



A nearly empty ward of Chittagong General Hospital which is generally avoided by patients due to a dearth of staff. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# Chittagong General Hospital suffers from staff crisis

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Despite being upgraded to 250 beds on February 1 this year, Chittagong General Hospital (CGH) is running with the same manpower it had in 1987 with 80 beds.

The first public hospital to be established in Chittagong has 21 doctors out of a total 91 staff members, barely enough to provide proper treatment to healthcare seekers arriving at CGH.

Out of the remaining 70 staff members, 43 are nurses, a far cry from the standards of World Health Organization, which states that three nurses and five paramedics are required against each doctor.

This was affecting the number of patients getting admitted to CGH as healthcare seekers, as per CGH sources, apprehended that proper treatment was not possible with the low staff numbers in CGH.

It is ironic that when Chittagong city's remaining public hospital, Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), was failing to cope with the heavy influx of patients, beds in CGH remained vacant.

During a recent visit, the 50-bed Surgery Ward was found catering for 28 patients while its two cabins were vacant. It had one junior consultant and two assistant registrars, the same as in the 50-bed Gynecology Ward, said the sources.

Meanwhile, the 45-bed Child Health Ward had one senior consultant and there was one senior consultant, one resident medical officer and two assistant registrars for the 55-bed Medicine Ward.

Admitting that there was a shortage of manpower, CGH Superintendent Dr Abu Tayab said it was the only problem CGH was facing.

He said treatment facilities in CGH had improved considerably while there was adequate medicine stored in CGH, capable of meeting the demands of patients arriving every day.

Established in 1901 and covering an area of over eight acres of land, CGH is the oldest hospital in Chittagong city.

It was renamed Chittagong Medical School Hospital and upgraded to a 200-bed one in 1927. CGH came under the purview of CMCH after the latter was established in 1959.

With the change in government, changes took over CGH. On May 1, 1987, the then Ministry of Health and Family Welfare separated CGH from CMCH to make a new hospital with 80 beds.

In 2003, CGH was converted into a 150-bed hospital but there was no proposal to increase its manpower. And the situation remains the same following the conversion to 250 beds.

"The government has already approved 90 posts for the hospital and I hope appointment in those posts will be made by November," said Dr Abu, also the civil surgeon of Chittagong.

The Ministry of Public Administration had proposed 106 posts for the hospital on September 27, 2011. The aim was to provide 197 staff for the then 150-bed hospital.

The Ministry of Finance, on August 7, 2012, approved the 90 posts and the proposal was sent to the Ministry of Law for vetting.

"We will seek more manpower for the 250-bed hospital in the coming January," said Dr Abu.

On contact, Dr Sheikh Shahabuddin, deputy director (health), Chittagong division, admitted that a lack of adequate doctors and nurses was hampering the proper functioning of CGH.

Some doctors were brought to the hospital on deputation while the standard of treatment in CGH had improved, proven by the greater rush of patients nowadays, he stated.

Adequate manpower for CGH will be provided very soon, he assured.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Md Mosharrif Hossain, former president of Bangladesh

Federal Union of Newspaper Press Workers and foreman of compose section of the daily Ittefaq, died of old age complications at his residence in the capital on Tuesday. He was 85.

He left behind his wife, four sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was buried at the family graveyard following his namaz-e-janaza at Rashidpur village in Sonaimuri upazila of Noakhali on Tuesday.

Dr BM Faizur Rahman  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr BM Faizur Rahman, veteran freedom fighter and former member of the parliament, passed away on Tuesday morning at a hospital in the capital. He was 82.

Rahman, former vice president of the Chittagong district (south) unit of ruling Awami League, left behind three daughters, and a son.

He was buried at Miskin Shah Mazar in Chittagong.

He was accorded the guard of honour at Kanchana village by Satkania upazila administration and at Laldighi Maidan by Chittagong district administration.

Relatives, friends and well wishers have been requested to pray for the departed soul.

## 'BOAT CAPSIZE IN BAY' Incident not confirmed

Over 100 feared missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Coast Guard was yet to confirm a man's claim that he survived a boat capsizing in the Bay early Sunday while heading for Malaysia illegally with more than a hundred others.

Abu Bakar, 22, of Teknaf told police that the engine-run boat was carrying some 128 people, including him, and capsized around 4:00am, six hours after their travel began from some place near Saint Martin Island.

He also said he survived the accident along with five others while more than a hundred people went missing.

Mohammad Farhad, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, quoted Bakar as saying that the six men were floating throughout the day holding on to some plastic stuff before being rescued by a fishing boat that night.

The other survivors include Syed

Hossain, 22, and Nur Hossain, 25, of Shahporidwip, two Rohingya men, and another man from Moheskhali. The OC said police could only talk to Bakar.

Contacted, Coast Guard Lt Commander Badruddoza said they got to know of the boat capsizing through the media on Tuesday night and immediately sent their teams to different areas to look for the survivors but found no-one.

