



Clockwise from left, patients being helped out of the emergency ward by their family members at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Thursday afternoon. A closed radiology and imaging department at Suhrawardy hospital on Friday. Patients wait for physicians at the hospital's medicine ward.



PHOTO: SHAHEEN MOLLAH

TERRORISM THREAT

Govt alert but not worried: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday ruled out BNP's concern over party Chairperson Khaleda Zia's security, saying the government is conscious about the issue.

"Khaleda Zia has been kept there (Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University) after ensuring her necessary security," Quader said at a press conference at party President Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi political office in Dhaka.

Since April 1, Khaleda Zia has been receiving treatment at BSMMU where a bomb-like substance was recovered from in front of its registrar's office on the second floor on Thursday.

Soon after that, BNP expressed concern about security of its chairperson's life, and called upon authorities to strengthen her security and proper treatment at BSMMU.

Termining the recovery of the bomb-like substance at the BSMMU an isolated incident, Quader said, "Terrorism is a global problem. Bangladesh is not an isolated country. Nor do we live on an isolated island. Such incidents may happen, but no incident has taken place yet in Bangladesh that we have to be worried about."

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, cleared his government's firm stance in dealing with terrorism, saying that the government is alert but not worried about the issue.

Responding to a query, the Awami League leader said the country's image and dignity have never been so uplifted in... SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Shouldering extra responsibility during Eid

Non-Muslim doctors, nurses provide services to patients amid manpower shortage

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

As a good number of doctors, nurses and staffers of public hospitals went on leave during the three-day Eid vacation, their non-Muslim colleagues had to shoulder the extra responsibility and play a vital role in providing services to patients during the crisis period.

According to the hospitals, there was no deficit of doctors, nurses and other relevant staff at the emergency wards, but there was a crisis of doctors in other departments.

During the festival, patients from across the country get admitted to the hospitals in the capital since most senior doctors at different public and private hospitals are not available, said officials.

In addition, many smaller clinics are closed on Eid and poor people have nowhere to go, so they come to government hospitals, resulting in high number of patients, they added.

The hospitals had to release many patients, comparatively in better conditions, to reduce the

pressure as it was difficult for on-duty doctors to handle the overflow due to manpower shortage.

During a visit to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital and National Institute of Cardio-Vascular Disease (NICVD), this correspondent saw patients waiting in long lines, even in emergency cases.

On-duty doctors and nurses were struggling to handle patients. They said almost all of those on duty during Eid vacation were non-Muslims.

However, some professors and senior doctors visited different wards and exchanged Eid greetings with patients. Special food was arranged on Eid day so that patients could experience the festivity somewhat.

DMCH Around 3,800 patients usually remain admitted to DMCH, which

came down to around 2,100 during the vacation.

Several nursing supervisors said all the 423 nurses who were discharging duties during Eid vacations were non-Muslims. They said around 2,200 nurses work on normal days. Also, mostly non-Muslim doctors provided healthcare services to patients during this time.

According to hospital authorities, around 1,100 patients received treatment every day in the emergency section during the holidays. And, it was possible due to the doctors, nurses and staffers who worked round-the-clock, they added.

Usually, 1,300-1,400 patients come to the hospital every day.

Contacted yesterday, Dr Bidyut Kanti Pal, deputy director of DMCH, said mostly non-Muslim doctors and nurses provided services to patients during the Eid vacation.

"Senior doctors were available on call and if needed, they were ready to come to the hospital," he added.

When asked if there was any

crisis due to manpower shortage, the deputy director said they were able to handle the situation.

NITOR

Inflow of patients at NITOR was comparatively lower than previous years. However, the operation theatre and emergency ward remained crowded with patients and their family members.

Mostly road accident victims or patients in critical conditions get admitted to the 500-bed hospital.

According to hospital authorities, 70-75 patients on an average got admitted to the hospital every day during the holidays. The number used to be over 100 before.

Almost all the doctors and nurses who discharged their duties were non-Muslims.

Mizanur Rahman, 56, a patient of ward-A, said he got admitted to the hospital on May 30, following a road accident.

"In last four days, none of the doctors came to see me," he told... SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Holidaymakers start returning to capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Holidaymakers have started to return to Dhaka after celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr with their near and dear ones at their hometowns.

Moderate crowds were seen at Kamalapur Railway Station and bus and launch terminals in the capital yesterday, as offices are set to resume from today.

All but three trains reached Kamalapur Railway Station on time yesterday bringing back passengers from different parts of the country, Shitangshu Chakraborty, acting station manager of the station, told The Daily Star.

Sadarghat was quite busy yesterday, as 75 launches anchored there till 11am, said Alamgir Kabir, joint director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA). Another 10-15 launches were scheduled to arrive at the launch terminal during the day, he added.

Many water vessels were seen plying the important naval routes of Shimulia-Kathalbari and Paturia-Daulatdia, report

our local correspondents.

From Shimulia point, ferries started almost empty but were seen returning from Kathalbari packed with vehicles, according to our Munshiganj correspondent.

A total of 18 ferries are operating on the route to transport people. "That is why, there was no traffic congestion at the terminals on both the sides yet," said Nasir Mohammad Chowdhury, assistant general manager (AGM) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at Shimulia point.

