

SURVEY ON SATKHIRA SADAR HOSPITAL

Patients allege poor services, unhappy with doctors

ABU AHMED, *Satkhira*

Majority of patients receiving treatment at Satkhira Sadar Hospital alleged poor healthcare services and expressed dissatisfaction at the standard of physicians.

Seventy percent outdoor patients were not happy with the physicians because of poor services while 78 percent indoor patients and 48 percent patients in emergency department expressed similar views.

Moreover, both the indoor and outdoor patients and their relatives had to pay 'extra' money besides ticket fee to get health care services at the hospital.

Forty percent outdoor patients said they had to pay Tk 14 excess charge for X-ray while each of 69 percent paid Tk 52 in excess for blood, stool and urine tests.

Similarly 60 percent indoor patients had to pay Tk 5 'extra' for x-ray and 50 percent had to pay Tk 12 in excess for blood, stool and urine tests.

These were revealed in a survey

done by Sachetan Nagoarik Committee affiliated with Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB). The findings were made public at a view exchange meeting held at Satkhira Press Club in the town on Tuesday.

The report said the standard of health services at the hospital is very poor as most of the physicians are engaged in the private hospitals and clinics in the town.

Satkhira Sachetan Nagarik Committee convenor advocate AKM Shahidullah chaired the meeting while Dr Shushanta Kumar Ghosh presented the survey report at the meeting.

Satkhira Government College vice-principal Prof. Abdul Hamid, Public Prosecutor (PP) advocate Tapan Kumar Chakraborty, Prof. Pabitra Mohon Das, journalist Kalyan Banerjee, TIB's Dipu Roy, Monzur E Khoda, Sadhan Kumar Das and Abdur Rahman also spoke. A number of teachers, journalists, students, NGO

representatives and elite were present. The report covered 401 households in Sadar upazila.

The report further said the staff and nurses collected 'extra' money from the patients and their relatives.

Forty-five percent patients had to pay Tk 105 each 'as tips' to the nurses and staffs for bandages while 33 percent paid Tk 60 each 'as tips' for dressing.

Forty percent outdoor patients alleged they had to pay one taka more than the fixed rate for getting hospital tickets.

Ninety six percent outdoor patients had to wait 50 minutes on an average to meet the physicians. They also alleged medical reps visiting them during peak hour at the hospital.

The report alleged that 63 percent females who went to the hospital with pregnancy related issues were not provided proper medicare services.

Not only that 10 percent of them also faced misbehavior from the physicians, the report said.

More regrettable that the physi-

cians advised 23 percent indoor patients to go to their private clinics while 33 percent outdoor patients were given similar advice.

Ninety-two percent outdoor patient had to purchase medicine from the outside medicine shops while 96 percent indoor patients also had to buy medicine from outside, the report said.

Majority of the patients also complained of unclean toilets and beds at the hospital.

The Satkhira Sachetan Nagarik Committee came up with some suggestions to overcome the situation.

These include steps to stop transaction without receipt, clean bathrooms and the patients' rooms twice a day, bar the medical representatives from visiting the physicians on duty, make a list of fees required to get health services, increase bed, medicine supply, infrastructure opportunities and modern equipment, expand healthcare facilities at local levels and introduce monitoring systems so that physicians become more dutiful.

ANJAN MURDER Mother lodges FIR accusing 6 persons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Anjan's mother yesterday lodged a FIR with Jessore Kotwali Police Station as complainant accusing eight persons as murderers of her son.

Hafiz Akhter Shirin, mother of slain Tanvir Hasan Anjan lodged the FIR at noon.

The accused include the editor of Dainik Runner, Manjurul Hasan Tutul, also uncle of the slain student.

Anjan's father and former editor of Dainik Runner Saiful Alam Mukul was killed in a bomb attack by outlaws on August 30, 1998.

Seven other accused are Bony Kazi, Bacchu Kazi, Nannu Kazi, Abdul Mannan, Shohag, Shumon and Riaz.

Police arrested Shumon yesterday noon from Jessore town.

In her complaint, the complainant stated that her son was killed at the instigation of Manjarul Islam Tutul. She has accused Tutul as the mastermind of the murder.

SI Rezaul Karim has been made the investigation officer (IO) of the case.

The arms used in the murder is yet to be recovered.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA
Joy of fishing: Rural children enjoying the game of fishing at Morichya Palong beel (water body) at Ukhya in Cox's Bazar.

Ganokendra, a movement for poverty alleviation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sagor Ganokendra, a multipurpose community learning centre, at Belkathi village of Keshobpur upazilla in Jessore has become a place of excellence where the community takes responsibility for many challenges of leadership training, poverty, job creation, crime and other social problems.

people. He said the residents of Belkathi showed they could achieve something meaningful and constructive in spite of their bad economic condition.

Initially, the Ganokendra was established for post-literacy purposes only. Gradually its role has been widened to cater to the diverse learning needs of the community as a whole.

participate in the activities of a Ganokendra. About 70 per cent of the beneficiaries are female.

There are 100 centres in Keshabpur upazila. DAM has launched 845 Ganokendras in remote areas of Narsingdi, Jhenidah, Jessore, Satkhira, Barguna, Jamalpur and Gazipur districts. About 3 lakh 69 thousand 125 people of 71,825 families are direct beneficiaries of

is the responsibility of a committee comprising people of the community.

There is regular communication between the facilitator, management committee and DAM field staff, all of whom attend monthly management meetings at the Ganokendra.

The Ganokendra movement has had a significant impact on literacy levels and community development in Bangladesh. Participants in centres

generally are concerned about their own and their community's development. The skills and knowledge that they gain improve their social status. Participants are able to raise their levels of income. They have more choices in the work that they do. The centres also play an important role in promoting equity and social justice, particularly for women.



