

## CMCH IN SORRY STATE

## Gloomy picture of mismanagement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

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 Nagorik 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 Datta led 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 for getting 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.

## 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 (ret'd) 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 Rusud speaks at a discussion at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Maj Gen (ret'd) Ruhul Alam Chowdhury and on his left are Maj Gen (ret'd) Moinul Hussain Choudhury and Maj Gen (ret'd) Md Anwar Hossain.

properties," said Maj Gen (ret'd) 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 (ret'd) Moinul Hussain Choudhury, another former adviser to the caretaker government.

"Allowing foreigners to interfere in our internal affairs also puts independence at risk," he said, adding that it is the foreign powers who provoked immediate past president Iajuddin Ahmed to declare emergency in the wake of 1/11.

He also called on all quarters

to settle the BDR issues soon.

Maj Gen (ret'd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, chairman of Bangladesh Kalyan Party, said the carnage inside BDR headquarters is a direct attack on our independence and sovereignty.

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

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

## 'Withdraw WB from climate change strategy, action plan'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL), 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.

CSRL Chairperson Shirin Akter, Member Secretary Ziaul Hoque 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 speakers also called for the need to formulate a National Board on Climate Change with participation of experts, different organisations working on the issue, development agencies and local people affected by climate change.

## Restoration of Zia's mural demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha 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.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

A JU CORRESPONDENT

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 Munirujjaman, and trustees of the award were the special guests.

Prince Philip, 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.

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ON RISE

## Raise awareness, provide support for victims

## Legal experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Violence against women is increasing day by day even after laws are being made stricter to check such incidents, legal experts said at a seminar yesterday.

They also identified some factors responsible for the increase in violence against women. The factors are lack of social awareness, non-enforcement of laws, reluctance of the police to register cases, faulty investigations and the victims keeping mum about torture.

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 Sultana said most perpetrators of violence are going unpunished as domestic violence is not considered crimes and most such incidents remain

unreported.

In most cases, the victims do not dare to go to the police station or to court to file complaint against the culprits, she said, adding that even the police do not take effective steps to arrest the criminals.

She also stressed the need to enforce the law properly, provide training for prosecutors and bring changes to the mindset of judges in order to ensure justice for the victims.

Justice AK Badrul Huq suggested that women judges and police officers should be assigned to conduct the trial of and investigations into rapes and cases that the trials should be held in camera.

Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam called for an end to harassment of the victims in the name of keeping them in safe custody.

Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud said women are also being oppressed mentally, socially and politically.

The legal experts also discussed a book containing 138 landmark judgements in cases concerning violence against women in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Manusher Jonno Foundation published the book.

These judgments can play a vital role in preventing violence against women, the experts said.

Justice Md Gholam Rabbani, Justice Sikder Maqbul Huq, Advocate Z Khan Panna, chairman of Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee of Bangladesh Bar Council, SCBA Secretary Nurul Islam Sujan MP and its vice president MM Shafiqul Islam Babul, Advocate Salma Ali, Advocate Fawzia Karim Eiroze and Rina Roy of Manusher Jonno Foundation also spoke.

Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation Shaheen Anam delivered the welcome address.

## Many relatives still wait to meet BDR jawans

STAFF CORRESPONDENTS

Family members of 14 more BDR personnel were allowed yesterday to meet the jawans staying inside the headquarters at Pilkhana, while several hundred others were eagerly waiting for their turn.

Several relatives of ailing border guards, who were staying at the BDR hospital, alleged that they could not know about the fates of the jawans after the concerned authorities shifted them to other places on Thursday.

Though around 7,000 jawans are staying at the headquarters, relatives of only 66 jawans got the chance so far after the government on March 11 declared that families of the jawans staying at Pilkhana would be allowed to meet them.

Following the decision, a total of 253 tokens were distributed among the relatives gathering at the headquarters gate on that day, though several hundreds present there did not get the tokens.

No tokens were issued after March 11 despite every day several hundred token seekers crowded the gates.

During a visit to BDR gates, it was found that relatives with food and fruits were waiting for their relatives before the gates.

Army personnel at the BDR

gate told the reporter yesterday that they sent applications of relatives from serial No. 86 to 125 out of total 253 tokens distributed on March 11.

They further said that from today, they will issue tokens to the relatives but how many tokens will be issued could not be known.

Nurul Islam, brother of ailing jawan Md Sajahan, over a cellphone on Thursday said his younger brother had informed him that the patients at the BDR hospital would be shifted to other hospitals.

Since then, he could not reach his brother's phone, Nurul said, adding that he looked for his brother at different hospitals, including Dhaka Medical College Hospital, but he did not find him.

Worried Nurul said his brother was referred to the BDR hospital about a week before the mutiny from Battalion-17 in Cox's Bazar.

Kohinur Begum, wife of BDR jawan Md Younus Ali, was found waiting with a five-year-old son in her lap and nine-year-old daughter in her hand.

