Mohammad Aman Ullah of the Fourth Additional Sessions Judge's Court handed down the verdict in the presence of the accused, Nazrul Islam.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence had completed their arguments.

According to the prosecution, customs officials at the Zia International Airport arrested Nazrul Islam of Majidpur village under Daudkandi Police Station of Comilla district when he was about to fly to Singapore with a bag containing the foreign currencies at about 11:10pm on June 10 last year.

Censor certificate of 'Ziddi Driver' suspended

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Film Censor Board has suspended the censor certificate of Bangla film 'Ziddi Driver' for screening uncensored and objectionable scenes.

The film was seized by Thakurgaon district administration while it was being screened at Naz Cinema Hall in Sadar upazila, an official handout said yesterday.

US supports steps to hold polls in Bangladesh

Burns tells Farooq Sobhan

BSS, Washington

Visiting special envoy to the chief adviser of the caretaker government of Bangladesh Ambassador Farooq Sobhan met US under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns at his office in the State Department yesterday.

Farooq Sobhan apprised Burns of the present situation in Bangladesh and different steps undertaken by the government.

Nicholas Burns said US wishes continuation of democratic environment in Bangladesh. The US, he said, supports the government's steps to hold elections adding his country has been keenly watching the situation in Bangladesh.

Charge d'affaires of Bangladesh Mission in Washington Sheikh Mohammad Belal was also present.

On the US side, Assistant Secretary of State Krane and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John Gastric were present.

Farooq Sobhan also met Deputy Director of National Security Council of the White House JD Crouch at his office. He apprised Crouch of the context of the promulgation of emergency in Bangladesh. He also briefed him on various steps taken by the caretaker government to curb terrorism and eradicate corruption.

Crouch told Farooq Sobhan that the US was aware of the situation in Bangladesh. The US, he said, wants to see Bangladesh as a 'model of the Muslim world.'

He hoped that the present government would take steps to hold elections honouring people's opinion.

Later on the day Farooq Sobhan delivered a lecture organised by Hudson Institute where he drew a brief picture of Bangladesh's relations with other South Asian countries.

Staff Correspondent

Armed muggers snatched over Tk 2 lakh and two cell phone sets from a resident of West Agargaon in the capital yesterday when she and her nephew returning home after drawing the amount.

Sources said a gang of six way-laid Rabbi Akhter, wife of a Saudi expatriate Bangladeshi, and her nephew Mohammad Sumon in front of her residence around 12:30pm.

The victim suspects the muggers started to follow them right after they left Mirpur branch of Islami Bank from where she drew the money.

Suman said the muggers came in three motorbikes, stopped their rickshaw and snatched the amount and the phone sets.

Police could neither arrest anyone nor recovered the money until 6:30pm.

He hoped that the present government would take steps to hold elections honouring people's opinion.

Staff Correspondent

Tk 2 lakh snatched in city

Staff Correspondent

Armed muggers snatched over Tk 2 lakh and two cell phone sets from a resident of West Agargaon in the capital yesterday when she and her nephew returning home after drawing the amount.

Sources said a gang of six way-laid Rabbi Akhter, wife of a Saudi expatriate Bangladeshi, and her nephew Mohammad Sumon in front of her residence around 12:30pm.

The victim suspects the muggers started to follow them right after they left Mirpur branch of Islami Bank from where she drew the money.

Suman said the muggers came in three motorbikes, stopped their rickshaw and snatched the amount and the phone sets.

Police could neither arrest anyone nor recovered the money until 6:30pm.

He hoped that the present government would take steps to hold elections honouring people's opinion.

Staff Correspondent

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the southern part of the country and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country during the period, Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 22.4 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:32pm today and rises at 5:18am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.0	26.2	55	73
Chittagong	33.0	27.0	66	74
Rajshahi	34.5	24.3	75	86
Khulna	33.8	25.7	63	63
Barisal	33.2	25.0	92	74
Sylhet	35.0	24.0	63	64
Cox's Bazar	33.0	24.4	75	73

ACC probing graft charges against ex-whip Hasnat, wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A four-member anti-corruption taskforce reached Barisal and started investigating graft charges against Abul Hasnat Abdullah, former chief whip and cousin of Sheikh Hasina.

