

Chittagong Medical College won't become university

Health Minister Nasim tells discussion; again slams doctors staying away from workplace in rural areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Health Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday said Chittagong Medical College (CMC) would not be transformed into a medical university, but rather the government would establish a separate one.

He said the operation of Chittagong Medical University would start immediately after the bill in this regard was passed in parliament.

He made the comment while addressing a discussion at CMC, organised by Chittagong district and CMC units of Swadhinata Chikitsok Parishad (Swachip).

Speaking as special guest, Housing and Public Affairs Minister Mosharraf Hossain said the prime minister did not want the conversion as Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) served the poor

and feared that they would be deprived of healthcare if it became a university.

So she wants a separate medical university in Chittagong, he said.

"We have lands in Chittagong and I hope the construction of the medical university will start in a separate place soon after the bill of the Chittagong Medical University Act is passed in parliament," he said.

Meanwhile, the health minister came down heavily on the government doctors who do not want to go to remote areas and wish to stay in the capital.

"There is a medical university in Dhaka where doctors outnumber patients," he said.

In the same breath, he praised the doctors who saved the life of a child who was injured by a bullet in the womb of her mother in Magura.

"We have such doctors who

saved the child and her mother by their cordial and relentless service; on the contrary, there are also doctors who are involved in corruption."

"I have information that many doctors posted at the upazila level are not discharging their duties properly," he said, urging the civil surgeons to keep a watch on those doctors.

Nasim said vehicles would be given to female doctors working at the upazila level immediately.

The minister said CMCH's wards would get some modern machinery shortly and urged the doctors to take good care of the equipment.

"It will unacceptable if you make the machinery inoperative and send patients to clinics," he said, warning, "If you do that, it will be a crime."



Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority's warning against dumping of waste into this place, opposite Sadarghat on the bank and into the Buriganga river in the capital's Kamrangirchar, goes completely unheeded. In the meantime, the pile is getting larger, adding to the pollution of the water on one hand and shrinking the river channel on the other. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

NEWS IN brief

British state minister for int'l development due on Sunday

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

British Minister of State for International Development Desmond Swayne is expected to arrive in Bangladesh on a three-day official visit on Sunday.

This will be his first visit to Bangladesh since he was appointed to this post in 2014.

During his visit, he is expected to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, opposition leader Raushan Ershad and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

He will also meet business, civil society representatives and media and visit some UK-funded projects.



Ex-IGP Hasan Mahmud new ambassador to Spain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former inspector general of police Hasan Mahmud Khandaker has been made the ambassador to Spain for next three years.

A gazette notification was issued in this regard by the public administration ministry on August 16.

Mahmud was on post retire leave (PRL) after retiring as IGP on December 31 last year.

The notification says his appointment is on a contractual basis.



DPDC penalises businesses for power pilferage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd (DPDC) fined four businesses Tk 29 lakh for stealing of 1.5 lakh units of electricity through meter tampering in the capital during a five-day drive until yesterday.

The businesses are two plastic factories in Kamrangirchar and Postogola, a real estate developer in Moghbazar and a water bottling company in Bongshal.

Power connections to those businesses were also severed.

Woman found dead in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A woman was found dead at her house at Dagormora in Savar, outside the capital, yesterday.

Police said on information they recovered the body of Priya Akter, 26, hanging from the ceiling and arrested her husband Md Al-Mamun.

She might have committed suicide following a family feud, police added.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy. A case was filed.

Hearing on Nizami's appeal against his death penalty today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court today will start hearing the appeal filed by war crimes convict Motiur Rahman Nizami challenging the death penalty and other sentences given to him for his crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 on October 29 last year found Nizami guilty on eight of the 16 charges brought against him and handed him the death penalty on four charges and life imprisonment on the other four.

Nizami, who was sentenced to death in the 10-truck arms haul case, filed the appeal on November 23 last year.

HAJJ FLIGHTS

Visa problems delay departure of 419

UNB, Dhaka

A batch of 419 Bangladeshi pilgrims failed to go to Saudi Arabia yesterday by the scheduled hajj flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines due to visa complexities.

The flight, BG-3013, of the national flag carrier was scheduled to take off from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport for Saudi Arabia in the morning, an assistant hajj officer told the news agency.

However, the flight could not depart due to glitches in the visa issuance e-system for the pilgrims in Saudi Arabia, he said.

The hajj official also said the problem

was solved in the afternoon following a meeting among the religious affairs ministry, foreign ministry and Saudi embassy in Dhaka.

"There's no problem in the e-system now. Visas are being issued online. Those who failed to get visas will receive those," he said.

The hajj official said the pilgrims who could not go to Saudi Arabia by the morning flight have been asked to get ready to travel anytime. "They'll be sent to Saudi Arabia by any flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines."

Meanwhile, another flight of the national flag carrier with 419 pilgrims is scheduled to leave the country at 3:35am today.

ACC to investigate only

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officials to the BFIU, drawing them from the central bank and other government agencies like NBR and DNC upon BFIU chief's recommendations, said the cabinet secretary.

The BFIU head will have the tenure of four years and it will be renewable. The BFIU will submit its report to the National Coordination Committee concerned on prevention of money laundering through the governor.

The proposed amendments also increased the fine from Tk 10 lakh to Tk 20 lakh, but the jail terms remain the same - four years minimum and 12 years maximum.

Musharraf said the finance minister, the law minister, and ACC had long been advocating for bringing necessary amendments to this act.

The central bank created the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit in 2012 to deal with financial crimes including money laundering.

The cabinet also gave the final approval to the draft of the Anti-Corruption Commission (Amendment) Act-2015 that proposes to relieve ACC of the responsibility to deal with cheating and forgery cases if those do not involve government property, civil servants or bankers.

The Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) hailed the cabinet decision, saying the proposed amendments would have positive impacts in fighting money laundering.

"I welcome the decision and see it positively. I hope money laundering related offences will be dealt in an organised way if the respective authorities work sincerely," TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman told The Daily Star.

Referring to the huge deposits to the Swiss banks by Bangladeshis, he said money laundering was a sophisticated crime and its incidence was increasing in the country.

The TIB boss said if BFIU was made independent and assisted by ACC, NBR, the central bank and other agencies, it would be easy to fight money laundering.

Denied bribes, RHD engineers

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including Tk 40 crore for renovation of the road and Tk 13.96 crore for acquisition of land in 2010.

Rupsha Engineers of Khulna got the work order for renovation of 11km for Tk 20 crore. Patuakhali's RHD has already paid it Tk 15.75 crore.

Returnee domestic workers

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said she was not only denied salary for the lone month she worked but also had to spend Tk 1.06 lakh to get back.

Working 18 to 20 hours every day for a family comprising over 30 members, she said she had little scope for showers or meals.

"I became seriously ill...One day I fell down a stairway and suffered leg injuries," she said. The injuries prompted her return on August 9.

Though she herself did not face any abuse, Nargis spoke of a fellow, Surovi from Gaibandha's Sundarganj upazila, who was beaten on several days by her Saudi employer and was now at the company's

camp.

"Her feet were numb and she found it hard to walk," said Surovi's elder brother Rahidul Islam yesterday, adding that they wrote to BMET on August 13 to bring her back.

Another returnee, Anowara Begum from Cox's Bazar, said her return was prompted by incidents of torture she witnessed at the company's camp.

"Every day Bangladeshi agents and Saudis used to beat women who arrived after quitting their jobs. Some were beaten for refusing to work again," she said, having returned with four others on Friday.

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