Kohinur said she comes every day and stays until 8:00pm since March 11, but she neither got a token or any assurance to meet her husband who was the only earning person in her family.



PHOTO: ANA

Hope Foundation accords a reception to the founder of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) Valerie Taylor at a restaurant in Florida on March 12.

## 120 shops gutted, 42 hurt in Bhola fire

UNB, Bhola

At least 120 shops and an unspecified number of houses were gutted and 42 people suffered burn injuries in two separate fire incidents in Sadar and Tajumuddin upazilas early yesterday.

Witnesses said a fire swept through Elisha Junction Bazar in the Sadar upazila, burning down about 20 shops.

Locals said the fire originated from a candle of a shop at about 12:30 am and soon roared through the bazar.

On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the flame with the help of local people after two hours of hectic efforts.

Two people were injured while

putting out the fire.

Shop owners claimed that the extent of damage could go up to Tk one crore.

In another incident, around 100 shops and a number of dwelling houses were burnt into ashes in a fierce fire at Char Zahir Uddin Selim Bazar in Tajumuddin upazila.

As the flame leapt up, local people rushed in to put out the blaze.

The fire gutted most shops of the bazar and the houses adjacent to it. About 40 people got hurt while trying to douse the fire.

Firefighters could not reach the bazar in time as it was located on a char (shoal) in the middle of the Meghna river.

Locals said the extent of losses might be about Tk two crore.

## 'Ensure rights of women'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad called for accountable parliament and good governance to ensure rights of the women.

At the closing ceremony of the two-day internal annual planning and evaluation meeting at Biam auditorium yesterday the parishad also pledged to prevent fundamentalism and anti-liberation forces.

They vowed to build a society based on mutual understanding between all religions. They also called for prevention of violence against women and girl children.

The parishad urged political parties to implement Election Commission's suggestion regarding nomination of women in election.

They also demanded withdrawal of Bangladesh government's reservations to article 2 and article 16 (1) (c) of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women.

## Vigarunnisa Noon Science Festival prize giving ceremony held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prize giving ceremony of the 'Pran Frooto Vigarunnisa Noon 13th Science Festival' of took place at the auditorium of the institute yesterday.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique attended the programme as the chief guest while Prof Dr Mohammad Kaykobad as special guest. Rokeya Aktar Begum, principal of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College, presided over the ceremony.

Prof Arefin said we should be careful so that technology does not stray out of its tracks and we should utilise it for betterment of people.

In the project display competition, first three places in physical science (senior), were taken by Kazi Ridita Mahtaba (smart heater), Ifrat Ridwan (simple LDR emulator) and Mastura Safayet (air conditioning).

In biology and environmental planning (senior), first three places were taken by Mehnaaz Tabassum (replacement of defected genes with the help of gene therapy), Sangeeta Bhattacharjee (environment at its best) and Nishat Salsabil (floating kitchen garden).

In IT (senior), the first three places were taken by Mahnuma Mahfuz Estee (vision 2021 digital Bangladesh), Khondoker Faria Alam (factory automation system with RFID) and Nazneen Nawal Bipasha (digital Bangladesh).

In psychology (senior), the first three places were taken by Nakia Bari (dyslexia a psychological disorder), Marlin Sultana (autism) and Faiza Monzor (meditation).

In physical science (junior 1), the first three places were taken by Sadia Islam (mobile battery), Syeda Amina Abedin Badia (producing loom from banana leaf) and Jannatul Ferdous (air condition without power supply).

In physical science (junior 2), the first three places were taken by Anika Ibtat Shama (producing electricity with the by-product gas from brick kilns), Farzana Sarkar (producing electricity from air) and Noshin Nehal (easy way to pump water without motor).

In biology and environmental planning (junior 2), the first three places were taken by Tahsin Tarannum (pipeline fish breeding process), Zaria Akter (toxic pesticide tree save food technology) and Subah Salsabil (preserving tomatoes without cold storage).

During the festival, the club also organised an inter-school and college quiz competition, extempore speech competition, debate competition, project display competition, sudoku competition, math Olympiad, physics Olympiad, chemistry Olympiad, and sky observation.

Death anniversary

UNB, Dhaka

Today is the 24th death anniversary of Dr Aleem-AI-Razee, a noted parliamentarian, jurist and educationist.

Tangail Zila Samity, Dr Aleem-AI-Razee Memorial Council, Sandhani National Eye Donation Society, City Law College, Dhaka, Nagarpur Government College, Tangail, Dr Aleem-AI-Razee High School in Lawhati, Tangail, have chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day, says a press release.

Today is the 24th death anniversary of Dr Aleem-AI-Razee, a noted parliamentarian, jurist and educationist.

## Start process of trying war criminals

## Nirmul Committee memo to prime minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekattorer Ghatik 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 apportioning 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 by Al Badrin 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 Chuadanga.				
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