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Find out why people go abroad for treatment

President asks doctors, authorities



UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged physicians and authorities concerned to find out why people go abroad for medical treatment despite there being many reputed doctors and hospitals in the country.

He said this at the fourth convocation of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Medical University, held at the capital's Bangamata

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The gatekeeper of this rail crossing has devised a clever solution to prevent vehicles from entering from the wrong side -- tying a sturdy rope across the rail line. He unties the rope after the train passes through. Although his solution to reduce traffic chaos managed to stop vehicles, it could not stop people from moving over the rope to reach the other side even when a train is approaching. This photo was taken near Joydebpur train station in Gazipur recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

SIDDIKBAZAR BLAST

Building needs to be retrofitted before use

Says Rajuk probe committee

HELEMUL ALAM

The building that was damaged by an explosion in the capital's Siddikbazar should not be used before it is retrofitted, as the structure is currently unsafe, suggested a probe committee of Rajuk.

On March 7, the explosion rocked the area, killing at least 22 people and injuring over a hundred.

The six-member committee -- headed by Maj (retd) Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, member (development) of Rajuk -- yesterday submitted the probe report, which also recommended reinforcing the affected beams and columns and conducting a detailed engineering assessment (DEA) in the next 45 days by involving a third party.

It suggested retrofitting the seven-storey building in six months, following the DEA report.

"In the report, we have also suggested not using the building before the DEA and retrofitting works are completed, as it will be risky otherwise," said Prof Mehedi Ahmed Ansary of Buet's civil engineering department, also a member of the committee.

The committee found nine columns out of 24 damaged due to the explosion. Some parts of the basement and ground floor, as well as beams and retaining walls, have also been damaged.

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‘A pre-planned attack on Ahmadiyyas’

Speakers tell conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The attacks on the Ahmadiyya community in Panchagarh were pre-planned and the perpetrators should be identified immediately through fair investigation and brought to book, speakers said at a press conference yesterday.

Expressing deep concern and resentment, they said the local administration and law enforcement agencies should be held responsible as they failed to ensure an appropriate environment for the Ahmadiyya community despite knowing the threats of possible attacks.

Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB), a coalition of 20 human rights and development organisations, organised the briefing at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Iftekhharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), said the Panchagarh incident is not an isolated one. It's not even a new phenomenon.

"It was not unknown to the authorities that such an incident could happen. The community also informed the authorities before holding the event. We want to know why precautions were not taken."

For political purposes, religious bigots have been allowed to flourish in Bangladesh for a long time through a process by all parties, especially the two big political parties, he said.

It was not unknown to the authorities that such an incident could happen. The community also informed the authorities before holding the event. We want to know why precautions were not taken.

IFTEKHARUZZAMAN  
Executive director of TIB

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SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION

Nine out of 10 children not getting treatment

Finds DGHS data

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around nine in every 10 children under age five who suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and have different health complications remained out of treatment coverage in 2022, shows data of Directorate General of Health Services.

According to the World Health Organization, SAM refers to very low weight for height.

Last year, there were around 95,600 SAM children with different health complications in the country.

Of them, only 23,400 were detected through screening, and 12,083 were admitted to SAM units, which are specialised arrangements at healthcare facilities, according to data shared at a workshop at a Dhaka hotel yesterday.

In 2021, around 11,000 SAM children with complications received treatment from the SAM units.

"The main reason behind this low coverage is the absence of community-based SAM management," Dr Moniruzzaman, programme manager of National Nutrition Service (NNS) at the health directorate, said at the event.

An assessment, jointly conducted by the NNS and Unicef in December last year, revealed that half of the SAM units at 436 public health facilities are not functioning efficiently.

#### ISSUES

- Absence of community-based SAM management
- Half of SAM units at 436 public facilities inefficient
- Low stock of therapeutic foods
- 61pc SAM units don't have trained service provider
- Children from poor families mainly victims of SAM
- Infrastructure in many facilities not suitable for SAM unit

Discussants at the event said that such inefficiency is also a reason behind the low coverage.

The inefficiency was attributed to six key factors, including unavailability of materials like therapeutic foods and weighing scales, and

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Dhaka at a glance

DSCC unveils tourist map

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation yesterday unveiled a tourist guide map to provide foreign and local visitors with an easy reference to tourist places in Dhaka.

The map includes information on transportation and location networks of air, road and rail.

DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said the map is prepared in a way that is easy for everyone to understand. The map is available in English, and Taposh hopes multinational hotels will use it to make the Dhaka-centric tourism more attractive.

Ramadan office hours 9:00am to 3:30pm

UNB, Dhaka

The government has set the office timing for the upcoming holy month of Ramadan -- from 9:00am to 3:30pm -- for all government, semi-government, autonomous and semi-autonomous institutions.

The decision was taken yesterday at the weekly cabinet meeting held with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at the PMO in the capital.

Cabinet Secretary Mahbub Hossain said this while briefing reporters.

53pc bikers in DNCC don't use helmets properly

Says study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 53 percent of motorcyclists do not properly wear helmets in Dhaka North City Corporation area and the rates of proper helmet usage by women and children are significantly lower, showed an observational study.

The study was jointly presented yesterday by the Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit (JH-IIRU) and Vital Strategies at the DNCC conference hall, in collaboration with the city corporation.

The study was presented by Shirin Wadhvaniya, research associate at the JH-IIRU, and Salim Mahmud Chowdhury, director of Centre for Injury Prevention and Research Bangladesh.

The study also revealed

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AL won't get 30 seats if polls held under neutral govt

Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said most of the Awami League candidates will lose their security money if the next national election is held under a non-party neutral government.

"Awami League won't get even 30 seats if the election is held under a caretaker or neutral government. Their (most AL) candidates will lose their security deposit," the BNP leader said.

Speaking at an extended meeting of the Thakurgaon district unit BNP at his local residence, Fakhrul said the ruling party is against the caretaker government as it knows it will face a debacle in a fair and credible national election.

He said the caretaker government is the only solution in the current culture of politics to overcome the political crisis and have a fair and inclusive election.

Fakhrul alleged that the government wants to retain power by holding another "stage-managed" election as they have already destroyed the electoral system.

"But this time it won't happen. The country's people have woken up and they want to exercise their right to franchise," he added.



With a call to save rivers, a group of people forms a human chain yesterday in front of Trimohoni bridge, a confluence point where Balu and Shitalakkhya rivers and Narai canal meet. Waterkeepers Bangladesh and Barogram Balu Nodi Morcha organised the event marking International Day of Action for Rivers today.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