

## City hospitals

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Shahnut Akhter, a garments worker from Savar, said that Sishu Hospital staff had asked her to get her son admitted to a paying bed as all other beds were already taken.

"They asked me to bring Tk 5,000. Where am I to get that?" she wailed.

Many people at the outdoor department of the hospital had to return without getting any treatment. From an average number of 350-400 every day, the number of patients has shot up to around 600 now.

The paediatrics unit at the DMCH outpatient department is receiving around 400 patients each day, more than double its usual, more than half of the patients are suffering from such seasonal fevers and cold-related problems.

Anwara Begum from Munshirhat in Kamrangirchar had been waiting at DMCH with her one and half-year-old daughter since 9:00am. She had not got a serial to see a doctor even at 1:15pm.

DMCH sources said most of its patients come from Kamrangirchar, Hazaribagh and Lalbagh areas.

The number of patients at the outpatient department of Suhrawardy hospital has gone up to

1,400 a day from 900 before.

"Each of the 10 doctors at the outdoor is attending to over 150 patients between 8:00am to 2:30pm," Prof Khadiza Begum, director of the hospital, told The Daily Star.

Doctors suggest taking Paracetamol for low temperature and body aches, and Paracetamol Suppositories to bring down high fever.

"Bed rest and adequate fluid as warm water, lemon water, juices and soups help in such cases," Dr Monir said. He also suggested taking juice of Tulsi leaf.

Toddlers should be breastfed as usual. When children sweat from fevers parents should let the sweat dry.

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## Thrice mugged

**FROM PAGE 16**  
11:00pm when they use motor-cycle, cars or taxis and CNG-run three-wheelers for the crimes.

The list of muggers and their possible hideouts, he said adding that the DMP would issue an order which would require taxi-cab and three-wheeler drivers to put their photo and identity documents on display at a place where passengers could easily view them.

The matters as to whether the High Court can direct the president or the government to appoint judges and whether complying with the chief justice's recommendations in appointing judges are mandatory for the government or the president should be settled in the Appellate Division.

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"A long time was wasted in disposing of the writ petitions in the High Court and the 10 judges of the High Court were deprived due to that delay. The appeals were filed against the High Court judgment in order to delay further the reappointments of the deprived judges," he said.

Upon the two writ petitions, a three-member special bench of the HC on July 17 declared illegal and unconstitutional the non-confirmation by the BNP-led government of the services of 10 additional HC judges appointed during the rule of the Awami League despite the chief justice's positive recommendations.

The HC bench comprised of justices Mohammad Abdur Rashid, SK Sinha and Nazmun Ara Sultana also directed the government to reappoint the 10 judges with seniority within one month.

On July 24, the government filed two leaves to appeal with the SC to vacate the HC verdict.

Nineteen HC judges including justices Syed Mohammad Dastagir Husain, Mir Hasmat Ali, Abdul Awal, Sharif Uddin Chaklader, Md Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan, Syed Abul Mahmud Huq, Salma Masud Chowdhury, AFM Abdur Rahman, Farid Ahmed, Md Abu Tariq, Muhammad Abdul Hafiz and Syed Rezaat Ahmed filed an application with the SC on July 27 against the HC judgment.

Dr Kamal Hossain, who moved

for the writ petitioners, said the government should comply with the recommendations of the chief justice in appointing judges in the higher judiciary to keep the judges united.

Barrister M Amir-ul Islam argued that the government filed appeals with the SC against the HC judgment but it had not replied to the HC rules during the proceedings of the writ petitions.

"Specific directions from the Appellate Division are needed to settle the disputes over the issue of superseding while appointing judges," he said, praying to the apex court to stay the operation of the HC judgment.

Referring to the absence of rules for the president's consulting with the chief justice for appointing judges in the current constitution, Advocate TH Khan, counsel for the 19 HC judges, said, "If the 10 judges are reappointed with seniority, my clients will be superseded."

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## Reappointment

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## Govt okays

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overseeing urban development, has long lamented the absence of potent legal instruments to pursue complaints against property developers.

At a discussion on the draft ordinance on June 26, the real estate developers opposed the provision for jail terms in the event of contract violation.

According to the draft, the developers will be subject to two years in jail or a fine of Tk 5 lakh if they fail to start or finish construction in accordance with agreements with the clients.

They will face up to three years in jail or a fine of Tk 10 lakh for construction without approval from the authorities concerned.

