

62pc healthcare facilities lack basic hygiene

Reveals report by WHO, Unicef

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only 38 percent of the country's healthcare facilities had basic hygiene services, according to the latest Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) report by WHO and UNICEF.

The lack of basic hygiene at healthcare facilities is a death trap, especially for newborns and mothers, and the SDG target of universal health coverage is directly impacted by such conditions, according to the report published yesterday.

The report, titled "Progress on WASH in health care facilities 2000-2021: special focus on WASH and infection prevention and control", has established this global baseline on hygiene services for the first time as more countries report on critical elements of WASH services in their hospitals and other health centres.

The report revealed that 32 percent of the government facilities had basic hygiene services, compared to 69 percent among the non-government facilities.

Besides, access to safe water in healthcare facilities is more common in urban areas (90 percent) than in rural areas (67 percent).

Only 34 percent of the facilities offer basic waste management services, while 52 percent have them on a limited scale. Around 14 percent do not have them at all.

The report highlighted that half of the healthcare

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A pedestrian signals a car to slow down to cross the busy Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue through a broken part of the road divider. Despite the existence of a foot-over bridge overhead, many choose to cross roads such a careless way, increasing risk of accidents. This photo was taken near Farmgate area recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Committed to finding those who disappeared

Says Shahriar Alam

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government is committed to investigating the allegations of enforced disappearance, extrajudicial killing and torture, said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam yesterday.

"We are committed to the UN Human Rights Council, as much as possible, to find those who disappeared. We have already traced 10 of the 76 listed by the UN," he said.

But it may not be possible to trace the 66 others. "But our efforts will continue," he added.

Shahriar said this at the ministry premises, in response to UN Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet's recommendation of an impartial, independent and transparent investigation into such allegations.

Bachelet was in

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Allow non-DU students into master's programmes

Recommends deans' committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Deans' Committee of Dhaka University yesterday recommended allowing students from other universities to enrol in DU's regular master's programmes, provided there are empty seats available.

The recommendation was made at the committee's meeting, chaired by DU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman.

The final decision in this regard will be made by DU's syndicate.

At present, only DU students are eligible to enrol in the regular master's programmes within three years after graduating from their respective departments.

If the recommendation is approved, DU students will also be able to enrol in master's programmes of departments different from that of their bachelor's.

"Some seats in master's programmes remain vacant since all students do not enrol after graduating. Hence, the recommendation was made. If approved, it will allow students from other universities, and also students from different departments within DU, to enrol in these programmes," Prof Sitesh Chandra Bachar, dean of DU's pharmacy department, told The Daily Star.

Childhood GONE TOO SOON

Inside the lives of canteen boys at DU who dropped out of school to make ends meet

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Some four months ago, 10-year-old Shawon's daily routine included attending school, playing his favourite games with his friends and reading story books.

However, the simple things in life could not stay as simple for much longer.

Shawon's father, a van-puller by profession, fell sick last January. So, Shawon's elder brother Jibon (16) had to take up the job of an assistant at a food stall in Dhaka University's Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall.

Five months later, Shawon, a third-grader of a local primary school in Madaripur's Kalkini, joined

"I want to continue my studies here if given the scope," he told this correspondent.

The brothers are not the only ones. At least 200 children – aged between eight and 16 years – work at different canteens and food stalls in 19 student dorms and faculty residences at DU.

The university authorities run two schools but have little to no opportunities for these children to study at those institutions.

This correspondent talked to 20 such child workers on the DU campus, most of whom said they were forced to quit school and start working, owing to their families' worsening economic status.

"Although there is a provision that states it is illegal

I enjoyed going to school, playing football and taking a dip in the pond any time I wanted to. I want to continue my studies if given the scope.

Shawon, a canteen worker at DU

According to National Child Labour Survey 2021 by Bureau of Statistics, the country currently has 34,50,000 child workers, of whom, 12,80,000 are involved in hazardous work.



his brother. The sustenance of the family got much harder with solely Jibon's income, so Shawon had to drop out of school and join him in May.

The two brothers are currently supporting the family comprising their sick father, mother and an elder sister.

Their day starts early in the morning, and they have to work 16 hours a day to make ends meet.

Every day after waking up, Shawon cleans up the stall, fetches water, prepares dough for bread, serves food and sometimes delivers food to the hall's rooms.

He earns Tk 4,000 per month for the work.

