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WHEN FENCES FAIL



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Policemen, porters, parents with children and even physically challenged people cross the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue going over two barbed-wire fences near Farmgate yesterday. It has only been about a week since Dhaka North City Corporation installed the fences between the Karwan Bazar underpass and Farmgate to prevent jaywalking. Jaywalkers getting hit by vehicles on this stretch of the street have become all too frequent. Yet the practice goes on.



Saima WHO champion for autism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Health Organisation South-East Asia Region has designated Saima Wazed Hossain, a strong advocate for autism, as its champion to enhance commitment and generate awareness and action to address the sufferings of children with autism as well as their parents and caregivers.

"Ms Hossain's dedicated and unprecedented efforts have put autism high on the health agenda in her country Bangladesh, and helped get substantial regional and global attention to autism spectrum disorder [ASD] and other mental and neuro-developmental disorders. Her support as regional champion is expected to garner momentum for awareness and action in member countries, as much remains to be done for autism across the region," Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh said on the occasion of World Autism Day observed on April 2 every year.

Globally, autism prevalence rates are estimated at 160 cases in a population of 10,000, or one in 62 children. Data from highly resourceful countries show

LONE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

Running without emergency unit since inception in 1998

Students go to DMCH for training on handling emergency patients

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The country's premier postgraduate medical institution, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), is being run without an emergency department since its inception in 1998.

The Institute of Postgraduate Medical Research was converted into BSMMU for expanding the facilities for higher medical education and research in the country.

The medical university-slash-hospital also provides medical services.

Patients coming to the BSMMU for immediate treatment have to go to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) again as it has no emergency department, said BSMMU doctors.



They said an emergency department is not only required for patients but also mandatory for students of the hospital. Students of orthopedics department have to go to DMCH for a three-month internship to get first-hand knowledge to deal with emergency patients.

Over a year after laying the foundation stone of an emergency department, any of the top officials of the

BSMMU, including its vice-chancellor, pro-vice-chancellors, treasurer and deans, could not say for sure when the initiative would be completed.

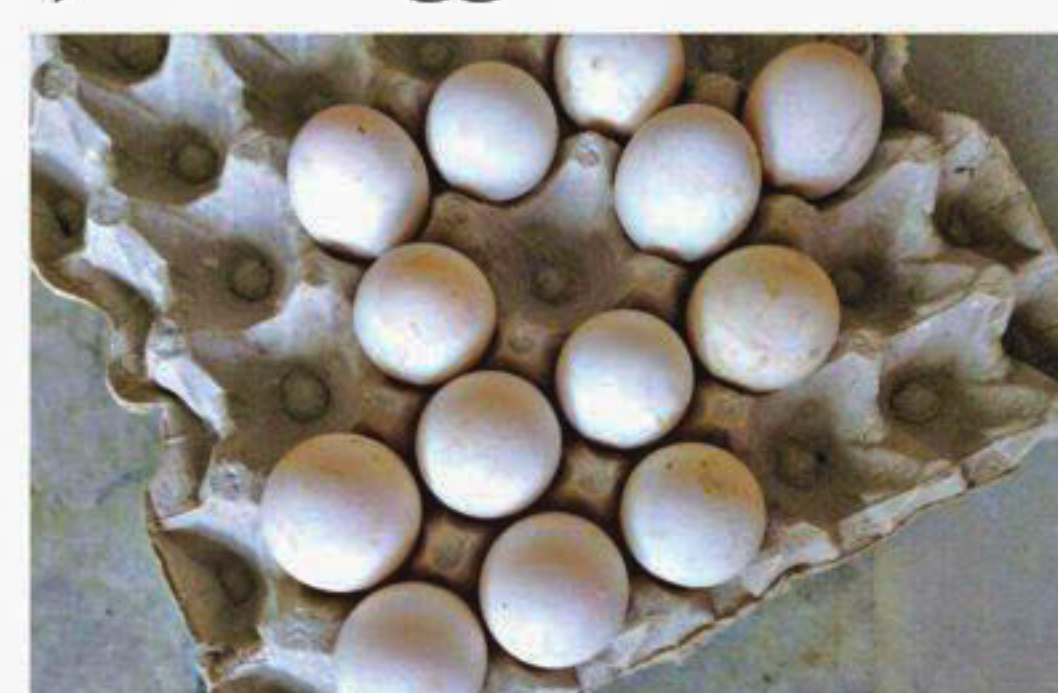
BSMMU Vice-Chancellor Kamrul Hasan Khan unveiled the foundation stone on the first floor of the cabin block on the hospital premises in December 2015.

Contacted, Prof Atiqur Rahman, dean of medical technology, said emergency department is a must for the hospital to reach a certain standard. "As no sincere initiative has so far been taken, the department could not be set up."

Pro-VC (academic) ASM Zakaria Swapan, also head of the central procurement committee of BSMMU, said

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One held for selling 'plastic eggs' in Kolkata



NDTV ONLINE

A shopkeeper was arrested for allegedly selling "artificial eggs" to a woman in Kolkata.

"A shopkeeper named Md Shamim Ansari was arrested on Friday morning from Park Circus Market for allegedly selling artificial plastic eggs to the complainant Anita Kumar," an officer from the Kolkata Police's Enforcement Branch said.

Anita lodged a police complaint at Kolkata's Karaya police station on Thursday evening after discovering that she was sold "fake eggs" which

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Infant stolen from Bogra hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A three-day-old baby boy was stolen from a hospital in Bogra town yesterday morning.

The grandmother of the child, Rehana Begum, told The Daily Star that a woman in hijab started a conversation with the child's mother Hosne Ara Friday night at the gynaecology ward of Bogra Mohammad Ali District Hospital. She told Hosne Ara that she was with another patient in the ward.

When Rehana went upstairs to take the baby into the sun light around 10:00am yesterday, the woman in the veil went up with her and they chatted there for a little while.

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Young off-spinner Mehedi Hasan scored a fighting fifty but his knock was not enough to prevent Bangladesh from losing the third and final ODI against Sri Lanka by 70 runs at the SSC Ground in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

154 killed in Colombia landslide

BOGOTA, Reuters

A landslide in Colombia's southwestern border province of Putumayo sent mud and debris crashing onto houses overnight, killing at least 154 people and injuring scores, officials said yesterday.

Heavy rains caused several rivers to overflow, pushing sediment and rocks onto buildings and roads in the provincial capital of Mocoa and immobilising cars in several feet of mud.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos flew to Mocoa, population 3,45,000, to oversee rescue efforts on the city outskirts and speak with affected families.

"We will do everything possible to help them," Santos said after confirming the death toll. "It breaks my heart."

Officials were working to determine the number of missing, Santos said. Nearly 200 people were injured, the defence ministry said, and more than 1,100 soldiers and police officers were called in to dig people out.

"We have sent a team of 150 people to make our response effective and machinery began work immediately," Carlos Ivan Marquez, head of the national disaster unit, said in a statement.

Even in a country where heavy rains, a mountainous landscape and informal construction of homes combine to make landslides a common occurrence, the scale of the Mocoa disaster was daunting. By comparison, a 2015 landslide killed nearly 80 people in Salgar, Antioquia.

"It's a big area," Mocoa Mayor Jose Antonio Castro, who lost his house, told Caracol radio on Saturday. "A big portion of the many houses were just taken by the avalanche."

He said that people were warned ahead of time and many were able to get out, but several neighbourhoods and two

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DESTINATION UNKNOWN:
A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE
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SIBL
Social Islami Bank Limited
Prayer Timing April 2
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-45 6-21 7-45
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION