

Myanmar brought

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They are likely to visit refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and get evidence there, he said.

Khin said how well or how badly the regime handles the situation will eventually become "a challenge for the future generation". He said Bangladesh and Myanmar had no major issues between them, but now they are "linked by a crisis".

He demanded justice for the Rohingyas.

"1971: Genocide-Torture Archive and Museum" organised the conference, marking Bangladesh's Liberation War and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary, to be celebrated next year.

Over 30 scholars, researchers and authors from seven countries took part in seven different sessions including six working sessions yesterday, said organisers. The event will conclude this morning.

Chairing yesterday's morning session, war crimes researcher Shahriar Kabir hoped more voices supporting Rohingyas like Khin could be heard from within Myanmar.

"There are people but their voices are not being heard," he added.

He urged the organisers to adopt a resolution on how to address the Rohingya issue.

There is no sign of repatriation of the Rohingya refugees to Myanmar though both the Bangladesh and Myanmar governments signed an MoU, he said, demanding immediate repatriation of the displaced Myanmar nationals.

Earlier addressing the inaugural ceremony, Indian author and journalist Hirannay Karlekar said besides trying war criminals, it is equally important to recall and remember the memories of the country's Liberation War.

"Because, many of the present generation do not know about it," he added.

Addressing as chief guest, State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid thanked the organisers for arranging the conference and assured them of providing assistance in arranging similar events in future.

No fees for poor, teachers

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local primary school, said, "Dr Aditya has been doing extraordinary work for this locality. He also distributes medicine samples given by different pharmaceutical companies among poor patients."

An 80-year-old widow, Subhashini Saha,

from Phulpur's Sahapara said she has been taking free treatment from Dr Aditya for long. Abdul Hakim Sarker, ex-commander of Mukti Joddha Sangsad's Phulpur upazila unit, said, "There are 80 freedom fighters in Phulpur, and it would be great if more doctors follow the example of Dr Aditya."

All fun and games

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the street' and then I came and discovered this play zone on the road. You don't see a car-free street every day, so when you see one, you just play," said Siam Ahmed, while playing badminton with his friends.

National women's basketball team player Ashreen Mridha was there with her team to promote women's sports. She was campaigning for her newly founded group "Deshiballers", and teaching children the basics of the game.

Such initiatives should be taken in major places of Dhaka, so that the city stays free from vehicles for once and children can get a breathing space as well," she said.

While inaugurating the event, the DNCC mayor said, "This initiative might create a little disturbance for the vehicle users. However, children will get to play during the weekend and I would like to request you to cooperate with us."

Welcoming the initiative, Sahara Khatun said such an initiative should be replicated in more places around the city.

Well-equipped, yet not

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Mayor Hanif Flyover, has 50 intensive care units and 10 operation theatres, making it the largest burn and plastic surgery institute in the world, said Dr Sen.

"But we don't want to be a hospital that is just large in size; we want to be a hospital that cares for its patients," he said.

The building and equipment cost around Tk 912 crore, according to documents. The institute has three blocks -- burn unit, plastic surgery unit and academic wing. But it will not bring any significant change for burn patients unless they get skilled manpower, stressed Dr Paul.

Dr Sen mentioned that burn-related treatment is expensive as it needs modern equipment for surgeries, preventing infections, tests and keeping patients stable. "But the prime minister has insisted that burn patients get quality treatment at an affordable cost so that people don't have to go abroad."

He said infection is the cause of death for many burn patients. Unrestricted movement of visitors inside hospital is one of the reasons. "That's why we've restricted such movement at the institute. Attendees have a separate place to stay. If needed, they can visit the patient," he added.

Dr Sen said they have signed an agreement with Singapore General Hospital last year. "As per that, we have started sending doctors, nurses and technicians there for training so that they can serve patients better. Besides, medical teams from Singapore are also visiting our institute for manpower development."

Apart from the vast infrastructure of 6.5 lakh square feet and modern equipment, the institute will provide services that have not even been thought of until now, like supplying skin from a skin bank, which, Dr Sen said, will solve the present problem of shortage of skin when skin grafts are required. It will also have 10 modular operating theatres to contain infections.

"We will be able to reattach severed limbs if a patient is rushed to the institute within six hours after an incident," he said, adding that they have a helipad to fly in emergency patients.

"Burn treatment has to be done within 24 hours to treat the patient properly. That's why we need burn units in all districts," the national coordinator stressed.

Coping with patients

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This gap between the number of patients and hospital workers is filled by patients' attendants. And so, the authorities' hands remain tied in regard to limiting visitors' movement, said hospital sources.

Meanwhile, patients like Ibrahim and Jahangir remain at the risk of contracting infections.

According to three consecutive years' worth of data of the burn unit since 2014, the yearly death toll stood at around 12 percent of admitted patients. More lives could be saved if only the spread of infections on burn patients could be prevented, according to DMCH sources.

Acknowledging infection as the cause of death for many burn patients, Samanta Lal Sen, national coordinator of Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, said unrestricted movement of visitors inside the hospital is one of the reasons.

Patients having to use the floor space during treatment also involuntarily contributes to the spread of infections, he added.

There was a proposal of transforming the unit to a 300-bed one but after the establishment of the new burn institute, it was not implemented, said Dr Sen.

Acknowledging the crisis, Brig Gen AKM Nasir Uddin, director of DMCH, said, "We are trying our best to provide adequate services to patients. Most patients come here with hope that they will get treatment. How can we refuse them?"

"At the same time, we're aware that we have to control infections as well as limit visitors' movement. We are working on that," the director told this newspaper recently.

About treatment costs, he said, "Burn treatment is expensive. We're planning to increase budget for medicine, among others, so that patients can get them easily."

"Once the new burn institute starts functioning properly, it will take some load off us," the director mentioned.

E-awareness Olympiad launched

CITY DESK

With the aim to increase cyber awareness among the youth, e-awareness Olympiad "Cyber Champ" was launched in the capital yesterday.

The Olympiad is an initiative by Dnet and ICT Division under the project "e-awareness for students against extremism (eASE)" funded by USAID, said a press release.

The launching event, held at Chhayanaut Shangskriti Bhavan, was attended by NM Zeaul Alam, senior secretary to ICT Division; Munir Hasan, general secretary of Math Olympiad; Dr Zia Rahman, chairman of Dhaka University's criminology department; and Mustafiz Shafi, governance and CVE adviser of USAID Bangladesh.

The guests expressed strong belief that the initiative will help increase cyber awareness among students.

More than one hundred students and teachers from different schools and madrasas in the capital participated in the event. More information about the Olympiad can be found at cyberchamp.com.bd.

Moqbul Hossain's death anniv

CITY DESK

Today is the 35th death anniversary of Moqbul Hossain, former deputy director of Bangladesh Power Development Board, says a press release.

Moqbul hailed from Hatgacha village in Kazipur upazila of Sirajganj.

All are requested to pray for the departed soul.

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