"Our teams went to the village homes of Syed Hossain and Nur Hossain today (yesterday) to get the detail of the incident, but they were not at home while their relatives declined to give any information."

He said Coast Guard did not get any floating bodies or missing people or any more survivors till yesterday and informed the incident to Bangladesh Navy.

Bakar said he gave Tk 20,000 to a local broker for travelling to Malaysia. Police were looking for the broker.

## INNOCENT WOMAN JAILED HC asks police to release Anjuara Begum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed police to immediately release Anjuara Begum, who had been suffering in jail for about three months in place of an accused, Laily Begum, in Bogra.

Declaring Anjuara's detention illegal, the court directed the inspector general of police to form a committee to probe the matter and take legal action against police personnel responsible for arresting her.

It also directed the superintendent of police (SP) of Bogra and officer-in-charge (OC) of Bogra Sadar Police Station to escort the victim home and ensure her security.

Earlier yesterday, the SPs of Bogra, Natore and Joypurhat, and OC of Bogra Sadar Police Station produced Anjuara before HC as directed by the court on

October 30 following a writ petition moved by Advocate Manzill Mushrid on behalf of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

The police officials told HC that Anjuara was mistakenly arrested in place of Laily Begum and that there was no case against Anjuara.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Ashish Ranjan Das directed the police officials to release Anjuara from the court premises.

According to media reports, a team of police, led by Bogra Sadar Police Station Sub-Inspector Imran Kabir, arrested Anjuara of Nisindhara Paikpara in Bogra on August 3. They showed her as Laily Begum before a lower court that sent her to jail.

Laily Begum was accused in four cases.

## Al leader Amu 'assaults' bus driver

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Senior Awami League leader Amir Hossain Amu allegedly beat up a bus driver at Rajoir on Barisal-Dhaka highway yesterday morning.

Amu and his men reportedly assaulted Md Shahjahan Sikder, a driver of Sarbik Paribahan, as he did not make way for Amu's car in Shankarpasha area.

The injured driver was admitted to Madaripur sadar hospital.

The driver told journalists at the hospital that Amu and his men brought him down his bus after making false the accusations and then beat him up.

He said Amu slapped and punched him.

Amu, presidium member of Awami League and a former minister, denied the allegation, saying the bus driver was not assaulted. He also alleged that the driver tried to push his car aside.

Amu said police detained Shahjahan Sikder after he informed them of the incident, and the driver was freed upon his request.

Meanwhile, Madaripur Transport Workers Union Vice President Faizul Sharif and General Secretary Mizanur Rahman Hawlader condemned "the assault" and informed the incident to Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, who is also a transport workers' leader.

Shajahan Khan said he would look into the matter.

## Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Mahfuza Khatun, publisher of first allopathic medical practitioners guide and metoria medica in Bangla, was laid to rest yesterday.

She was the widow of language movement veteran Dr Abdull Baset.

She passed away of old age complications at her residence in the capital on Tuesday at the age of 78.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held in front of Barisal Aswini Kumar Hall yesterday after Asr prayers, following which she was buried at Barisal Muslim Gorosthan.

She left behind three sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and well wishers to mourn her death.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

The everyday hustle and bustle of the capital's kitchen markets is absent along with the shopkeepers and shoppers as most of them are away on vacation on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha. The photo was taken from the New Market Kitchen Market yesterday.

Five-year-old Md Mehedi Hasan Al-Amin in the arms of his mother at Bayezid Police Station in Chittagong city yesterday after being rescued from kidnapers. The child was found in Roghnath village in Daganbhuayan upazila of Feni six days after being kidnapped from Chittagong's Chowdhury Nagar.



PHOTO: STAR

Safe home, safe society: STOP violence against women now

নারী নির্যাতন বন্ধ করতে যারা বলিষ্ঠ ভূমিকা রাখছেন, সে সকল সরকারী/বেসরকারী ব্যক্তি ও সামাজিক প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহের যথাযথ উদ্যোগকে সম্মাননা জানানোর জন্য মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীন মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর ও জাতিসংঘ জনসংখ্যা তথ্যবিল কর্তৃক ডোলা, নোয়াখালী, ময়মনসিংহ, পোপালগঞ্জ, কুমিল্লা, সিলেট, রংপুর, কুড়িগ্রাম এবং কক্সবাজার-এ ৯টি জেলা থেকে ১টি করে এবং জাতীয় পর্যায়ে ৩টি উল্লেখযোগ্য উদ্যোগকে পুরস্কৃত করা হবে। ১৮ নভেম্বর ২০১২-এর মধ্যে আপনার উদ্যোগ ও সাফল্যের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ লিখে আমাদের ই-মেইল করুন, যা নারী নির্যাতন প্রতিরোধে অভিনব কৌশল হিসেবে বিবেচিত হতে পারে।

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