

'One doc for every 2000 people'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country has a staggering shortage of over 60,000 doctors, 2.80 lakh nurses and around 5 lakh health technologists, a study conducted by Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) revealed yesterday.

This was revealed at a press briefing on the eve of launching a study report titled 'Health Workforce in Bangladesh: Who Constitute the Healthcare System?'

The study was conducted by Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) of the James P Grant School of Public Health at Brac University. The study report will be launched at Sasakawa auditorium of ICDDR,B on Saturday. There are five doctors and two

nurses for every 10,000 people in the country, revealed the report, adding that in terms of doctor-nurse ratio, there are 2.5 physicians per nurse, whereas there should be three nurses for each doctor.

James P Grant School of Public Health organised the press briefing at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city.

Dean of James P Grant School of Public Health Prof A Mushtaq R Chowdhury presented a summary of the report.

Public Health Sector Specialist of health and family welfare ministry Dr AM Zakir Hossain, RIM International Chief Executive Officer Dr Ahmed Al-Kabir and Halida Hanum Akhter of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) also took part.

The speakers said according to the study, the unqualified healthcare providers manage patients mostly with drugs and advices.

The quality of care is often compromised further by prescribing unnecessary and expensive drugs to the poor and by switching to different drugs in the hope of curing diseases, they said drawing an example of the study of Chakaria upazila where it is found that only 18 percent of the drugs prescribed were appropriate for the cases.

The examination of the providers' use of drugs for pneumonia, fever, cold and diarrhoea revealed that 75 percent drugs were inappropriate, while 7 percent were harmful for the patients, they added.

CONTEMPT RULE Court exempts 13 journalists from personal appearance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday exempted 13 journalists of the weekly Shirsho Kagoj from personal appearance in the court, who face contempt of court charges.

An HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Abu Tariq also appointed five legal experts as amicus curiae (friend of the court) for legal interpretations in this case.

The amici curiae are Barrister M Amir-Ul-Islam, Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq, Barrister Shafique Ahmed, Barrister Ajmalul Hossain and Dr Shahdeen Malik.

The court also fixed June 16 as the date for the next hearing of the contempt rule issued against the journalists.

On January 7, the weekly published a report headlined "A High Court judge whitens black money".

Following this report, an HC bench on January 10 issued a suo moto contempt rule against 18 journalists, including Editor Ekramul Huq and reporter Nasrin Akhter, and asked them to appear in person before the court during the hearing.

The court also asked them to reveal the source of information.

Later, the chief justice constituted a new HC bench comprising Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Abu Tariq to hear the case.

On June 5, the bench exempted Ekramul Huq from personal appearance in the court following a prayer.

The bench yesterday exempted the 13 journalists from personal appearance following their prayer.

Advocate Manzill Murshid, counsel for the journalists, said four other journalists are now abroad.



KFC restaurant launched three new dishes -- Tuna Corn Salad, Green Salad and Chicken Rice Meal -- yesterday. Akku Chowdhury, executive director of Transcom Foods Ltd., KFC team members and guests pose for photo at the launching ceremony at the restaurant at Gulshan in the city.

Non-govt teachers demand DA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas at a press conference at its central office in the city yesterday announced agitation programmes demanding 50 percent dearness allowance.

National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) declared the programmes that include submitting memorandum to the chief adviser through upazila nirbahi officers (UNO) on June 15 and deputy commissioners on June 18, human chain at all districts on June 22, discussion with lawyers, journalists, engineers and other professionals from June 23 to 28 and token hunger strike on June 24.

NFTE Chief Co-ordinator Prof Quazi Faruque Ahmed, conveners M Azizul Islam, Prof Asadul Haq, Bilkis Jaman, Prof M Ali Chowdhury and Khan Mosharef Hossain were present at the press conference.

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