

# GDP's 5pc sought for health sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should allocate at least 5 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for health sector to ensure healthcare services for all in the country, said physicians and health activists yesterday.

They were speaking at a views exchange meeting organised by Bangladesh Health Rights Movement (BHRM) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Over the last decade, the country has been spending less than one percent of GDP in the sector, and the percentage of the allocation has been declining steadily, they observed.

In fiscal 2002-2003, the allocation for the health sector was 6.47 percent of total GDP, while it fell to 4.86 percent in fiscal 2012-2013, said BHRM Member Dr Md Abdul Matin while presenting a paper on budgetary allocation for health sector.

"There is no doubt that our health sector is neglected as only 630 taka was allocated per capita in the current fiscal year," he said.

"About 60 percent of the people do not have access to the existing healthcare facilities," he added.

BHRM President Prof Rashid E Mahub said the health budgeting process should be decentralised to ensure that the money be spent properly.

Implementing a public private partnership project through the country's 50 medical college hospitals can provide healthcare services to poor people, he said.

Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan said lack of proper utilization of fund, mismanagement, and bureaucracies are the main problems of the sector.

"Due to bureaucratic quagmires, even small amount of fund is not often utilized," he said.

## RANA PLAZA OWNER, FATHER ACC requested to ask for wealth statements

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission's probe body investigating how Sohel Rana, owner of collapsed Rana Plaza, amassed his wealth submitted its report yesterday recommending the commission asks for Rana's and his father's wealth statements.

"There is a legal tangle is serving notice for Rana's wealth statements as he is now behind bars. However, we will examine the legal aspect and take immediate steps in this regard," said Ghulam Rahman, ACC chief.

The probe committee also gave a list of moveable and immovable properties owned by Sohel Rana and his family members.

Quoting the report, a source in the ACC said besides Rana Plaza, which collapsed on April 24 killing over 1,000 people, Rana owns a five-storey building in Savar, two-storey building in Manikganj, several pieces of land in and outside Savar municipality and two brick kilns.

Moreover, the nine-storey Rana Plaza was constructed over the last decade.

The probe body also traced several vehicles of Sohel Rana who has over 23 bank accounts with Exim Bank, National Bank, Dutch Bangla Bank and Brac Bank.

The committee also found a fixed deposit account of Rana worth Tk 35 lakh.

In the report, the committee opined that more wealth of Rana would be discovered in the wealth statements.

The committee comprising ACC Deputy Director Mohammad Mofidul Islam and Assistant Director Mohammad Mahbubul Alam was formed on April 28.



Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses an extended meeting of the party at Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

## Foil anti-AL propaganda using religion

Hasina asks party leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some district-level Awami League leaders yesterday listed some challenges for the party, which include "anti-AL propaganda using religion", organisational weakness, and internal conflicts ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections.

At an extended meeting of the party at Gono Bhaban, they said whimsical remarks of some ministers were creating controversies. They urged those ministers to exercise restraint in making comments, according to meeting sources.

In response, AL chief Sheikh Hasina urged party leaders to visit mosques, say prayers and preach true Islam to foil the smear campaign against her government and party.

"You are in the management committees of many mosques in your areas. So, you should remain vigilant to thwart any attempt to use religion in politics," Azgar Ali, general secretary of Kushtia district AL, quoted Hasina as he spoke to The Daily Star.

The campaign to label AL anti-Islam got momentum following the rise of youths in February demanding the death penalty for war criminals through the ongoing trial.

Hasina also asked party leaders to remain

united for the sake of the organisation and hold the pending councils at district and upazila levels. She asked the leaders to take all-out preparations for the polls, which she said, might take place anytime, sources said.

Some leaders viewed that there were triangle conflicts between party presidents, MPs, and general secretaries in many districts, for which the party might pay heavily in the national elections.

Advocate Azmatullah Khan, general secretary of Gazipur district AL, suggested that party leaders be prevented from being rebel candidates in the upcoming elections.

He said the party general secretary should visit all constituencies, meet prospective candidates and take assurance from them that they would work together, no matter whoever might get nomination, for the polls.

