



Nurses missing in medicare

Patients suffer for lack of nurses

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Some 32 patients with blood, bandages and salines were found lying in beds and corridors at ward no 31 under the Casualty Department of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) at 9:30 pm while some four to five intern doctors were giving them treatment with the help of only one nurse.

"You have found the doctors as this day is the admission day for ward no 31. Generally the other days only one doctor and one nurse remain on duty here to treat the huge number of patients in critical condition," said the on-duty nurse.

In morning shift, three nurses remain on duty to aid the patients while only one nurse at night, she said adding that even if she becomes ill, she is forced to join the work due to lack of nurses in the hospital.

This situation is more or less the same

in other hospitals in the country as the latest recruitment of nurses took place in 2003. As a result, some 2,056 posts of nurses have been lying vacant since then.

The country has a staggering shortage of 2.80 lakh nurses, says a report of Bangladesh Health Watch in 2008.

There are five doctors and two nurses for every 10,000 people in the country, it says adding that in terms of doctor-nurse ratio, there are 2.5 physicians per nurse, whereas there should be three nurses for each doctor.

"Two nurses work against seven to 14 nurses' posts in the Upazila Health Complex hampering the quality of nursing," said an official at Directorate of Nursing Services (DNS) preferring anonymity.

In 2006, the number of nurses were 20,117 and midwives were 19,354 in the country, says a report of Bangladesh Nursing Council (BNC).

Some 14,841 nurses out of total 22,500 are working in different public nursing institutes and hospitals.

Some 223 nursing supervisors' posts out of 891 are also lying vacant when more than 800 supervisors is needed, said DNS authorities blaming lack of proper planning and coordination among different government bodies.

As new post has not been created since the last couple of years, the promotion of the nurses remains halted that has created frustrations among them.

Even no specific regulation is followed in giving promotion of the nurses, as the sector remains severely neglected. The promotion in nursing sector is given on seniority basis not considering their quality of service, creating the frustration specially among the well-trained and higher educated nurses, sources said.

Though the then Prime Minister

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Taliban men down Pak army chopper

26 security personnel killed; 16 people killed in other clashes

AFP, AP, Peshawar/ Islamabad

At least 26 security personnel on board a military helicopter were killed on Friday in north-western Pakistan when it crashed due to a technical fault, security officials said.

But Taliban militants yesterday claimed responsibility for a military helicopter crash in the rugged tribal area in the country's north.

The helicopter crashed Friday on the border of the semi-autonomous Orakzai and Khyber tribal regions and officials said no one survived.

The accident occurred on the border of the semi-autonomous Orakzai and Khyber tribal regions.

"An MI-17 (military) helicopter crashed due to a technical fault this afternoon at the border of Orakzai and Khyber agency. Twenty-six security personnel on board embraced shahadat (martyrdom)," a senior security official said.

He said that the site of crash was 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Peshawar, the capital of North West Frontier Province.

"We shot down the helicopter," a spokes-

man for Taliban insurgents based in the nearby Darra Adam Khel region said in a telephone call to AFP.

The spokesman identifying himself as Muhammad said it was in retaliation for the Pakistani military operation in South Waziristan, a Taliban and al-Qaeda stronghold.

A military spokesman rejected the claim, reiterating Saturday that the helicopter had crashed due to a "technical fault."

"Taliban militants frequently make false claims," he added.

"All 26 people on board died and the wreckage of the helicopter has been removed," he said adding that an inquiry had been ordered.

On Friday a senior security official said an MI-17 (military) helicopter crashed due to a technical fault, killing 26 security personnel on board.

He said that the site of crash was 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Peshawar, the capital of North West Frontier Province.

Meanwhile, clashes between tribesmen and Taliban militants left 16 people dead in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Serena clinches 3rd Wimbledon

AP, Wimbledon

Serena Williams beat her sister Venus 7-6 (3), 6-2 on Saturday for her third Wimbledon title and 11th Grand Slam championship.

