

No Health Complex: Thousands deprived of medical services

Human chains formed demanding hospital in Taltoli

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The government has declared Barguna's Taltoli an upazila on May 6 in 2010. Its administrative activities started on January 5 in 2012.

There are around three lakh people living in seven unions of Taltoli but no upazila health complex has been established here in eight years, depriving the local residents of proper healthcare facilities.

As a result, people in the upazila visit the adjacent Amtali Upazila Health Complex for treatment. Many of them are also compelled to go to Patuakhali General Hospital or Barishal for treatment as they avoided visiting Barguna General Hospital due to fear of crossing the mighty Payra river.

There are six upazilas in the district, said local people.

On Monday morning, thousands of people formed human chains at all important places in the seven unions and Taltoli upazila headquarters, demanding establishment of a 50-bed upazila health complex in the headquarters. People from all walks of life took part in the hour-long programme amid rain.

Rezbi-ul-Kabir Jomaddar, president of Taltoli upazila Awami League (AL) and

chairman of the upazila parishad, at the programme said people are suffering a lot due to coronavirus outbreak in the country. Moreover, as there is no health complex in the upazila town, local people are deprived of healthcare service.

Upazila AL secretary and Chhota Bogi union parishad chairman Taufiqzaman Tanu said it is high time to set up a full-fledged hospital in Taltoli because of coronavirus outbreak.

Dr Md Faizur Rahman, medical officer of Taltoli Barabagi union sub-health centre, said they have continued providing medical services to the people of Taltoli upazila on a limited scale. There is no indoor service at the sub-health centre.

Amtali Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Shankar Prasad Adhikari said acute crisis of manpower and medicines is hampering treatment at Amtali Upazila Health Complex. During the pandemic, a portion of the medicine allotted in the name of Amtali health complex has been provided at Barabagi Sub-Health Centre in Taltoli.

Barguna Civil Surgeon Dr Humayun Shahin Khan said they have already written to the ministry concerned for establishment of a full-fledged hospital in Taltoli upazila but to no response yet.

NETRAKONA, PATUAKHALI DISTRICTS Nature, authorities' neglect keep villagers off road

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Conducting everyday affairs have become extremely difficult for inhabitants of the country's rural parts where incessant monsoon rain and years of neglect by the authorities concerned have left rural roads devastated and impassable to some extent in many areas.

In Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila, thousands of residents in at least four unions are suffering immensely for over three years due to deplorable state of a vital road in the upazila.

Inhabitants of Rongchhati, Lengura, Koilati, Nazirpur and several other nearby unions use this two and half kilometre-long road, connecting Sidhli Bazar and Horipur Palpara, to reach various destinations including Mymensingh city, Netrakona town, and Durgapur upazila.

Abul Hossain, a farmer from Sidhli village, said the farmers in the area have been selling their produce at low prices as they cannot transport the goods to markets due to the road's poor condition.

This road is a nightmare when one needs to take a patient to a hospital emergency, said Ashraf Hossain, a student at Kalmakanda College.

Local journalist Sheikh Shamim said since many popular tourist destinations are located in the bordering upazilas of Kalmakanda and Durgapur under Netrakona, roads in these areas need to be maintained properly during the dry season.

Around three thousand people use the road every day. Although the upazila administration



PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN, COLLECTED

A motorbike rider struggles to pass a dilapidated section of the Patuakhali-Bara Bighai road in Kazir Haat area of Patuakhali Sadar upazila. Right, a damaged section of the Sidhli Bazar-Horipur Palpara road in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila.

officials as well as the engineers at Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) were informed of the appalling condition of the road on numerous occasions, nothing was done to this effect yet, said Nazirpur Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Quddus Babul.

Contacted, Afsar Uddin, engineer of LGED in Kalmakanda, said repair of the road is ongoing and they already asked the contractor concerned to finish the work as soon as possible.

Imran Hossain, sub-assistant engineer of LGED in Kalmakanda, said the work was supposed to end by February this year, but the contractor failed to comply with the schedule.

The work slowed down further amid labourer shortage due to the spread of coronavirus pandemic. However, the work has resumed and the expected deadline to finish the work is within the next two months, he also said.

PATUAKHALI RURAL ROADS
Thanks to the absence of maintenance by the authorities and

the devastating blow of the tropical cyclone Amphan, almost all rural roads in Patuakhali are now almost impossible to travel along.

Locals are facing great sufferings without being able to conduct their day-to-day affairs at nearby unions as well as at upazila and district headquarters.

According to LGED, cyclone Amphan damaged 116 kilometres of rural roads (both paved and unpaved) and 80 bridges in Patuakhali.

Many of these roads have been repaired by local volunteers, while most others remain unattended by the authorities.

