

UNAUTHORISED HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

Drive resumes after 3 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) is going to resume its drives against unregistered hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centers from today after a three-month break.

The drive will continue till Thursday, Additional Director General (administration) of the health directorate Prof Dr Ahmedul Kabir told the reporters at a press conference at the DGHS headquarters in the capital yesterday.

The hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centers, which have already applied but are yet to get registered, will also not be allowed to run their operations, he said.

There are around 2,000 unregistered organisations in operation, he added.

Kabir said, “They lack or have no necessary documents to get registered. They cannot provide healthcare this way....”

Legal action will be taken against the doctors if anyone is found working for any unregistered institution, he said.

“Serving in any unauthorised hospital is illegal. We will not take responsibility if any registered physician serves in those hospitals,” Kabir said.

Earlier, DGHS conducted a nationwide

AT A GLANCE

2,000 unauthorised facilities still operating

Those who applied for registration but yet to get registered will also be closed

Legal actions against doctors working at unregistered facilities

Private health facilities to be categorised (A/B/C) based on quality

drive against the unregistered hospitals and clinics starting from May 26 and shut down 1,641 institutions across the country.

Since then, a total of 1,489 new private healthcare organisations were registered while 2,930 renewed their registration, health officials said.

“We had given (unauthorised hospitals and clinic) a three-month time. Those who

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With great difficulty, a woman gets on top of a divider to get across the busy Dhaka-Aricha highway. Despite there being a foot-over bridge just a few feet away, many pedestrians take up such unnecessary risks just to save a few minutes of their time, endangering themselves and others. This photo was taken in Savar's Shimultala area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

‘Nothing wrong with our human rights situation’
Law minister on UNHCR chief’s comments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet found nothing wrong with the human rights situation of Bangladesh, Law Minister Anisul Huq said yesterday.

“Michelle Bachelet visited different Rohingya camps, held meetings and talks with rights organisations and representatives from civil society during her visit to Bangladesh earlier this month,” he said.

“She did not make any negative comments after seeing everything,” said the minister after attending an event organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies in Eskaton. “It is also evident from her comments that the government is running the country with democracy and equity.”

Contacted, the law minister said the comments Bachelet made were surely positive as she did not find any violation of rights in the country.



Not a wise idea
Say experts on third country resettlement of Rohingyas

PORIMOL PALMA

The Rohingya genocide day on August 25 brought to the fore diverse suggestions for a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis. Two similar proposals, however, stand out. One was from US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the other was from the Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Ito Naoki.

In a statement, Blinken said in solidarity with Bangladesh and other Rohingya-hosting countries in the region, the US will increase the resettlement of Rohingyas.



FILE PHOTO

“Third country resettlement is not a solution at all. This will make the Myanmar junta happy because they don’t want the Rohingyas to return.”

Prof Imtiaz Ahmed
Director of Centre for Genocide Studies at DU

“As an essential component of an international, comprehensive humanitarian response, we are working to significantly increase the resettlement of Rohingya refugees from the region, including from Bangladesh, so that they can rebuild their lives in the United States” -- were his exact words.

At an event, Ito Naoki said in parallel to repatriation, it is also vital to consider third-country resettlement that is one of the permanent solutions and a way to share the burden of the refugee crisis among the international community.

Since 2008, 54 families and 200 people, including the Rohingyas, were resettled in Japan, he said,

adding, “I hope we can consider further possibilities of the Rohingya people’s resettlement in Japan with the guidance of UNHCR.”

However, international relations analysts say such public statements of third country resettlement without making any figures will not help the Rohingya repatriation, rather it will only work in favour of the Myanmar junta.

Experts said some 600,000 Rohingyas are facing genocidal acts. With news of resettlement possibilities being picked up by the media in the US and Japan, more Rohingya people are expected to flee Myanmar and seek shelter in Bangladesh and other countries.

“Third country resettlement is not a solution at all. This will make the Myanmar junta happy because they don’t want the Rohingyas to return,” said Prof Imtiaz Ahmed, director at the Centre for Genocide Studies under the Dhaka University’s International Relations Department.

He said it was not clear why the two countries made a similar statement on third-country resettlement. Third-country resettlement is more appropriate if there is a war situation in a

country, which is not the case for the Rohingya people.

“We need to be cautious of such a move. The previous records suggest that the US, Canada and some European countries gave shelter to only a few thousand of the Rohingya people, mostly from Malaysia and Thailand,” said Prof Imtiaz.

