

DAILY JANAKANTHA

Journos attacked while protesting termination; 10 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 journalists, who were sacked from daily Janakantha recently, were injured in an attack during a protest in front of the newspaper's office in Dhaka's Eskaton area yesterday afternoon.

Three of the injured were stated to be in critical conditions and were taken to Dhaka Community Hospital in Moghbazar, one of the 26 sacked journalists Bivash Barai told this newspaper.

The incident took place around 5pm when the sacked journalists along with some leaders of journalists' community were protesting the wholesale termination from the Bangla daily, demanding reinstatement.

The journalists said they began their protest after the authorities of Janakantha issued a termination letter to 26 of them through email on March 15.

The protestors said they gathered in front of the Globe-Janakantha building around 12:30pm and saw the main entrance locked. They also locked the gate from outside and started a sit-in on the road in front of the building.

Dhaka Reporters' Unity president Mursalin Nomani, Dhaka Union of Journalists joint secretary Khairul Alam and other leaders of the two organisations joined the sit-in to express solidarity.

The protesters said as the people inside the building shouted to open the gate in the afternoon, they unlocked it.

At one stage, a group of people from inside the building attacked the protesting journalists with sticks, iron rods and bricks, leaving at least 10 injured, they said.

The protesters claimed that the attackers were outsiders. None of the officials of Globe-Janakantha building could be reached for comments.

3 shipbreaking workers injured in blast

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, CHATTOGRAM

At least three workers sustained burn injuries in an explosion while working at a shipbreaking yard in Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram yesterday.

The explosion occurred at a yard named Jamuna Shipbreakers located at Shitalpur area. The accident occurred while the workers were cutting pipes of an oil tanker named MT Agros.

The injured workers are Pilot Hossen (22), Abdus Samad (40) and Md Jihad (18). Among them Pilot and Jihad are fitter workers while Samad used to work as a cutter worker.

Abdus Samad hailed from Negassor of Kurigram district while the other two are from Sonaichori union of Sitakunda.

Shilabroto Das, nayek of Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) police outpost, told The Daily Star the trio were brought to CMCH with burn injuries around 1:30am. They were admitted to the burn unit of CMCH.

Dr Rafique Uddin Ahmed, head of the burn unit said the injured have burn injuries ranging from 20 to 30 percent. They also had inhalation injury and seemed to have inhaled smoke from the fire.



As the price of daily necessities keep increasing, TCB truck staffers are finding it harder to keep up with customers. To reduce selling time, they were seen packing up goods in advance at Chattogram's Enayet Bazar area yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

A Covid facility

FROM PAGE 3

hospital under the supervision of the health ministry, as per "the directive of the prime minister's office", read a billing letter to the health secretary sent by the ICCB authorities on October 19 last year.

"We set up the temporary isolation centre with a 2,000-bed capacity. But there was not a single patient there for six months. Later, the hospital was closed according to a government decision [as] that was just an isolation centre, not a hospital," Health Minister Zahid Maleque told journalists last week.

Upon closing the hospital, all doctors, nurses and other health workers were transferred to other government hospitals, according to the officials, who said all equipment -- beds, ICUs, ventilators, oxygen cylinders and so on -- were distributed to different public hospitals across the country.

THE COST FOR ICCB COVID-19 HOSPITAL

According to the Health Engineering Department (HED) of the health ministry, around Tk 28.89 crore of the total expenditure was spent to arrange the physical infrastructure.

Besides, around Tk 3 crore was spent as operating cost of the hospital, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Meanwhile, authorities of ICCB also charged Tk 6.40 crore as the rent of the 1.40 lakh square feet structure installed by Alliant Limited.

"It was not true that there was no patient. We treated around a thousand patients in total," Dr Tanveer Ahmed Choudhury, the then director of Bashundhara Hospital, told The Daily Star.

Tanveer is now serving as the director of the Institute of Public Health in Dhaka.

POOR PLANNING

In April last year, the DGHS signed

agreements with a number of private or autonomous hospitals to treat Covid-19 patients, with the cost being borne by the government.

From the beginning, however, there were fewer number of patients compared to their capacity.

"There were two reasons behind the closure of Bashundhara Covid-19 hospital. Firstly, there was no patient and secondly, the operational cost was huge," Dr Farid Hossain Mian, director (hospitals and clinics) at the DGHS, told The Daily Star.

Like the Bashundhara hospital, the DGHS also closed 11 other Covid-19 hospitals as the number of patients were declining.

Of those hospitals, four were in Dhaka, six in Chattogram and another was in Sylhet city.

On August 27 last year, the DGHS sent a letter to the secretary of the health services division of the health ministry recommending those hospitals should be closed, as the number of patients were declining.

Amid fresh spike of Covid-19 cases since last month, the government is again planning to build new hospitals for Covid-19 patients.

According to the officials, a hospital in Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) kitchen market will start operating within two weeks, which will have 200 ICU beds and 1,000 isolation beds.