The district level AL leaders also supported Hasina for her government's stand against restoration of the caretaker government system, which was scrapped in 2011.

The AL held its extended meeting at a time when the country is facing a growing political crisis over the mode of an election-time government.

Its last extended meeting was held in May 2008.

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 1

## Road crashes kill 6

METRO DESK

Six people were killed and seven others injured in road accidents in Chittagong, Bhola, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur on Tuesday and yesterday.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, three persons were killed and five others injured as a university staff bus ran them over on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway at Shantir Hat in Patiya upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

The deceased Md Anwar, 55, Abdul Malek, 65, and Md Nuru, 35, were the shopkeepers of a local market.

Highway police said the accident occurred around 9:00am.

Nuru died on the spot while the other two on the way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The injured were admitted to Patiya Upazila Health Complex.

Our Bhola correspondent reports, a schoolboy died as a battery-run three-wheeler hit him while he was crossing the road in Polgora area of sadar upazila on Tuesday noon.

The deceased Jahid, 6, son of Md Ali, was a class I student of North Chandraprasad Primary School.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent reports, a motorcyclist was killed and another injured as an oncoming car hit the motorbike on Thakurgaon-Dinajpur highway at Chhoto Khochabari village in sadar upazila yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was Manik Mia, 35, son of Moksed Ali of Daulatpur village in the upazila.

Injured Asgar Ali, 32, was rushed to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports, an unidentified motorcyclist was killed and another injured as a truck hit the motorbike on Dinajpur-Biral road at Kamdevpur village in Biral upazila yesterday afternoon.

The injured was taken to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

## Sayedee's son on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Shamim Sayedee, son of convicted Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee, on one-day remand in a case filed over torching a vehicle in the capital's Motijheel last November 5.

The court passed the order after investigation officer of the case produced him before it with a 10-day remand prayer.

Police rearrested Shamim after his release on bail from Dhaka Central Jail (Kashimpur-2) in Gazipur around 5:00pm on Tuesday.

Shamim held in Dhaka on February 11 was shown arrested later in several cases over hartal violence.

## Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Alhaj Maulana Mojmamelul Haque, president of Kurigram district unit of Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, passed away yesterday. He was 70.

He left behind his wife, four sons, four daughters and a host of relatives.

Mojammelul Haque, a renowned Islamic scholar in the northern region of the country, was also involved in various educational and social development activities.

He was buried in Kurigram central graveyard following a namaz-e-janaza on Kurigram Kamil-MA Madrasah ground in the afternoon.

## Zahid Husain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Zahid Husain, the eldest son of former governor of the then East Pakistan

late Zakir Husain, passed away yesterday. He was 85.

His kulkhwani will be held after Asr prayers tomorrow in the capital's Azad Mosque, Gulshan.

His relatives and friends are requested to attend the programme to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

## GAS CYLINDER LEAK Four including girl suffer burns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A nine-year-old girl suffered severe burns while her father and two others minor injuries after compressed natural gas leaking from an auto-rickshaw cylinder caught fire from a tea stall's kerosene stove in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday.

The child Sumi Akhter; her father Md Asif, 50, the tea stall owner; the vehicle driver Helal Uddin, 42; and a mechanic working on the vehicle Mostofa Ashrafi were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Sumi, suffering some 20 percent burns to her face and hands and losing large portions of her hair, was later shifted to the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit, said DMCH sources.

Mostofa was repairing the cylinder in a garage a few feet away from the tea stall in Geneva Camp while Sumi, a class-II student, had come to get some tea for her mother when the flames erupted around 1:00pm, said police.

"The burner set alight pressurised gas leaking from the cylinder, leaving the four injured and the stall partially burnt," said Sub-inspector Tofazzal Hossain of Mohammadpur Police Station.

"The locals, however, doused the flame before fire fighters reached the spot and also rushed the injured to the hospital," he said.

Mostofa said the fire took place while he was repairing a pipeline of the cylinder.



Law Minister Shafique Ahmed talks to US Ambassador-At-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen J Rapp, middle, in the former's office in the capital yesterday. On the far left is US Ambassador in Dhaka Dan W Mozena.

