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DHAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL Outsiders often do some tasks meant for docs, nurses

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

More than 200 outsiders with no qualifications whatsoever provide various services to patients at Dhaka Medical College Hospital for money, sources said.

They even stitch small cuts, when doctors and nurses are not around, administer drugs into nebulizers and do bandages on patients at different wards including the burn unit, the sources said.

The issue has come to the forefront after a patient at the neurosurgery department of the hospital died on Friday allegedly after a man administered a drug into his nebulizer.

Due to inadequate manpower, some outsiders have long been working as helpers at the hospital, said Deputy Director of DMCH Khawaja Abdul Gafur.

They are mainly relatives and acquaintances of the hospital employees. However, these helpers are not supposed to provide treatment, Gafur added.

As many as 3,200 to 3,500 patients get admitted and receive treatment indoors while some 5,000 more take treatment from outdoors and the emergency department every day at the DMCH.

At present, the number of class-iv employees, the lowest tier of government employees, is 750, but to give proper services 1,000 more employees should be appointed at this level, said Abdul Khalek, union president of DMCH class-iv employees.

There has been no appointment since 2010, he said.

Eight hundred employees used to work for 900 beds before 2010. The bed number has been increased to 2,600 but the number of employees has remained the same, Abdul said.

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Children running towards their newly-built school which reopened one and a half months after a member of Hobirbari Union Parishad in Mymensingh's Bhaluka padlocked it for not getting his speed money from the contractor. The photo was taken on Thursday.

Happy to get back their school

UP member shut it a month and half ago

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Filled with joy, students of a primary school in Bhaluka went to classes yesterday, one and a half months after a local government representative had locked the institution for not getting speed money from the contractor who built the school.

Rafiqul Islam Ismail, member of Ward-1 of Hobirbari Union Parishad, the lowest tier of the local government, padlocked G a n g a t i a E d u c o S k i k h h a l a y a for not getting toll from the construction firm based in the capital.

"We are very happy as the school locked by the UP member has finally been reopened," said one of the smiling children at the school.

School and local sources said Rafiqul locked the school claiming contractor Sheikh International in Dhaka owed him money.

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Air strikes kill 42 in Aleppo

Water cut to 2 million

AFP, Aleppo

Residents in Syria's battleground city of Aleppo cowered indoors yesterday as fierce air strikes toppled buildings and killed at least 45 civilians, after diplomatic efforts to revive a ceasefire failed.

Nearly two million civilians were left without water in the devastated northern city after regime bombardment damaged a pumping station and rebels shut down another in retaliation, the United Nations said.

On Friday, at least 47 people were killed in heavy bombing.

Syria's Foreign Minister Walid Muallem told the UN General Assembly the Syrian army was making "great strides" in the conflict, with help from "true friends" Russia, Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

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FIGHTING TERROR SWAT-like teams to work in divisions

RAFIUL ISLAM

The police headquarters have decided to launch teams like SWAT in all divisional cities to combat armed terrorists, after the elite tactical unit of DMP achieved huge success in recent anti-militancy operations.

The teams, each comprising around 30 members, will take part in comparatively risky operations in their areas.

"We will launch teams like SWAT in all divisional cities as early as possible," AKM Shahidur Rahman, deputy inspector General (media and planning) at the police headquarters, told The Daily Star recently.

The teams will be well-trained and well-equipped with sophisticated arms. The process of recruitment and purchasing firearms is underway, he added.

There is a plan that the officials of Special Weapons And Tactics team (SWAT), among others, will train the teams in the divisional cities.

At a programme yesterday, DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia said they started working to increase strength and capability of special forces like SWAT, including through training.

Japan and the US already proposed to provide training, which may start by this year. Japan will also give logistical supports in this regard, he added.

SWAT, now a 50-member unit, started its journey in February 2009 with 24 men to fight hardcore criminals and terrorists.

Its members had completed a 42-day training programme in the US.

Unlike other forces from different police stations and detectives, the unit has rarely taken part in regular operations.

Over the years, people have seen them guarding the streets on different national occasions -- in khaki pants and T-shirts and equipped with modern weapons.

But it came to limelight after the operations in Kalyanpur and Narayanganj.

