



People of all strata pay their last respects to noted painter Qayyum Chowdhury at Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka yesterday.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Govt orders closure of unlicensed hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday ordered closure of Mohona Hospital on the capital's Green Road for running operations without a licence.

The order came a day after senior journalist Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury underwent treatment there for accident injuries. He later died of his wounds at another nearby hospital on Saturday night.

Visiting the hospital, a team of the health ministry and the Directorate General of Health Services found that it only had a licence to run a diagnostic centre.

The team led by the ministry's Joint Secretary Mosharraf Hossain ordered the hospital to shut down its operations and release the patients within 24 hours.

Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury was critically injured in a road accident in the capital's Karwan Bazar area on Saturday night. People who took the journalist to Mohona Hospital

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PM flies to KL today

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Abdul Razak in Putrajaya tomorrow. The meeting will discuss ways to strengthen ties in export, trade, investment, tourism, higher education and cultural sectors. Some regional and international issues of mutual interest will also be up for discussion.

Foreign ministry sources said the PM's entourage will include the foreign minister, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon, Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan, officials of Prime Minister's Office and different ministries, 16 members of the PMO media team and two prominent journalists.

Businessmen in the PM's delegation usually bear their tour costs themselves.

Briefing the press on the tour, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali at the ministry yesterday said the official talks will be followed by signing of four instruments.

The deals are: Protocol Amending the MoU of 2012 between Malaysia and Bangladesh on the Employment of Workers, MoU between Bangladesh and Malaysia on

Cooperation in the Field of Tourism, Agreement between Bangladesh and Malaysia on the Partial Abolition of Visa Requirements and MoU between Bangladesh and Malaysia on Cultural, Arts and Heritage Cooperation.

Malaysia is one of the largest labour markets for Bangladesh as some 4.50 lakh Bangladeshis are working there with a good reputation, said the minister, adding that Dhaka will have a special focus on boosting manpower export to Malaysia.

He said 2.25 lakh illegal Bangladeshi workers were legalised by the Malaysian government in 2010-11. Bangladesh will also discuss legalising its remaining undocumented citizens, if any.

The bilateral talk is expected to focus on how to reduce the yawning trade gap between the two countries through more Malaysian investment in Bangladesh, mentioned Mahmood Ali.

According to statistics, Malaysia invested nearly \$1.7 billion in 103 projects, including engineering and service sectors, which employed more than 17,000 Bangladeshi workers.

Hasina will also meet Malaysian investors to encourage them to invest more in Bangladesh. Malaysian business and investment

proposals will be discussed at the meeting.

Dhaka, said the minister, will discuss relocation of Malaysian sunset industries to Bangladesh as Italian companies expressed an interest in doing so after the prime minister's visit to Milan, Italy.

Queried by a journalist on the recent theft of passport booklets, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque said actions have been taken against some officials at the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur following the theft of 600 Machine Readable Passport booklets there as per recommendations by an inquiry committee.

Asked about the committee's recommendation on taking steps against the Bangladesh envoy to Malaysia, he said the high commissioner will reach his normal retirement age soon.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, DG (Southeast Asia) Ashud Ahmed, DG (South Asia) Tareq M Ariful Islam and DG (EP) Noor-e Helal Saifur Rahman were present, among others.

This will be Hasina's third visit to Malaysia as the prime minister after her two previous trips there in 2000 and 2010. She is expected to return home on December 4.

Bangladesh

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Out of 100 marks in each indicator, Bangladesh got 48.6 in economic, 22.3 in infrastructure, 45.4 in institutional and 43.8 in social indicators.

The report says Bangladeshi women represent the majority of microfinance borrowers -- 90.1 percent -- but their access to credit at both formal and informal institutions are limited. Besides, women own only 34.9 percent of total bank accounts.

When it comes to infrastructure, Bangladesh "does have many aspects of an end-to-end early warning system, with improvements shown in the success of the response to more recent cyclones," it says.

However, most infrastructures don't follow building code while the road infrastructure is vulnerable to disasters such as flood and cyclone.

