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METROPOLITAN / NEWS









FAREWELL TO HUMAYUN

1) Humayun Ahmed's younger brother Ahsan Habib, sister-in-law Dr Yasmeen Haque, and daughters Nova and Shila stand by the coffin as people from all walks of life pay their respects to the acclaimed writer at Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday. 2) Humayun's wife Meher Afroz Shaon and mother Ayesha Fayz at the venue. 3) A wreath is being placed on the coffin on behalf of President Zillur Rahman. 4) The coffin being received at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on its arrival from New York. 5) A sea of Humayun's admirers paying homage to the renowned filmmaker and dramatist at the Central Shaheed Minar. 6) Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique places a bouquet on the coffin. 7) Nova and Shila break down in tears at the sight of the coffin at the airport. 8) The second namaz-ejanaza at National Eidgah in the capital. 9) An admirer fails to hold back her tears after placing flowers on the coffin.













DHAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Restrictions imposed on media's access

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) officially imposed restrictions on the media's access to the hospital from yesterday.

Journalists were directed to obtain permissions from the hospital director for entry during the office hours and from the duty doctor after hours.

The authorities have also banned taking photographs inside the facility without permission. A letter containing the instructions, signed by DMCH Director Brig Gen Md Mostafizur Rahman, was served to journalists in the morning.

It said the decision was made as the media had published "false and illmotivated" news on the recent incident of assault on a patient by a senior doctor and upon discussions with patients, doctors

and visitors. Meanwhile, reacting to the move, reporters boycotted a press conference called by the hospital authorities yester- days.

day evening. The authorities was supposed to "clarify their stance" on two recent incidents -- the assault on a patient and interns swooping on journalists. According to news reports, a senior

doctor slapped patient Ariful Haque Chowdhury Ripon on the face and discharged him from hospital on July 19, as he engaged in an altercation with a female intern over dressing his wounds.

Later, interns staged a demonstration on DMCH premises protesting the report and assaulted six journalists when they went to cover the agitation.

Following the incident, leaders of Dhaka Reporters' Unity and Crime Reporters' Association Bangladesh held a meeting with DMCH Director where the director assured them of investigating the

matter. The authorities yesterday formed a six-member committee to probe the incidents. The committee was directed to submit its report within five working

Child means under 18

Says draft Children Act 2012

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLOB

uals as children.

The social welfare ministry decided to define individuals under 18 years of age as children in the draft 'Children Act 2012' after critics came down on the law ministry proposal for bringing the age limit down to 16 years.

The law ministry had suggested that, "A child is a person below 16 years...in case of 'Children in Conflict with the Law' (who is an accused or convict of any offence) and 'Children in Contact with the Law' (a victim of any offence)."

The critics, at a recent Prothom Alo roundtable on children's rights, said the law ministry's proposal went against numerous existing national and international laws which term under-18 individuals as children.

The laws include National Policy on Children, 2011; Prevention of Trafficking Act 2011; Vagrancy Act 2011; and UN's Convention on the Rights of the Children (CRC), to which Bangladesh is a signatory, they said.

CRC states that any under-18 person is a child without making any difference among groups of children, said MM Aminul Islam of Save the Children.

A deputy secretary of the social welfare ministry, requesting anonymity, said the final draft would be placed before the cabinet this month.

The draft, to ensure the protection and rights of children, was made after the cabinet repealed the Children Act-1974 on December 30, 2010, which considered under-14 individ-

APARTMENTS

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DOM-INNO

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