

Chuadanga health complexes plagued with problems

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Three health complexes in Chuadanga district have been facing manifold problems for a long time.

The health complexes located in Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar upazilas have no adequate physicians, medicines and equipment.

Patients have to purchase medicines from markets. It is alleged that a section of dishonest employees of the three health complexes of the district sell medicines in black markets, much to the chagrin of patients.

The health complexes have no x-ray machines or any ambulances.

Besides, the health complexes have no proper arrangement for the treatment of diarrhoea and dysentery patients. As a result, diarrhoea and dysentery patients are forced to visit Chuadanga Sadar Hospital.

Posts of nine doctors are sanctioned in each of the three health complexes. But only 3 to 4 doctors are working in the health complexes.

Patients often allege negligence of doctors and other employees including nurses in their duties. Some patients and their relatives allege some doctors of the complexes are busy making money with private practices. The physicians do not attend patients attentively, they

allege.

It is further alleged that the doctors of Damurhuda and Alamdanga upazila health complexes do not reside in their respective complex residences.

However, physicians concerned could not be contacted for comment.

The outdoor treatment facilities in all these three upazila health complexes are very poor. The complexes have no eye, dental or medicine specialists. People do not receive surgical treatment for want of doctors.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to solve the problems of the three health complexes.



PHOTO: STAR

Over 150 villages, where many handloom factories are situated, will be saved from the onslaught of the River Jamuna in Belkuchi Sadar, Betil Bazaar, Enayetpur Bazaar alongside the 'Mazar' (grave of a saint) area and Khukni Bazaar in Sirajganj district after completion of the construction work of three spurs along various points from Sohagpur Char (shoal) under Belkuchi upazila to Enayetpur under Chowhali upazila. Work on the Tk 30 crore Water Development Board (WDB) project is going on in full swing.

Eight killed in separate incidents in 3 dists

UNB, B'baria/N'ganj/Manikganj

Eight people were killed in different incidents in Brahmanbaria, Narayanganj and Manikganj districts on Sunday and Friday.

Of them, robbers chopped to death two and one committed suicide in Brahmanbaria, two were killed in traffic mishaps in Manikganj and one was electrocuted while two others killed in separate incidents in Narayanganj district.

Police said robbers raided a rice mill in Kutibazar in Kosba upazila in Brahmanbaria district early Sunday, murdered two youths of the mill and took away Tk 60,000 in cash.

The deceased were identified as Billal, 17, only son of the rice mill owner Shamsul Huq and Abul Kalam, 20, a mason of village Ramrail in sadar upazila.

The robbers entered into the mill at about 2 am, killed Billal and Kamal with sharp knives and took away the money from the cash box.

Police sent the bodies to sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. Police

arrested four people in this connection.

Meanwhile, at Nayanpur village in the same upazila, Sohag, 16, committed suicide by hanging from a tree following a family feud.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

A youth identified as Emran Hossain, 32, son of Ali Akkas of Duttabari area in Bandar upazila under Narayanganj district was electrocuted while repairing an electric motor at a restaurant in Tanbazar area in the town Sunday morning.

The body was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy. A case was filed.

In Manikganj, local businessman Surya Mohon Saha, 65, was killed when a speeding truck hit his bicycle on Manikganj-Golpara link road Sunday morning.

Saha was rushed to sadar hospital where attending doctors declared him dead.

A speeding bus dashed an unidentified 32-year-old man on

Dhaka-Aricha Highway at Jagir on Saturday night. He died at Manikganj sadar hospital.

Separate cases were filed.

In separate incidents in Narayanganj district on Friday and Saturday, two people were killed and one was injured.

Of the deceased, pedestrian Rafiq, 35, was killed in a traffic mishap and Russell, 22, was chopped to death by his rivals Saturday.

According to police and witnesses Rafiq was killed when a truck knocked him down on Bangabandhu Road in Chasara area in the town Saturday evening. Hailed from Kendua upazila in Netrakona district Rafiq died on the spot.

Police arrested the driver of the truck Billal and seized the vehicle. A case was filed.

