

CMCH IN SORRY STATE

Gloomy picture of mismanagement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CG

Patients coming for treatments at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), the lone tertiary hospital for around four crore people in the region, suffer a lot every day due to its organisational irregularities, mismanagement and acute lack of manpower.

The hospital with only 500-bed capacity of manpower and equipment is now providing service for more than 2500 patients every day.

A report card prepared by Sachetan Nogorik Committee (Sanak) Chittagong unit with the help of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) revealed this at a roundtable here yesterday.

Titled 'Health service at Chittagong Medical College Hospital and problems: Way to overcome', the roundtable was organised by Sanak at the conference room of Chittagong Press Club with its Convener advocate Akhter Kabir Chowdhury in the chair.

Sanak Adviser Begum Mushtary Shafi, members Prof Muhammad Sikander Khan, former public prosecutor advocate Salauddin Haider Siddique, Jesmin Sultana Paru, Chittagong Press Club Vice President Asif Siraj,

Dr Sushanta Barua and TIB Senior Research Officer Wahidul Alam participated in the discussion.

Assistant Programme Officer of TIB Subinoy Dattalda a research team to conduct the three-month research and prepared the report through questionnaire, case study, interviews of 514 patients, intern doctors, nurses and 4th class employees and medical representatives in the outdoors and different wards, said the organisers.

The report said around 23 percent patients have to wait for around one hour to get their treatments at the emergency department of CMCH every day, while 65.74 percent patients do not get any cooperation there without giving money to the ward boys.

Around 53 percent patients alleged that they had to pay additional money against Tk 16.50 for getting admission to different wards, it added.

During the research, the team observed that 34.61 percent doctors were absent in different outdoors before 9:30am, while 42.31 percent left the outdoors after 1:30pm, though the outdoor service remains open from 8:00am to 2:30pm.

CMCH authorities charge every patient Tk six for the outdoor service against the fixed rate of Tk 5.50 and the team could not find any information about usage of the extra money.

revealed the report. It said around 45 percent indoor patients have to stay on various floors for three days or more before getting beds, while 11 percent patients allegedly pay bribe to the ward boys forgetting beds.

The report said doctors send around 33 percent patients to different diagnostic centres outside the hospital for doing pathological tests. Around 37 percent of the 468 medical equipment in the hospital remained out of service for long.

Most of the patients alleged that doctors in the hospital don't see them with care and many misbehave with them if asked anything. Around 98 percent patients alleged that there is no supply of pure drinking water for them, while 96 percent patients alleged about dirty sanitation system.

The report presented 32 recommendations, including strict monitoring system over presence and service of the doctors, nurses and other staff, fixing a noticeboard with the list of service charge, available doctors and medicines before every ward and outdoor, regular cleaning of toilets, ensuring supply of water for drinking and other usage.

Speakers at the roundtable urged the government to take necessary steps to increase manpower in the hospital for ensuring better health service.

'Withdraw WB from climate change strategy, action plan'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSR), an alliance of more than 150 national and international development organisations, at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday urged the government to withdraw the World Bank (WB) from the climate change strategy and action plan, and related fund management responsibilities.

CSR Chairperson Shirin Akter, Member Secretary Ziaul Haque Mukta, scientist Dr Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, former economic minister to Geneva AMM Badrul Hasan, FBCCI Adviser Manzur Ahmed, DCCI Research Officer Ferdous Ara Begum and Abu Syed Khan also spoke at the press conference.

The experts also stressed the need to raise social awareness and provide social and administrative supports for the victims in order to put an end to repression on women.

Manusher Jonno Foundation in association with the Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee of Bangladesh Bar Council organised the seminar on 'Contribution and the role of the judiciary in preventing violence against women' at the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) auditorium, with Bar Council Vice Chairman Abdul Baset Majumder in the chair.

The speakers called on the civil society members, human rights activists and professional organisations to come forward to ensure equal rights of women and protect their dignity.

Speaking as the chief guest, Justice Md Tafazzal Islam said the contribution of women to family as well as society was not evaluated properly in most cases and that most women cannot take part in decision-making since they do not earn money for the family members.

No country or society can move forward by leaving women, who account for half of the population, behind, he said.

Justice Nazmun Ara Sultan said most perpetrators of violence are going unpunished as domestic violence is not considered crimes and most such incidents remain

Restoration of Zia's mural demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Mukti Joddha Dalin a statement yesterday demanded restoration of the mural of late President Ziaur Rahman at the lounge of Shah Amanat International Airport in the port city, says a press release.

Condemning the government for removing the mural, they said people would not forgive the grand alliance government for its misdeeds.

They threatened to stage a street agitation if the government fails to install the mural of Zia immediately.