Reminiscing about the times he was in school, Shawon said, "I enjoyed going to school, playing football and taking a dip in the pond any time I wanted to."

to employ children in labour, there is child labour everywhere in the country. Dhaka University is not an exception," said educationist Prof Abul Kashem Md Fazlul Huq.

"However, the work environment at Dhaka University is far better than other risky jobs for children. If the authorities want they can make arrangements for education for these working children. They can make it imperative for canteen owners to let these children study during gap hours," he said.

Mentionable, DU authorities lease out the hall canteens to private companies, which run them and hire staff for doing so.

According to National Child Labour Survey 2021

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Why Samrat's bail should not be scrapped: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the state and expelled Jubo League leader Ismail Hossain Samrat to explain why the lower court order that granted him bail in a corruption case should not be cancelled.

The court also fixed October 23 for hearing the rule. The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Khizir Hayat issued the rule following a criminal revisional application filed by the ACC seeking cancellation of the lower court order that granted bail to Samrat in a Tk 222 core graft case.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told the HC that this court on May 18 cancelled Samrat's bail granted by the lower court.

On August 10, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court upheld the HC order, but the lower court on August 22 granted bail to Samrat in violation of the SC order.

The lower court has granted bail to Samrat on health ground though he is not physically sick as he staged a show down after getting released from jail.

The lawyer said Samrat has made a "false statement before the lower court that he was very sick and receiving treatment in the ICU in a hospital, but he is moving around like a healthy man."

Samrat staged a show-down on August 26 while appearing in public for the first time in three days after being released on bail.

Stop harassing students at DU registrar building

Solo protestor demands

DU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University student yesterday started a sit-in programme in front of the university's administrative building to press home an eight-point demand, including addressing the mismanagement in official services.

He began the demonstration around 11:00am and it continued till 4:00pm.

Hasnat Abdullah, a master's student in DU's English department, went to meet Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman with his demands around 12:30pm.

After that, he gave an ultimatum to the university authorities to meet his demands within 10 working days.

He said the VC assured that he will take steps according to his demands.

DU students frequently allege that when they go to the Registrar Building seeking academic services, officials misbehave with them.

Hasnat said he went to the Registrar Building a few days ago to resolve an academic issue. He did not get proper service, he claimed. Hasnat's demands include forming a complaint cell for ensuring accountability of administrative officials and stopping harassment of students; digitalisation of all administrative activities within a short time and setting up CCTV cameras in all offices for ensuring safety.

Contacted, VC Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman said the demands are student friendly and logical. "We are already trying to digitalise the system."



Movers sit on top of the belongings they are transporting using the truck. At any moment, if the driver forgets to notice that they are sitting in such a precarious position, these movers can face a grave accident. This photo was taken recently in Mohammadpur's Iqbal Road area.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Monsoon doubles mosquito trouble

Latest DGHS survey finds rise in Aedes population; experts call for immediate action

HELEMUL ALAM

Dhaka residents may witness a bigger wave of dengue in the coming days, as the population of Aedes mosquitoes in monsoon is over double that of the previous season.

A DGHS monsoon survey, conducted between August 11 and 23, found the presence of Aedes mosquitoes in 13.4 percent of houses under DNCC and 11.75 percent of homes under DSCC.

"More dengue cases may be witnessed if proper measures are not taken immediately," said Dr Md Ekramul Haque, deputy programme manager of the malaria and ATD control programme at DGHS.

According to the monsoon survey, Aedes mosquitoes were present in 45.2 percent of multi-storied buildings and 24.8 percent of under-construction buildings under DNCC.

Besides, they were also found in 20.3

percent of independent houses, 6.8 percent of slums or semi-pucca houses, and 2.8 percent of vacant plots.

In DSCC areas, the mosquitoes were found in 33.0 percent of multi-storied buildings, 27 percent of independent houses, 12.1 percent of slums, and 5.1 percent of vacant plots.

A total of 1,319 households of 40 DNCC wards and 1,830 households of 58 DSCC wards were surveyed.

"The authorities will have to find clusters of Aedes mosquito-prone areas by collecting addresses of dengue patients. Then, they will have to take effective measures within a 500 yard radius of the homes. This measure, called hotspot management, will also raise awareness in the areas," said entomologist Monzur A Chowdhury.

Entomologist of Jahangirnagar University Prof Kabirul Bashar said if

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Dengue death toll **20**

Total number of patients **5,930**

712 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients **5,198**

237 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER
TIMING
AUGUST 31



Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-30 12-45 4-45 6-23 7-45
JAMAAT 5-05 1-15 5-00 6-26 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION