

# PROVIDING HEALTHCARE AT AFFORDABLE COST

Despite manpower crisis, CMCH's cardiology ward continues the good work

|| ARUN BIKASH DEY ||



**PORT CITY CHRONICLES**

Doctors carry out angiogram on a patient at CMCH.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

When Brajendra Debnath felt chest pain a few months ago, his doctor advised him to undergo a coronary angiogram. The 72-year-old contacted private diagnostic centres in Chattogram, but was daunted by the examination cost of Tk 20,000. Brajendra, from Lohagara upazila, was unsure of what he would do or how he would manage the funds. Thankfully, he came to know that the diagnosis is much cheaper at the Cardiology Ward of Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH). Brajendra immediately rushed there and found that it cost one-tenth of private centres. A patient has to pay only Tk 2,000 for the test. "In addition, I got additional perks for being a freedom fighter; I was entitled to free test at the public hospital," he said while talking to The Daily Star recently. Dr Prabir Kumar Das, head of the cardiology department at Chattogram

Medical College, performed Brajendra's angiogram. Coronary angiogram is a procedure that uses X-ray imaging to see blood vessels inside the heart. It is the primary test to diagnose blockages in arteries in the heart. Ali Akbar, 48, another patient from the port city's Kalamiah Bazar area, also said he had his angiogram done at CMCH for a fraction of the cost charged by private diagnostic centres of the port city. Like Brajendra and Akbar, hundreds of cardiac patients are served at affordable pricing. The Cardiology Department has performed 10,000 coronary angiograms till April since inception of the service in 2004, said Dr Laxmi Pada Das, registrar of the ward. Dr Prabir said, "Many don't know that the test is very cheap at CMCH." "Currently, we have one catheterisation laboratory only, and so we cannot serve

more than five patients a day," he said, adding, "Many patients have to wait for days." "A new cath lab is under construction, but the problem is that we have only four trained technicians for the service," said Dr Prabir. "If four more technicians are appointed, we will be able to provide 10 persons with the service a day," he said. In addition, the physician said there is no professor post at the Cardiology Department, which is very important for the sake of patients. Dr Prabir, an associate professor, said although they wrote to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to create the post around nine months ago, they are yet to get any response. Contacted, CMCH Director Brig Gen Mohsen Uddin Ahmed said appointment of additional manpower to the cardiology ward is under government consideration.

## POWER GENERATION CAPACITY

# \$40b investment needed to meet 60,000MW target

BSS, Dhaka

The government is working towards increasing the country's power generation capacity to 60,000 megawatt (MW) by 2041. The current capacity is 22,329MW. The country requires US \$40 billion investment to increase electricity generation to 60,000MW by 2041, according to officials. "The power generation capacity has reached 22,329 MW and relentless efforts are underway to raise the capacity to 24,000MW by 2021," said a power ministry official. He said in the last decade, the government signed several deals for setting up 148 power plants having generation capacity of 29,648MW. Meanwhile, 121 power plants were commissioned, which added 15,573MW power to the national grid. The generation capacity was only 3,200MW in 2009. Talking to the news agency, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid said the power generation capacity of the country has reached over 22,329MW and the government is working relentlessly to raise the capacity to 24,000MW by 2021. "We have a target to ensure uninterrupted power supply to every citizen at affordable prices by 2021. By 2030, the country's power generation capacity will reach

40,000MW and by 2041 it will go up further to 60,000MW," he said. The state minister said Bangladesh has become an ideal place for foreign investment. "The investment situation here is now far better than before. So, various countries are showing their interest in investing in the country's power sector," he added. A power division official said the government has set a target to generate 28,000MW electricity and construct 23,000 circuit kilometre transmission lines across the country by 2023, which is now 11,650 circuit km. He said a power division master-plan is under implementation as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is pledge-bound to ensure a "Digital Bangladesh" by assuring access to power for all by 2021. Currently, the number of power subscribers is 3.48 crore, which was only 1.8 crore in 2009 and per capita electricity generation is now 510 kilowatt hour (including captive), he said, adding that a total of 340 upazilas in the country have so far been brought under cent percent electricity coverage. Alongside, installation of new power plants and maintenance of old ones to enhance their efficiency are in progress. Besides gas and coal-fired power plants, SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Fifth death anniv of Abdur Razzaque

CITY DESK

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Miah Md Abdur Razzaque, father of Hasan Jahid Tusher, a deputy press secretary to the Prime Minister. On this occasion doa mahfil and Quran recitation have been organised at the deceased's village home at Sreerampur in Magura Sadar upazila. Food will be distributed among the poor. Tusher has sought prayers from all for his father and late mother. Razzaque, a former agricultural official, died of old age complications on this day in 2014 leaving four sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.



