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SHAH CEMENT

CMCH burn unit limps on

Shortages of manpower, logistics hamper treatment

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

One-and-a-half-year-old Faria was kept side by side with adult patients at the burn and plastic surgery unit of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

"The space [inside the burn unit] is so congested that infection can spread from one to another easily," said her mother Raju Akhter expressing concern over her daughter's getting further infection.

Faria had suffered burns while playing in the kitchen on April 12 as hot tea fell over her. Her mother along with other family members came all the way from Feni to Chittagong for her treatment.

Established in 2012, the CMCH burn unit is the lone facility of its kind in Chittagong region, where patients from Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Khagrachhari, Bandarban, Feni, Noakhali and Lakkhipur districts come to seek treatment.

The 26-bed unit has to accommodate on average 60 patients a day forcing many to stay on the floor, which, according to experts, is a breach of the guidelines to be followed for treating burn victims. Besides, there are shortages of manpower and logistical support.

Against this backdrop, the standards of care burn patients should get are compromised.

Rahima Begum, mother of five-year-old Shakib, was complaining that there was no separate room for changing the dressing of babies and children. She brought her son to CMCH on April 12 from Rangamati after the boy sustained burn injuries to his legs and chest from a candle.

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Some burn patients can find a place only on the floor inside the burn unit of Chittagong Medical College Hospital. The patients suffer due to shortage of doctors, beds and other facilities in the burn unit established in 2012. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



Zia's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will observe the 36th death anniversary of late president and founder of the party Ziaur Rahman through various programmes.

The party flag will be hoisted at half-mast at its Nayapaltan central office and all other party offices across the country today.

Leaders and activists of the BNP, including party Chairperson Khaleda Zia, will offer special prayers and place wreaths at the grave of Zia at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital this morning.

Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB) will arrange a free medical camp at BNP's Nayapaltan office, while Jatiyatabadi Chhatra

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BANANI RAPE Court asks for probe report by June 19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the investigation officer of the Banani rape case to submit the probe report on June 19.

Metropolitan Magistrate Delwar Hossain gave the order after Inspector Ismot Ara Ame, the investigation officer of the case, failed to submit the report yesterday.

Meanwhile, investigators are yet to get the results of forensic tests on the five mobile phones of the accused and a dress of a victim of the alleged rapes from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

One of the victims handed over the dress she was wearing on March 28 to Banani Police Station in the hope that forensic experts would find traces of DNA helping her get justice.

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Two lakh civilians lack food in Mosul: UN

US-backed Iraqi forces press forward with broad offensive against IS

AGENCIES

Tens of thousands of civilians in parts of Mosul held by Islamic State are struggling to get food, water and medicine, the United Nations said, days into a new push by US-backed Iraqi government troops to take the northern city.

Up to 200,000 people still live behind Islamic State lines in Mosul's Old City and three other districts, UN Humanitarian Coordinator Lise Grande told Reuters late on Sunday.

She spoke a day after Iraq's army said it had launched a new offensive to take the militant zones on the western side of the Tigris river.

Progress has been slow, an Iraqi government adviser told Reuters, also late on Sunday. "The fighting is extremely intense ... the presence of civilians means we have to be very cautious," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

People who had managed to get out of the militant areas "report a dramatic situation including

lack of food, limited water and severe shortages of medicines," Grande said by phone. "We know that there have been health facilities in these areas, but we don't know whether they are still functioning."

Government forces have been dropping leaflets over the districts telling families to flee - but many have remained fearing getting caught in the cross-fire.

"We have been informed by authorities that the evacuation is not compulsory ... If civilians decide to stay ... they will be protected by Iraqi security forces," said Grande.

"People who choose to flee will be directed to safe routes. The location of these will change depending on which areas are under attack and dynamics on the battlefield," she added.

The latest Iraqi government push is part of a broader offensive in Mosul, now in its eighth month. It has taken longer than planned as the militants are dug in among civilians, retaliating with suicide car and motorbike bombs, booby

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Great Barrier Reef in great danger

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The Great Barrier Reef - a canary in the coal mine for global warming - can no longer be saved in its present form partly because of the "extraordinary rapidity" of climate change, experts have conceded.

Instead, action should be taken to maintain the World Heritage Site's 'ecological function' as its ecological health declines, they reportedly recommended.

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House goes into budget session today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad goes into its annual budget session today, the fourth for the 10th parliament.

The Business Advisory Committee will sit at 10:00am with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair to fix the duration of the 10th parliament's 16th session, which begins at 11:00am, says a release of the parliament secretariat.

Finance Minister AMA Muhit will place the budget on June 1 for the upcoming fiscal year 2017-18, estimated to be over Tk 400,000 crore with a target of 7.4 percent GDP growth.

President Abdul Hamid

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Anxious to reach home before Iftar, commuters wait for transport at Farmgate in the capital yesterday afternoon. Inset, crowds rush to get into a bus at the same place. The after-office crush of commuters during Ramadan is a regular feature as all offices close a few hours before Iftar and people hit the streets at the same time.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

North Korea again fires ballistic missile

Trump says Pyongyang 'disrespects' China

AFP, Seoul

North Korea yesterday test-fired a ballistic missile for the third time in less than three weeks, earning a rebuke from US President Donald Trump who said it showed "disrespect" for neighbouring China.

The launch of the short-range projectile,

which fell provocatively close to Japan, was the North's 12th ballistic missile test this year -- in defiance of UN sanctions warnings and US threats of possible military action.

It went ahead despite tough talk from Trump, who promised last week at the G7 summit that the "big problem" of North

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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	May	Sehri	Iftar
3	30		6-45
4	31	3-39	6-45
5	June 1	3-39	6-46

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 30

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 3-46 12-45 5-00 6-45 8-05

JAMAAT 3-56 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-35

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