

POLICE HOSPITAL MODERNISATION PROJECT

'Transfer staffs to revenue sector to improve healthcare service'

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Healthcare services are being hampered in the country's seven police hospitals, that are supposed to take care of 1.35 lakh police personnel, owing to lack of initiative for transferring the posts and manpower recruited under the police hospital modernisation project to revenue sector.

The uncertainty of jobs under the project has brought down the number of health professionals of these hospitals to 380 from 458.

While visiting the Central Police Hospital at Rajbari in the city, it was found that there has been no pathologist since last two months though a large number of patients throng the hospital everyday.

"In January 2006, two pathologists joined the hospital on deputation. But they left the hospital as soon as they managed better jobs elsewhere," said an official of the hospital, adding that the hospital is now run by semi-skilled technologists.

Even there is no casualty ward which is a must for the people of a hazardous profession like the police.

The hospital also does not have any trauma centre or any intensive care unit while it lacks postoperative care unit, cardiology and urology wards.

In July 1997, initiatives were taken to improve the situation of the police hospitals, and accordingly Modernisation of Police Hospitals Project was taken up.

Under the project, Rajbari Central Police Hospital was upgraded to 250-bed hospital from 75 beds.

Similarly Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisional hospitals including Sarda Police Academy Hospital were also upgraded to 75 beds from 30.

Though it was mentioned in the project proposal that on its completion the entire manpower would be made permanent and they would get their salary from the revenue budget.

But no significant steps were taken since the completion of the project in June 30, 2005.

Following a report published in The Daily Star on March 23, the staffs of seven police hospitals, who had been suffering badly due to non-receipt of their salary for long seven months, have received the same.

But the issue of transferring the staffs is still hanging.

Dr Khandaker ATM Farhad Hossain, the project director and superintendent of police (hospitals), said the transferring of the posts and manpower to revenue sector is very important as 77 per cent of hospital staffs are recruited under the project, and many of them have already left the job due to uncertainty.

Only 23 per cent staffs, who are on deputation from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, belong to revenue sector.

"The hospitals possess only one-fourth of the required health

professionals that points to the grave condition of healthcare services for police personnel who require more attention and service to raise their efficiency," he added.

The Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs gave a favourable opinion on March 19 regarding the transfer of the staffs to revenue sector, he added.

Though Adviser for Home Affairs Major Gen (retd) M A Matin at a meeting on May 27 directed to form a committee with the joint secretary of (Operation and Management) the establishment ministry to take a decision within a week, a month has passed since then but no step was taken regarding the matter.

"It is the high time to transfer the staffs of the hospitals recruited under the project to revenue sector if we really want our police personnel to contribute more to the country by providing them with better healthcare facilities," said the experts.



President Iajuddin Ahmed returns to Bangabhaban yesterday after receiving treatment at the Combined Military Hospital in the city.

President back to Bangabhaban

UNB, Dhaka

President Prof Iajuddin Ahmed returned to Bangabhaban yesterday after receiving treatment at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in the capital.

Iajuddin got admitted to the CMH on June 23 with high viral fever. The president also approved a number of important state files during his stay at the hospital.

He thanked the medical board and others including the on-duty doctors and nurses for providing him with medicare services. He expressed gratitude to the countrymen.

The president also expressed his gratefulness to Almighty Allah for his early recovery.

ASP Mahiuddin suspended on charges of stealing mobile

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry yesterday suspended Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Mahiuddin Faruqi on charges of stealing a mobile phone set from a Thai national at Zia International Airport (ZIA) on Friday, sources said.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Naim Ahmed told The Daily Star that the ministry suspended the ASP on the basis of preliminary investigation report.

"The ministry also directed the police headquarters to launch a thorough investigation and submit a report on the basis of which departmental action would be taken against him," the DMP commissioners said.

Uttara Zone Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khondoker Rafiqul Islam was given the charge to conduct the investigation.

DC Khondoker Rafiqul Islam said, "I have already started the investigating and as part of the probe, we have collected the video footage from the customs at the airport."

Following the allegation of Thai national Piath Sarapok, customs officials frisked the ASP and found the phone set in his pocket on Friday.

Meanwhile, Sub-Inspector (SI) Shawkat Alam of Mirpur Police Station was suspended yesterday on charges of harassing an innocent people by arresting him.

Mirpur police said SI Shawkat arrested a man from Kalyanpur on June 24 due to his personal enmity with the man.

The deputy commissioner (DC) of Mirpur zone suspended the sub-inspector after he came to know about the incident.

Seminar on supply chain management

The School of Business of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organised a seminar on 'Overview on supply chain management' on Saturday, says a press release.

Prof Imran Rahman, director of School of Business, gave the welcome speech at the seminar.

Shehab Sarwardi, head of Supply Chain Project, ACI Bangladesh and Fahim Adnan Khan, senior procurement executive, Bangalink, spoke at the seminar.

The speakers laid importance on traditional approach of supply chain management at the seminar. They also spoke on the future perspective of supply chain management.

They emphasised on practical knowledge of supply chain management to get better knowledge rather than theoretical study.

