

Burn patients groan on DMCH floor

MAHBUB ZANNAT

When 16-month-old Sabir jumped into his mother's lap, he could not realise what was going to happen the next moment, how much pain and sufferings were waiting for him.

His entire innocent face, hands and parts of legs were burnt with hot oil as his mother was busy in making cakes in a fryer at that time.

"He tried to jump into my lap and within a second he slipped down on the pan of hot oil," said the mother of little Sabir who could hardly utter the word 'mum' and 'baba', and who was groaning with pain in the hospital bed.

Hailed from Madaripur, the boy was brought to the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) after five hours of his burn injuries.

Like Sabir, around 40 children between 0-15 years were admitted to the unit and most of them were the victims of flame injury.

"Almost 70 percent of child patients admitted to burn unit are the victims of burn injury just for carelessness of elder family members. If the parents were alert, they could avoid the acci-

dents," said Project Director of Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of DMCH Dr Samanta Lal Sen.

Around 52 percent of burn injuries that take place in this country is caused by flame. Electrocution causes

26 percent, scald 14 percent and chemicals cause 6 percent of total burn injuries, he added.

"Massive awareness is important to control flame burns as we have seen that the number of acid burn cases has reduced significantly due

to increased awareness," said Dr Sen.

According to a record of the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit, a total of 1341 patients visited the out patient department (OPD) from November 5 to 22. Of them 490 patients were aged



PHOTO: STAR

Children with burn injuries are under treatment on the floor of overcrowded Burn Unit at DMCH.

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People pay last respects to Mahbub ul Alam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from all walks of life paid their last respects to language movement veteran and poet Mahbub ul Alam Chowdhury at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

Mahbub ul Alam, who wrote the first poem on Amar Ekushey 'Kandite Asini, Fashir Dabi Niye Eshechhi', passed away on Sunday at the age of 82.

His body was kept at the Shaheed Minar at 11:00am. Later, the body was taken to Bangla Academy.

Various organisations, including Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Left Democratic Alliance, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Bangabandhu Sangskrity Jote, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree, Workers Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Gonoshishi Sangstha, placed wreaths on his coffin at the Shaheed Minar.

The language movement veteran was buried at Banani graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza at the Dhaka University Mosque after Zohr prayers.

In a condolence message, CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said the contribution of Mahbub ul Alam Chowdhury would inspire the younger generation to combat fanaticism and communism in the country.

"At the same time counselling for parents is also very important. If there are counselling corners in all the medical college and hospitals, parents could be more aware in this regard.

Dr Hannan said posters, leaflets, radio programmes and TV shows can play important role in this regard.

Dr Hannan said parents and medical professionals should know that first 48 hours is very crucial for the treatment of burn injuries and it increases the survival rate of the patients if proper burn management is possible within this period.

However, as per the special instruction of the chief adviser a training programme for medical officers and nursing staffs at district and upazila levels began from July 17 this year. The training conducted in association with the World Health Organisation would make the medical professionals more adept in burn management.

"Medical professionals outside the capital should be trained up in managing burn injuries. It is not possible for 100-bed burn unit to treat around 1.50 lakh burn patients annually though we have initiated the emergency ward and providing service round the clock," said Dr Sen.

He said the burn unit of DMCH is now overcrowded and sometimes patients are forced to lie in the corridor.

Burn unit should be set up in every medical college and hospital, he said, adding that a 50-bed burn unit is going to be established at Chittagong Medical College and Hospital that would be able to treat a large number of patients.



People from all walks of life pay their last respects to language movement veteran and poet Mahbub ul Alam Chowdhury at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

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