



Nurses give service to a patient at night lighting candles in Chittagong General Hospital.

ANURUP KANTI DAS

## CTG GENERAL HOSPITAL needs special care

ARUN BIKASH DEY

With severe pain from hernia, Abul Kalam, 35, cried on his bed at the Chittagong General Hospital (CGH). His wife Champa Begum looked nervous. Doctors had twice fixed schedules for his operation. But every time the operation had to be postponed because there was no electricity at the times. Having lost two dates, doctors, nurses and Kalam waited on the third occasion for electricity. Kalam was lucky on the third turn. He returned home after the long waited surgery under proper lights.

Many other patients are not so lucky at the CGH. Sometimes, doctors there are forced to perform critical operations under candlelight, taking huge risk in terms of hygiene and safety of the patients.

One of the two generators at the CGH has been out of order for a long time and the other one, a relatively smaller version, is yet to be installed, officials said.

The generators are taking such a long time to be repaired and installed because of bureaucratic tangle within the hospital administration and also at the Department of Health Engineering.

"Things are not moving at all because there is no administrative officer in the hospital. As a result administrative push required to get the generators fixed is not happening," said a source at the Accounts Department. "The Department of Health Engineering is also ignoring our pleas to expedite repairs of the generators," he added.

Established in 1901 over an area of more than eight acres of land, 150-bed

Chittagong General Hospital is the oldest in the region. Years of neglect and lack of investment have now left the hospital in tatters.

Frequent loadshedding in the port city interrupts the regular treatment procedure of the hospital. The x-ray machine, ultra sonogram machine, EPI, ECG, pathology, blood bank, morgue and preservation of important drugs instantly become inoperative due to lack of power.

There are two x-ray machines including a digital machine in the hospital but there is no post for the technician to operate the machines. A single technician is

unable to get any treatment in the department as the post of the consultant of orthopedics is lying vacant.

Suchitra Sen from Patiya upazila came to the hospital with bone fracture on December 12. But she had to return without any treatment. Her son, Pintu Sen, said an assistant at the emergency department offered to plaster her fractured hand in exchange for some money.

Emergency Medical Officer Dr Paritosh Das, however, denied the allegations and said routine surgery is performed twice a week -- Saturday and Tuesday. He admitted that the hospital is

superintendent of CGH, said procedure is underway to establish Chittagong General Hospital (CGH) as a medical college hospital with 250 beds after Banga Mata Begum Fazilatunneha Mujib Medical College Hospital.

We have been writing to higher authorities to man the hospital properly in order to deliver healthcare but nothing has been done," Dr Tayab said.

When the local lawmaker Chemon Ara Begum raised the issue at the parliament on October 9, in his response, the state minister for power, energy and mineral resources assured that an express line or a double feeder line would soon be installed to solve the problem of power at the CGH. But the promise of the state minister is yet to be fulfilled.

When asked, the Executive Engineer of PDB, Patharghata Branch, Matiur Rahman, said they are working on the hospital line. The technical matters are being examined. "It is not possible to make an express line. We are trying to start a double feeder line there." He added.

Successive governments have changed the character of the CGH. In 1959 after starting the activities of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) it was incorporated with the CMCH.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare asked the authorities concerned to separate CGH from CMCH to make it a separate hospital with 80 beds on May 1 in 1987. Later, foundation stone was also laid ceremoniously for converting it into a 250-bed hospital on February 20 in 1995. But in 2003 it was officially declared a 150-bed hospital without provision for extra manpower.

**It is a hospital with 150 beds but the present human resources can only provide treatment to the patients of 80 beds**

working here on deputation from nearby TB Hospital.

There is a consultant in the ophthalmology unit but there is no other doctor or technician in the unit. Even the unit is short of necessary apparatus.

The only consultant of the department of Child Health, Dr Bandana Hore, is going for Post Retirement Leave (PRL) from December 23, 2010.

There is not sufficient apparatus in Dental Department. Even there is no post for dentist. A dentist from another hospital is working here on deputation. But he has no assistant to help him.

On the other hand, orthopedics

unable to provide emergency surgery treatment for want of surgeons.

Residential Medical Officer (RMO) Dr Nurul Islam said it is a hospital with 150 beds but the present human resource can only provide treatment to the patients of 80 beds.

Abdul Gafur, the cashier of CGH, said there is no provision for cook in the hospital. There is sufficient stock of medicine but most remain unused as the patients do not want to be admitted to the hospital. While other hospitals in the city fail to cope with number of patients, seats remain vacant at the CGH.

Dr Abu Tayab, a civil surgeon and the

## Chittagong freed on December 17

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY

Our victory in the War of Liberation is our absolute pride. The surrender of 93,000 occupational forces on December 16, 1971 after nine months of freedom fight is an ever great achievement for the people. But unfortunately as events rolled then, the port city was liberated on December 17, a day later than Dhaka.