Russell, 22, son of Ruhul Amin of West Masdar Mosque Road in Fatulla upazila was chopped to death by his rivals Saturday night.

Police and witnesses said a

group of 12 ruling party activists swooped on him and stabbed him indiscriminately when he was returning home.

He was rushed to the local 200-bed hospital, but he succumbed on way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Police suspect that attack on Russell, a supporter of Didar faction of the party, was a sequel to critically injuring an activist of the rival faction Nayan on March 6.

A case was filed with the local police station.

In another incident in Sonargaon upazila, Roghu Chandra Das, 30, was chopped indiscriminately by a gang of assailants in Anandabazar area Friday evening.

Police said following previous enmity, the gang led by Hossain Member of Goula group attacked him in the evening with sharp weapons. He was rushed to the local Upazila Health Complex from where he was shifted to the DMCH.

Police were deployed in the area to avert further untoward incident.

BNP-AL clash: 13 hurt in Munshiganj

UNB, Munshiganj

A series of clashes between BNP and Awami League (AL) workers left at least 13 people, including a policeman, injured in Munshiganj Saturday night.

Witnesses said the first clash between the activists of the two rival parties took place over a minor dispute in front of AL office at Panchashar at about 8:30 pm.

They fought another pitched battle when the AL office at Mukterpur Ferryghat came under attack allegedly by BNP workers at about 9 pm.

Workers of the main opposition party clashed with police there when the law enforcers tried to control the situation.

They also attacked a river police outpost at Mukterpur and fired gunshots leaving a police constable, Abu Hanif, injured.

Police also fired 13 gunshots forcing the BNP workers to retreat, who later damaged the AL office at Panchashar.

Meanwhile, Awami League workers damaged the BNP office in the town on Sunday.

Tension was running high in the area. Separate cases were filed.

Hartal observed in Patuakhali

Staff Correspondent, Barisal

A dawn to dusk hartal was observed peacefully in Patuakhali except some sporadic incidents on Saturday.

The hartal was observed in Patuakhali demanding release of Golam Sarwar, general secretary of Bangladesh Krishak League, Patuakhali and chairman of Badarpur Union Parishad.

Most of the shops in the town remained closed while vehicular traffic went off the road during hartal hours.

Golam Sarwar was arrested by police on March 5 following a case filed by the T&T Department in Patuakhali for alleged ransacking of the T&T office, manhandling of officers, and locking up the complain room there.

Earlier, a torch procession was brought out and a rally was held by AL, BCL, and Juba League leaders and workers on Saturday evening.

Speakers in the rally demanded immediate withdrawal of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Patuakhali.

Deceased alive in grave?

UNB, COX'S BAZAR

Deceased's wife and close relatives have reportedly been regularly dreaming in their sleep that 37-year-old Zafar Alam, buried about 10 weeks ago, is still alive in his grave.

Believing in what they saw in their dreams, they finally went to exhume Zafar's body after Jum'a prayers on Friday (Mar 2) when hundreds of people, including women and children, gathered there. But local religious leaders obstructed saying it would be an act of sin.

It all happened at Kutubdiapara in the outskirts of this tourists resort that drew lot of curiosity among the people in the area. A dry fish trader and reputed to be pious, Zafar Alam had long been suffering from asthma. When it became acute, he went to a village quack. After brief treatment, he died on December 15. He was buried on the seashore.

Since then, his young wife Hasina Begum has been regularly seeing in dreams at night that her husband is alive in the grave. Not only Hasina, close relatives of Zafar Alam also saw in their dreams regularly that he is alive and the souls of other old deceased telling them to exhume him from the grave.

While visiting the area, Mujibur Rahman, Chairman of Jhingla Union Parishad, told this correspondent that a pious and reputed personality of the village informed him of seeing similar dreams suggesting Zafar Alam might be alive in the grave.

When hundreds of people gathered around the grave on Friday, but opinion of village leaders backed by "moulvis" was split. One group was in favour of exhuming while the other held that such an action would be a great sin. The latter view prevailed and the attempt was aborted.

