

HOSPITALS WITH POOR SERVICE

No escape from errant owners

Lack of strict punishment allows owners to open new hospital when authorities shut one down



- ▶ Hospital and lab owners get away with violations
- ▶ Easy to obtain licences to open hospital
- ▶ Licence fee only Tk 5,000 for a hospital
- ▶ Maximum fine Tk 5,000; jail term six months
- ▶ Authorities seek immediate amendment to law

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

Sahanara had brought her daughter Samia Akhter Sumaiya, 6, to Dhaka for treatment at the Nitor, commonly known as Pongu hospital.

As soon as she reached the public hospital at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, a broker lured her to Crescent Hospital and Diagnostic Complex Limited in Mohammadpur, promising better treatment at a cheaper cost.

But once she admitted her daughter there, the hospital authorities started pressuring her for an amount she could not afford.

Sahanara, who came from Gopalganj, eventually went to Executive Magistrate Sarwoer Alam and lodged a complaint in the middle of March.

On March 28, a team of Rab, along with officials of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), raided the hospital.

What the team found was appalling.

A patient lay on the operating table with no one attending him. One of his legs was injured in a road accident the day before. His blood pooled on almost the entire floor. He had been left unattended for more than 24 hours.

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Neuer on course to full fitness

REUTERS, Eppan

Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer is on track to regain full fitness in time for next month's World Cup after recovering from a foot injury that has sidelined him for most of the season, national team coach Joachim Loew said on Thursday.

Speaking at the start of a training camp in northern Italy ahead of the tournament, Loew sounded confident that the 32-year-old Germany captain, part of his 2014 World Cup-winning team, would play in Russia.

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Still available

Narcotics sale on amid crackdown as dealers adapt to changed situation

STAR REPORT

Narcotics trade continues in at least three known spots in the capital with drug dealers changing their tactics in the face of the ongoing nationwide anti-drugs crackdown.

The drive, however, has had a mixed impact on the illicit trade in different parts of the country as drug peddlers have become alert and changed their sale and delivery spots.

In the capital, this newspaper talked to a number of drug users who said they were still getting narcotics from the known spots. "If you want it [drugs], you will get it," said a graduate of a public university who frequents four drug spots in the capital.

"The supply is still aplenty and the price remains unchanged. The retail price of a yaba pill is Tk 250. But if you buy five to six pills

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"We don't support extrajudicial killings, but drug peddlers have a syndicate. They have ties with terrorists and armed criminals. When police go to arrest them [drug peddlers], they fight them [police] with arms. Encounter takes place. You can't call it extrajudicial killing."

OBABDUL QUADER



'Yaba village' unscathed

MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT, Cox's Bazar

The mansions of Nazirpara and Moulvipara, two remote villages in the coastal upazila of Teknaf, would fascinate anyone with their architectural beauty.

Only hovels and corrugated-iron-sheet houses were there less than a decade ago

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'Shootouts' not ending

10 more killed in Feni, Comilla, N'ganj, B'baria, Jhenidah, Magura, Cox's Bazar as anti-drug drive continues

STAR REPORT

Ten more alleged drug peddlers were killed in "gunfights" across the country yesterday, bringing the tally of "shoot-out" victims to 52 during the anti-narcotics drives by law enforcers in the last 10 days.

Among those killed yesterday, seven died in "gunfights" with law enforcers during raids in four districts -- two each

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Rich man
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