Community-based solid waste management launched

BSS, Dhaka

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has introduced the community-based waste management to its ward no. 69 aiming at engaging community groups in managing solid waste.

The initiatives were taken under the DCC's project titled 'Strengthening of Solid Waste Management (SSWM)' of Dhaka city, which is being implemented from last year with the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), said a press release yesterday.

Representatives of the community of the ward organised a discussion on Saturday at Majed Sarder Community Centre to launch the project at their ward.

Chief Waste Management Officer of the DCC MR Chowdhury, deputy resident representative of JICA Bangladesh Bushimata, commissioner of ward no. 69 M Mohon, JICA expert on solid waste management Mahmoud Riad, DCC officials and more than 300 community representatives attended the meeting.



Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed presides over a meeting of the council of advisers at his office in the city yesterday.

'Reconsider decision on MPO facilities for non-govt teachers, staffs'

DU CORRESPONDENT

National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) yesterday urged the government to reconsider the decision of postponing MPO facilities to teachers and employees of non-governmental schools, colleges, madrasas and technical educational institutes.

In a statement, the front leaders also urged the government to provide a three-year time limit like previous regulations to the institutions to improve the result of the students.

They demanded to form a neutral committee to identify the reasons behind the poor results at the government and the non-governmental institutes and find out the way of avoiding such result.

The front leaders also said only teachers are not responsible for such poor results and forcing teachers to work without payment would not bring any solution of the problems.

They observed that the government should take reasonable decision considering realities.

Chief coordinator of the front Principal Kazi Faruq Ahmed, Convener Mohammad Azizul Islam, Principal Md Shahjahan, Prof Asaduzzaman, Principal Md Abdur Rashid and Bilkis Jaman are among other who sent the statement.

7 trafficked Bangladeshi teenage girls return home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday returned seven Bangladeshi teenage girls, who were trafficked to India, to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday.

Police said the traffickers promised them of good jobs and took them across the border.

After being arrested by Indian police, they served 15 months in Indian jails.

Sanglap, a Kolkata-based NGO, brought the girls to their shelter home and informed Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity, who together with the NGO took necessary steps to bring the trafficked girls home.

Migratory birds responsible for bird flu: Study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Migratory birds are mainly responsible for the outbreak of avian influenza (AI) or bird flu in the country, according to a study report.

The report said that migratory birds might be responsible for initial introduction of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI), Bangladesh Agriculture University, Chittagong Veterinary University, Department of Livestock Service and Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) jointly conducted the study from February to June this year.

The study involved phylogenetic, epidemiological and socio-economic analysis.

The research findings were presented at a seminar at BLRI in Savar. Former vice chancellor of Bangladesh Agriculture University Prof Dr MU Ahmed Chowdhury was present as the chief guest and BLRI Director General Dr Jahangir Alam presided over the seminar.

Dr Jahangir Alam said that from the epidemiological study, it might be predicted that after the introduction of HPAI in Bangladesh the

virus spread to waterfowl and initially the native chicken and ducks might have been infected after coming into contact with the migratory birds.

Then the virus would have spread to commercial farms through poultry workers, poultry feed and medicine suppliers, feed and egg carriers and egg trays.

Socio-economic analysis shows that the poultry industry of Bangladesh faced a financial loss in 2008 due to the second wave of bird flu attack, which was estimated at Tk 3,858.31 crore. The affected farms lost their business and many of them were reluctant to go back to the production system.

The study recommended promulgating an ordinance to control movement of migratory birds throughout the country, except in selected locations or sanctuaries.

Early detection of HPAI virus, efficient surveillance and strict maintenance of bio-safety measures should also be ensured, it added.

At the same time, it is important to share information and undertake studies on HPAI bilaterally and regionally to minimise the risk of sustained endemic of AI in poultry in the region.

Dhaka College students attack journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of students at Dhaka College yesterday attacked some journalists and damaged their vehicles in protest against the injuries to one of the fellow students who was hit by a microbus in front of the college on Saturday.

They also damaged the furniture of the auditorium of the college in presence of the police.

Witnesses said the students brought out a procession and also staged a demonstration on the college campus demanding steps to set up speed breakers on the road in front of the college and protesting against the road accident inuring a first year student.

According to witnesses, the journalists of Bangladesh Television, RITV and Channel-i came under the attack and their vehicles were damaged when they went to cover a seminar on 'Budget' at the college auditorium.



New chief nat'l commissioner of Scouts

BSS, Dhaka

M Abul Kalam Azad yesterday formally took over the charge of chief national commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts.

The outgoing chief national commissioner, M Fazlur Rahman, handed over the charge at a function held at the Bangladesh Scouts headquarters.

Newly elected vice-president of Bangladesh Scouts S M Zahurul Islam presided over the function, says a press release.

Earlier, President Iajuddin Ahmed awarded the certificate of chief national commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts to M Abul Kalam Azad.

Besides, the 37th national council of Bangladesh Scouts at Mouchak in Gazipur on Saturday elected Education Secretary M Momtazul Islam as its president and M Abdul Quyum Thakur as treasurer, the press release added.