Farewell to a veteran teacher

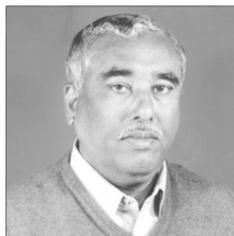
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Abdur Rahim Khan, a well-known primary school teacher in Moulvibazar town, was given a touching farewell recently. His students, colleagues and many guardians were present to bid goodbye to the veteran teacher, who ended his teaching career spanning over 34 years.

Abdur Rahim Khan, Head Master of the Bazar Government Model Primary School in Moulvibazar district headquarters, was born at village Ghorua under Sadar upazila in the district in 1948. Khan joined teaching profession as assistant teacher of a primary school in 1966. He got his professional training in 1970 and was made head master in 1972.

In 1984, he was selected 'Best Primary Head Master' of Sadar upazila. He was awarded 'Best Primary Head Master' of the district by the National Academy for Primary Education (NAPE) in 1989. In 1994, Khan was again awarded the 'Best Primary Head Master' of the district.

Bazar Government Primary School has been upgraded as only model school in Sadar upazila for its outstanding performance. Many have attributed the success of the school to hard work and leadership



ABDUR RAHIM KHAN

of Khan. The head master has been suffering from heart disease for a long time. Physicians have advised him to take complete rest. So he decided to retire four years ahead of schedule.

During a brief conversation with this correspondent, Khan in emotion choked voice expressed his gratitude to his colleagues, guardians and district and upazila primary education offices for their co-operation extended to him during 26 years in the school.

A female teacher of the school said the school will surely miss the head master. A guardian, who was present in the farewell, said Abdur Rahim Khan has established himself as a model of teachers and every teacher should follow him.

Valuables worth several lakhs of taka gutted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fire gutted valuables worth several lakhs of Taka in Noakhali, Comilla, Barisal, Satkhira and Manikganj districts within a span of nine days recently.

UNB from Noakhali reports: A devastating fire at a bazaar at Karimpur road in Begumganj upazila of Noakhali district charred valuables worth Tk 50 lakh on Friday.

Fire service sources said the fire originating from the leakage of a gas line at 1.30 am soon engulfed the adjacent 12 shops and houses.

On information the fire fighters with the help of the local people brought the blaze under control after two hours of frantic efforts.

In another incident, valuables worth Tk 10 lakh were gutted in a fire at Police Training Centre of the town on March 6.

Fire brigade sources said the fire originating from electric short circuit in a residential quarter of a constable burnt nine rooms of the Training Centre to ashes.

Another delayed report from Comilla says that some 20 shanties of Kulipotti Slum in Rail Station

area were burnt to ashes in a fire on March 5. The loss was estimated at Tk 4 lakh.

Local people said the fire was originated from a mosquito coil. Fire fighters with the help of local people brought the fire under control.

A report from Barisal says: Valuables worth Tk 15 lakh were gutted in a devastating fire at a factory in Barisal town on Thursday night.

Witnesses said the fire broke out at midnight at the Rahman Box and Carton Factory and charred four machines and raw materials. The fire soon engulfed two other adjacent sheds.

Firemen with the help of local people brought the blaze under control after two hours of frantic efforts. Three youths were also injured while trying to extinguish the blaze. The reason behind the fire could not be known.

Another report from Satkhira says that property worth Tk 10 lakh was charred in a fire at three shops in Ashashuni upazila headquarters on Eid day night.

Witnesses said the fire broke out at midnight in a furniture shop

that gutted adjacent two other shops. Later fire fighters with the help of local people brought the fire under control.

Another report from Manikganj adds: Thirteen shops were gutted in separate fire incidents in Manikganj district on Tuesday night.

Witnesses said that in one incident the fire originating from electric short circuit at 11pm soon engulfed 12 shops at Aricha Dakbanglow Market. The loss was estimated at Tk one crore.

In another incident a shop was burnt to ashes at Shaheed Rafiq Road of the town on the same night, but reason behind the fire could not be known immediately.

Another report from Noakhali adds: A devastating fire at Choumohani Hawkers' Market in Begumganj upazila gutted valuables worth Tk 30 lakh on March 2. On information the fire fighters with the help of the local people brought the blaze under control after one-hour of frantic efforts.