The report also says women representation in different institutions is very poor in Bangladesh. For example, women make up just 3.9 percent of police force.

Women are disadvantaged by a lack of legal awareness or access to "institutional recourse" and they presently don't have inheritance rights to properties.

Moreover, socio-cultural norms restrict a large proportion of women to domestic responsibilities and limited access to education and health.

Bangladesh has suffered extensive human and financial losses in the past 20 years due to natural and man-made disasters that claimed around 15,719 lives and caused a loss of around \$13 billion, it said.

The report was prepared between March and June this year by following a methodology that included review of documents and interview of persons concerned.

In the report, Japan was taken as the benchmark since the country succeeded in achieving significant progress in building women's capacity in disaster resilience.

At yesterday's press conference, ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir said the government has per capita allocation of \$5.3 for disaster relief. More government investments must be ensured to tackle the disaster risk management.

Necessary steps should be taken to ensure women empowerment and enhance their capacity in disaster resilience and gender-sensitive policy planning. It would help them take leadership to address the challenges, she said.

3 Rohingyas arrested

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jointly tackle the cross-border menace. They expect to arrest more suspected militants as they are launching simultaneous drivers against operatives of outlawed JMB, according to detectives.

A team of Detective Branch of police raided Lalbagh and arrested Noor Hossain alias Rafiqul Islam, 26, Yasir Arafat, 22, and Omar Karim, 25, and seized five detonators, two bombs and explosives.

"Two of them [Noor and Yasir] were maintaining communications with the Burdwan blast suspects," Deputy Commissioner of DB (South) Krishna Pada Roy told a news briefing at the media centre of Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday.

"We have found similarities between the information we have got from the Indian investigators and the information we had about Noor and Yasir," he said in reply to a query.

A DB official involved in investigation into militancy told The Daily Star after the briefing that they had got a call list from the NIA about the two frequently communicating with the

persons arrested and accused in the Burdwan blast.

The duo had direct link with Rohingya leader Khaled Mohammad alias Abdur Noor, who had allegedly worked jointly with JMB in Burdwan and is one of the suspects, said DB officials.

The trio confessed that Khaled was their ideological leader, the officials claimed.

"They are Rohingyas and staying illegally in the country, but we have yet to confirm if they went to India or not," Krishna said, adding, Omar Karim had been living in the country illegally for 12 years, Noor for four years and Yasir for around one year.

Karim studied at Fatehpur Madrasa in Hathazari upazila, Noor at Hathazari Eshapur Madrasa and Yasir was a student at Al Jamia Patia Qawmi Madrasa, he added.

They were alleged members of Rohingya organisations including Solidarity Organisation (RSO) and some other militant outfits, said the detectives, adding, the arrestees were allegedly spreading militancy under

cover of studentship.

The trio were presented before the media during the news briefing at the DMP media cell. The law enforcers said the arrestees were sued in two cases under the Anti-Terrorism Act and Explosives and Substances Act with Lalbagh police.

Earlier last month, the NIA arrested a Myanmar national at Hyderabad in connection with the Burdwan blast. The agency identified the 38-year-old arrestee as Khaled alias Khalid Mohammed.

After the October 2 blast that left two alleged JMB operatives killed and one injured, an NIA team visited Dhaka in mid-November. In return, a seven-member Bangladesh delegation comprising officials of law-enforcement and intelligence agencies visited Kolkata on November 27-30.

They exchanged information and lists of JMB operatives and other criminals allegedly operating both in India and Bangladesh. Both the sides have agreed to cooperate with each other to hunt down the operatives.

Secret Netaji files won't be shared

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ago, the PMO has declined to share copies of the files.

The PMO has shared a list of files created from 1953 to 2000, the last two "Top Secret" files being on Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry report. The other two top secret papers are on correspondences with and about Netaji's widow and daughter (last amended in 1971) and the transfer of his ashes to India (created in 1998).

In all, 21 files pertain to Netaji's disappearance or circumstances of his death and the appointment of inquiry committees. Ten others are marked "Unclassified" but, the government has refused to reveal contents of even those files.