The new law will make it mandatory for the real estate companies to register with a designated government agency. A fine would apply in case of failure.

Property developers will also be fined for failing to inform its clients beforehand about mortgage on any complete or under-construction land, apartment or space.

Besides, there will be penalties for not using agreed materials in construction and suspending a project without consulting clients.

The ordinance will be in force together with the Building Construction Act, Bangladesh National Building Code, Private Residential Land Development Guidelines and other public land laws.

Meanwhile, the cabinet also endorsed the proposed Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) counter-part pact to be signed during the upcoming summit in Colombo.

Titled 'The Saarc Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters', the treaty would enable the member states to help each other in prevention and investigation of crimes through exchange of necessary legal documents and expertise.

The Law Commission is a research-oriented institution, but the research work is being hampered due to inadequate workforce and poor logistics, he observed.

Asked about this, Sanjay said he had slapped her Monday night for stealing Tk 400 from his house.

"I slapped her, she fell down and banged her head against the wall. So she was bleeding from the head," he said.

Sub-inspector Bashir Ahmed Badal of Dhanmondi Police Station who is investigation officer of the case said, "We have arrested Sanjay Bhuiyan, who along with his wife tortured the girl. We shall also arrest his wife."

Dr Bilkis Begum of DMCH One Stop Crisis Centre, where Rezia is under treatment, said her body bears marks of beating with trousers belt.

Due to problems in one of the two generators, the aircraft could not fly and problems with the BIA authorities in passenger embarkation caused more delays. The Boeing 737 (flight BEA-203) developed the issue on its way to Male from Colombo Monday.

Best Air Chairman M Haider Uzzaman and a number of invited journalists from Dhaka were among other passengers on board.

The aircraft left Male for Colombo without fixing the problem and with around 50 people on board.

Best Air chairman and his family members stayed in Male even though they were supposed to return to Colombo.

Reaching BIA at 4:30pm (Sri Lankan Standard Time) Monday, the aircraft remained there for 16 hours while the generator problem was fixed and the passenger embarkation issue with BIA authorities were resolved. It left Colombo around 10:00am (Sri Lankan Standard Time) yesterday.

Asked about the matter, a Best Air spokesperson told The Daily Star that he is not aware of the incident concerning the lone aircraft of the airlines.

The passengers were given hotel accommodation in Colombo.

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## Police rescue

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"I begged them to let me go, I begged for mercy. I even begged the clients to save my life, but no one helped me," a sobbing Parul said as she recalled her ordeal.

Police has arrested a middle aged woman, Shilpi, and her husband Ali Azam alias Rama alias Engineer Masud from the apartment.

They also arrested Lokman, who used to work as a broker to bring in customers, and a housemaid. The other girl rescued from the flat had been brought in from Magura only a day ago.

Shilpi admitted that she carried out the illegal trade from the flat. She said her husband identified himself as an engineer when he rented the flat at Tk 20,000 per month.

Astonishingly, Shilpi had two teenage daughters living in the same flat, who are students of Vigarunisa school in the city.

A visibly frightened Parul yesterday struggled with her emotions, as she talked to the press about the inhuman ordeal she has been subjected to in the very heart of the bustling capital.

She said that she was abducted at the age of twelve from in front of her house in Khulna.

"My younger brother and I were playing outside our house. A microbus suddenly pulled in front of us. A man got out of it and put a handkerchief over my mouth and everything blacked out," she said.

When she came to, Parul found herself confined in an apparently isolated house near a river in Bagerhat. She remembers very vague details of her confinement there, for about two years. All she can recall is that her abductors used sedative injections on her.

She said she cannot recall any other details.

About two years ago, some people brought her to Dhaka in a microbus and handed her over to Shilpi. Since then Shilpi used Parul as a sex worker for clients brought

into the house.

The teenager said Shilpi told her that the society would not accept her back after what things she had been doing, so it was no use running away.

Though the 16-year-old girl disclosed what she had been forced to do, the other girl rescued from the same apartment said she had come willingly to the place.

Parul also revealed that over the past two years that she has been here, a good number of girls had been brought into the house for prostitution. They were possibly sold out to other gangs, she said.

Parul, whose father is a carpenter, is now in police custody. She said all she wanted to do was return home to her family.

Whether they can take her back or not, remains another story.

## SQ Chy

**FROM PAGE 16**  
used to carry out the blasts that left 24 AL leaders and workers