Ensure access to land, forest resources for women, indigenous people

Advisers say at workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury and Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser Raja Devasish Roy at a workshop yesterday called for ensuring access to land, water and forest resources for the poor, women and indigenous people.

Raja Devasish Roy stressed the need for amending the 1927 Forest Act and called for bringing reforms in the court system so that poor and indigenous people get their access to justice.

The advisers were speaking at the South Asian workshop styled 'Access to land water and forest resources for the poor, women and indigenous peoples' organised by Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), a right-based NGO, at WCA auditorium at Mohammadpur in the city.

Denmark Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Jan Moller Hansen, ALRD Executive Committee Chairperson Khushi Kabir and ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda also spoke at the inaugural session of the two-day workshop.

Delegates from India, Pakistan, Nepal and host Bangladesh are taking part in the workshop.

Rasheda K Chowdhury said more right-based approach is needed in the policy to ensure using land and forest resources by the indigenous people of the country who were left from the mainstream of development.

"We have many legal frameworks of rights in papers, but how far these frameworks allow people to establish their rights -- that's the question," she added.

Rasheda K Chowdhury further said "But all things considered, it's the political will of any particular

country whether we really like to establish the rights of the people and their access to land, water and forest resources."

"Khas land should be provided among indigenous people," Raja Devasish Roy said, adding that a government circular has been issued already in this regard.

Stressing the need for bringing reforms in the court system, he said, Poor and disadvantaged people do not have resources to hire a lawyer and get justice in the ordinary court system.

Jan Moller Hansen said the government of Bangladesh has expressed its commitment to indigenous people's issues in the PRSP.

He further said the very modest speed of implementation of the agreed policy recommendations, including implementation of the CHI peace accord, is however a matter of concern.



Gono Unnayan Granthagar Chairperson Mohiuddin Ahmed speaks at a seminar on climate change at WVA auditorium in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 5)

Four killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed and 30 others injured in separate road accidents in Magura and Chandpur in last two days.

Our Magura correspondent reports: Three people were killed and 30 others injured in separate road accidents in Magura yesterday.

The dead were identified as Nasir, 27, of Nirala area in Khulna city and Belal, 35, a bus helper and Nurun Begum, 55.

Police and witnesses said a Dhaka-bound passenger bus skidded off into a roadside pond at Jagla area on Magura-Jessore road early yesterday leaving Nasir and Belal dead.

The seriously injured were admitted to Magura sadar hospital. Meanwhile, in a separate accident Nurun Begum was killed when a speeding bus knock her down while standing beside the road at Goalbari area on Magura-Shatrujitpur road yesterday.

A correspondent from Chandpur adds: A madrasa girl was killed in a road accident at Chandpur stadium road on Saturday.

The victim was identified as Tanjina Aktar, 14, a student of Siddiquya Madrasa and daughter of Khorsheed Alam of Shokdi Pachgaon village under Sadar

upazila. Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a speeding truck knocked their rickshaw from behind.

Tanjina was rushed to sadar hospital where the on-duty doctor declared her dead.

Angry mob stopped the truck and handed over the truck driver Delwar Hossain, 25, to police.

DAG Haider Ali resigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Syed Haider Ali resigned yesterday on personal grounds.

"It is no longer possible for me to perform my duties as deputy attorney general due to personal reasons. So, I submitted my resignation letter to the president through the attorney general's office today," he told The Daily Star.

Earlier, Hassan Foiz Siddiqui resigned from the office of the Additional Attorney General on June 5 and Md Anwarul Azim Khair Manna from the office of DAG on June 1 citing personal grounds.

But sources said the law officers resigned in protest against some provisions in the Government Attorney Service Ordinance 2008.

DHAKA TODAY

BGS seminar

Bangladesh Geographical Society (BGS) organises a seminar on 'Geographic perspective on sustainable Bangladesh'. Venue: Dhaka University Senate Bhavan. Time: 9:30am.

Seminar

Legal Education and Training Institute, Bangladesh Bar Council in association with UNHCR organises a seminar on 'International convention on refugee laws: Bangladesh perspective'. Venue: Bar Council conference room. Time: 4:30pm.

Certificate giving ceremony

The certificate giving ceremony of the training course on oceanography and its principles and applications will be held. Venue: Atomic Energy Centre, Ramna. Time: 11:00am.

Workshop

Bangladesh National Lawyers Association organises a dissemination workshop on 'Eve teasing: The social menace'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Memorial lecture

Prof Kabir Chowdhury will deliver the first Misbahuddin Khan Memorial Lecture. Venue: WVA auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.

Rotary Eskaton Dhaka

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Eskaton Dhaka will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:45pm.



Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Sylhet and Barisal divisions and at a few places over Khulna division in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said, predicting slight fall in day temperature over the country.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 23.5 degrees at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm and rises at 5:15am tomorrow.

The 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	31.3	25.0	93	89
Chittagong	27.6	24.8	97	95
Rajshahi	30.6	26.3	90	97
Khulna	31.5	26.5	95	81
Barisal	30.0	26.0	94	92
Sylhet	31.3	24.9	97	93
Cox's Bazar	27.0	24.8	99	99