The list includes two files on the Indian National Army's treasure, created in 1956-57 and 1988.

Among the files marked "Secret" is a 1991 document titled "Bharat Ratna Award -- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Subhas Chandra Bose, JRD Tata, Morarji Desai."

The government has also kept secret information on acquisition of Jankinath Bhavan at Cuttack, the birth place of Netaji, by the Orissa government, and two references from Professor Samar Guha, MP, in 1990-91 on his disappearance.

The classified files include a 2006 file on Netaji's mortal remains kept in Rankoji temple in Japan on behalf of the Indian government.

"The Central Public Information

Officer did not specify the name of the country with which relations would be prejudicially affected," said Agrawal, adding that in case it is the United Kingdom, then a much larger public interest is involved in making the revelations.

"Here in this case, public interest definitely overweighs the harm protected, where even several commissions/committees have been formed by the Union government to probe the mystery," said Agrawal in his letter to the PMO's Appellate Authority under the RTI Act seeking the disclosure of all Netaji files.

The BJP-led government had earlier declined to make public the Henderson Brooks-Bhagat report on the 1962 war with China.

Khaleda graft trial resumes in 2 cases

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The court also asked the ex-premier and four others, all on bail now, in the cases to appear before it on that day.

Earlier in the day, the court rejected six petitions filed by the BNP chief seeking adjournment of the deposition recording in the graft cases.

Mahbub Uddin Khokon, a counsel for Khaleda, submitted the time petitions before the Special Judge Court-3 saying that they filed two separate petitions with the High Court for the transfer of the cases from the court as they "would not get justice" here.

Opposing the petitions, ACC lawyer Mosharraf Hossain Kajol said the apex court had already dismissed all the leave-to-appeal petitions filed by Khaleda, clearing the way for holding of trials.

The four other accused include former BNP lawmaker Kazi Saleemul Haque Kamal, who is on bail, and BNP leader Harris Chowdhury, now absconding.

Advocate Sanaullah Miah represented BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman in his absence.

Khaleda on Sunday submitted two more petitions with the HC expressing no confidence in the Special Judge

Court-3 of Dhaka Judge Basudev Roy, who had framed the charges against her and eight others in Zia Charitable Trust and Zia Orphanage Trust graft cases.

The ACC in 2009 filed the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case for embezzlement of over Tk 2.1 crore by forming a "fake" trust which existed only on paper.

The anti-graft watchdog filed Zia Charitable Trust corruption case in 2011 accusing four people, including Khaleda, of abusing power in setting up the charitable trust.

Qayyum Chowdhury

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A pall of gloom descended in and around the faculty as an ambulance carrying Qayyum's body reached there around 11:00am from the mortuary of the Square Hospitals. Overcome with grief, his colleagues and hundreds of his students paid their tributes to the artist.

The eminent artist suffered a massive cardiac arrest and breathed his last around 9:00pm in the capital's Army Stadium on Sunday night. The 82-year-old painter collapsed before uttering his last words during his speech at the Bengal Classical Music Festival.

He was laid to eternal rest at Azimpur graveyard after the Asr prayers.

Later his body was taken to the Central Shaheed Minar around 11:45am where his family members, friends, ministers, leaders of socio-political organisations, cultural activists and hundreds of his well-wishers gathered in silence, standing in front of the coffin, their faces etched with grief, as they paid their final tributes to the painter.

Different socio-cultural organisations placed wreaths and stood in silence to pray for his departed soul as his body lay in state there till 1:00pm.

Floral wreaths were also placed on behalf of President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Qayyum's son Moinul Islam Zaber said bringing the motif of Bengali folk art on to the canvas was his lifelong goal.

"His every artistic endeavour was driven by this dream. Contemporary artists should continue to pursue

this goal," he said.

"There is a big difference between knowing how to create art and living in the art. He was one of the few artists who actually lived in the world of art," he added.