The fire originating from electric short circuit gutted 26 shops and two 'Chanachur' factories and also injured three people.

Police allegedly snatch Tk 41,000 from hide trader

UNB, Narayanganj

Police allegedly robbed a hide trader of his money and put him in thana hajat when he went to Narayanganj thana to lodge a complaint against extortionists on Thursday.

Securing release from the thana hajat, trader Shawkat Hossain Saturday submitted a written complaint to the Home Minister, and the Deputy Commissioner and Police Super of the district against the police action.

In his complaint, Shawkat said one Delwar and his musclemen demanded toll of Tk 100 for each of the hides of sacrificial animals he purchased after the Eid. He went to ASIs Akhter and Mamoon who demanded Tk 700 for arrest of Delwar.

Police took Delwar into custody but soon set him free. Shawkat again went to the thana. This time police caught him by the neck, beat him, searched his body and snatched Tk 41,000 from his pocket. He was then kicked into the thana hajat. Later he secured his release on payment of bribe, he said in the complaint.

ASIs Akhter and Mamoon were not available for their comments on the allegations against them.

Women at work

PHOTO FEATURE: DELWAR KABIR



Rural women have been emerging as a labour force. More and more women are entering the labour market in greater number. They are no more dependent on males. They are becoming self-reliant economically. In Jhenidah district the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has employed poor women in rural road maintenance work at village Bakshipur under Saikupa upazila. (Top left) Some woman workers are engaged in cutting earth, while (top right) another is seen dumping earth. (Bottom left) Two women are levelling road using spades and (bottom right) two females are levelling road with weights.

NEWS SNAPS

Two killed in road accident

UNB, Tangail

Two young men were killed as their bicycle was hit by a speeding bus at Rabna in Sadar upazila of Tangail district on Tangail-Mymensingh Road on Sunday.

Police said the bus coming from Dhaka hit the bicycle of Shah Alam, 16, at about noon killing him and his relative and co-riider Majedur Rahman, 17, on the spot. A case was filed with Sadar thana.

Armyman killed in bus mishap

UNB, Narayanganj

An armyman was killed and 30 other passengers were injured when two buses collided near Langalband on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at 12:30 pm on Sunday. A Dhaka bound bus from Daudkandi collided with another Chittagong bound bus leading to the death of Rabiul 30, on the spot. Police said Rabiul hailed from Sitakunda.

Seriously wounded 12 passengers were rushed to Dhaka for treatment while others taken to nearby hospitals and clinics. Police seized both the buses, but drivers remained absconding.

Day-labourer stabbed to death

UNB, Laxmipur

A day-labourer was killed in Ramgati upazila of Laxmipur district on Friday.

Police said Sanaulah Shanu, 35, a day-labourer of Patarirhat was stabbed to death allegedly by Abdul Gani when Sanaulah demanded his arrears Tk 35 from him. Police arrested Gani, 32, and Nasir, 30, in this connection. In another incident, police arrested 17 people on various charges from different parts of Laxmipur and Noakhali districts on Wednesday. Police said they arrested Zakir, 22, Gani, 20, Kalam, 21, Manik, 20, Madhu, 28, Chhahu, 24 and Khalil for their suspicious movement while Biplo, 18 and Suman, 20, were nabbed for their alleged involvement in toll collection from Hatiya upazila of Noakhali.

Accidents kill 350 fishermen every year

UNB, Noakhali

Different accidents in the Bay claim at least 350 lives of fishermen every year. Surveys conducted by different NGOs and fishermen's organisations revealed that the accidents occur due mainly to faulty engines and lack of life saving equipment.

According to these surveys, at least seven lakh fishermen, on board one lakh vessels, of coastal Noakhali, Laxmipur, Feni, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bhola, Chandpur, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Khulna, Bagerhat and Barisal districts go to the Bay and estuary of the Meghna for fishing every year.

About 20,000 worn out vessels, out of total, are run without any fitness certificates and fall prey to the natural disasters like cyclone and tornado.