A 15.50-km rural road, from Patuakhali Sadar upazila to Titkata in Bara Bighai union under Sadar upazila, has been in a terrible state for the last few years. To worsen the situation, cyclone Amphan damaged the road in a number of spots, resulting in numerous potholes in Kuralia, Kazir Hat, Haratikbaria, Bashantala and Khatashia areas of the road.

Over fifty thousand people from

Kalikapur, Madarbarunia, Chhota Bighai and Bara Bighai unions have no other option but to risk their lives while travelling on this road to communicate with the upazila and district towns.

Mosharraf Fakir, from Haratikbaria village in Chhota Bighai union, said they have been enduring tremendous sufferings for several years, especially during the rainy season, as the important road in the area went unattended.

Another villager, Zakir Hossain, said in times of medical emergency, this is the only road available for the villagers to get to a hospital in the upazila or the district town.

During a recent visit to the area, local volunteers were seen repairing a section of the road.

Alam Khan, one of the volunteers, said they started repairing the damaged part of the road to protect adjacent agricultural land where Aman paddy seeds would be sown in a few days.

Shahid Gazi, owner of a brick kiln in Chhota Bighai area, said he incurred more than Tk 15 lakh in losses after failing to transport bricks to clients due to the road's bad condition.

Jugal Krishna Mandal, senior assistant engineer of LGED in Patuakhali, said cyclone Amphan caused an estimated Tk 20.51 crore worth of damage to the road network including bridges in the district.

The assessment of the damage has been sent to the higher authorities and repair work would start after funding for the work is allocated, he added.

Our correspondents in Mymensingh and Patuakhali contributed to the story.



Local people form a human chain in Barguna's Taltoli upazila headquarters on Monday, demanding establishment of the upazila health complex.

'Robber' injured in 'gunfight'

Three policemen hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

An alleged robber was injured in a 'gunfight' between his cohorts and police in Shibganj upazila early yesterday.

Bullet-hit Zillur Rahman, 48, son of Rahim Uddin of Baluyahaat village in Sonatala upazila, is now going under treatment at Bogura Shaheed Ziur Rahman Medical College Hospital under police custody.

Three policemen also sustained injuries during the 'gunfight'.

Injured police constables Rajib Hossain, Bachchu Mia and Ashiqul Haque of Shibganj Police Station took treatment at Shibganj Upazila Health Complex, Officer in Charge (OC) of the police station SM Badiuzzaman said.

On information, a police team, led by Assistant Superintendent of Police Kudrate-E-Khuda, raided Nagarjani area around 2:00am, the OC said.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, accomplices of Zillur opened fire towards police, forcing them to retaliate that triggered a gunfight, the OC said, adding that Zillur and three policemen were injured in the incident.

Zillur is an accused in at least five cases, including for robbery.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate of Food
Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSP)
Probashi Kollayan Bhaban (Level-17)
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www.mfsp.gov.bd

Memo No. MFSP-13.01.0000.362.11.286.2020.32 Date: 14/07/2020

Request for Expressions of Interest (Consulting Services-Firms Selection)

Country: Bangladesh
Project: Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSP)
Credit No.: 52650-BD
Package: SD-32
Assignment Title: Supervision Consultant for Construction of Steel Silos

The Government of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include Supervision of construction of steel silos at eight locations; Detail TOR is available at the website www.mfsp.gov.bd ->Tender->Services.

The Project Director, Modern Food Storage Facilities Project now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualification and relevant experience to perform the Services. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage. The short listing criteria are:

- a) Registration of consultant (firm);
- b) Age of the consultant (firm);
- c) Availability of key professional staff;
- d) Annual turnover of the consultant (firm) expressed preferably in US\$ equivalent;
- e) Experience of the consultant (firm) in supervision of construction of silos;
- f) Experience of the consultant (firm) in other similar/complex works/ assignments;
- g) Support service of the consultant (firm).

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants (under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants) by World Bank Borrowers updated January 2011 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection method. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours i.e. 0900 to 1700 hours.

Expressions of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person or by mail by 10 August 2020 1400 hour. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

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GD-1135

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তারিখ: ১৪-০৭-২০২০খ্রিঃ

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তারিখ: ১৩/০৭/২০২০খ্রিঃ
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বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘরের নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন আহসান মঞ্জিল জাদুঘরের কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীগণকে অফিসে আনা-নোয়ার জন্য দৈনিক ত্রিভুজিক বাসেবিক টুকিতে ২০১৪ কিম্বা অথপারবতী যে কোন মডেলের ৩০ (ত্রিশ) আসন বিশিষ্ট ০১ (এক) টি মিনিবাস নির্ধারিত রুটে ভাড়ায় সরবরাহ কাজের নিমিত্ত প্রতিষ্ঠিত যোগাযোগ/প্রকৃত বাস আড়া প্রদানকারী অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর এর নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।

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