



(Left) Patients wait in a queue at Narayanganj General Hospital. (Right) A patient carries an X-ray plate to the hospital after he got it done at a diagnostic centre outside the hospital.

Irregularities grip N'ganj General Hospital

FAISAL PARAG, Narayanganj

Narayanganj General Hospital has virtually become a centre of irregularities as the patients who come to the hospital for treatment have to suffer a lot every day.

They also remain deprived of proper healthcare facilities in the hospital.

They alleged that the specialist doctors arrive at the hospital late and leave the hospital much before the end of office hours. So, most patients fail to see the doctor. The doctors also frequently refer the patients to hospitals in Dhaka, even in minor cases.

The doctors also send their patients to private diagnostic centres for various pathological tests, although the hospital has facilities for such tests.

Besides, private clinic brokers and medical representatives have easy access to the hospital who often exert undue influence on the patients.

Talking to this correspondent, the patients levelled numerous allegations of irregularities and malpractices against the hospital authorities, doctors and nurses.

After the evening, the hospital, popularly known as Victoria Hospital, becomes a horrifying place for patients as local hooligans, vendors and truck drivers gather on the hospital premises to while away the time.

On Thursday evening, this correspondent saw several doctors treating patients by candlelight in the emergency department. There was no guard in the hospital.

Relatives of a patient, Md Zakir, who is a veterinarian,

said he has not been receiving proper care from the hospital doctors or staffs.

Zakir was admitted to the hospital after he fell victim to Agyan Party, a gang of muggers who drug the people before robbing them.

Farhad, nephew of Zakir, said the attending doctor saw him once and then referred him to Dhaka. "Since then, we have to request the doctor repeatedly to come and see the patient," he added.

A number of patients also alleged that the specialist doctors of the hospital never arrive at the hospital on time.

"Though the doctors are supposed to come to hospital at 8:00am, none of them arrive on time. And they leave the hospital within 1:00pm, although they are supposed to

stay there until 2:30pm," said a patient.

The situation is the same in all departments such as orthopaedic, dental, ENT, medicine and child departments.

"With a broken arm, eight-year-old Sabbir with his grandfather had been waiting to see an orthopaedic doctor at the hospital since 9:00am, but the doctor came around 1:00pm. And when Sabbir's grandfather Shaheb Ali and other patients requested him to see Sabbir first, the doctor misbehaved with them," said a witness.

The patients also complained that many doctors send patients to the diagnostic centres of their (doctor) choice, saying that the pathological report of the hospital is incorrect.

They also alleged that the

doctors give a big list of medicines before any operation. Although many medicines remain unused, the doctors never return them to patients after the operation, they added.

Besides, medical representatives come to the hospital everyday and even persuades the patients to buy medicines of their companies, the patients said.

When asked about the late arrival of doctors, Dr Nurul Haque Sardar, resident medical officer of the hospital, said he has already received such allegations and will take up the issue with the civil surgeon.

District Civil Surgeon Dr AKM Shakhawat Hossain said he will look into the matter so that the doctors come on time.

Popularise science education through easy language

Speakers call on scientists at int'l meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Scientists should come forward to popularise science education through easy language to help build a knowledge-based society that can face global challenges like environmental degradation and climate change, said the speakers at a

meeting yesterday. They said science education could not spread widely, especially in the developing countries, because of non-availability of publications with easy language.

They were speaking at the inaugural session of a four-day-long steering committee meeting of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) and the UK-based International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) at the Brac Centre Inn in the capital.

BAS and INASP have organised the meeting to evaluate the availability of scientific journals in the country and set up an action plan to increase accessibility of journals and sharing ideas and experiences between the member countries.

A total of 33 foreign delegates from 22 countries of Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia are taking part in the meeting.

Speaking as chief guest at the programme, BAS President Prof Dr M Shamsur Ali said, "I am sure the world would be a cosmic village for the promotion of science and technology through a national and international collaboration."

Not only the developed countries, but also the people of developing countries can innovate great things if they are groomed properly, he said, adding, "We need minds to catch them."

Prof Shamsur Ali said the INASP has introduced a world-wide on-line journal network of which 23 countries of the world

including Bangladesh are members.

He said through this network a large number of journals of world-renowned publishers are made available to Bangladesh stakeholders who can download all these information at their workplaces any time.

BAS Secretary Prof Dr Naiyyum Choudhury stressed the need for wide circulation and publication of the activities of the Academy to the enhancement of technological development and popularisation of science education in the country.

Speaking as guest of honour, The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam said misuse of scientific innovations has caused envi-

ronmental degradation, which is changing climate and threatening lives and livelihoods.

He said the coastal areas of Bangladesh runs a serious risk of being inundated as melting of ice in the Himalayas will increase the sea level.

Scientists will have to come forward to solve the problem, he noted.

He also stressed the need for presenting scientific publications in easy language so that people can understand their contents easily.

National Prof Dr AKM Aminul Haque and Sara Gwynn, director of programmes of INASP, also spoke at the inaugural session.

AL programmes to mourn death of Dr Wazed begin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League (AL) yesterday began a three-day mourning programme in memory of eminent nuclear scientist Dr Wazed Miah, husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, through hoisting party flags at half-mast and black flags at party offices across the country.

It also held milad and doa mahfil at its central office on Bangabandhu Avenue and district unit offices across the country for salvation of his departed soul.

Meanwhile, Hasina, also the president of the AL, spent the whole day yesterday with offering prayers and reciting from the holy Quran for salvation of the departed soul of her husband, family sources said.

Dr Wazed's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy arrived in Dhaka yesterday morning from the USA and spent the day with his mother at Jamuna. Daughter Saima Wazed Putul who is living in Canada could not come because she and her newborn daughter are sick, family sources added.

AL will arrange special prayers and milad mahfil in all mosques, temples, churches and party offices across the country today. It will also hold a memorial meeting on the life of Dr Wazed at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre at 4:00pm tomorrow.

An emergency meeting of the AL Central Working Committee had taken up the three-day programmes to mourn Wazed's death.

Qulkhani of Dr Wazed will be held at prime minister's official residence Jamuna on Thursday after Asar prayers.

Dr Wazed, an internationally renowned nuclear scientist, passed away due to prolonged illness on Saturday and was buried at his family graveyard in Rangpur on Sunday.



Awami League leaders and workers offer munajat at a milad mahfil for salvation of the departed soul of Dr Wazed Miah, an internationally renowned nuclear scientist and husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. City AL arranged the milad as part of a three-day mourning programme.

OBITUARY



Dr. Syed Yusuf Farooq, consultant to the IFC, World Bank, former Managing Director, Aziz Pipes, ex-Acting Chairman, Board of Investment, and former Director of BCIC - passed away in the early hours of the 10th of May, 2009 (Innallillaha wa innaalihe rajeun). Dr. Farooq, born in 1941, did his honours from BUET in 1963 and then completed his PhD on a Commonwealth scholarship in the UK.

He left behind his wife, Ruksana Farooq, son Rasheeq Farooq, daughter Rimoon Farwa and a whole host of relatives and well-wishers. He was a loving husband, ideal father and a respected personality.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to friends, relatives and well-wishers who turned up to share the pain and sorrow after his death. We request you all to join us in praying for his departed soul.

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AB Bank Signs Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft

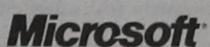
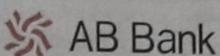


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