Noted artist and media personality Mustafa Monwar said: "His contribution to the fine arts of Bangladesh is substantial. His death will create an unfathomable void in the country's art scene."

Theatre personality Ramendu Majumdar said the book publishing industry would never be where it was today without his gorgeous illustrations.

"His timeless book covers, and newspaper and magazine illustrations have set a milestone in the history of our book design and cover illustrations," he said.

From Shaheed Minar, the body was taken to Dhaka University Central Mosque where a namaz-e-janaza was held after the Zohr prayers. Then a hearse carrying Qayyum's body left for Azimpur graveyard for burial.

Born in Feni in 1932, Qayyum graduated in 1954 from the Government Institute of Arts, now Faculty of Fine Arts. Mentored by the master painter Zainul Abedin, Qayyum pursued his passion for painting during the most exciting stages of the art movement in the '50s.

Qayyum won innumerable awards including the Imperial Court Prize, the Shilpakala Academy Award, the Leipzig Book Fair Prize for Book Illustration, the Ekushey Padak, the 6th Bangabandhu Award, the Sultan Padak and Swadhinata Padak.

Govt tightens NGO rules

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2014 that seeks to empower the NGO bureau under the Prime Minister's Office to inspect, monitor and assess the NGO activities and cancel registrations for violation of the law.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the proposed law envisages regulating activities of NGOs receiving foreign contributions. It will also ensure transparency, accountability and appropriate use of foreign funds, he said.

"Under the proposed law, no NGO will be able to undertake any project and implement it with foreign donations without the approval of the NGO Affairs Bureau," said the secretary.

As per the new law, in the application for registration, an organisation must clearly mention the sources of the funds and areas of spending. The registration will be given for ten years, but the government can cancel the registration anytime in case of any violation of the law.

An NGO can appoint a foreign consultant or expert upon taking security clearance from the bureau and the home ministry, the law said.

As per the law, the NGOs will have to keep their foreign contributions in a mother account of a designated bank, publish annual reports after audit of the accounts and submit those to the Director General of the NGO Affairs Bureau.

Any violation of the law would be considered as an offence and punishment will be applicable depending on the nature of the offence. Warning, cancellation of the registration and penalty would be the punishment for any administrative irregularities.

However, any offence of criminal nature like terror financing, women or child trafficking, drug smuggling will be dealt under the existing criminal law, the draft says.

In their immediate reactions, Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) and Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) said they did not know whether the concerns of NGOs

over the law have been addressed before the cabinet's final approval.

They also said most of the provisions were already in place.

"We have yet to see the final draft [of the law]. So we can't say anything specific right now," Sultana Kamal said, adding they would come up with the formal statements upon reading the final draft.

After the cabinet accepted the draft law in principle several months ago, Iftekharuzzaman said the law minister assured them of addressing the concerns.

Earlier, 15 leading NGOs including TIB and ASK said empowering the NGO Bureau to close down an NGO or stop all its voluntary activities is in conflict with the existing laws of the land.

They also termed negative the proposed restriction on receipt of foreign grants by individuals from a number of professions and organisations, and said such a provision is irrelevant.

The NGOs said it is appropriate and necessary to give the NGO Bureau the responsibility for inspection and audit. But it will be inappropriate to give it the task of project evaluation.

They felt that the word "evaluation" should be dropped from articles 10(1) and 10(3) of the draft law.

Contacted, Law Minister Anisul Huq said the NGOs discussed their concerns with him and Prime Minister's International Affairs adviser Gowher Rizvi. "I also conveyed their concerns to him [Rizvi] and the NGO Affairs Bureau. Those should have been addressed, I hope," he told The Daily Star.

Rizvi could not be contacted as his cellphone was found switched off.

The cabinet also approved the draft of Supreme Court Judges (Leave, Pension and Privileges) Ordinance (Amendment) Act-2014 to raise the rate of gratuity of the judges of the Supreme Court in case of compulsory surrender of pension.

It adopted two condolence motions at the demise of Independence Award winning artist Qayyum Chowdhury and noted journalist Jaglul Ahmed Chowdhury