The taskforce led by Major Sabir included Rahela Begum, assistant director of central Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and two representatives from the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police. Local officials from the ACC and CID are also assisting the taskforce that arrived in Barisal on Sunday, the source said.

"We have to keep in mind that medical service is not merely a profession but the best way to serve humanity," he said, hoping that being imbued with the spirit, the doctors' community would continue to serve the people with devotion, sincerity and responsibility.

Describing the heart disease as one of the main health problems in Bangladesh, the president said in the absence of effective and timely measures the disease might take a serious turn.

The president hailed the role of National Heart Foundation in cardiac treatment and hoped the new branch of the foundation in Sylhet would earn the trust of people by rendering modern treatment.

Project Sylhet



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League leader Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir being taken to the Special Court set up at the MP Hostel at Shere-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday.

Power sector runs with wrong data and statistics

Says energy adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Worried at the mismanagement and inefficiency in the power sector, Power and Energy Adviser Tapan Chowdhury yesterday said the power sector is running with wrong data and statistics.

The taskforce is also investigating how Shahana Abdulla became exceptionally rich. During the term of Awami League government, it is alleged that she and Hasnat's brother Kazi Kamal made huge amount of money through arranging appointments, transfers, promotions, tenders and various types of development work for the government.

Till filing of this report, the team visited and took measurements of Hasnat's houses in Barisal and at Agorijhara. It also visited other assets owned by him - different landed properties, bank accounts and items kept in lockers at his residence.

The sources said the team collected documents from the land and income tax offices to verify land ownership and taxes paid by Hasnat and his family members.

At the Barisal Corporate Branch of Sonali Bank, the taskforce yesterday found Tk 44 lakh in fixed deposit under Hasnat's name. While checking his locker maintained with the same branch, the team recovered foreign currencies, check books from foreign banks, gold ornaments, valuable gift items and a number of documents.

The task force made a list of items recovered from the locker while Aman Serniabat, a cousin of Hasnat, was present as a witness, sources added.

The Power Adviser's harsh remarks came at a time when the country is experiencing a severe power crisis. The country faces about 1,500 MW of power shortage against the demand for about 5,000 MW.

An on-again off-again situation has become a common phenomenon in both rural and urban areas adding to the woes of the people during hot and humid weather.

Tapan Chowdhury, however, could not give any assurance whether the situation would improve in the near future.

He said the power ministry would take actions against those responsible for providing such wrong data and information.

Referring to his recent experience, the adviser said all the time the accurate information are either suppressed or disseminated improperly.

"Suppose, if you want daily generation statistics, they would always provide you with exaggerated figures... if the real generation is 3,500 MW, they would tell you 3,650 MW," Tapan said. "What's the benefit of providing these wrong information? It's not the real picture in the power sector is even worse."

The adviser said the government is considering preparing a seven-day

advanced load-shedding schedule to let the people know about the possible blackout.

He said the caretaker government is working to find out all possible options to have enough electricity through all possible ways, including importing from neighbouring countries like India and Myanmar.

Tapan said the government would initiate a move to import hydropower from Myanmar.

The Power Division will put forward a proposal to the Chief Advisor's Office to send PDB and

PGCB officials to Myanmar to assess the feasibility of the hydropower import.

Similarly, the government will pursue India to set up a nuclear power plant with its help to resolve the power crisis, he added.

Replying to a question on Barapukuria coal mine and power plant project, the adviser said the government's agreements with its Chinese contractors were not fair.

"But both the mine and power plant have to be kept functioning at this critical moment," he said.

Form anti-corruption bodies at local level

Says ACC chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday stressed the need to form anti-corruption committees with neutral persons at the local level.

He said the power ministry would take actions against those responsible for providing such wrong data and information.

Referring to his recent experience, the adviser said all the time the accurate information are either suppressed or disseminated improperly.

"Suppose, if you want daily generation statistics, they would always provide you with exaggerated figures... if the real generation is 3,500 MW, they would tell you 3,650 MW," Tapan said. "What's the benefit of providing these wrong information? It's not the real picture in the power sector is even worse."

The adviser said the government is considering preparing a seven-day

forge a social movement against corruption. "There might not be the opportunity to raise voice against corruption after two years," he added.

He also said local people can take a strong stand against corrupt people through non-violent means and can raise mass awareness about it.

Chairman Abdul Ghani Mia, the meeting was also addressed by SP Jamil Ahmed