Nonetheless, the belated victory of the port city was exceptional. The occupational army lined up at the historical Chittagong Circuit House on the day to surrender themselves and accept the freedom fighters' triumph.

The then commander of freedom fighters also a war hero, Dr Mahafujur Rahman recollected the events of the final days and said two divisions of freedom fighters, one led by Sector Commander Captain Rafiqul Islam was obstructed by the occupational army at Kumira of Shitakunda. The battalion of the sector commander did not enter the city on December 16, so it was not possible to free the city on that day".

The Joint Commands, however, defeated the enemy and entered the



Indian naval army detains a ship of Pakistan occupation forces at Chittagong Port during the War of Liberation.

FILE PHOTO

city on December 17.

Rahman, who is also a researcher on the War of Liberation, said from the southern part of the port city Commander Jafar Imam entered.

Anti-liberation forces, who were aiding the occupational forces, Al Bad'r escaped from Dalim Hotel and Dewan Hotel where they were manning an outpost.

Rahman, who was also the operation commander of the city, said the Pakistani Army surrendered in the city to the Joint Command of Indian forces and Bangalee guerrillas. At the time Engineer Afsur uddin was the city commander of Bengal Liberation Front (BLF) and Freedom Fighters (FF) who directed a group of his fighters to go to Kalurghat Radio Station and broadcast the news of the victory to the nation.

"To maintain law and order situation in the city from December 17 we were assigned at different strategic points. I was responsible for Bandar, Pahartali and Double Mooring," he added.

"It was our duty to contain the situation so that the angry Bangalees did not attack the Biharis who had committed atrocities on our population."

Terming it the most memorable day in his life, he said thousands of people with national flags in their hand chanting slogans of 'Joy Bangla' took to the streets and rejoiced.

He said people from all walks of life took to the streets to welcome the freedom except a handful number of Razakars, Al Bad'r and the notorious gangs of Fazlul Kader Chowdhury.

BLF and FF Commandar Harun, Haris, Moinuddin Khan Badal, Dr Jafar, Raisul Hoq Bahar and Shahabuddin played the vital roles.

It was now time to rebuild the country. But the port city had to start from zero. During the nine months of war, all infrastructures were ruined. The Pakistani forces and their local friends not only killed thousands of Bangalees, they also destroyed vital infrastructures required for building a nation.

## the week that was

### French artiste Ana enthral audience

The audience were spelled bound with the Kathak dance performance of Ana in the port city on Monday.

Alliance Francaise de Chittagong organised the evening performed by French artiste Isabelle Ana.

Director of Alliance Francaise de Chittagong, Dr Samuel Berthet, gave the address of welcome.

Berthet said Kathak is a classical and traditional form of dance in the Indian sub-continent. It is now spreading throughout the world and gaining popularity.

He said Ana will perform play of Kathak in Lucknow style ( Lucknow Gharana) and some mix of Kathak with the western music.

### Call to resist stalking

Speakers on Friday called on all to resist sexual harassment of women, stalking and violence against women in the port city on Friday.



Local artistes perform at Mukti Juddher Bijoy Mela in the port city.

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They were addressing the first district conference of Samajtantrik Mahila Forum at Muslim Hall.

They said the incidents of violence against women are spreading in the society.

They said about 4000 incidents of stalking, repression and rape took place in five months that is

alarming all over the country.

The speakers urged the government to take stern and exemplary action against the culprits and enact new law.

Bazlur Rashid Firoj was present as the chief guest and Manas Nandi as special guest with Parvin Akter in the chair.

### PLI div conference held

The divisional conference of Pragati Life Insurance (PLI) held at Wood Land Park in the port city on Saturday.

PLI Chairman Khalilur Rahman

was present as the chief guest at the conference. PLI Vice Chairman Prof Jahangir Hossain, in-charges of different projects and other officials were present on the occasion.

Speakers at the conference said PLI has now become a big organisation and it was possible due to sincerity of all involved in PLI.

Mozammel Hossain Belal moderated the meeting with PLI Managing Director Zafar Halim in the chair.

### Discussion on reproductive health held

Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), Chittagong organised a view exchange meeting with journalists on reproductive health on Monday.

The meeting was held at the district office of FPAB, Chittagong.

Rosy Kabir, honorary president of FPAB, Chittagong, Nurul Alam, honorary secretary of FPAB, Chittagong branch, Kamruzzaman, district officer of FPAB, Chittagong branch and Dr MA Mannan spoke at the meeting.

Journalists from different newspapers were present at the meeting.



Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam visits a bookstall after inaugurating the book fair titled 'Bijoyer Boi Mela' at Jamal Khan in the port city.

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