PHOTO: STAR

Female members reading newspapers at Belkathi Sagor Ganokendra in Keshobpur upazila, Jessore.

Established in 2001, the centre serves as the point where the government and the community meet at the street level to work together for people's welfare.

Services such as early learning, social services, health services, poverty alleviation programmes such as small businesses, computer centre, business information centre, training, youth development and arts and cultural activities are provided at the centre. Many government departments provide their services at the centre.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) president and chief executive Kazi Rafiqul Alam said the Ganokendra has brought a real change to the lives of

The Ganokendra now plays the role of a village community centre with a library and facilities for recreation and other socio-cultural activities. The members also participate in regular discussions on issues of local interest. Additionally, the community in general uses the centre as its own place for reading and for economic and socio-cultural activities.

The Ganokendra initially served those completing adult and adolescent literacy courses. Subsequently, school dropouts and people with limited literacy skills have also become members. Ganokendras are now open to all members of the community in which they are located. Men, women and children are welcome to

Ganokendras. DAM has a plan to launch 2,380 Ganokendras in four divisions by the year 2007, said DAM president Kazi Rafiqul Alam.

The general objective of organising a Ganokendra is to create facilities in the community for lifelong learning and community development.

A Ganokendra is organised and managed by groups of neo-literates themselves with back-up support from the DAM in collaboration with the local community. A facilitator recruited from the community initiates activities and manages the centre. This facilitator is typically a local woman who is responsible for the overall operation of the Ganokendra.

However, overall management

Lac farming becoming a means to fight monga

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, *Nilphamari*

Lac cultivation has gained popularity among marginal farmers and poverty-stricken people here as a means to combat monga (near famine situation) as it greatly helps them earn their bread.

Lac is a natural resin produced by an insect, Laccifer Lacca, a parasite of certain host trees. Poor people have undertaken lac cultivation at the initiative of a research organisation, Research Initiatives Bangladesh.

Lac is usually harvested during monga when poor people have no job for survival.

Nearly 500 destitute people at Sadar and Jaldhaka upazilas survived by cultivating and selling lac during the previous lean season.

Matiur Rahman, a researcher at the Research Initiatives Bangladesh said lac resin is widely used in industries like food processing, leather, textile, pharmaceutical, perfumery, adhesive, food and beverage and other industries. It is also used for shining shoes, house floors and cars.

Rahman said poor people are cultivating lac in several host trees like Borol (plum), Akashmoni, Paikor, Dumur and some other fruits. It does not require any land and the investment is very little. For this reason, poor people have been showing keen interest in lac cultivation more and more, he said.

Jannatun Nessa, a widow at

Hobutari village in Sadar upazil said during monga it was her regular practice to borrow money at higher interest rate for survival of her six-member family. But her earnings rose upto over Tk 2,500 by cultivating lac during lean period. The scourge of monga no longer haunts her family now, she said.

Like Jannatun, many lack growers earn between Tk 2,000 to 2,500 during monga by investing only between Tk 200 to 250.

Even, many lac growers have become rich by doing its business. They buy raw lac from local farmers and sell it to major parties in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj.

Lac farmers shared their experiences and narrated their success stories at a mass gathering at a fair held at Shishatali bazaar in Sadar upazila recently.

At another meeting with lac farmers, the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) deputy director Shakhwat Hossain has announced that lac farming has given a new dimension to destitute people in combating monga successfully.

Luxmichapa Union Parishad (UP) chairman Shyam Charan Roy presided over the meeting.

RIB executive director Meghna Guha Thakurata said lac cultivation has proved to be an effective means to fight monga.

COMPLAINT WITH ACC Netrakona PDB CBA leader amasses crores thru' illegal means

JAHANGIR ALAM, *Netrakona*

Two people filed a complaint against a CBA (Collective Bargaining Agent) leader with the ACC (Anti-corruption Commission) alleging amassing of crores of taka by him through illegal means.

Mamun Ahamed and Kashob Ranjan Sarkar of Satpai Kalibari area here submitted the complaint against Power Development Board (BPDB) CBA leader Atiqul Islam Atiq, also president of Netrakona district Jatiyatabadi Shramik Dal on Sunday saying he was favoured by the then state minister for home Lutfulazzaman Babor during the last five years of BNP-Jamaat rule.

The complainant also submitted a copy of his complaint to the local ACC office.

The complainants said before formation of the Four-party Alliance government in 2001, Atiqul Islam was a switch board attendant (SBA) of PDB office. Hailing from Trisal upazila of Mymensingh, Atiq led his family with poor salary. He had no farmland or any business in his native village. Now he is posted at Ghatail PDB office.

The complainant further said Atiq amassed wealth by stealing electric wire, giving illegal power connection and harassing genuine subscribers and other means. Atiq and his men earned a good amount of money illegally in name of repairing electric line at Tanga, Uluati in Netrakona sadar upazila and Pukuria,

Madni, Daria and Mandrapur in Netrakona poura area. This correspondent tried to contact Atiqul several times but he did not respond to the calls.

Girl scout to attend world jamboree

A CORRESPONDENT, *C'nawabganj*



Tasnima Ahmed Shefa, a permanent resident of Durgapur village of Nawabganj Sadar upazila in Chapainawabganj district will attend the World Jamboree of Scouts at Highlands Park in England as the lone girl scout from Dhaka division.

The Golden Jubilee of world Scout movement will be celebrated in England from July 27 to August 8.

A student of Class IX at Willes Little Flower Higher Secondary School, Dhaka, Shefa is the only daughter of Saeeda Sultana, a housewife and Sabbir Ahmed, a journalist.

6x3

6x3

7x3