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Not a good place for the sick

DMCH keeps patients in abandoned space littered with filth

TAWFIQUE ALI

Seventy-year-old Elahi Nawaz with a broken thighbone was lucky to get some 'room' for admission in a filthy abandoned space at the country's biggest public hospital attached to Dhaka Medical College.

It is a 70-square-foot tiny room with an abandoned toilet where he was accommodated in the early hours of August 27 for a long wait for surgery.

Another patient, 35-year-old Monirul Haq with motorbike accident injuries from Boalmari in Faridpur also found his place in the room crammed with two medical beds.

As a result, the small room turned crowded with two patients and three of their attendants.

The four walls and the adjoining corridor-like passage of the room are awfully filthy with yellowish sticky layers, while the floors smeared with dirt.

"My husband is unable to go to the toilet at the other end of the corridor. His defecation is done with a chair just a little away," said Hanufa, Elahi's wife, adding, "His urination is done in polythene bags in the room."

"In fact, we have no other alternatives," she said, adding that the attached toilet had no water and its doors were closed with a piece of string.

Elderly Elahi, a private security guard in Khilgaon in the capital, has been waiting in this condition for more than one and a half months.

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A shabby corridor of the old emergency section of Dhaka Medical College Hospital indicates the abysmal hygiene standards at the country's biggest hospital. Even a bed is seen on the passage. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

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Coal-laden vessel sinks in Passur near Sundarbans

UNB, Bagerhat

A cargo vessel carrying 510 tonnes of coal capsized in the Passur river near the Sundarbans in the district's Mongla upazila last night.

Sub-inspector Md Nazrul Islam of Chandpai Navy Police Camp said

Khulna-bound cargo ship MV GR Raj from Mongla port sank in the river near Beauty Market area as the keel of the ship was damaged around 9:00pm.

Locals rescued 10 crews of the vessel from the river in a trawler.

A three member investigation committee, headed by Md Belayet Hossain,

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PRAYER TIMING
OCTOBER 28

| | | | | |
|------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Fazr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
| 4:50 | 12:45 | 4:00 | 5:32 | 7:15 |

AZAN 4:50 12:45 4:00 5:32 7:15
JAMAAT 5:25 1:15 4:15 5:35 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

AFGHAN-PAKISTAN QUAKE

Hunt on for survivors

Death toll passes 360; desperate victims appeal for aid

AFP, Islamabad

Desperate survivors appealed for food and blankets yesterday after a devastating earthquake killed more than 360 people in Pakistan and Afghanistan, as harsh weather, rugged terrain and pockets of militancy hampered rescue efforts.

The Afghan Taliban urged relief agencies to push ahead with aid deliveries to victims of Monday's powerful earthquake, which destroyed thousands of homes, triggered landslides and stampedes, and knocked out communication lines.

Mass burial ceremonies were conducted in both countries as officials warned that the death toll could spike as entire communities remain inaccessible amid freezing winter conditions.

Pakistani officials were unable to reach authorities in the remote district of Kohistan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province for a second day to see how its population of nearly half a million people had fared.

"There is no way to communicate with the officials in Kohistan, the

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HOSSAINI DALAN BLASTS

Probe on to check security system flaws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators are looking into whether there were any security flaws at Hossaini Dalan that the perpetrators took advantage of and carried out the blasts during the last-minute preparations for a

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WATER FOR IRRIGATION

Smart cards for farmers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government may introduce prepaid smart cards for farmers to get irrigation water from the Water Development Board pumps, said Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud.

"The farmers used to get irrigation water free of cost. But now we are planning to introduce smart cards for farmers," he said at a programme in the capital yesterday while talking about scarcity of water in Bangladesh and proper management of the available resources.

The government has already distributed the cards in some areas on an experimental basis, he added.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a book launching programme at a city hotel yesterday.

The book -- People of Many Rivers: Tales from the Riverbanks -- jointly published by ActionAid Bangladesh and University Press Limited is a compilation of accounts of 32 people living on the banks of the Padma and the Teesta rivers in northern Bangladesh.

The book predominantly portrays the impacts of poor river policies adopted by the governments of Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan where dams were built, hydro-electric power stations developed and embankments constructed with "little or no consideration" of the natural flow of water and livelihoods, speakers said.

Bangladesh, in particular, bears the worst brunt of negligence in river management.

"If there is no water, there will be no farming, no fishing and no bathing either. How will we survive?" said Tahasen Ali, a fisherman from Godagari of Rajshahi, while sharing his experience.

Prof Sanjay Hazarika of Jamia Millia Islamia University of New Delhi, India, Dutch Ambassador in Dhaka Leoni Margaretha Cuelenaere and Prof Intiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University too spoke at the programme moderated by Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh.



Buddhist devotees releasing fanushes (paper lanterns) in the sky on the occasion of Probarana Purnima in front of the Nandan Kanan Buddha Temple in Chittagong city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

'Super tomato' to help fight killer diseases

MAIL ONLINE

Supercharged GM tomatoes packed with industrial quantities of disease-fighting plant chemicals could soon be on the menu.

Just one of the genetically engineered tomatoes grown by British scientists contains as much of the grape compound resveratrol as 50 bottles of red wine.

The antioxidant chemical is said to combat heart disease, cancer, diabetes and Alzheimer's disease.

Another tomato produced the same amount of genistein - a soybean compound that may help prevent breast cancer - as 2.5 kilograms of tofu.

Professor Cathie Martin, from the John Innes Centre in Norwich, said: "Our study provides a general tool for producing valuable

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KADER'S CANDIDACY SC stays Tangail-4 by-election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed the process for holding Tangail-4 by-polls till November 2 following a petition filed by the Election Commission.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain fixed November 2 to hear the EC's petition filed on October 26 seeking a stay on a High Court order that asked the commission to allow Abdul Kader Siddiqui to contest the poll.

The hearing will be held before the full bench of the Appellate Division on November 2, Attorney General Mahubey Alam told The Daily Star.

The commission cannot proceed with the process of holding the poll till then following the SC order, he added.

"We will step forward with the election process following the court direction to be given on November 2," EC Secretary

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বিস্মিল্লাহির রাহমানির রাহিম

সবার জন্যে সবসময়

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