

## No working

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CGH's ICU, said they are currently unable to admit patients requiring life support.

"All the 22 ventilators are non-operational. Also, out of 27 BiPAP machines, now only five are working. Therefore, those requiring ventilation are referred to hospitals with fully equipped ICU facilities," she said.

The ICU at CGH was introduced by the government during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 to treat critical patients, in phases with 18 ICU beds and 22 ventilators.

A doctor at the hospital, requesting anonymity, said the ventilators and several other essential pieces of equipment are now out of order due to lack of maintenance and repairs.

Contacted, Dr Abdul Mannan, superintendent of CGH, said, "I have written to the higher authorities. A technical team from the Directorate General of Health Services recently visited the ICU and inspected the equipment, and opined that the ventilators could be repaired. They assured us of starting the repair works very soon."

He also said the ICU is struggling with a severe manpower shortage, including the posts of medical officer and trained nurses. "I have also informed the authorities in this regard," he added.

## JP, SAD trade blame Implement health

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Rangpur city BNP Convener Shamsuzzaman Samu, Member Secretary Mahfuz Un Nabi Don, and district BNP Member Secretary Anisur Rahman Laku also met with the army personnel there.

"Legal action will be taken after proper investigation," he said, adding that no arrests had been made yet.

Meanwhile, army personnel from the 72 Infantry Brigade began gathering information regarding the attack early yesterday, as they met leaders from both the BNP and SAD.

Imtiaz Ahmod Imty, convener of SAD's Rangpur city unit, and Imran Ahmed, convener of the district unit, met the army personnel near Payra Chattar in Rangpur city at 12:30am.

They showed us videos and photos of the incident and asked us to identify if any of our fellow activists were involved. We cooperated fully," Imty told The Daily Star.

About an hour later, Sarjis Alam, chief organiser (north) of NCP, arrived at the scene and talked to Brig Gen Humayun Kaiyum, commander of the 72 Infantry Brigade.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, Sarjis accused GM Quader of conspiring with the Awami League to create unrest in Rangpur and demanded a ban on JP.

He later left the area, taking the two SAD leaders with him, according to witnesses.

At around 1:40am,

*[Our correspondents from Lalmonirhat and Thakurgaon contributed to the report]*

Prof Syed Md Akram Hussain, a commission member, said they are working on correcting

the errors in the report.

He said an inter-ministerial committee will be responsible for implementing the recommendations.

Another commission member, Prof Liaquat Ali, said the report was prepared in just four and a half months, leaving room for improvement.

He also noted that extensive consultation meetings are needed before the authorities can move forward with implementing the recommendations.

Earlier, Aminur Hasan, member secretary of the UHC Forum, and Prof Rumana Haque of DU's Economics Department gave presentations highlighting different perspectives, including the report's shortcomings.

## BNP to win two-thirds

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Everyone does. We have presented our logic; let them present a counterargument," he said.

Mosharraf claimed that not only BNP, but also 52 political parties in the country want the election in December this year.

In another programme at Jatiya Press Club, the party's Standing Committee member Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed yesterday said including students in the advisory council of the interim government was a "big mistake".

Allegations of corruption have emerged against a few members of the advisory council. After assuming office, some of them began issuing licences to their relatives through the ministries

concerned, he alleged.

Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson's advisory council member Zainul Abedin Farroque yesterday alleged that a conspiracy is underway to eliminate BNP.

"There is a conspiracy in Bangladesh at this very moment. Just when the fascist government has been ousted through a mass uprising of students and people, a new web of

conspiracy is being laid in the country," he said while addressing at a event in Narayanganj's Signboard area.

"The Awami League has been removed as per the people's expectations and demands. And now, at this crucial moment, a new conspiracy is being hatched to eliminate the BNP," Farroque added.

## bti-Star

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A key goal of the initiative is to foster meaningful connections, creating a powerful network that supports collaboration and shared growth.

Now past its halfway mark, the Stellar Women initiative continues to gain momentum. Nominations are currently open in a range of new categories, including "Banking & Financial Institutions," "Healthcare," "Environment," and "Agriculture."

The recent event was attended by FR Khan, bti's managing director; Aysha Siddiqua, executive director of brand & communication management; and Afirin Aziz, marketing executive at The Daily Star.

## We were protesting peacefully

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a pregnant employee," claimed a protester, requesting anonymity.

"We endured storms for three days. When no one responded, we began marching to press our demands," she added.

After being blocked, the protesters staged a sit-in on the street.

Around 2:30pm, five representatives, including lead protester Sangita Sarkar, were taken to the chief adviser's residence to submit a memorandum.

"It was a farce," said another protester. "The van dropped them off, someone took the memo, and they were brought back. No official spoke with them."

As the sit-in continued, police brought in a prison van around 4:00pm and picked up at least 15 protesters. They were later released near the press club, where the demonstration resumed, said protesters.

Ramna Division's Deputy Commissioner Masud Alam denied the use of excessive force. "We picked up five to six protesters and released them near the press club," he said.

The demonstrators are

just extend this one for another three to five years?" asked Sangita Sarkar, an information officer from Jhalakathi. "Most of us are graduates or postgraduates who dedicated our prime years to this project."

Monira Akter, an information service assistant from Aditmari upazila in Lalmonirhat, broke into tears as she said, "My father is gone; my mother raised me through hardship. If I lose this job, who will look after her?"

Mukta Akter from Cumilla's Meghna upazila said her husband has been battling cancer since 2022, and she now supports the family.

Ayesha Akter from Madhupur, Tangail, said without this job, she cannot provide for her nine-year-old son.

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"Our project director went abroad to perform hajj. She is the one authorised to talk to the media," he added.

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Women through ICT for Digital Bangladesh, it was renamed to Tathyapa: Empowerment of Women through ICT Project (Phase II - Second Revised) in September 2024.

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Protesters allege that the current government is reluctant to extend the project because of its ties with the previous administration. "But 2,000 women can't all be politically affiliated," one said. "We followed every official directive."

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