

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE  
LIFESTYLE  
STYLE

## TIGERS IN SRI LANKA

The Bangladesh team arrive in Colombo for a month-long tour

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## A NOTE OF CAUTION

Slower exports and remittances pose new challenges for Bangladesh, says IMF official

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## Prescription as usual

Over a month into HC directive, hardly anything changed for patients

PORIMOL PALMA and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Over a month and a half has elapsed but the health secretary has not issued any circular asking doctors to write prescription in block letters or provide printed prescriptions in compliance with a High Court order issued on January 9.

However, Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) in the third week of February issued a circular asking doctors to write prescription in block letters or provide printed prescriptions in compliance with the High Court order.

The doctors, in the meantime, continue to write the prescriptions the illegible way they have long been doing.

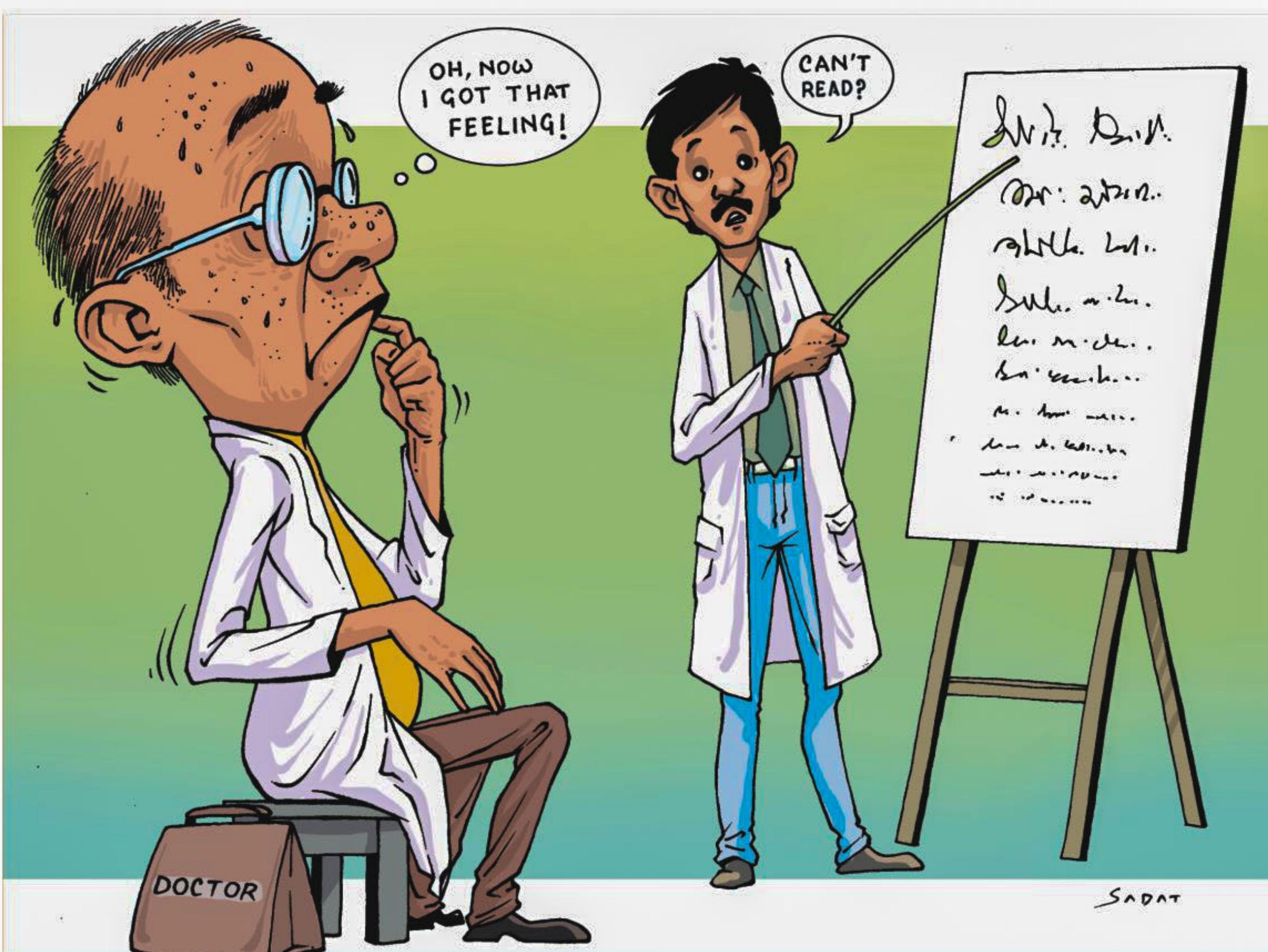
Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and registrar of the BMDC were asked to issue a circular in 30 days and submit a report to the court in six weeks after complying with its directive.

