



Despite the presence of two glaring signboards, put up by Chittagong Metropolitan Police, designating the street one-way route, errant drivers seen keep on driving in the wrong direction, causing a huge gridlock in the area. Traffic sergeants standing nearby seem to be oblivious even though they witness such anomalies every day. The photo was taken yesterday at GEC intersection, one of the busiest roundabouts in the port city.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

CMCH morgue in grip of hustlers

MINHAJ UDDIN

Imagine a fatal accident- someone you know just lost his or her life. Painstakingly relatives follow the process, go to a police station for the initial scrutiny and obtain an inquest report.

Now onto the hospital for an autopsy. The moment you enter the morgue premises with the body, two to three people would walk up to you and take it inside. Tired, you relax, hoping it is part of the procedure.

Afterwards, one of them will ask money for the autopsy performed.

By the time you end up paying the hefty amount, you did not even realise, an autopsy is supposed to be free of cost.

This is a regular scene at Chittagong Medical College (CMC), where an autopsy often costs between Tk 5,000 and Tk 15,000.

The service receivers continue to suffer and are forced to pay a huge amount that ends up in the pockets of the unscrupulous and fraudulent hustlers and corrupt hospital staff, while the authorities turn a blind eye.

Mohammed Bacchu, a construction-site caretaker, recently brought the body of fellow mason Mashrafi, who was beaten to death on February 24. He was asked Tk 12,000 for an autopsy.

"When I asked for a receipt, they threatened not to stitch the body properly. It was released for Tk 10,000," said Bacchu.

Md Manik, from Kishoreganj, came for his brother Md Alam's body, a day labourer in Chittagong city. He committed suicide on February 28. The next day, Manik was charged Tk 14,000 as morgue and post-mortem bills.

"The people who were asking for money were going in and out of the

morgue without any restrictions and were handling everything. So I thought this was the procedure," he said over telephone.

Both were duped by the "morgue syndicate" in CMCH.

Although the service is provided under the forensic medicine department of CMC, around four years ago the temporary dead house of the hospital was shifted there as per an internal decision.

The forensic department is manned by Sudangshu and Kodom Ali, two employees (Member of Lower-hand Subordinate Staff) of CMC; the temporary dead house, on the other hand, by hospital staff Shamol Das and Ratan Kumar Mali.

This temporary morgue has become a haven for the hustlers, according to the insiders.

Visiting the morgue for the last two months, this correspondent found three outsiders, Selim, Haris and Modhu, regularly performing

their "duties".

The officially appointed employees were occasionally seen. When anybody entered the premises, one of the three approached, identifying themselves as hospital staff.

"There's no signboard describing the process or the service provided," said Delwar Hossain, a private ambulance driver, who regularly brings bodies from Lohagara upazila.

He brought two bodies, one on March 18, and the other a week ago, and the families were charged Tk 5,000 each for autopsies, he alleged.

Morgue-man Sudangshu said they receive the bodies with documents of police inquests only. "We do not charge for post-mortems, only for preserving the body at the air-conditioned room, which is Tk 1,000 a day, and that too is taken with a receipt."

"We have heard about some

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ACC arrests high rolling Rajuk man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Being a non-gazetted officer of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) with a monthly salary not more than Tk 20,000 has not held Tahmidul Islam back from spending at least Tk 30,000 for the upkeep of his Tk 22 lakh Toyota Allion and a chauffeur, say ACC sources.

Moreover, he owns a flat in Paltan Tower in the capital's Purana Paltan, valued around Tk 1.2 crore, they said.

The high roller was arrested by an Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) team at Segunbagicha yesterday in connection with two cases, including one over the laundering of Tk 98 lakh, filed with Shahbagh and Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police stations last October.

The sources said his bank records showed "abnormal" transactions.

"He concealed his professional identity and visited several countries introducing himself as a businessman," said an ACC deputy director wishing not to be named, adding that Tahmidul's passport has also been seized.

He said Tahmidul registered the flat in his wife's name. "In the register, he, however, showed that the flat was valued at Tk 60 lakh," he said, adding that Tahmidul claimed to have properties worth Tk 32 lakh in his income tax papers.

"We have sought permission from ACC to file another

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Government failure to trace missing Ilias frustrating

Says Mirza Fakhru visiting victim's family members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday expressed disappointment over "government failure" in tracing out former lawmaker and the party's organising secretary (Sylhet division), M Ilias Ali, who, along with his driver, has been missing since April 17, 2012.

"Already four years have gone by..The government failed to inform us what happened to him. It is frustrating as he has not been rescued even after the prime minister gave the assurance to the victim's

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