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Reports on Noor Chy's expulsion false

Says law minister

BSS, Dhaka

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the recent media report about the expulsion of Bangabandhu's self-confessed killer Noor Chowdhury from Canada was false.

"We contacted Bangladesh High Commission in Canada to know about the matter and our envoy told us that the report was not true. Our High Commission also contacted the Bangladesh desk at the Canadian foreign ministry, but didn't find the report to be authentic," he told journalists at his secretariat office.

Recently a report appeared in media that Canada has cancelled an asylum plea of Chowdhury and ordered his deportation. The reporters enquired the minister

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TAMPACO FIRE Factory used excessive gas

Titas probe body finds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A Titas Gas probe has found evidence of gas use beyond the approved limit at the Tampaco foils factory where at least 36 people were killed in a devastating fire on September 10.

The factory was consuming gas at least twice the permitted amount at the time of the incident, said sources linked to the probe body formed by Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Company Limited.

The sources said the probe body did not find faults in gas pipeline responsible for the incident. Inspecting the factory at BSCIC Industrial area in Tongi, the pipeline was found unharmed.

The sources further said gas supply to the factory was suspended within half an hour of the incident.

Earlier in 2005, Tampaco was fined twice for excessive gas use, according to Titas officials.

Rana Akbar Haidari, chief of the three-member probe body, formed a day after the incident, said the report was submitted to the Titas high-ups on Thursday.

Talking to this correspondent, he said the factory used to consume excessive gas using booster machine.

"They were warned earlier. The factory had permission to use gas for two shifts but it regularly ran three shifts and thus consumed excessive gas."

Without going into details, he added that the factory should have stored its inflammable chemicals in a more

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DEPORTED BANGLADESHI No link yet with Dhaka attackers

DMP boss says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are yet to find any link of Piyar Ahmed Akash, a Bangladeshi deported from Malaysia over terror ties there, in the Gulshan cafe, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia said yesterday.

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SIBL
Social Islami Bank Limited
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Prayer Timing September 25

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-35	12-45	4-15	6-00
JAMAAT	5-10	1-15	4-30	6-05
				8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

RAMPAL PLANT Construction to continue

Says state minister

UNB, Dhaka

The construction work on Rampal power plant will not be suspended despite the advice of Unesco, State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid said yesterday.

"The construction work on Rampal power plant will continue as no decision has been taken yet by the government to stop it," he told reporters after attending a workshop on the environmental impact of Siddhirganj power plant.

Power Cell organised the workshop titled "Cumulative Impact Assessment of Siddhirganj Power Hub" at Bidyut Bhaban in the city.

The remarks of the junior minister came against the backdrop of a Unesco report that suggested the government should cancel the Rampal project. The scheme was undertaken to build a 1320 MW coal-fired power plant at a site near the Sundarbans.

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Without any safety gear, a worker cleaning a manhole near the Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover after yesterday's downpour. Mud and debris from the construction work of the flyover often clog the drainage system there, inundating the street. The man could easily be run over by a vehicle or even drown. The photo was taken around 1:30pm at Pashchim Malibagh.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

4th-grader writes to PM for bridge, PM responds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has assured a Patuakhali schoolboy of taking steps to build a bridge on the Payra river in his locality after the boy wrote to her, asking for one.

Shirshendu Biswas, a class-IV student at Patuakhali Government Jubilee High School, wrote a letter to the prime minister on August 15, requesting her to have a bridge built on the river in Patuakhali's Mirzaganj upazila.

The PM in her reply said she was delighted to receive the letter from the boy. She praised him for his awareness of his family's security centring the river.

She said she was aware that the Payra in Mirzaganj is a turbulent river. The PM assured Shirshendu of taking steps to build a bridge over the river.

The prime minister's letter, written on September 8, reached the school on September 20, said sources in the school.

In his letter to the premier, Shirshendu said he is a citizen of the country and his father's name is Bishawjit Biswas and mother's name Sheela Rani Sonnamot.

"I am a regular student of class-IV at Patuakhali Government High School. Abinash Sonnamot, my maternal grandfather, was a freedom fighter."

He said he wrote an essay on Bangabandhu Sheikh



Shirshendu Biswas

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

'SEE ONLINE FOR THE FULL TEXTS OF THE LETTERS'