

Patients at risk in dilapidated Barisal General Hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Inpatients and staff of Barisal General Hospital in the city are amid a great risk of accidents at any moment due to the dilapidated condition of the century-old hospital building.

It has not seen any renovation since it was built in 1912 by public donations despite several appeals made by the hospital authority to the Public Works Department (PWD) over the last two years.

The hospital consisting of four buildings -- administrative, emergency, general ward and diarrhoea section -- is used as a 100-bed general unit of Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital, said Dr Delwar Hossain, resident medical officer of the general hospital.

Due to the vulnerable condition of the building, the female medicine ward of the diarrhoea section has already been transferred to the general ward, constructed a decade ago, said Delwar.

During a visit to the hospital, this correspondent found that cracks have developed, plasters have fallen off, and rods were sticking out of the ceiling in many rooms of the administrative building, emergency building, and diarrhoea section.

During the monsoon, rainwater trickling down through the cracks multiplies the sufferings of patients and staff and hampers medical services, said hospital sources.

On Wednesday, a patient and a staff were injured being hit by a large chunk of plaster that fell off the ceiling in the X-ray room of the emergency building.

When contacted, Zakir Hossain, executive engineer of PWD's Barisal office, acknowledged the appeals by the hospital authority and said the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) is responsible for the maintenance of all hospitals containing up to 250 beds, so PWD could not do anything.

FM Murshid, executive engineer of DPHE, Barisal, however, said that as Barisal General Hospital is a part of the 500-bed Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital, PWD is responsible for its maintenance.



A patient undergoes an x-ray examination in a dilapidated room of the century-old Barisal General Hospital on Wednesday, half an hour after plaster fell off the ceiling injuring a patient and a staff. The soggy, flaking walls and ceilings are also damaging the expensive medical equipment but the Public Works Department and Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) are exchanging blames over the hospital's maintenance and renovation.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

TEESTA AGREEMENT SIGNING

India indicates delay

Asks for patience, trust

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India (Ministry of External Affairs) secretary (during her recent visit) has indicated willingness...to participate in further infrastructure projects.

On an agreement allowing seamless transit of passenger, personal and cargo vehicles through designated routes in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal without transshipment, he said it was at a "highly advanced stage" and expected to be signed at a meeting of the transport ministers soon.

On whether this sub-regional pact will be in conflict with a similar South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) initiative, he said the agreement could not be signed for objections a Saarc member raised.

"Now if it is the case we are moving forward within the Saarc framework, then that would be a very good step also," he observed. The agreement has provisions to incorporate more Saarc nations.

On the Indian and Bangladesh prime ministers visiting each other's country, he said both Narendra Modi, who was keen to come on a tour, and Sheikh Hasina had accepted invitations and the countries were trying to find "mutually convenient dates".

"I am hopeful that whenever such a visit takes place, you will find that it will contribute positively to this relationship," added Pankaj.

He also spoke on issues starting from border killing, special economic zone, travel and investment and visa problems.

DCAB General Secretary Bashir Ahmed gave the welcome address with President Masud Karim in the chair while Indian High Commission First Secretary (Press and Information) Siddhartha Chattopadhyay was also present.

"These are still under discussions but the

JUDICIAL BODY TO PROBE SALAHUDDIN'S DISAPPEARANCE

HC to decide on April 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed April 15 for delivering the verdict on a petition seeking an order on the government to form a judicial body to probe into the disappearance of BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed.

The HC fixed the date after hearing arguments on the petition filed by Salahuddin's wife Hasina Ahmed.

Hasina Ahmed said she has pleaded with the prime minister a number of times seeking her intervention in the search for Salahuddin who disappeared over a month ago.

According to Hasina, law enforcers picked up Salahuddin from a house in Uttara of the capital on March 10 and there has been no news of him since then.

During hearing yesterday, petitioner's counsel Moudud Ahmed told the HC that

Salahuddin is alive and in custody of law enforcers.

Khandker Mahub Hossain, another lawyer for Hasina, told the HC, citing a report of the investigation officer, that Rab personnel arrested Salahuddin's drivers Khokon and Shafique and personal assistant Md Osman Gani on March 7 in a bomb blast case.

He said Rab might have picked up Salahuddin on March 10 as he was accused in the same case.

Responding to a query of the HC on whether Salahuddin went into hiding, Khandker Mahub Hossain said it is still the government's duty to locate him.

