

# A foul-smelling nuisance

Roadside garbage near hospital irks patients, doctors

ARUN BIKASH DEY, *Chattogram*

The entrance of the Emergency outpatient department of Chattogram General Hospital (CGH) has become a garbage dumping spot due to negligence of Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) and irresponsibility of some people.

Officials of the hospital said owners and staff of shops, hotels and restaurants and floating traders of Anderkilla and adjacent Teri Bazar areas dump waste on the road in front of the hospital.

Patients, staff and doctors of the hospital expressed their annoyance over the putrid smell that takes over the area.

The office of Chattogram Civil Surgeon is located behind the hospital and the walkway leading to the office is just beside the garbage dumping spot.

"The Civil Surgeon must see the garbage every day on his way to and from the office; how could he allow it for long!" exclaimed Md Suman, an attendant of a patient.

"When I took my younger brother to the Emergency, he was feeling uncomfortable due to the stink," Suman told *The Daily Star*.

"The bad smell intensifies particularly from 6pm to midnight," said Rupa Dutta, an emergency medical officer of the hospital.

"The CCC office is just quarter of a kilometre off the hospital, but no action has been taken," she told *The Daily Star*.

"CCC conservancy workers remove the garbage after midnight," she said, adding that although they forbid people from dumping garbage during the day, nobody pays heed to it.

Prefering anonymity, some traders said they are compelled to dump waste in the area as garbage-collecting vehicles do not come on time. "Where would we keep our rubbish?" said an owner of a tea stall.

Contacted, Civil Surgeon Azizur Rahman Siddique said he noticed the matter, and hoped the hospital superintendent would talk to the concerned department of CCC.

Asim Kumar Nath, superintendent of CGH, told *The Daily Star* he requested the local councillor several times to take action regarding the issue. "Each time the councillor assured me of taking action, but no action has been taken yet," he said.

Contacted, Jahar Lal Hazari, CCC councillor of ward-32 (Anderkilla), said he would initiate an awareness campaign among traders in the area.

CCC Chief Conservancy Officer Shafiqul Mannan Siddique said they collect waste door-to-door, and so people do not need to dump waste in bind or on the road.

"Some irresponsible people are doing this misdeed...we will engage watchmen to thwart it," he said, adding that he will also look into the allegation of not collecting garbage on time.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN



Two pedestrians hold their nose as they walk past a pile of garbage in front of the government hospital at the heart of the port city.

## NSU 69th syndicate meeting held



CITY DESK

The 69th syndicate meeting of North South University (NSU) was held at its Syndicate Hall yesterday.

NSU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Atiqul Islam chaired the meeting, in attendance of MA Hashem, chairman of NSU board of trustees, says a press release.

Other members of the board of trustees -- Azim Uddin Ahmed, Benajir Ahmed and MA Kashem -- were also present on the occasion.

Among other syndicate members -- Jagannath University VC Prof Mijanur Rahman and NSU pro-VC (designate) Prof Gias U Ahsan were present at the meeting.

Besides, registrar, deans of different schools and higher officials of NSU also attended it.

## Ebne Alam gets 'Integrity Award'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

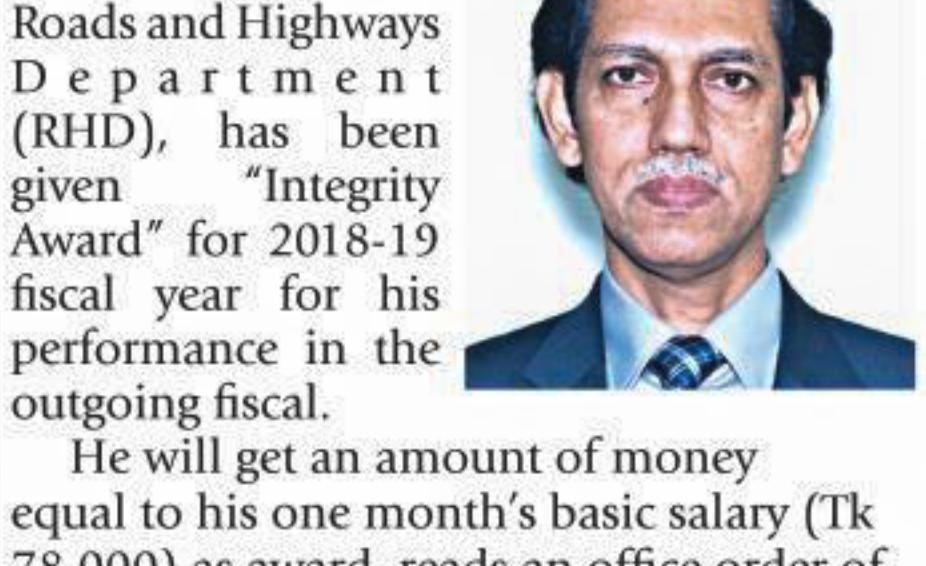
Ebne Alam Hasan, chief engineer of Roads and Highways Department (RHD), has been given "Integrity Award" for 2018-19 fiscal year for his performance in the outgoing fiscal.

He will get an amount of money equal to his one month's basic salary (Tk 78,000) as award, reads an office order of Road Transport and Highways Division.

Hasan got the award as per section 3.3 of the Integrity Award Guideline-2017.

According to the section, one of the chiefs from any department or agency under a division or ministry gets the award after obtaining highest marks in 19 indicators including professional knowledge, honesty and discipline.

He became the chief engineer of RHD on November 29, 2015, after starting his civil service career in August, 1983 as a member of BCS (Roads & Highways) cadre, according to RHD website.



