

Patients suffer as docs go on strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

All healthcare services except for emergency cases came to a halt at Chittagong Maa Shishu O General Hospital in city's Agrabad area as the medical officers on contract at the hospital went on an indefinite strike yesterday.

The sudden strike caused immense sufferings to a large number of patients at the 250-bed hospital and many of them, admitted at different wards like gynaecology and paediatrics, were seen leaving the hospital.

All the 50 medical officers out of 80 doctors enforced the strike demanding regularisation of their jobs, implementation of complete service rule and reformation of the executive committee by including representatives of the doctors, staffs and nurses.

They staged a sit-in in front of the hospital gate yesterday morning.

Dr Parijat Palit, a medical officer, told The Daily Star that the hospital authorities recruited medical officers on a two-year contract but sometimes they renewed the contract only for another year. Once the extended contract expires, the doctors automatically lose their jobs.

"It is so unfortunate that after working for three years a medical officer lose his job without any valid reason," he said.

Earlier, in the month of June, the medical officers waged a movement to press home the aforesaid demands. Following this an agreement was reached by the doctors and the authorities where the latter agreed to consider the demands.

But Dr ASM Fazlul Karim, executive committee (EC) president of the hospital, disagreed and unilaterally cancelled the agreement.

He told journalists that their (medical officers) demand is irrational since they were recruited as per the service rule of the hospital.



Members of Buddhist community greet the visiting Sri Lankan delegation with flowers at the Chittagong Buddhist Monastery yesterday. (Story on Page 2)

Briton jailed

AFP, London

A British man who was found with blueprints for building a missile in his luggage as he passed through an airport was jailed for three-and-a-half years Tuesday.

Yassin Nassari, 28, was convicted at London's Central Criminal Court on Friday, more than a year after he and his Dutch wife Bouchra El Hor, 24, were detained at Luton Airport, north of London, on a flight from the Netherlands.

AL men asked to remain calm

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be 'misled' in the present situation and to remain calm and patient. They should not do anything according to their wishes, he cautioned.

Although the acting AL president called an informal meeting of the party presidium to discuss the course of action following Hasina's arrest, none but Motia Chowdhury among the presidium members, and some other party leaders attended it.

Zillur Rahman however said party leaders came to see him as he is sick. He could not call a meeting as indoor politics is banned.

At the briefing, he categorically termed the case against Hasina completely false, politically motivated and fabricated. Vowing to fight the case legally, he expressed his determination to win the legal battle.

They have already asked lawyers to examine different aspects of the charge brought against the party president, he mentioned.

He pointed out that some party leaders have been misled due to "excess love" for Hasina. "I will tell all those who have love for

Bangabandhu, the country, democracy, Awami League and Sheikh Hasina, please be patient and calm. You will have to remain united to wage movements in future," he said.

The veteran AL leader criticised the caretaker government for arresting Hasina suddenly on 'false accusations'. "It is highly condemnable and very sad that Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's daughter was arrested all of a sudden in a false case," he said

The government could have issued summons on Hasina. But without doing so, it arrested her on 'laughable, false and fabricated charges', said Zillur, who usually acts as party president in the absence of Hasina.

He further said the government thinks it can destroy the image of Hasina by arresting her. "But could the government realise it (arrest) has given a boost to her image? It has not defamed her, rather she has been glorified."

The people burst into tears at the arrest of Hasina and offered special prayers for her release but made adverse comments on the government for its action.

Asked about the next course of party action, he said a decision will be taken shortly after discussions with party leaders.

Zillur urged the government to consider the status of the AL president in jail as per the VVIP jail code.

"She [Hasina] is not an ordinary person. She is the daughter of the Father of the Nation and a former prime minister, she waged movements against military rulers, fought for democracy, upheld it and became party (AL) president while in exile," Zillur pointed out.

The AL leader mentioned that Hasina supported the present government from its very first day and said if voted to power, her party would ratify all their good work.

The press briefing was also attended by AL leaders Latif Siddique, Mirza Abdul Jalil, Maj Gen (retd) Shubid Ali Bhuiyan, Col (retd) Shawkat Ali, Dr Dipu Moni, Dr Hasan Mahmud, BM Mozammel Haque, Advocate Abdul Matin, Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Khairuzzaman Liton, and Meher Afroz Chumki.



Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama speaks at a meeting jointly organised by Sri Lankan High Commission and Sri Lanka-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are Mir Nasir Hossain, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Md Shahadat Hossain, Bangladeshi high commissioner to Sri Lanka, and V Krishnamoorthy, Sri Lankan high commissioner to Bangladesh.

Confectionery fined in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court in the port city yesterday fined a leading confectionery Tk 1 lakh for using substandard ghee and butter oil in its products.

It also arrested a reputed cook and fined him Tk 50000 for prescribing adulterated and substandard ghee and butter oil while making dishes at festivals for commissions.

According to sources, the mobile court in a drive at Nasirabad seized huge quantity of substandard ghee and butter oil from the unit no 2 of Fulkoli Food Products and fined it Tk 1 lakh for using them in its products.

It also ordered the confectionary to use standard ghee and butter oil and develop a pollution-free environment inside the firm.

The court directed the Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI) not to renew the license of Fulkoli until the confection-

UNILEVER PRODUCTS

Momo to exchange views with consumers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Lux Channel i superstar Momo will visit door to door to exchange views with the consumers in Barisal about the quality of the products of Unilever Bangladesh Limited.

Kamrul Ahsan, senior events manager of the Asiatic Events Marketing Limited, organiser of the programme revealed this to local journalists at a city restaurant yesterday afternoon.

The four-day programme will run till Sunday with a break on Friday.

ery follows the Pure Food Act.

The same court in another drive at King of Chittagong, a posh community centre in the port city, held Haji Anowar Shahi Cook and fined him Tk 50000 for compelling people to buy adulterated and substandard ghee while making dishes at different festivals for commissions and to get undue favour from the concerned producers.