Additional Attorney General Moutaz Uddin Fakir opposed the prayer saying that law enforcers have been searching for Salahuddin.

JU BCL men "snatch visitors' belongings"

JU CORRESPONDENT

A suspended Bangladesh Chhatra League leader and two activists allegedly snatched a cellphone and wallet after harassing a man and a woman accusing them of "obscenity" in front of Jahangirnagar University's botanical garden yesterday.

A local, Abdur Rahim Juel of journalism and media studies, was suspended earlier for violating discipline while Robiul Islam of urban and regional planning and Hassan of physics are activists, JU BCL President Mahmudur Rahman Jony told The Daily Star. He said the allegation should be investigated.

Arriving on a motorcycle, the three asked who they were. Realising they were not JU students, the three pounced on them, said Jashim Uddin, a polytechnic institute student living in Ashulia, in a written complaint to the JU authority.

Denying the snatching allegation, the three blatantly claimed that they took it upon themselves to drive the two out for "obscenity" and "hiding identities".

Proctor Tapan Kumar Saha said they were looking into the matter.

OYASIQUR MURDER

Two madrasa students on remand again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent two madrasa students on a three-day fresh remand each in connection with the killing of blogger Oyasiquur Rahman Babu.

The court passed the order after investigation officer Moshir Rahman of the Detective Branch of police produced the duo before the court with a five-day remand prayer for each after completion of an eight-day remand.

The two, Zikurullah and Ariful Islam, were yet to get any lawyers to defend

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Dhaka-Aricha highway blocked over road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Several hundred students of different institutions in Savar yesterday blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway for about an hour protesting an accident on Tuesday that injured a student.

Students of Gono Bishwabidyalay, Mirza Golam Hafiz College, Alhaj Zafar Bepari School and Gono Pathshala Government Primary School blocked the highway around 1:30pm in Baishmail that created an eight kilometres long tailback.

On Tuesday, Abdullah Ibne Salam, a first year student of Gono Bishwabidyalay, was hit by a bus while crossing the highway in Bishmail. He is currently under treatment at a local hospital.

The protestors demanded a footbridge and speed bumps in the area to prevent such accidents from occurring.

The demonstrators withdrew after the local police administration assured looking into the matter.

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Obituary

Syeda Ashrafi Begum, wife of Late Syed Waris Ali, left us on Tuesday evening April 7th 2015. She leaves behind one son, four daughters, five grand children and three great grand children. Her Kulkhani will be held on Friday April 10th 2015 (today) after Asr prayers at her eldest daughter's (Mithu) House No.8, Road No.4, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

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পুট বিক্রয়

জীপেরোডে ১ বিঘা ও ধানমন্ডিতে ১ বিঘা কমার্শিয়াল নিরুস্টক এবং ধানমন্ডিতে ১ বিঘা, ১০ কাঠা ও ছয় কাঠা নির্ভেজাল জমি বিক্রয়। মোবাইলঃ ০১৯১২-৮১৯৩৭৮

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Plan International Bangladesh will dispose some used materials like Motorcycle, Computer, Laptop, Printer,UPS etc as is where is basis. The schedule and items will be available for inspection at below address from April 12 - 20, 2015 during office time.

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LATE MAHBOOB UR RAHMAN BHUIYAN

Alhaji Mahboob ur Rahman Bhuiyan, 57, an eminent businessman and social worker passed away on 25th March 2015 (Inna Illahi wa inna ilahi rajeun). He was a founding member of Manabik Shahajya Sangstha (MSS) and the member of the Finance Committee; having served as the Treasurer, Vice President and Executive Committee member of MSS for many years.

DOA MEHFIL

Mahboob was a larger than life character, a successful entrepreneur, a fine human being with strong commitment to serve the suffering humanity. His death leaves a void in MSS that is difficult to fill. All MSS members and staffs are deeply saddened and express their profound shock at the premature demise of Alhaji Mahboob. The MSS family fondly recalls the immense contributions he made towards the socio-economic development of the underprivileged people of Bangladesh. May his soul rest in eternal peace, in heaven.

MSS will hold a Doa Mehfil today (Friday) after Asar prayers preceded by Quran Tilawat at its Head Office (SEL Center, 29-West Panthapath, Dhaka).

Manabik Shahajya Sangstha Family

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