"Covid patients will receive full package treatment at the DNCC hospital. Also, we will start turning the Mohanagar Hospital and Lalkuthi Hospital in Mirpur (in the capital) as full-fledged Covid hospitals with central oxygen supply system again," Dr Farid Hossain Mian said.

'A WHITE ELEPHANT'

Experts said these are not well-planned actions of the government.

"The Bashundhara hospital was a white elephant. The government should think of it before setting up infrastructure there. If the hospital had functioned today, many patients could have been treated there. This a result of weak planning," Prof Ridwanur Rahman, an infectious disease specialist, told The Daily Star.

"No doubt the health ministry has failed to ensure proper treatment arrangement in the hospitals. It is, however, a fact that all the government departments have failed to work together to keep the transmission under control," Prof Ridwanur said.

HEALTH MINISTER'S EXPLANATION

Health Minister Zahid Maleque told this correspondent yesterday when none came forward to give any space for isolation centre, with consultation of the prime minister, ICCB was chosen.

"We made a makeshift isolation centre there immediately as a huge number of expatriates were coming home," the minister said.

"But in the six months, not a single person went there to stay, but the ministry had to spent around Tk 60 lakh for maintaining the makeshift isolation centre."

"Then, with the consultation of high-ups, the makeshift isolation centre was withdrawn. All the beds and equipment were distributed to other hospitals across the country," he added.

The minister said Basundhara gave the tents and they took those away when the isolation centre was withdrawn.

He also spoke about the DNCC kitchen market isolation centre.

"As the number of patients was declining, the work also slowed down," he said about the ongoing work, adding that the work is now going on in full swing.

"It will be the same building, the same set-up. Central oxygen line is going to be added to every floor, and all the beds can be turned into ICU beds," the minister said.

Missing Humayun

FROM PAGE 3

Ruma said back in New York she used to visit Humayun and his family when he was receiving treatment there. She also claimed that she inspired him to paint and his family had no involvement with his paintings.

She continued, "I inspired Humayun Ahmed for an exhibition of his paintings. He nominated me for hosting the exhibition in different countries."

An exhibition of his 21 paintings was held at a book fair in Jamaica, New York on June 29, 2012, she said.

When asked if she had any catalogue of the exhibition, she replied in the negative.

She claimed that a painting of Humayun got lost from the exhibition and a complaint was lodged with the local police in this regard.

"The painting displayed in the Cumilla exhibition is a copy of that. The rest of the 20

paintings out of 21 were handed over to Humayun Ahmed's mother in Dhaka," Ruma said.

Shaon, however, said she did not know anything about a lost painting as Ruma did not inform them about it and now she is claiming that a painting got lost. She also reiterated that there were 25 paintings in total and five were still missing.

She demanded for a test to check whether the painting is an original or a print.

Asked, Ahsanul Kabir, a researcher of Heritage Cumilla, said, "Showcasing any art or creation of an artist without permission of the persons concerned is unethical."

Echoing him, writer Kuloda Roy said the authorities concerned must recover the paintings of Humayun Ahmed and investigate the matter properly to make sure what actually happened.

Healthcare hit

FROM PAGE 3

randomly selected 2,483 households with an average family size of 4.89 people in 16 districts of eight divisions.

At yesterday's online event, Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora, additional director general (planning), Directorate General of Health Services, said Covid-19 not only created sufferings for Covid or non-Covid patients, but has also affected the government's successful health and disease prevention programmes.

Brac Executive Director Asif Saleh said, "Strengthening of the community system has become extremely important since Covid-19 is not going away within two or two and a half years. Brac wants to work in the field of prevention, protection and mobilisation."

Speaking at the panel discussion, Prof Faridul Alam, vice chancellor, BUHS, said, the health sector in Bangladesh is poorly structured and this is why it cannot face any emergency.

He demanded to transfer the healthcare system

to the local health authority.

Prof Dr Malabika Sarker, associate dean, James P Grant School of Public Health at Brac University, called upon the authorities to provide technological training and other institutional support to the field level health workers to build their capacity.

Dr Md Touhidul Islam, national professional officer at World Health Organization, said, "The government needs to shift its focus from infrastructural development to more human development."

A number of recommendations were made in the study, such as revisiting the national service delivery system in the context of the ongoing pandemic, robust utilisation of information and communications technologies, strengthening of health information systems and boosting the efficacy of coordination tasks, adequate recruitment of health workforce and training to equip them with necessary mix of skills, and installing modern diagnostic and medical equipment.