## Govt working for infrastructural dev in rural areas

Says Shahriar Alam

BSS, Rajshahi

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam yesterday said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is working relentlessly for infrastructural development in rural areas. "Grassroots people are enjoying facilities of many development schemes implemented in every nook and corner of rural areas. Social changes have become visible there because of infrastructural development," he said. Yesterday, the minister addressed two separate public meetings in Rajshahi while inaugurating two newly-constructed buildings. Department of Public Works constructed a fire station at a cost of Tk 45 lakh while Local Government Engineering Department constructed a five-storey Muktiyoddha Complex at a cost of around Tk 2.12 crore in Bagha upazila. Shahriar Alam said the present government has been implementing various projects to improve the living standards of people. He said Bangladesh witnesses "real" development when Awami League comes to power. Bagha Upazila Chairman Layeb Uddin Lavlu, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shaheen Reja, Deputy Director of Fire Service Nurul Islam and Executive Engineer of Public Works Department Masud Rana also spoke on the occasion.

## 'Committed to ensuring biosafety'

Says agriculture minister

BSS, Dhaka

Agriculture Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque yesterday said Bangladesh is committed to ensure biosafety as an adaptor of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity. "We have already adapted and enacted the 'Biosafety Rules of Bangladesh, 2012' and 'Biosafety Guideline of Bangladesh, 2008'... We are committed to ensure biosafety," said a press release, quoting the minister. Razzaque, also a presidium member of ruling Awami League, made the remarks while inaugurating the "7th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference" at a city hotel. He said there has to be extensive research in this regard for the welfare of all living organisms, added the release. Dr Vibha Ahuja, chief general manager of Biotech Consortium India Ltd; Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury, secretary of the environment and forest ministry; and Md Nasiruzzaman, secretary of the agricultural ministry, among others, spoke on the occasion. Biosafety is the prevention of large-scale loss of biological integrity, focusing both on ecology and human health. These prevention mechanisms include conduction of regular reviews of the biosafety in laboratory settings, as well as strict guidelines to follow, according to Wikipedia. Biosafety is also used for protection against harmful incidents. Many laboratories handling biohazards employ an ongoing risk management assessment and enforcement process for biosafety. Failure to follow such protocols can lead to increased risk of exposure to biohazards or pathogens. Human error and poor technique contribute to unnecessary exposure and compromise the best safeguards set in place for protection. SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## One killed, 17 injured in Ctg road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man was killed and 17 were injured after the bus carrying them overturned in a paddy field beside Patiya Bypass in Patiya upazila of Chattogram yesterday. The deceased is Shamsul Alam, 52, from Satkania upazila in Chattogram. The bus overturned when the driver tried to evade a mentally challenged man standing in the middle of the road around 12:10pm, said Souman Barua, station officer of Patiya Fire Service, quoting locals. Locals rescued the bus passengers and informed Patiya Fire Service, he said. Eighteen passengers were taken to a local health complex where the on-duty physician declared Shamsul dead. The others were referred to Chattogram Medical College Hospital.



The Bay of Bengal and Karanaphuli river meet at Patenga pier-15 area. Every day, thousands of people use this pier to reach Anowara upazila. Each of these boats have the maximum capacity of 25, but usually 35-40 people are brought on board, putting everyone in danger.

## Bus driver arrested for molesting CU student

BRTA takes action after complaint on Facebook page

CU CORRESPONDENT

Officials of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) arrested a bus driver yesterday, on the charge of molesting a female student of Chittagong University on Friday night. Mohammad Abbas, from Mulapotton in Bhola, was detained from the port city's Kalurghat area, said Chattogram BRTA Executive Magistrate SM Manzurul Haque. Manzurul told The Daily Star that the

arrest was made a day after the student filed a complaint to BRTA through its Facebook page. In her complaint, the student said the driver molested her in a bus while she was returning to the campus after completing a tuition from the city's Chawk Bazar that night. BRTA handed the bus driver over to Chawk Bazar Police Station yesterday, after the girl filed a case against him with the same police station.

## Four held with yaba, alcohol in Barishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Police in separate drives arrested four drug peddlers and recovered 2,558 yaba pills, Tk 1 lakh, and liquor in Barishal city on Friday night. Barishal Metropolitan Police disclosed the details at a press conference yesterday. Additional Commissioner Sisim Chakma told journalists that police arrested Asma Akter Rubina and Sumon Mridha from Lechu Saha area and recovered 2,500 yaba pills and Tk 1 lakh from them. They also arrested Maudul Islam Rifat from Medical College area -- with 58 yaba pills -- and Khokon Mridha, who was carrying a bottle of liquor illegally. During interrogation, the arrestees confessed that they were involved in drug peddling, said Sisim Chakma. The arrestees were produced before a court and were sent to jail in four cases, filed with Kotwali Police Station.

# Pristinia

3 Bed Apartments  
@ Bashundhara R/A  
Single Unit Per Floor

Please Feel Free To Call  
01714 040457, 01713 048556, 01713 018407  
Tel: (+8802) 55068001-5