

HC summons DGHS DG over non-compliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the director general of the Directorate General of Health Services to appear before it over non-compliance of its order for appointing doctors to 48 vacant posts in the country's prisons.

The DG has been ordered to appear before the HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice

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A pile of bamboo hangs from the back of a pick-up truck. At any moment, any of the pieces may have flown off from the truck and hit nearby vehicles, possibly leading to a severe accident. This photo was taken in Tejgaon Industrial Area recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

'Private investment crucial for growth'

Says IMF DMD Antoinette Monsio Sayeh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Deputy Managing Director Antoinette Monsio Sayeh yesterday said Bangladesh needs policies to remove excessive regulation and improve corporate governance, as well as the financial sector's efficiency to attract higher foreign direct investment.

Sayeh, who will leave Bangladesh today after a five-day visit, also said increasing private investments is critical for Bangladesh to sustain the recent high levels of growth, which will require structural reforms.

For instance, addressing the weaknesses in the financial sectors by increasing the efficiency of state-owned commercial banks as well as pursuing capital market development to provide new vehicles to channel savings towards long-term investment are needed, Sayeh said while delivering a lecture at Dhaka University yesterday.

She said Bangladesh has one of the lowest revenue-to-GDP ratios in the world, and it needs to do more to raise public revenues for public investments as well as increase support for the poor directly.

"To achieve its revenue goal, Bangladesh needs to reform its key tax policies, increase tax compliance and broaden the tax base," she added.

Replying to questions, the DMD said the IMF is not against subsidies, which already have a significant role in the country's growth. However, the country needs to provide subsidies to the targeted poor.

The lecture was organised by DU's economics department at Mojaffar Ahmed Chowdhury auditorium.

Apart from financial support, the IMF will also support the country to strengthen the government's capacity to design and implement effective economic policies on public financial management, tax policy and administration, and banking, supervision and statistics, she added.

In reply to Prof Selim Raihan's query regarding how to ensure implementation of the policy reforms recommended by the IMF, the DMD said, "It's not an IMF programme, rather the IMF is coming in to support the government's programme. That is a key aspect when it comes to the feasibility of the implementation."



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Lives deprived of hope

Korail children with cerebral palsy living in inhumane condition

NILIMA JAHAN

Twelve-year-old Rubaiya's world is limited to her bed. A resident of the Korail slum in the capital, she lives in a dark windowless tin shed shanty. She has not seen a glimpse of the sky in the last three years. The last time she went on a trip outside was seven years ago, at her grandmother's home in Cumilla.

Rubaiya suffers from cerebral palsy (CP), a form of disability that affects the development of a person's brain, which affects mobility.

"All of our family members can go out and have a day out on weekends, but Rubaiya and I can't. Her life is confined to the small dark room," said her mother Lucky Begum, who works as a house help.

Rubaiya is among the 24 children in Korail slum suffering from this disability without medical care, because their families cannot afford it.

According to Institute of Paediatric Neurodisorder

and Autism at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), a myriad of factors could cause CP, such as infections during pregnancy, injuries during birth, premature birth, infant infections or accidents that cause traumatic head injuries. Most instances of CP can be identified by the age of two. Sometimes, it can be identified within a few months after birth.

Rubaiya was diagnosed with CP when she was two months old, after a sudden epilepsy that damaged her brain.

Although the brain damage is incurable, her quality of life could have been improved if she had received the required medical care and therapy at the time. But Rubaiya's parents, who struggle to eke out a living, were unaware of the condition. Like most other parents facing the same predicament, poverty and illiteracy forced them to discontinue the treatment.

With the birth of their second child, Rubaiya's mother could not continue with Rubaiya's regular



DATA ON CAREGIVERS

- 97% women
- 88.6% mothers of the children
- 8.6% grandmothers
- 80% get no help from family members

exercise for a long time. As a result, her condition worsened and she became completely bedridden.

Last year, she hit puberty, and her mother solely takes care of her menstrual hygiene. Her father has arranged space for her shower inside the only room where they all share a living,

as it is difficult to carry a fully-grown teenager to the common bathroom, where other people in their neighbourhood take showers.