"We are working to help people reach the other sides safely," the AGM added.

On the other hand, increasing pressure on both Daulatdia point at Rajbari and Paturia point at Manikganj was noticed since morning.

In total, 20 ferries were operating on the route to deal with vehicles carrying returning holidaymakers and make their journeys smooth, said Shafikul Islam, manager of BIWTC at Daulatdia office.

DU losing greenery, cleanliness

UNB, Dhaka

Once admired for its greenery and cool atmosphere, Dhaka University is now losing its beauty fast, as students face myriads of problems like littering and overcrowded spaces.

"Students come from all over the country to the country's most-reputed university with big dreams, but they ultimately get upset when they face a bazaar-like situation everywhere with overcrowding and crumbling classrooms," said Akhtaruz Zaman, an alumnus of the university, while visiting the campus recently.

"This is not appreciable that outsiders remind university authorities about cleanliness. They have to maintain cleanliness before anyone else reminds them. The situation [at DU] was not always like this," said Zaman, who now teaches journalism at Massey University in New Zealand.

Another alumnus of the university, who preferred not to be named, said the university is fraught with problems. "Dirt, dust and garbage are everywhere in addition to unplanned food stalls at every corner of the campus," he said.

Allegations are also there that the quality of education at the university is being compromised for various reasons.

Professor Emeritus of the university Dr Serajul Islam Choudhury recently said DU students are now losing interest in acquiring

knowledge due to the fall of standard in education and growing unemployment.

"The standard of education [at DU] is falling fast. These days students are busy preparing themselves for public recruitment tests, including Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS), rather than acquiring knowledge," he said.

The Times Higher Education, a London-based organisation, recently published a list of 417 top-ranking universities in Asia; Dhaka University failed to make the list.

About its losing greenery, open spaces and cleanliness, many students of the university blamed negligence of the authorities.

Garbage like used water bottles, polythene bags, and cigarette butts and packets are found scattered here and there on the campus.

After visiting different points of the campus, including the central playground, Shaheed Minar, Mall Chattar, Curzon Hall, Arts Faculty building, Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) and Madhur Canteen, the UNB correspondent did not find enough bins where students can throw the trash.

Blaming university authorities for not providing adequate waste bins, Niloy Kumar Biswas, a student of Mass Communication and Journalism Department, said, "There're only six or seven bins near the Arts Faculty building, forcing students to throw waste at open places despite knowing that it'll only... SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

JS goes into budget session on Tuesday

BSS, Dhaka

The Jatiya Sangsad will go into its budget session on June 11.

It would be the third session of the 11th parliament, and the first budget session of the current Awami League government, which assumed office after a landslide victory through the December 30 national election.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal will place the national budget for 2019-20 fiscal in the House on June 13, said a spokesperson of the parliament secretariat.

President Abdul Hamid summoned the parliament session on May 13, exercising the power bestowed upon him by the article 72 (1) of the country's constitution.

The first session the 11th parliament began on January 30.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



SOME LOVE FOR THE NATIONAL FRUIT... A man asks his friend to take a photo with some soon-to-ripen jackfruits, while visiting the Dhaka Zoo during the Eid holidays.



Awami League leaders welcome Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bahban as she has returned from her tour yesterday. PHOTO: PIO

30pc teenage girls miss school during period

Finds National Hygiene Survey

BSS, Dhaka

Menstrual health issues are common among young women, and the taboo surrounding it often makes matters worse. Some women say that they feel scared to go out during their period, and they also have misconceptions about sanitary napkins, thinking that the pads cause diseases and discomfort.

At least 30 percent adolescent girls miss school during their period, and 64 percent of schoolgirls do not receive menstrual health education at their school, said the National Hygiene Survey of 2018.

Proper practice of menstrual hygiene gets hindered due to superstitions, lack of awareness, and the stigma surrounding the issue. Expert physicians say menstrual

health is directly linked to sexuality and reproduction and lack of hygiene can lead to infections and infertility.

They recommend using sanitary napkins or clean, soft cloths; both must be changed or washed at regular intervals.

Chandan Gomez, director of World Vision Bangladesh (WVB), a Christian humanitarian organisation, said women are yet to overcome the many superstitions surrounding menstruation.

"Many people still view it as a secret issue affecting women. Discussion is prohibited, girls are encouraged to hide from men and avoid going outside, whereas menstruation is a natural physical occurrence that does not deserve the stigma," he said. SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Woman killed in Dhaka road crash

STAR REPORT

A woman was killed in a road accident in Signboard area of Jatrabari early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Halima Begum, 60, of Munshiganj Sadar upazila, reports UNB.

Police said Halima and her son Habibur Rahman went to Sylhet to bring her granddaughter and newborn great-granddaughter home. They reached Signboard area around 4am and were waiting in front of a gas station for another vehicle to travel to Munshiganj when Halima got hit by a bus.

She succumbed to her injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Sub-inspector Jahirul Islam of Jatrabari Police Station. A police team was nearby when the accident took place, he said, adding that they seized the bus and detained its driver.

In Gopalganj, a man was killed and another injured in a road accident in Ulpur Malenga area under Sadar upazila in Gopalganj in the morning, reports our Faridpur correspondent. SEE PAGE 4 COL 5