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Public hospitals plagued with staff shortage

30,248 posts lying vacant

ALPHA ARZU

Public hospitals across the country are struggling to cope with vacant posts in the organogram, resulting in further fall in the quality of health services.

As many as 30,248 posts of class I, II, III and IV employees are vacant at the medical college and district level hospitals and upazila and union level health complexes under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). The government has so far created 110,144 posts for these hospitals, according to sources in the Ministry of Health.

Patients, especially those who are solely dependent on public hospitals, are being deprived of treatment due to shortage of doctors.

In many cases seriously ailed patients have to wait, even on hospital premises, for hours to get the attention of a physician. There are instances that patients even died before seeing

a doctor near.

According to the ministry sources, 7,090 first class posts including 6,861 for doctors, remain vacant for decades.

DGHS acting director (Admin) Dr Abul Bashar Md Khasru recently said 345 out of 1,386 second-class employees, 16,707 out of 63,447 third-class and 6,106 out of 25,619 fourth-class employees' posts are vacant in all public hospitals in the country.

Post of 4,983 assistant surgeons, 1,283 junior consultants or equivalent, 193 assistant professors, 226 associate professors, 155 professors, 27 deputy directors, 21 civil surgeons, 20 family planning officers, six directors and principals, five vice-principals, three junior lecturers and two senior consultants are vacant for years.

A total of 8,254 posts are vacant in Dhaka Division, 7,096 in Rajshahi, 6,412 in Chittagong, 3,225 in Khulna, 2,632 in Sylhet and 2,629 in Barisal Division, DGHS sources say.

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Torrential rain over the last few days leaves the BCSIR staff colony at Paikpara of Mirpur inundated. The photo was taken yesterday.

Save water bodies PMasks authorities

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the authorities concerned to ensure preservation of all types of water bodies in case of construction of buildings and setting up of industries for protecting natural breeding places of fish.

She blamed the unplanned construction of roads and embankments for the loss of fishes' breeding points and the illegal collection of fry using harmful methods for the decrease in natural production of fish.

She also directed the ministries and departments concerned to work hard through

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EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATES Minister rules out demand for judicial powers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Executive magistrates will not be given any judicial powers, said Law Minister Shafique Ahmed even though deputy commissioners, during the final day of their conference at Bangladesh Secretariat, asked the government for some judicial powers for them.

As per the Supreme Court directives in the Masdar Hossain Case, popularly known as judiciary separation case, executive magistrates cannot have judicial powers and the judicial magistrates cannot be given executive or administrative powers, he said during the conference.

The law minister said he directed the DCs to discharge their duties within their legal periphery to keep peace and discipline in the country. "The DCs have to play the most important role in

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SC stays Niko case against Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld the High Court (HC) order staying the proceedings against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in Niko corruption case.

After holding the hearing, a full bench of Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhl Amin, passed the order dismissing the leave-to-appeal petition filed by Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) against HC order.

On July 9 last year, HC stayed the case proceedings

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Ctg still reels from power shortage

Diverting gas supply from CUFL to power station fails to improve situation

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong

The port city and its suburbs continue to suffer from acute power shortage despite the move to increase power generation in two units of Raozan power plant by diverting gas there from the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL).

The government indefinitely suspended the operation of the CUFL on April 26 to save 54 million cubic feet (MCF) gas to be diverted to the two units for smooth power generation. Each unit has the capacity of generating 210 megawatt (MW) power.

The Power Development Board (PDB) officials hoped that the move would help bring

down the daily power shortfall to 150MW from 250MW in Chittagong city.

But power shortage in the port city and its adjoining areas now stands at 220 to 230 MW. Despite getting additional gas to generate more power since April, PDB has failed to reduce power outage in the city substantially.

Chief Engineer of PDB Chittagong (Southern Zone), Sujit Chakma admitted that despite getting additional gas at the two Raozan units, they were not able to generate power to capacity.

The PDB now gets around 405MW in off-peak time (day) and 410MW in peak time (night) against the daily demand of 500MW

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2 killed in bomb attack in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Outlawed party operatives launched a bomb attack at Purbabonogram village in Sadar upazila on Thursday that killed two people.

The deceased were identified as Md Abdur Razzak Pramanik, 52, son of Meser Pramanik and his nephew Abdus Sattar, 32, son of Gani Pramanik of Shakharipara village of the upazila.

Officer-in-Charge of Ataikula Police Station Md Sirajul Islam said internal feud might be the reason behind the bomb attack.

Police quoting local people

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BCL VIOLENCE DU expels 4 students

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities yesterday suspended four students for six months and issued a show-cause notice on another for their involvement in two incidents of violence on the campus.

Of those suspended, three are activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of ruling AL. They are SM Sakib Hossain, 3rd year student of Islamic studies department, Mozammel Haque, 2nd year student of philosophy and Abdur Rahman, 3rd year student of history. They were

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Govt to root out graft in a transparent way: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Thursday said her government will root out corruption in the true sense of the word unlike the past abortive purges.

She observed that the last government had turned the anti-corruption drive into 'anti-politics' drive, but the present government would follow transparent ways in eradicating corruption from society.

Addressing the annual dinner programme of Bangladesh Administrative Association (BAA) at the city's BIAM auditorium, Hasina said the present government has come to power to establish transparency and accountability in every tier of the administration.

"The last government turned the anti-corruption drive into anti-politics drive. But we will eradicate corruption in the real sense," she said.