“Even if we consider that the US and Japan accept a few thousand of the Rohingya people, it does not make much difference when there are 12 lakh Rohingya people currently living in Bangladesh,” he added.

According to a state department report submitted to the Congress on Proposed Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2022, more than 9,000 Rohingya have resettled to the US over the past decade, primarily from Malaysia.

According to Nay Say Lwin, co-founder of the Free Rohingya Coalition (FRC), Canada and Europe have resettled only about 2,500 Rohingyas.

“If the developed countries want to help the Rohingya people, they should provide scholarships for Rohingya youths to fund their higher education so that they can build their community,” he told

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Shamsul Huq Tuku elected deputy speaker
PM mourns death of Fazle Rabbi at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former state minister for home affairs Shamsul Huq Tuku has been elected uncontested as the deputy speaker of Jatiya Sangsad.



The post of deputy speaker became vacant following the death of Fazle Rabbi Mia on July 22.

Tuku was elected unanimously yesterday in voice votes at the outset of the 19th session of parliament with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

Earlier, Chief Whip Noor-E Alam Chowdhury proposed his name as the deputy speaker. Then ruling Awami League lawmaker Qamrul Islam of Dhaka 2 seconded it.

Although there was lone candidate for the post, the Speaker gave the proposal for voting in line with the rules of procedure.

President Abdul Hamid administered oath to the newly-elected deputy speaker at the former’s chamber in the parliament at 7:00pm.

Tuku was elected MP from Pabna-1 constituency in 2009, 2014 and 2018 with “boat” symbol. He served as the state minister of home from 2009-2014. Currently, he is serving as the president of the parliamentary standing committee related to the same ministry.

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NARAYANGANJ’S RUPGANJ
No earth filling on 2,500 bighas of agri land: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to stop -- for the next three months -- the earth filling on around 2,500 bighas of agricultural land and waterbodies near Purbachal of Daudpur Union in Narayanganj’s Rupganj.

The court also ordered the deputy commissioner of Narayanganj to conduct an inquiry into the alleged earth filling and to submit a report to it in two months.

At the same time, the HC issued a rule asking the government to explain why their inaction in preventing filling the land and waterbodies with sands dredging from Shitalakkhya river should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman

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Remain vigilant during Durga Puja
Rights orgs urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should remain vigilant so that the upcoming Durga Puja celebrations don’t get spoiled like the previous year, said Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) yesterday.

“Minorities have been under attack for a long time. Political parties and various social groups are also involved with such incidents. We urge the government to remain vigilant,” said Md Nur Khan, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) and convener of HRFB.

“Durga Puja celebrations should not be limited citing security concerns. What we saw in Cumilla last year shouldn’t be repeated,” he added,

He was addressing a press conference at Jatiya Press Club.

Speakers also demanded those involved with violence against minorities should be brought to the books immediately. They also asked for removal of authorities concerned if they fail to protect the minorities.

Petition seeks preservation of seized evidence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five Supreme Court lawyers yesterday filed a petition with the High Court seeking its directive on the government to take necessary steps to properly preserve the seized evidence, items and articles including vehicles at police stations and malkhanas across the country.

Lawyers Mohammad Noab Ali, Md Muzahedul Islam, Mustafizur Rahman, GM Muzahidur Rahman Munna and Imrul Kayes submitted the petition.

Law secretary, senior secretary at public safety division under the home ministry, inspector general of police and DMP commissioner have been mentioned as respondents to the petition.

The petition said it has been a regular practice that different seized items are frequently stored in open roadsides, rooftops, makeshift tin-shed structures, corridors, or staircases in or near police stations.

Petitioners’ lawyer Mohamad Shishir Manir told The Daily Star that the HC may hear the petition today.

Worker dies in explosion at rubber factory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A worker died after a grinding machine exploded at a rubber factory in Dhaka’s Kadamtali area yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Delwar Hossain (45), an employee of Panama Rubber Factory, which produces tyres and tubes.

Delwar was severely injured in the head as the machine exploded around 7:30am. He was rushed to DMCH where doctors declared him dead around 8:30 am, said Masud Alam, the supervisor of the factory said.

Hailing from Mymensingh Sadar upazila, he used to live in the factory, he said.



A car slows down while crossing a waterlogged part of the Moghbazar flyover yesterday. Due to a lack of maintenance and proper planning during construction, water accumulates in the flyover, even after a slight drizzle.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

PRAYER TIMING

AUGUST 29

Fajr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN

4:30

12:45

4:45

6:33

8:00

JAMAA

5:05

1:15

5:00

6:36

8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION