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## Registration of dentists

Professor A Q M. Badruddoza Chowdhury, a renowned physician and Minister for Health and Population Control rightly deserves heartfelt thanks for his recent assurance of sympathetic consideration in according recognition and registration to the unregistered dental practitioners in Bangladesh.

He is said to have sought from the Bangladesh Dental Association the definite procedures to be adopted in solving this issue.

Mr. M. A. Quader, Gen. Secretary of the said association,

has reportedly outlined some criteria in this connection. It is reported that he has pressed for a registration of all members of the association possessing degrees, diplomas or certificates but not recognised by Bangladesh Medical Council. Alternatively he has also demanded the formation of a Dental Board and a suitable committee thereunder to consider registration of these practitioners with at least 5 years practical experience.

These suggestions merit consideration. Ours is a developing, densely populated and village-based country whose bulk of the population remains deprived of any services of the registered dentists (definitely very few in number) most of whom are concentrated in the cities and towns.

The unregistered dental practitioners' services are within the

easy reach of the common people throughout the country. They serve the great multitude of the suffering community by providing dental care and cover and enjoy the confidence of the masses.

They are skilled with long experience in the profession. We highly appreciate the government's desire and determination to utilise all available treatment and health facilities for the people's welfare.

We, therefore, genuinely feel that by accordng early recognition to these dental practitioners our government can suitably utilise their services in the best interest of the society and this will contribute to the developmental efforts in the health sector.

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