The prime minister urged the administrators to be more sincere and industrious in implementing government's development projects and programmes.

"The government's success or failure mainly depends on your sincerity and skill," she told

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



BCL's DU hall committees formed

DU CORRESPONDENT

The hall unit committees of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Dhaka University were declared last night.

In a press release signed by the presidents and general secretaries of both BCL central and DU unit committees mentioned the names of president and general secretary of eleven residential halls of the university.

However, DU BCL unit General Secretary Sajjad Sakib Badsha told The Daily Star that he did not give approval to the

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BNP may fail to hold council in time

Leaders hope to complete grassroots committees by this year

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP might miss its target of holding national council by the end of this year as the party has a mammoth task of forming about 20,000 committees in ward level across the country by the next two months.

Party leaders however said they will be able to complete the process of reorganising the party at all levels for holding the national council by mid-January.

"We are trying our level best. I hope committees would be formed democratically at all

levels by this year," Lt Gen Mahbubur Rahman, member of the party standing committee, said.

But some other leaders admit that it would be tough for the party to complete this long process to reorganise the party from ward to central level within five months as the party could not complete the formation of district convening committees in last two months.

They, however, hoped that BNP will be able to complete the process successfully and all the units would be elected in a democratic way, which will make the party stronger at grassroots level.

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Teenager brutally murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals in broad daylight brutally murdered a teenager at Boubazar in the city's Kadamtoli yesterday.

The victim, Mohammad Rony, 18, son of Javed of Darogabari road at Jurain, was a hawker selling toys and handicrafts in front of schools in the area.

Sub-inspector (SI) Shaker Mohammad Jubair of Kadamtoli Police Station said on information they recovered the body from the area.

Quoting deceased's mother Nasima he said a gang of five to seven criminals stabbed Rony in the throat leaving him dead on the spot.

SI Jubair said though the killing took place in broad daylight, the locals remained

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

UK opens Iraq war probe

Blair to be called to give evidence

AFP, London

An independent inquiry into Britain's role in the Iraq war opened yesterday, with its chairman vowing to call former premier Tony Blair and "not shy away" from criticising decisions taken.

Ex civil servant Sir John Chilcot insisted the probe would not be a whitewash, adding it would visit Iraq and hold discussions with its officials plus those from the United States and other countries involved in the conflict.

"The inquiry is not a court of law and nobody is on trial. But I want to make something absolutely clear -- the committee will not shy away from making criticism," he told reporters.

"If we find that mistakes were made, that there were issues which could have been dealt with better, we will say so frankly."

The inquiry was announced by Prime Minister Gordon Brown last month, honouring a pledge that the run-up to and conduct of the US-led and British-backed conflict would be examined once British troops pulled out.

Brown's predecessor Blair faced intense public hostility after backing then US president George W. Bush's in the 2003 invasion and Blair's resulting unpopularity was one of the main reasons which led to him quitting in 2007.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Verdict in Suu Kyi's trial today

AP, Yangon

Myanmar's detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was bracing for the worst ahead of today's verdict in her high-profile trial, gathering medicine and books to prepare for a feared prison term, her lawyer said.

The frail 64-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner was "physically and mentally fine, and very alert," Nyan Win, one of her lawyers, said Thursday.

"She is getting ready for any result," he said. "She is preparing for the worst."

Suu Kyi is charged with violating the terms of her long house arrest when an American intruder swam across a lake and spent two nights at her home in early May. She faces a minimum of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Nigerian troops attack mosque, kill 200 rebels

AP, AFP, Maiduguri

Troops shelled the compound of an Islamist sect blamed for days of violence in northern Nigeria then attacked its mosque, killing at least 200 militants in a fierce battle.

Sect leader Mohammed Yusuf escaped along with about 300 followers but his deputy was killed in Wednesday night's bombardment, according to Army commander Maj Gen Saleh Maina.

The army was conducting a house-to-house manhunt Thursday on the outskirts of Maiduguri for Yusuf and his followers.

Troops pounded the self-styled Taliban's base in the northern city of Maiduguri throughout the night and then gunned down followers as they tried to flee in the morning, witnesses and security sources said.

"We have taken over their enclave, they are on the run and we are going after them," Colonel Ben Ahonotu, the operation's commander, told AFP.

An AP reporter watched soldiers shoot their

way into the mosque in Maiduguri on Wednesday and then rake those holed up inside with gunfire. The reporter later counted about 50 bodies inside the building and another 50 in the courtyard outside. The militants were armed with homemade hunting rifles, bows and arrows and scimitars.

Another five corpses were just inside a large house near the mosque. Maina pointed to the body of a plump, bearded man and said it the Boko Haram sect's vice chairman, Bukar Shekau.

"The mission has been accomplished," said Maina, the army commander.

"Abubakar Shekau was killed along with 200 followers ... while trying to escape," from a district of Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state, the police officer told AFP on condition of anonymity.

A newspaper journalist said he counted the bodies of 90 Taliban followers in and around the mosque after the troops had finished pounding the building.

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think unplanned urbanisation is mainly responsible for the severe waterlogging in the capital?

Yes (95.8%)
 No (3.6%)
 No Comments (0.6%)

Total votes: 1327

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord 1997 will solve the problems in the region permanently?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

July 31

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Juma	1-30	2-15
Asr	6-00	6-15
Maghrib	7-50	7-55
Esha	9-15	9-45

Source: Islamic Foundation