Uphill battle of female doctors

They surpass male peers in number, yet struggle against host of barriers

PORIMOL PALMA

After passing the civil service exam in 2015, young physician Nuzhat Islam* was excited about being posted at an upazila health complex in Tangail. The experiences that followed, however, were unpleasant enough to puncture the joy with which she joined work. It began with having to bribe employees for documents

from the civil surgeon and health complex to join her post and draw her salary for the first time. Even after making several inquiries at the office, she

still had no clue of her accommodation facilities, which prompted her to rent a house in Tangail Sadar upazila, an hour and half away through dilapidated roads.

As a single woman, she was in constant worry about her safety on the road and at workplace too.

Her life as a physician was tough as the hospital had no x-ray machine or lab facilities. Patients were forced to have diagnostic tests done from private facilities, while emergency patients were referred to other hospitals with minimal treatment.

"I soon realised that this job was impossible for me. I could not travel every day for three hours for this job and survive," Nuzhat told The Daily Star recently.

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Patients and their attendants sitting on the floor of a corridor at Narail Sadar Hospital. The facility is struggling to cope with the rising number of patients even though the doctors have shunned absenteeism following a recent impromptu visit by MP and cricketer Mashrafe Bin Mortaza. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: **MOKAMMEL SHUVO**

NARAIL HOSPITAL Situation improves slightly

It still grapples with big number of patients

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, back from Narail

Services at Narail Sadar Hospital have improved to some extent over the last one week with the attending doctors making sure that no one is absent there.

visibly But hospital embarrassed authorities say patients will get desired services only after the government provides with them necessary workforce.

public The 100-bed hospital in the country's southwestern district under recently came following spotlight an impromptu Bangladesh one-day captain Mashrafe Mortaza, is the lawmaker from Narail-2.

During the visit to the SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Beef prices continue to soar

Sold at up to Tk 600 in city; DSCC sets it at Tk 525 for Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the last couple of months, butchers have been increasing beef prices, claiming extortion on highways and poor supply of cattle.

"The price of fish has already gone up. Now, they [butchers] have increased the beef price. What will we eat?" asked schoolteacher Md Solaiman at Karwan

Yesterday, beef was selling between Tk 580 and Tk 600 a kg in the capital, while mutton was between Tk 800 and Tk 850.

Prices of beef and mutton were stable at Tk 450 and Tk 750 a kg until December

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

41 dead in Russian jet disaster

Pilot says lightning led to emergency landing in Moscow airport; 37 survived

AFP, Moscow

The pilot of a Russian passenger plane that erupted in a ball of fire on the runway of Moscow's busiest airport, killing 41 people, said lightning led to the emergency landing.

Investigators were yesterday working to understand the causes of the blaze after the Sukhoi Superjet-100 had to return to Sheremetyevo airport shortly after take-off Sunday evening.

Pilot Denis Yevdokimov told Russian media the aircraft lost communication and needed to switch to emergency control mode "because of lightning" on the Aeroflot flight to the Arctic city of Murmansk. He did not specify if the plane was struck directly.

"We managed to restore communication through the emergency frequency on our radio connection. But the link was only for a short time and kept cutting out... it was possible to say only a few words," he told the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper.

Videos on social media showed the plane crash-landing and then speeding along the runway with flames pouring from its fuselage. People could be seen leaping onto an inflatable slide at the front and

running from the blazing plane as columns of black smoke billowed SEE PAGE 10 COL 2 Teacher faces

3 MADRASA GIRLS

music over sexual assault

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A madrasa teacher has been suspended for allegedly sexually harassing three minor girls of his institution in Dinajpur's Parbatipur upazila.

Shialkot Alim Madrasa suspended Abdul Mannan, 55, on Sunday, said Aktaruzzaman, acting principal of the madrasa.

The authorities of

The girls and their parents alleged that the teacher had forced the three (aged between seven and eight) to take off their dresses in the classroom on April 30.

The girls informed their parents of the matter after returning home.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

It's a boy!

Meghan, wife of Britain's Prince Harry, gives birth



REUTERS, Windsor

Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex and wife of Britain's Prince Harry, gave birth to a boy yesterday, the seventh-in-line to the throne and described by his proud father as "absolutely to die for".

The baby, who has not yet been named, was born in the early hours of the morning weighing 7 lbs 3oz (3.2 kg). Both Meghan and the baby, SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Subir Nandi's condition deteriorates STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health condition award-winning national Subir Nandi singer deteriorated once again yesterday as he had suffered from multiple organ failure SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

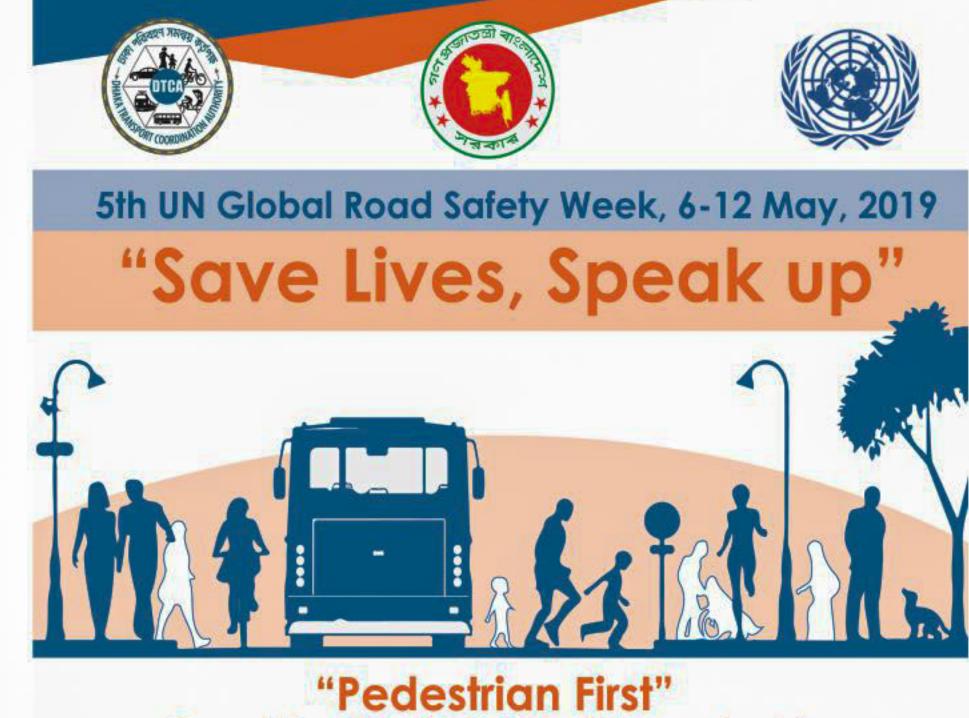


JAMAAT 4-08 1-15 5-15 6-44 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING





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SDG target 3.6 seeks to halve road traffic deaths and injuries by 2020 and SDG target 11.2 includes a focus on providing safe, sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety and with special attention to key groups such as children and the vulnerable.

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DHAKA TRANSPORT COORDINATION AUTHORITY (DTCA) ∰dtca.gov.bd

PHOTO:

RASHED SHUMON

have gone up significantly.