

Dhaka University medical centre IN NAME ONLY

SUHANUR RAHMAN SHUVO

Mainuddin Saleh, an Islamic studies major at Dhaka University, went to the university's Shaheed Buddhijibi Dr Muhammad Mortaza Medical Centre with a fever last Monday at 8:00am -- an hour after its morning shift started.

However, to his disappointment, he found no doctors there and had to wait two more hours to see one. When he finally got to see a doctor, he was informed that the medicines he was prescribed and X-ray services were not available at the centre.

During two visits to the medical centre last week, this correspondent found a roster prepared for the doctors on December 29, 2021. According to that roster, 16 doctors are assigned to duty in three shifts.

In the morning shift, six to eight doctors are assigned to duty. However, this correspondent found only one on-duty doctor on Tuesday till 9:30am and two doctors on Wednesday till 11:00am.

Besides, there are three specialist doctors -- two for dental and one for eye, who are supposed to be present from 7:30am to 2:30pm every working day but this correspondent found none of them present at the centre before 10:00am.



The medical centre has six part-time specialists -- radiologist, physiotherapist, cardiologist, pathologist -- who come in once or twice a week.

Students alleged that they had to wait for a long time to visit a doctor. When they did get a consultation, the doctors referred them to other hospitals.

They also said diagnostic units weren't always operational and even if they are, patients had to wait at least a week for test results.

At least five students who went to the medical centre between February and July to get their dental treatment said they were advised to go to the dentist's



chamber instead of getting treatment there.

"The doctor did not even talk to me properly. He was busy on his phone the entire time," said Shams Sahela, a Bangla major.

"I knew that root scaling was available

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Will extend it if her family applies

Says law minister on suspension of Khaleda's sentence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the government will further extend the suspension of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's jail sentence if her family applies for it.

"Let them (Khaleda's family) to decide whether they want to do so. I can say the government will extend the suspension of her sentence if her family submits application to this effect," Anisul Huq said.

He was speaking to reporters after attending a meeting organised to inaugurate a refresher training course for the district and sessions judges at Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI) in Dhaka.

Replying to a query, the law minister said the government has taken steps to speedup the disposal of loan defaulting related cases.

He said he has already talked to Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique in this regard.

On March 16, the law ministry gave its opinion for further extending the suspension of Khaleda Zia's jail sentence for six more months.

Accordingly, the home ministry issued a notification suspending her jail sentence as per section 401 (I) of the Criminal Code of Procedure (CrPC).

Khaleda was freed from jail on March 25, 2020 after the government suspended her jail sentence for six months.

PM'S INDIA VISIT

BNP couldn't solve anything

BSS, Dhaka

Criticising BNP for spreading rumours and propaganda about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent visit to India, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader asked the BNP leaders to check what Bangladesh achieved from India during their tenure.

"BNP leaders should look at their own face in the mirror so that they could see what they had achieved from visits to India during their rule," he told a press briefing at his official residence in Dhaka.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, said while the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India has fulfilled the expectations of the countrymen, the expectations of BNP have not been fulfilled, because they want hostile relations with the neighbours, especially India.

Claiming that BNP could not solve any bilateral problem with India during their rule, Quader said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has broken the walls of doubt and mistrust and created a bridge between the two countries.

In continuation of that, this visit has spread new light of possibilities in the path of mutual friendship and development, he continued.

Quader said BNP has set examples of killing people through arson-terrorism and hurling petrol bombs to make the country unstable.



No visible achievement

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has said there was no "visible achievement" of Bangladesh, except the Kushiara River water sharing MoU, from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's four-day visit to India.

Stating that a defense contract worth \$500 million has been signed to buy military vehicles from India, the BNP leader said it has been assured that border killings will be brought to zero level.

"On the day this was said, one person was killed at the Dinajpur border and two others remained missing. This's the outcome (of her visit)."

He was talking to reporters after paying homage to BNP founder Ziaur Rahman by placing a wreath at his grave along with the leaders and activists of Jatiyabadi Mohila Dal, marking its 44th founding anniversary on Friday.

"The government has become desperate (to stay in power). You must remember that before this visit, the foreign minister had said that he had requested the Indian leaders to take measures to keep the Awami League government in power by any means possible," he said.

Fakhrul also slammed the government for attacking their party's peaceful programmes across the country and implicating their leaders and activists in "false" cases.



Nothing to brag about

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said there's nothing special about the prime minister's recent visit to India. The result of this visit is "as usual", he added.

Quader, also deputy leader of the opposition in parliament, said this at a views-exchange meeting with Jatiya Party Polish upazila unit leaders held at the JP chairman's Banani office.