PHOTO: PID

## Rehabilitation for Savar victims demanded

DU business faculty extends help

DU CORRESPONDENT

Family members of deceased in Rana Plaza collapse and the injured in the incident have demanded that rehabilitation and employment for them be ensured.

The demands came from a programme where 52 victims, including families of some of the deceased, were provided with help. Thirty one of them were given sewing machines, 12 were given rickshaws, 3 were given vans; and the rest were given Tk 10,000 each.

Students of Business Studies Faculty of Dhaka University arranged the event at the faculty's conference room yesterday.

They made the arrangement by collecting money from people at different spots on the campus. The faculty's former students and DU teachers also contributed to the arrangement.

Nanna Akter, father of Lucky Akter who worked on the sixth floor of the building, came to take the help, and got a sewing machine.

"I do not know whether she is dead or alive," he said adding that his younger daughter can now earn their living using the machine.

Sumi, who got trapped under the rubbles, also got a sewing machine. She hoped to make living once again.

DU University Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique termed the incident as "man-made disaster."

Asthma Akter, who took part in the rescue operation voluntarily, said "We must come forward to provide humanitarian support to the victims."

## APPOINTING NEW ACC CHAIRMAN TIB urges govt to start process now

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday urged the government to start the procedure for appointment of a new Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) chairman before the incumbent one's tenure expires.

"ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman's tenure expires on June 23. Formation of the selection committee and the appointment should be free of political influence," says a statement issued by TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman.

According to the ACC law's section 7, the five-member selection committee should suggest names of two eligible persons to the president soon.

The committee should comprise two judges, one each from the Appellate Division and High Court Division, the comptroller general, Public Service Commission chairman and the last retired cabinet secretary.

Unnecessary delays in the selection and appointment will create an impasse which is very risky for an institution like ACC, it said, demanding to make public an overview of anti-corruption programmes undertaken during the current chairman's tenure.

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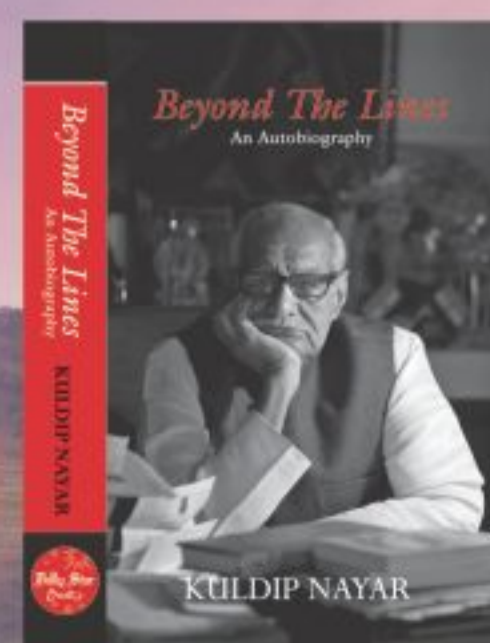
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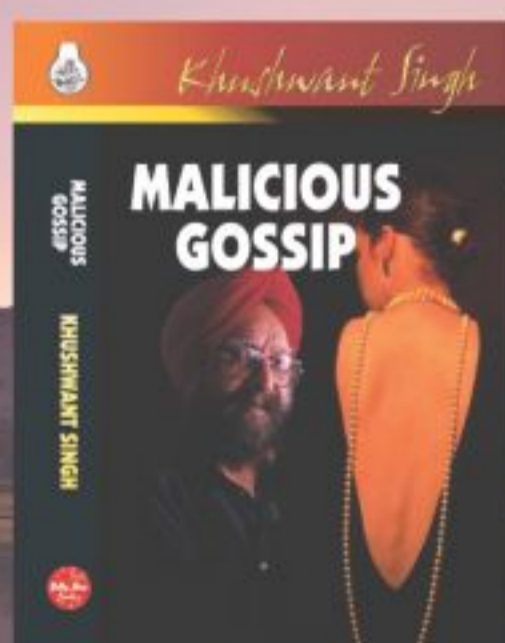
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