The order came after a writ petition against the backdrop that sloppy handwritings of doctors in prescriptions have been bearing serious risks of drug retailers providing wrong medicines to patients.

Drug retailers said they reject around 20 percent prescriptions, failing to understand what the doctors have prescribed.

"This creates a real problem for us and the patients," said Sumon Mia, owner of a pharmacy on Indira Road.

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**TOP!**

QUOTE

"I'm sorry I'm not with you tonight. My absence is out of respect for the people of my country and those of other six nations who have been disrespected by the inhumane law that bans entry of immigrants to the US."

OSCAR-WINNING IRANIAN DIRECTOR  
ASGHAR FARHADI  
AS HE BOYCOTTS THE OSCARS

## Daughter's fight for a hero's due

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

As February 28 nears every year, Dorothi sets out to do something she has been doing for almost a decade.

A resident of Barisal, she shuttles from one newspaper office to another in her city, requesting the news managers to publish a story on her father.

Nusrat Jahan Ibrahim Dorothi was only six months old when her father, HM Ibrahim Selim, sacrificed his life for a great cause: restoration of democracy in the country.

On this day in 1984, Selim and Kazi Delwar Hossain, two Dhaka University Chhatra League leaders, were killed after a police truck ploughed into a student demonstration near Gulistan.

The students were protesting against a decision of the autocratic Ershad regime to hold upazila elections.

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## Bill passed okaying underage marriage in 'special cases'

Opposition MPs' amendment plea turned down; rights groups to protest on March 8

REAZ AHMAD AND RASHIDUL HASAN

Keeping intact a provision that allows marriage of underage girls and boys in "special circumstances", the Jatiya Sangsad last night passed the Child Marriage Restraint Bill 2017 with 18 and 21 as minimum marriageable age for women and men respectively.

The development comes despite many pleas, petitions and protests by rights groups who think it is never a good idea to keep any room for marriages prior to one's adulthood in a country where one of the world's highest percentage of child marriages take place. With the exception of a few countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Bangladesh has the highest number of underage married girls.

The "special circumstances" provision of the law would permit parents and in the absence of parents, a girl's or boy's guardians, to get a court order and marry their wards off even before they reach the minimum marriageable age in their (the children's) "best interests".

And no age limit is specified in the law for solemnising marriages under such "special circumstances". So practically it can be 16 years of age, 14 or even below.

The new law got passed in parliament despite a protracted and persistent opposition by

rights groups at home and abroad.

Those working for the cause of preventing child marriages argue that such a leeway in the name of "special circumstances" would jeopardise the whole purpose of the law and people would tend to abuse the provision in getting girls married early.

In an instant reaction last night, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanom termed the development "unfortunate and awfully miserable".

This would only create a new "vicious cycle" for women in society and hinder women

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## ROHINGYA REFUGEES UN envoy decries Myanmar atrocities

APP, Dhaka

Rohingya refugees who fled violence in Myanmar have told how government forces gang-raped women, slit people's throats and threw children into burning houses, a UN envoy has said after a mission to neighbouring Bangladesh.

Yanghee Lee said the accounts given by Rohingya who had crossed into Bangladesh since a crackdown across the border in October indicated the violence was "far more extensive" than she had previously realised.

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## Stop production of drugs by 28 cos

HC asks govt to do it in 72 hrs as the medicines found substandard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to stop in 72 hours production and marketing of antibiotics of penicillin and cephalosporin groups, hormones and anti-cancer drugs by 28 companies as those were found substandard and injurious to public health.

It also asked the authorities to explain in two weeks why their inaction to stop the production and marketing of those drugs should not be declared illegal.

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**Rising Bangladesh**

Tomorrow's fresh new Bangladesh will stand tall with shining mega-structures and a fast-moving economy. All of these will be built with the strength of fresh new dreams. We are proud to be a part of those dreams; and proud to earn the trust of our countrymen.

**Fresh CEMENT**  
HIGH PERFORMANCE CEMENT