## Woman dies after surgery at unlicensed Khulna clinic

### *It did not have post-operative facilities*

DIPANKAR ROY, *Khulna*

A woman died after undergoing gallbladder surgery in an unlicensed Khulna clinic on Monday night, prompting family members and locals to besiege the hospital.

Saleha Begum, 65, was admitted to the National Hospital in the city on the same day. After the surgery, the patient suffered from breathing complications and doctors there advised her family to send her to an ICU (intensive care unit) as the clinic did not have any, said family members.

She was rushed to Gazi Medical College Hospital, where on-duty doctors declared her "brought dead", they said.

Furious family members and relatives with locals surrounded National Hospital and attempted

to confine doctors and staff around 9pm, alleging that Saleha died of wrong treatment. Police and Rab brought the situation under control around 11pm.

Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Khulna Sadar Police Station, told *The Daily Star* that police rushed to the clinic and brought the situation under control.

Victim's son Monir Hossain told this correspondent that he admitted his mother there on assurance from the clinic manager that the surgery would be done by Dr SM Morshed, a reputed doctor of Khulna.

"But the surgeon did not even meet us after the operation to update us about my mother's condition," he alleged.

No case was filed in this regard. Monir Hossain said they did not get any documents from

the clinic yet, and were waiting for those to file a case.

According to the list of hospitals of Directorate General of Health Services in Khulna, the clinic is running without license.

Contacted, one of its directors, Dr Bongo Kamol Basu admitted it, and also said there is no post-operative service there. He told this newspaper that clinic authorities have already applied for license online. "Modern equipment could not be arranged yet as the clinic only opened five months ago," he said.

Talking to this newspaper over phone, DR SM Morshed, deputy director at Shaheed Sheikh Abu Naser Specialized Hospital, claimed that after the surgery was completed, the patient suffered from breathing complications, and the anesthesiologist on duty

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## Appeal for help



CITY DESK

ABM Aminul Islam (Liton), Jamalpur correspondent of *The Daily Star*, is surviving with 92 percent kidney damage, due to a chronic disease.

He is now in critical condition with creatinine levels of 7.73 mg/dl

diagnosed at Christian Medical College in Vellore, Tamilnadu, India recently.

Earlier in late February, he was diagnosed with creatinine level of 7.19 mg/dl at Kidney Foundation and Research Institute in Dhaka.

Doctors of both hospitals have suggested that Aminul, also a college teacher, will have to get one of his kidneys transplanted which will cost Tk 30 to 40 lakh.

However, it is impossible for him to afford the treatment. So, he seeks financial help from kind-hearted people or organisations.

Funds can be deposited to his personal account -- ABM Aminul Islam, A/C No: 2200215001697, Prime Bank Ltd, Jamalpur Branch.



## Ten cops withdrawn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *N'ganj*

Ten Narayanganj policemen were withdrawn yesterday over negligence of duty during constable recruitment test at district police lines on Monday.

As per the SP's directive, Inspector Joynal Abedin and DB sub-inspectors Alamgir and Mahfuz were among those attached to police lines, said an inspector of special branch.

## Railway staff arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday arrested a Bangladeshi Railway staff in Chattogram, for swindling job seekers.

The arrestee is Oli Ullah Sumon, 32. He is the assistant claim inspector of railway east zone's chief commercial manager office, said Deputy Assistant Director Sharif Uddin of ACC Integrated District Office-Ctg 2.

He said Sumon swindled people with the false promise of giving them jobs in railway. Between 2010-18, he amassed wealth in his hometown through this illegal practice.

Upon information, ACC investigated and found the allegation true. A case was filed with Kotwali Police Station.

He was arrested in connection with the case from Agrabab area yesterday morning, said the deputy assistant director.



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Dope test to be mandatory for govt jobs: home minister

UNB, *Dhaka*

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said dope test would be made compulsory for government jobs.

The decision has been approved on principle by the cabinet, he told media at the ministry, marking International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

"Action will be taken against government officials who are drug addicts. We're introducing dope test for government job seekers," he said. If drug is found in the blood sample of an aspirant, then the government "may cancel the application", the minister said.

He said, "The prime minister has given her approval. The decision will now be implemented in phases."

The minister also said Dhaka had talks with Nay Pyi Taw on preventing yaba and phenesedyl smuggling, but the discussions have not been fruitful.

Talks with India have been productive, he said, claiming that the amount of smuggled phenesedyl has come down by at least 59 percent.

## IMPROVING TUBERCULOSIS TREATMENT

## Health ministry, USAID sign partnership

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

USAID and The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare yesterday signed a partnership framework, committing to deepen their collaboration to improve facilities for diagnosing and treating tuberculosis (TB) in Bangladesh.

The framework titled "Global Accelerator to End Tuberculosis" aims to catalyse investments, aid countries across the world and meet the UN target of treating 40 million people by 2022, according to a statement.

Health Secretary Ashaduzzaman Islam and USAID Mission Director Derrick Brown signed the partnership framework at The Westin Dhaka.

Today, by signing the statement of partnership, we at USAID recommit ourselves as a close partner of the Bangladesh

government, as the country accelerates its efforts to achieve their targets by 2022," said Derrick Brown at the signing ceremony.

Bangladesh needs to detect and treat more than 1.5 million new TB cases over the next five years to reach their target. In 2018, the country treated more than 2.5 million TB cases.

However, almost 26 percent of cases remain undetected, and the rate is even higher for multi-drug resistant and child TB cases, according to the statement.

USAID's TB investments will focus on strengthening laboratory and diagnostic services, detection and treatment of all forms of TB, and preventive therapy.

The funding amount will be announced at a later time, according to an official of the embassy.

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