In the fourth all-Williams final at Wimbledon, Serena came out on top for the third time by out-serving her big sister, lifting her game in the tiebreaker and dictating play throughout the second set.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Dutch ministers due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation Bert Koenders and Vice Minister for Transport, Public Works and Water Management Tineke Huizinga will arrive here for a two-day official visit today.

It will be their first visit to Bangladesh, which aims to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



This truck rolled over yesterday falling into a deep pothole in front of Alam Market in Jurain around 150 metres away from where another truck had tipped over Friday for the same reason.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Tk 12cr wind power project at risk

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Repeated urge from one government office to another goes unheard to save the country's non-functioning biggest wind power project of Tk 12 crore established at Kutubdia upazila in Cox's Bazar as the Bay of Bengal is swallowing its adjacent embankment.

Though Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) pushed the Water Development Board (WDB) for saving the project by constructing embankment but no progress in this regard has been seen.

As a result the government spending of Tk 12 crore for implementing the project is about to be wasted.

Sources concerned said, the then government of 2006 set up the wind power project at Kutubdia with a capacity of producing 1000MW electricity but it remained out of order.

After only two and a half month, a part called 'booster' of engine of the wind power project went inoperative and the whole project got botched down.

It was assumed that the 1000MW power would be provided to at least 12,000 subscribers from among 30,000 potential subscribers of the whole upazila.

PDB Cox's Bazar zone executive engineer Md Shamsul Alam said, power production in the project would be possible when the machine part would arrive but it is taking time to import the spare from China.

He also said, the construction of permanent embankment is urgent to save the project from going into the sea.

Chairman of Uttar Dhurong union in the upazila Shahriar Chowdhury said, these days candlelight is the only help in the 30-bed hospital when the power generation through generator is stopped.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

OnlinePoll

Do you agree with LGRO and Cooperatives minister that Indian High Commissioner Pinak Banjan Chakravarty had not flouted diplomatic norms through his comment on Tipaimukh dam?

Yes (40.2%)
No (58.4%)
No Comments (1.4%)

Total votes: 849

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think reshuffling and expanding the cabinet is necessary to make it more efficient?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

July 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:05	5:40
Zohr	1:45	2:15
Asr	6:00	6:15
Maghrib	7:54	7:57
Esha	9:20	9:45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Poet Alauddin Al Azad passes away

UNB, Dhaka

Renowned poet and writer Dr Alauddin Al Azad died at his Uttara residence in the city

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Killed over dowry

Mother of 2 beaten up, 'forced' to drink poison

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A 29-year old woman lost her life in Narsingdi yesterday after her dowry demanding husband beat her up and allegedly forced her to drink poison.

Suraiya Akhter, 28, a mother of two from Joshor village under Shibpur upazila, died on the way to the local hospital.

Relatives said that Suraiya's husband Anwar Hossain, 32, of the same village has long been torturing his wife for dowry from her parents. He wanted Tk 1 lakh in cash.

As her parents were not able to cough up this amount, Anwar regularly tortured his wife.

On Friday night, an argument broke out between the husband and wife again over this matter, and Anwar mercilessly beat his wife and later tried to strangle her with his own hands.

As she struggled to breathe, Anwar allegedly forced her to drink poison before taking her to the hospital.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

North Korea's 7 missile tests defy UN

AFP, Seoul

North Korea test-fired seven missiles off its east coast yesterday. South Korean officials said, in what appeared to be a calculated message of defiance timed for the US Independence Day holiday.

The launches fuelled regional tensions after the communist state's nuclear test in May, which coincided with the US Memorial Day holiday.

They came as Washington seeks support for tough enforcement of United Nations sanctions aimed at shutting down the North's nuclear and missile programmes.

Seoul's foreign ministry said the first four weapons launched into the Sea of Japan (East Sea) were ballistic missiles, which the North is banned from firing under various Security Council resolutions.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

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