Fratricide

UNB, Kishoreganj

A young man was murdered allegedly by his elder brother at Bhairabpur Uttarpara village in Bhairab upazila under Kishoreganj district on Saturday. Police and local people said following a family feud Angur Mia got angry and beat his younger brother Oil Mia, 28, to death. The body was sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Angur went into hiding.

Police arrested Rahela Begum wife of Angur Mia in connection with the murder. A case was lodged with the police.

Octogenarian prisoner dies

UNB, Bogra

A convicted octogenarian prisoner died of cardiac arrest on the holy Eid day Wednesday in Bogra District Jail. Jail sources said the deceased Santosh Kumar, 82, fishermen of village Nurail in Sadar upazila was sentenced to four years imprisonment in a robbery case recently.

Police said that when attacked by the disease at 9 am he was rushed to the Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital where he died after an hour. Local people said poor Santosh could not appeal to the higher court against his conviction due to want of money. His body was handed over to his relatives on the following day.

30 injured as villagers clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 30 people were injured, six of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of villagers at village Mohishadanga in Magura Sadar upazila at around 8 am on Saturday.

Witnesses said two rival groups one led by Mohiuddin and the other by Omar Ali clashed over a disputed land. Both groups used sharp weapons, iron rods and sticks during the clash.

37 injured in road accident

At least 37 people were injured as a minibus turned turtle at Baniajuri in Gheor upazila on Dhaka-Aricha Highway on Saturday. Police said the accident occurred at about 3 pm when the driver of the Gabtali-bound overloaded minibus from Aricha lost control over the steering.

Of the injured, 26 were admitted to Manikganj Sadar Hospital in critical condition while others injured released after first aid.

Murderer gets life term

UNB, Comilla

A court in Comilla has sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for murdering his wife and two daughters. The court also fined the convict, Abdul Jalil of village Anandpur in Burichang upazila Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer one year RI more.

According to prosecution, Jalil following a family feud stabbed his wife Maya Akhtar to death and when his two daughters Ramena Akhtar, 9 and Sumana Akhtar, 6 raised a hue and cry he also stabbed them to death on May 15, 1995. After the incident the villagers handed him over to police. After investigation police submitted charge-sheet against him. Additional Sessions Judge M Jashimuddin after examining the witnesses and records pronounced the verdict on March 4.

Man with phensidyl arrested

UNB, Gazipur

Police in a drive arrested a man along with 34 bottles of phensidyl syrup from Munshipara area of Gazipur town on Friday. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Alamgir Hossain, 28, with the drug and seized his motorcycle.

In another incident, an unidentified motorcyclist, aged about 22, was run over by a Dhaka-bound speeding bus at Sipur Masterbari on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway on Thursday. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

HYV of wheat gains popularity

UNB, Thakurgaon

Being optimistic of a good harvest, growers in Thakurgaon district cultivated new variety wheat "Satabdi" this season. Wheat Research Institute evolved the new High Yielding Variety (HYV) seed, which can resist from diseases. Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) has set up 20 demonstration plots to acquaint the farmers with the cultivation of the new variety. This year, wheat was cultivated on 70,000 hectares of land against the target of 63,500 hectares.

Bus terminal work going on

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Work on the construction of Chapainawabganj district central bus terminal is progressing fast at a cost of about Tk 2.37 crore.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) with financial help from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is constructing the bus terminal at Swaropnagar, about one km from the town.

Meanwhile, work on the first and second phases has already been completed involving Tk 96.79 lakh. In addition, work on the third and fourth phases is underway at a cost of Tk 73.61 lakh and Tk 66.26 lakh respectively. Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil laid the foundation stone of the central bus terminal on January 21 this year.

Obituary

UNB, Kishoreganj

Valiant freedom fighter Abdul Aziz died of old age ailments at his Kasarhati village in Nikli upazila under Kishoreganj district on Thursday. He was 60.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at local Eidgah Maidan and later he was buried at Nikli graveyard with state honour. A good number of people, including Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Muktiyoddha Commander, Officer-in-Charge (OC), took part in the janaza.