RFP Ref. No.: LRPS-BAN-2021- 9166319

Request for Proposal (RFP): Establishing Long Term Arrangement for Professional Graphic Design related Services for the Period of 24+24 Months

UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong record and credibility of providing the above-required service. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to “supplybangladesh@unicef.org”


Pre-bid Meeting Date: **Please see the schedule mentioned in the RFP.**

The deadline to submit the proposal is **Monday, 03 May 2021 by 11:00 Hrs (local Dhaka time)**

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process

www.unicef.org.bd

 **for every child** 

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Bangladesh Police

Police Telecommunication Organization

Police Telecom Bhaban, Rajarbag, Dhaka


telecom.police.gov.bd

Memo No: 44.01.0000.057.11.053.20/2424/Betar

Date: 11/04/2021

CORRIGENDUM OF INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Ministry:	Ministry of Home Affairs.	
Agency:	Bangladesh Police.	
Procuring entity name:	SP (Logistics), Police Telecom Organization.	
Tender package name:	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of DMR Trunking (Tier-3) Radio on Turnkey Basis for Bangladesh Police.	
Tender Ref. No:	44.01.0000.057.11.053.20/1727/Betar	
Date:	16/03/2021.	
Tender last selling date:	27 April 2021.	
Corrected tender last selling date:	05/05/2021.	
Tender closing date and time:	Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	Time
	28 April 2021	at 11:00hrs.
Tender opening date and time:	28 April 2021	at 11:30hrs.
Corrected tender closing date and time:	Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	Time
	06/05/2021	at 11:00hrs.
Corrected tender opening date and time:	06/05/2021	at 11:30 hrs.



M. Anwar Zahid
SP (Logistics)
Police Telecom, Rajarbag, Dhaka
Ph: 8301253, Fax: 8301404
E-mail: splog.telecom@police.gov.bd

GD-735

Fast-track

FROM PAGE 3

With most of the fast-track projects already running behind schedule mainly due to uncertainty over funding, complexity over designs, planning and land acquisition, their progress was hit hard by the Covid-19 outbreak.

Works of the eight top priority projects slowed down, while some of them got halted when the government executed shutdown for more than two months from March last year.

Lack of manpower, especially those from abroad, and supply of construction materials amid global pandemic were main reasons behind it.

When these projects are gaining momentum from late last year, second phase of the Covid-19 pandemic gripped the country, leading the government to enforce strict lockdown again.

In this situation, the taskforce yesterday held the meeting to review the projects' progress to know about the challenges. "We wanted to continue works as seven-day pause will halt the momentum," said chief of an implementing agency.

The meeting also discussed about vaccination programme for foreigners involved in those projects, he said.

Most of the project officials said they would be able to utilise the allocated funds for this fiscal year if the situation does not deteriorate further, said another project director.

"However, it would be a major challenge if the situation worsens further," he added.

Price hike

FROM PAGE 3

for the first time in DSCC and this nine member committee will start its work shortly.

Taposh also said they will conduct mobile court operations in this regard during Ramadan and have already taken preparation for this.

Delivering his speech as the chief guest, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said though in other countries price of essentials are reduced during Ramadan, the matter reversed in Bangladesh.

Urging business leaders to come forward, the home minister said they will provide all kinds of necessary support to control price hike so that consumers can get essential goods at a reasonable price.

He also urged BSTI to ensure the quality of products during this time.

Enayetullah, president of Moulvibazar Byabshayi Samity requested the government to allow wholesalers to keep their markets open for a certain time to ensure proper flow of supply chains across the country.

**Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (BMDF)**

(A Govt. owned Company under the Financial Institutions Division, Ministry of Finance)

Grameen Bank Bhaban, Level-13, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216

Phone: 9022875, 9022932, Fax: 9016239, Website: www.bmdf.gov.bd, E-mail: info@bmdf.gov.bd



উন্নয়নের পথভাঙ্গা
শেখ হাসিনার মৃত্যু

Vacancy Announcement

Applications are invited for the following post under Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (BMDF) from bonafide Bangladeshi nationals. BMDF is a Government owned company established under the Companies Act, 1994. The main function of BMDF is to provide financial support to the City Corporations and Municipalities for urban infrastructure development.

1.	Name of the post	: Managing Director.
2.	Job responsibilities	: The MD will be initially responsible for operation of BMDF. He/she will act as Chief Executive of the organization. He/she will be responsible to the Board of Directors of BMDF.
3.	Educational qualification	: A post graduate degree from a recognized university.
4.	Experience	: At least 20 years of experience as Class-1 Officer or equivalent position in a government/semi-government organizations. Company affairs and financial management field will be encouraged.

Or

At least 25 years of experience including experience as CEO in a national level autonomous body/private organization.

5.	Age	: Age of the applicants must not exceed 60 (sixty) years on the last day of submission of application.
6.	Remuneration	: A monthly remuneration of Tk. 1,98,040.00 (one lac ninety eight thousand and forty taka) will be offered which includes monthly basic salary Tk. 1,13,150.00 (one lac thirteen thousand one hundred fifty taka), House Rent 60% of basic salary and other admissible allowances with all festival allowances and a full time transport with driver.

Application should be addressed to the Senior Secretary, Local Government Division and Chairman, Board of Directors, Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (BMDF), Grameen Bank Bhaban, Level-13, Mirpur-2, Dhaka and should reach to the above-mentioned address on or before 05/05/2021 positively.

Only short-listed candidates will be invited for an interview.

Company Secretary
Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (BMDF)
Phone: 9022932/9022875

GD-740