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PATIENTS WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY Not enough facilities to address their woes Speakers tell conference, stress for strengthening services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Patients with acute spinal cord injury remain widely neglected due to lack of facilities in the country, said speakers at an international conference yesterday.

"The acute SCI (spinal cord injury) patients remain neglected as there are only a few centres to provide services to them. If any accidents happen, often there are no transportation services to take them to nearby hospitals. Even government hospitals do not have adequate facilities to accommodate and rehabilitate them," said Fazlul Hoque, spine surgeon and also founder convener of the Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN).

He said this while addressing the opening session of three day 22nd ASCoN Conference.

With the slogan "Strengthening SCI services through knowledge exchange and

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Spine surgeon

deepening friendship," the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), who has been serving such patients since 1979, organised the conference at Brac CDM in Savar. The Daily Star was the media partner of the event.

Dr Fazlul urged the director-general of the Directorate General of Health Services to take steps to arrange facilities at government hospitals and specialised hospitals for patients with spinal cord injury.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prof Dr Sharafuddin

Ahmed, vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, pledged to initiate arrangements at BSMU to provide services and rehabilitation for such patients.

Highlighting improvements in the health sector, Prof Sharafuddin said

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With smiles on their faces, an energised group of children mend their net before casting it in the Buriganga yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Need multi-pronged steps to control dengue: speakers PMO urged to take the lead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Integrated steps are needed to prevent the spread of dengue fever, said Prof Dr Meerjady Sabrina Flora, director of the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSM), yesterday.

"Today, dengue is our national problem, like it was in the case of Covid-19. We controlled the Covid-19 pandemic. While there are many stockholders of this success, I think we have succeeded in fighting Covid-19 because of political will. If the Prime Minister's Office didn't take the leading position, I think it would have been tough to integrate the ministries to work to this end," she said at a seminar arranged by Epidemiological Association of Bangladesh (EPAB) at the NIPSM auditorium.

"The number of fatalities and effects of this year surpassed the cumulative dengue-related fatalities recorded over the past 22 years, since the disease's outbreak in the country in 2000," said public health expert Dr Mushtaq Hussain.

The average temperature between 2000-2010 was



Dengue has so far claimed at least 1,595 lives this year with 12 more people dying from the mosquito-borne disease in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday.

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'A potentially harmful law'

Speakers demand repeal of Land Crime Prevention and Remedy Act



Speakers at the roundtable on "Civic Opinion: Land Crime Prevention and Remedy Act 2023". ALRD in collaboration with The Daily Star organised the event at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Land Crime Prevention and Remedy Act 2023 was enacted ignoring the constitution of Bangladesh, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They also demanded cancellation of the act.

They were addressing the roundtable on "Civic Opinion: Land Crime Prevention and Remedy Act 2023". Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD)

in collaboration with The Daily Star organised the event at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

Presenting the keynote speech, Supreme Court lawyer Ashraf Ali delved into the various sections of the law and said, "There is a fundamental distinction between conflict and crime. Not all conflicts are crimes. However, the majority of the provisions in this criminal law are aimed at resolving conflicts."

Citing Section 6 of the act, Ashraf said, "If any document is proven to be

prepared through fraud or forgery, the court concerned shall send a copy of the judgement to the deputy commissioner concerned."

"But as we know, land records fall under the purview of the sub-registry office, and they would take steps to cancel such documents or implement other measures in such cases. DC offices have no jurisdiction over this," he clarified.

Talking about another section of the law, he said, "No other law

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'They embezzled and laundered Tk 200cr in 2 yrs' 15 of transnational syndicate held for duping 1,500 people with promise of jobs, loans through app, says DB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives claimed to have arrested 15 members of a transnational syndicate, including one Chinese national, on charges of embezzling Tk 50 crore in the last six months by blackmailing and cheating people through luring them with offers of lucrative work from home opportunities or easy loans.

Cyber and Special Crime Divisions of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested them in connection with two cases filed with Hatirjheel and Kafrel police stations.

The arrested Chinese National -- Zhang qi Zhang, 60, -- was one out of a dozen associates staying in Bangladesh to lead the activities.

To target people, they used to make attractive advertisements on social media platforms, YouTube and even through SMS using random mobile numbers that would read something like, "Your Job request has been approved and the salary is Tk 2,000 or Tk 5,000 per day", followed by a web link.

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followed by a web link.

Once anyone clicks on the link, their cell phone restarts and an app is installed, allowing the syndicate full access to the device. They would then retrieve the users' numbers, photos, messages, and password details, said Junaed Alam Sarker, additional deputy commissioner of DB.

A call would then come to the users' numbers from an IP or Pakistani number, saying that the user was given a loan of Tk 20,000 or Tk 15,000 and they would have to repay double the amount after a week, Junaed said.

The money would actually get deposited to the users' MFS accounts, he also said, adding that if users refused the proposition, the syndicate would start blackmailing them by using their personal

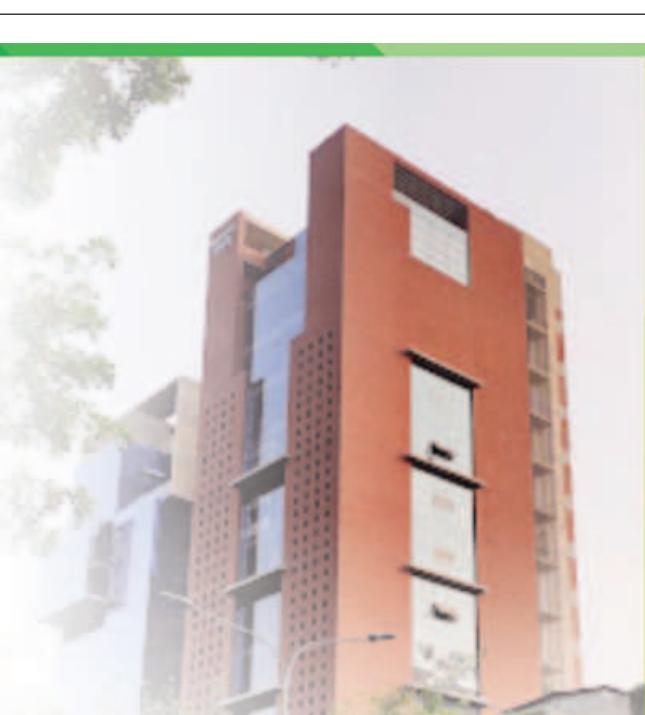
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