Sheikh thanked the civil society members for their support and cooperation in the welfare-oriented activities of her government.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and Deputy Leader of the House Sajeda Chowdhury were present.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was launched at Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday to promote young individuals at university level.

Shumon Kumar Saha, national director of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, introduced the award to the audience at a ceremony.

JU Vice Chancellor Dr Sharif Enamul Kabir was present at the ceremony as the chief guest while Pro VC Dr Forhad Hossain and Pro VC Dr Muniruzzaman, and trustees of the award were the special guests.

Prince Filip, the Duke of Edinburgh, introduced the award to promote personalities of young individuals in the society.

Experimentally under the leadership of two teachers of Geography and Environment of the university, 16 students of the subject started the programme. Under the programme, everyone has to do something for his physical, social or cultural development.

VC Dr Sharif Enamul Kabir said our education focuses mostly on textual study, but this kind of encouragement will help them improve themselves as a perfect man. He also assured that all kind of assistance would be provided to run the programme at the university.



PHOTO: STAR
Justice Md Tafazzal Islam speaks at a seminar on 'Contribution and the role of the judiciary in preventing violence against women' at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium yesterday.

UNTOWARD INCIDENTS

'Form crisis management team to protect lives, properties'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday stressed the need to form a crisis management team to prevent loss of lives and properties in any untoward incidents such as mutiny at the BDR headquarters.

The BDR mutiny and carnage has put independence and sovereignty of the country at stake, they observed.

The Bangladesh Defence Journal, a monthly periodical, organised the discussion titled 'There is no alternative to national unity for the protection of independence' at the National Press Club. Retired armed forces officials took part in the discussion.

Maj Gen (retd) Md Anwar Hossain, former director general of BDR, called on the government to hold open trial for the perpetrators of carnage inside the BDR headquarters.

He also suggested the government reorganise the border force and rename BDR the Bangladesh National Guard.

"Such incidents may take place again. So, we must form a crisis management team to take quick action in a bid to minimise the loss of lives and



PHOTO: STAR
Abu Rushd speaks at a discussion at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Maj Gen (retd) Ruhul Alam Chowdhury and on his left are Maj Gen (retd) Moinul Hussain Chowdhury and Maj Gen (retd) Md Anwar Hossain.

properties," said Maj Gen (retd) Ruhul Alam Chowdhury, former adviser to the caretaker government.

"There is no doubt that the carnage on February 25 has put independence at risk," said Maj Gen (retd) Moinul Hussain Chowdhury, another former adviser to the caretaker government.

He urged the government to ensure fair and impartial trial of the culprits.

Maj Gen (retd) MA Halim, former DG of DGFI, Maj Gen (retd) Abdul Matin, former DG, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), Brig (retd) Shafayet, Commodore (retd) M Khurshed Alam, an expert on maritime affairs, also spoke.

Start process of trying war criminals

Nirmul Committee memo to prime minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekatorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee in a memorandum to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged her to start the process of trying war criminals quickly in a special tribunal.

In the memorandum, the committee, a forum for secular Bangladesh and trial of war criminals of 1971, also demanded arrests of the godfathers of militant fundamentalists and reinstatement of the basic principles of the 1972 constitution.

A five-member delegation of the forum led by National Prof Kabir Chowdhury met the premier at her official residence Jamuna on Friday and submitted the memorandum, according to a press release.

The forum leaders thanked Hasina for aptly ending to the BDR rebellion, rescue of the hostages and abort the conspiracy of civil war, adding that the barbaric killings of 55 army officers during the BDR mutiny at Pilkhana on February 25 resemble the massacre of Al Badrin in 1971.

They said the planners of the mutiny wanted to put the army and BDR men face to face and create a civil warlike situation in the country. If they succeeded, several thousand citizens, including other alive army officials at Pilkhana, members of their families and civilians, would have been killed.

The leaders further said that if there was a clash between army and BDR, it would not have remained confined to Pilkhana. It would have spread throughout the country and the state security would have been jeopardised.

The prime minister's strategic announcement of general amnesty was aimed at rescuing the hostages and created a background for talks for the arms surrender of the mutineers, they added.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:08pm today and rises at 6:07am tomorrow.

Highest temperature 35.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundu and lowest 13.3 degrees Celsius at Chaudanga.

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	34.9	20.6	51	21
Chittagong	34.4	20.5	56	60
Rajshahi	33.7	14.9	54	44
Khulna	33.5	16.2	70	57
Barisal	33.6	16.1	57	52
Sylhet	34.9	19.6	42	38
Cox's Bazar	32.5	22.0	57	60

City/Town

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Humidity in percentage

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Min

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34.9

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