He also said according to the country's constitution, people are the owners of the country, they will elect representatives through voting. And they will be able to change the public representative through voting if they don't like them. But people can no longer elect representatives at present.

"Now Bangladesh is no longer a people's republic of Bangladesh... it's only Bangladesh. The word republic exists as an ornament. The country is being run by rulers and administrators. Administrators are accountable only to the rulers," he added.

The JP boss said there is no accountability anywhere in the country, and it is drowning in corruption.

The Election Commission became desperate to hold the national election in any way because of the lack of public support for the government.

"Sometimes the election commission



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'Those in power are behind river encroachment'

Says lawmaker Kamrul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling party lawmaker Kamrul Islam, also former food minister, said river grabbers and public representatives who assist them mostly belong to the ruling party.

"They [encroachers] are our people," he said while speaking as the guest of honour in the Buriganga River Carnival, organised by Waterkeepers Bangladesh Consortium and Buriganga Nodi Mocha in the capital's Kamrangirchar yesterday.

"Who encroaches rivers? If I say it, it would go against me," he said. "Encroachers always side with the party in power, no matter if it's BNP, Awami League or Jatiya Party," he added.

He said the grabbers who were relocating the demarcation pillar with support from the ruling party people were evicted from the banks of Buriganga successfully.

"We want to get back the Buriganga we saw during our childhood. The chaos Dhaka is experiencing now was caused by Zia [Ziaur Rahman] and Ershad [HM Ershad], who destroyed most of the rivers in the city," he said.

The water accumulated in Dhaka cannot recede due to the destruction of the rivers, he observed.

Who encroaches rivers? If I say it, it would go against me. Encroachers always side with the party in power, no matter if it's BNP, Awami League or Jatiya Party.

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'Perfectly well to lead opposition'

Raushan Ershad dismisses rumours of sickness, terms it propaganda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saying that she is perfectly well at present, Jatiya Party chief patron and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Raushan Ershad yesterday said it is necessary to investigate whether those who are repeatedly carrying out propaganda that she is sick, have other intentions.

Raushan came up with the statement in protest of recent news published in different media citing JP chairman GM Quader that the opposition leader is unwell.

GM Quader, also deputy leader of the opposition in parliament, has been claiming that Raushan is too sick to carry out the responsibility as the opposition leader.

The poor condition of Jatiya Party in the last three years and the cries of many competent leaders and activists have pained me. I have convened the party's council to protect it.

Aggrieved over GM Quader's recent criticism of the government, the ruling Awami League high-ups are allegedly backing the pro-Raushan group.

As part of the scheme, Raushan all of a sudden on August 31 convened the party's 10th national council, creating a fresh rift between them.

The next day, the JP parliamentary party submitted a letter to Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury requesting her to make GM Quader the opposition leader in parliament.

GM Quader recently at a views exchange meeting said the JP parliamentary and the party's presidium member decided to make him the opposition leader as Raushan could not play her role in parliament due to physical ailments.

On September 2, GM Quader told reporters that a third party is trying to implement an agenda by using Raushan's name.

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BCL infighting reaches Hasina's political office

Faction brings allegations of irregularities, mismanagement against president, GS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League's central panel went to Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi office yesterday to submit a written complaint against its President Al Nahean Khan Joy and General Secretary Lekhak Bhattacharjee.

However, they did not succeed as AL office secretary Biplob Barua expressed reluctance to accept it.

The BCL leaders went there around 11:00am with the complaint, signed by nearly 100 leaders of its central committee.

They waited at the AL president's party office till 3:00pm but could not submit the letter. They reportedly returned once a senior AL leader committed to sitting with them on the matter at a convenient time.

"A top AL leader reached out to us and expressed interest in a dialogue. We will sit today and discuss among ourselves to decide our next course of action," a vice-president of BCL's central committee told this correspondent, requesting anonymity.

The tenure of Joy and Lekhak has been marred with a series of allegations, including recruiting married individuals,

extortionists, addicts, Chhatra Dal and Shibir activists in committees, not holding general meetings and not taking action against those violating the rules of the organisation.

This correspondent obtained a copy of the complaint letter.

"During the month of mourning, more than 500 people were added to BCL's

The BCL leaders went there around 11:00am with the complaint, signed by nearly 100 leaders of its central committee. They waited at the AL president's political office till 3:00pm but could not submit it.

central committee without any scrutiny, where descendants of BNP-Jamaat families have also been included," reads the letter.

The complaint also mentions that in early August, new committees of five district units and full committees of two district units were formed, where an

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Locals use the Tejgaon rail line as a shortcut to go to Karwan Bazar while the construction of the elevated expressway goes on overhead. Travelling in this manner, they are putting their lives on the line. This photo was taken in Nakhalpara area recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON