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Kidney dialysis beyond reach for many

Tk 46,426 average cost per month in Bangladesh, says BIDS study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kidney patients in Bangladesh have to bear an average monthly expense of Tk 46,426, with costs ranging between Tk 6,690 and Tk 2,10,000, according to a study by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

The study revealed that 92 percent of families with kidney patients faced distress trying to finance dialysis treatment in Bangladesh.

While out-of-pocket expenditure is higher for rich households, the cost burden is greater for poorer households, according to the study titled, "Out-of-pocket Cost of Kidney Dialysis in Bangladesh", presented at a hotel in the capital's Gulshan yesterday.

Abdur Razzak Sarkar, research fellow of BIDS, presented the study's findings.

He said a kidney patient has to bear an annual cost of Tk 80,280 to 25,20,000 for dialysis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Subsidise dialysis facilities in private hospitals

Include dialysis patients in safety net programme

Bring dialysis treatment under insurance mechanism

More production of expensive drugs by state-owned pharmaceuticals



Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri called on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna yesterday.

PHOTO: CA'S PRESS WING

'Her works, thoughts surprised me'

Says Prof Yunus about Begum Rokeya

BSS, Dhaka

Recalling Begum Rokeya's contribution to social reform, Chief Adviser to the interim government Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday said her works and thoughts surprised him.

He made the remarks while addressing a ceremony organized at Dhaka's Osmani Memorial Auditorium to confer the Begum Rokeya Padak-2024 to the recipients.

He lauded Begum Rokeya's courage and vision at a time when girls did not get enough scopes to continue their study.

Noting that reality is impossible without a dream, Prof Yunus said proposed introduction of 'Sultanar Swapna (dream) Award'.

This year, the Begum Rokeya Padak was conferred to four women for their outstanding contributions to society, women's education and empowerment. They are: Dr Parvin Hasan, vice chancellor of Central Women's University; Shirin Parvin Haque, founder of women's rights organisation Nari Paksha; Taslima Akhtar Lima, a noted labour and women's rights activist; and Rani Hamid, the country's first female international chess master.

80,000 cops appointed politically in 15 years: DMP chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 80,000 members of the police force, which comprises around 2 lakh personnel, were recruited over the past 15 years based on their political affiliations, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner SM Sazzat Ali yesterday.

"In the last 15 years, different types of scrutiny have been done before appointments to know the political affiliation of candidates, their fathers, grandfathers, and even their predecessors," he said replying to a query at his maiden "meet the press" at the DMP media centre.

"Approximately 80,000-90,000 members were recruited through the process. We cannot tell 80 to 90 thousand police personnel to go home," he said.

The commissioner, however, said many of those who committed actions outside their professional duties have fled, and police are taking steps against many of them.

He expressed regret over the

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Cultural shift needed to combat authoritarianism

Speakers tell conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Risks to gender-bender diversity in the country have intensified since August 5, said Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, at an event yesterday.

"The risks to gender-based diversity existed even before August 5. However, with profound embarrassment and sorrow, I must admit that these risks have intensified since then. Those who perceive themselves as victorious after the July-August movements now seem to believe they hold authority. Yet, their actions demonstrate a lack of commitment to the core principles of anti discrimination movements," he said.

"Instead, they are pushing agendas rooted in discriminatory indoctrination and conceptualisation, which is inherently opposite of the spirit of equality and inclusivity," he added while speaking at a citizen conference titled "People-Centric Reform for Good Governance: Aspirations of Disadvantaged Communities."

We claim to oppose authoritarianism, but the practice of authoritarianism persists. Even today, I am told the term 'Adivasi' [indigenous] cannot be used. Who has imposed this restriction? Despite discussions on diversity, the administration has failed to establish a Diversity or a Minority Commission.

IFTEKHARUZZAMAN
Executive director, TIIB

The Citizen Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, organised the event at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Agargaon, Dhaka.

Iftekharuzzaman expressed his embarrassment at the government's failure to ensure the representation of

women and minority communities in the reform commissions, including the Anti-Corruption Reform Commission.

"We claim to oppose authoritarianism, but the practice of authoritarianism persists. Even today, I am told the term 'Adivasi' [indigenous] cannot be used. Who has imposed this restriction?" he asked.

"Despite discussions on diversity and disadvantaged communities, the current administration has failed to establish a Diversity Commission or a Minority Commission," he said.

Terming the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs a "misnomer", Iftekharuzzaman said, "This ministry not only marginalises indigenous communities in the plains but has also become a tool to undermine the rights of hill-tract communities. We do not need this ministry. Instead, we need a diversity ministry with a specific mandate to safeguard the rights of all communities, including indigenous peoples."

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Two die of dengue, 478 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



At least two dengue patients died in the 24 hours till yesterday morning, while 478 patients were hospitalised.

Among the deaths, one took place in Dhaka division and another in Dhaka North City Corporation.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), with the new deaths and cases, the total number of deaths rose to 531 while the total number of cases rose to 96,706, of which 58,021 are from outside Dhaka.

Currently, 2113 dengue patients are undergoing treatment, of whom 1,232 are from outside Dhaka. A total of 94,062 patients have been released till Sunday, 56,596 of whom are from outside Dhaka.

Experts have attributed the surge in dengue fatalities this year to the nationwide lack of mosquito control measures by the relevant authorities. Besides, late hospitalisation, multiple infections, and false detection are also blamed for the rise.

According to entomologists, the two Dhaka city corporations did not take adequate measures to identify and destroy active clusters of Aedes mosquitoes and their larvae this year. Moreover, the absence of surveillance in the district towns has been a major reason behind the outbreak.

Two cops withdrawn over bribery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The officer-in-charge and a sub-inspector of Adabor Police Station were withdrawn over the incident of taking bribe from an accused in a case filed after August 5.

SI Shaheen Parvez was closed and attached to the office of Deputy Commissioner of Tejgaon Division Police on Sunday night as he allegedly took money from an accused.

The SI was tasked with the investigation of a murder case filed with the police station after August 5, police officials said.

Meanwhile, Talebur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of DMP, said OC Imtiaz Parvez has been withdrawn and attached to the DMP headquarters.

Yesterday, the DMP Commissioner SM Sazzat Ali said he has taken action against a police member for taking money from an accused.

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A large crowd gathers around a TCB truck, seeking essentials at subsidised prices. Amid soaring inflation and shortages of commodities like soyabean oil, many struggle to find affordable alternatives. The photo was taken on Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MURDER CASE Palak placed on 3-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Zunaïd Ahmed Palak, former state minister for posts, telecommunications and information technology, on a three-day remand in a case filed over the death of Jubo Dal leader Manik Miah at Chankharpool on August 5.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sefatullah passed the order after Sheikh Hadiuzzaman, a sub-inspector of Shahbagh Police Station and also an investigation officer of the case, produced him before the court with a seven-day remand prayer.

Before that, Palak was shown arrested in the case after the SI submitted an application in this regard.

The defence submitted an application, seeking bail along with the cancellation of the remand prayer on the grounds that their client has been suffering from different ailments.