For 10-year-old Fatema, who also suffers from CP, taking a shower is more of a harrowing ordeal. She lives in a wooden shanty, on the second floor. So her mother has to carry her downstairs every time, using the ramshackle staircase with loose railings and spindles.

Fatema's parents cannot afford sanitary pads for regular use. She has to manage with damp rags, dried using only the ceiling fan. This exacerbates her health condition as she chronically suffers from a cold and cough.

Like most other mothers in the slum, Fatema's mother did not go for antenatal check-ups during her pregnancy, and gave birth at home, with the help of an untrained midwife.

When born, Fatema did not cry. And when she was just one

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Workers in a plastic-scrap recycling workshop melt down the collected materials to turn them into solid blocks of plastic to be sold to recycling factories. They work amid severe health risks, as they have no protection to prevent the fumes from entering their lungs. In addition to that, these workshops inadvertently contribute to air pollution as they have no mechanism to filter out the toxic fumes. This photo was taken in Dhaka's Kamrangirchar recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Access to healthcare for youths, now easier than ever

Health ministry launches online platforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adolescents and youths in Bangladesh will now be able to easily access health information and services through the new online platforms launched at a conference yesterday.

In the conference held at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Center, the health ministry, with support from Unicef and the Sweden embassy, launched a website and a mobile application to increase awareness and ensure easy access to physical and mental

health information and services for adolescents.

Speaking at the programme, Saiful Hassan Badal, secretary of the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, said, "There are over 3.6 crore adolescents in Bangladesh, who face multiple social barriers to accessing essential information and services related to health care. We have to ensure their easy access to these services from our end."

"Over 70 percent of adolescent girls don't have accurate information about menstruation,

which we need to provide to them," said Md Shahjahan, director general of National Institute of Population Research and Training.

Attending as chief guest, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said, "Today's youths are the policymakers of tomorrow's Bangladesh. They are our assets, our future. So we must work on empowering them and addressing their age-specific needs."

He said, "The launch of these platforms represents such commitment, which will also strengthen adolescent-friendly

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The Daily Star



The Daily Star
22nd O & A LEVEL AWARDS PRESENTATION
CEREMONY 2021-2022

ANNOUNCEMENT
for 'O' & 'A' Level Private Candidates
and Schools

Criteria for 'O' Level

Minimum 6 (six) 'A' or 7' grades in two consecutive sessions from October/November 2021, January 2022, May/June 2022 to October/November 2022 for Edexcel and October/November 2021, May/June 2022 to October/November 2022 for Cambridge.

Criteria for 'A' Level

Minimum 3 (three) 'A' grades in two consecutive sessions from October/November 2021, January 2022, May/June 2022 to October/November 2022 for Edexcel and October/November 2021, May/June 2022 to October/November 2022 for Cambridge.

Private Candidates

Private candidates who fulfill the criteria described above are requested to register their names at The Daily Star office for inclusion as awardees. Eligible candidates are requested to contact at The Daily Star, (64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Level-5, Dhaka 1215) with their original results and certificates and also photocopy of the original results and certificates and 2 (two) passport-size photographs in person by 25th January, 2023, anytime between 11:00 am to 04:00 pm (Except Fridays and Saturdays). Please contact Mr. Tahmidul Hasan, +8801786111100, before coming to The Daily Star office.

No registration of Private Candidates will be taken after 03:30 pm of 23rd January, 2023.

School Candidates

Any school that has students meeting the above criteria but has not been contacted through email/phone/regular post is requested to contact The Daily Star through email: o.alevel.tds@gmail.com or call us on +8801786111100. Registration for school students will be done through school and the school is requested to register the eligible students on our website: <http://tomorrowleaders.net>.

• The schools are also requested to promptly prepare a list of the candidates meeting the above criteria, the number of 'A'/'A*' grades achieved by each candidate and photocopies of results and certificates for each candidate.

• No registration will be taken for school students after 03:30 pm of 25th January, 2023.

• Note: If you know any private candidate(s) or school(s) that may be unaware of this, please pass on the above information to them so that we may include them in the ceremony.