

Big health complexes remain virtually showpieces

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU,
Bogra

Two newly constructed upazila health complexes in Bogra district have remained virtually inoperative due to lack of manpower and other facilities.

Extended portions of Dhunat and Adamdighi upazila health complexes have also remained unutilised due to the same cause, said sources at Bogra civil surgeon's office.

The Construction Maintenance Management Unit (CMMU) under the Ministry of Health and Family Planning built the hospitals at a cost of Tk 15.51 crore to

extend rural healthcare facilities in Adamdighi, Nandigram, Dhunat and Shahjahanpur upazilas of the district.

Newly constructed 20-bed health complexes in Shahjahanpur and Nandigram upazilas and extended portions of 50-bed Dhunat and Adamdighi upazila health complexes cannot function due to shortage of manpower including doctors, said Dr Md Abdul Hoque, civil surgeon (CS) of Bogra.

"We have arranged outdoor facilities on a temporary basis at the hospitals to provide treatment for ordinary problems like pain or flu through

arranging doctors and nurses from outside," he said.

Local hospitals authorities have continued sending letters to the director general's (DG) office every month requesting steps to fill up the posts for the hospitals but they are yet to get required manpower, he added.

Admitting the matter, DG office sources said the government could not provide required manpower for the upazila-level hospitals in the district like other upazila hospitals across the country due to shortage of doctors and other staff.

During a visit to Shahjahanpur Upazila Health Complex recently, this corre-

spondent found that a pregnant woman was brought to the hospital for safe delivery but her relatives decided to go to Bogra town as the upazila hospital does not have any arrangement for it.

CMMU Bogra office sources said the construction work of 20-bed Nandigram Upazila Health Complex was completed in 2007 spending Tk 3.18 crore and was handed over to the Bogra CS office the same year.

The outdoor was opened to provide treatment for ordinary problems but the hospital as a whole is still idle due to shortage of manpower, said Bogra CS Dr Abdul Hoque.

CMMU authorities handed over 20-bed Shahjahanpur Upazila Health Complex on April 29 this year but the hospital has only outdoor facilities for three hours a day as there is shortage of doctors and medicines. It was built at a cost of Tk 7.04 crore under a special project.

In absence of indoor treatment facilities, upazila health complex authorities have to refer patients to other healthcare centres, said Dr Md Shahidur Rahman, Shahjahanpur upazila health and family planning officer.

"We are running our outdoor service through arranging medicine and manpower including doctors from other sources as per order of district health administration," he said.

After extension of Adamdighi Upazila Health Complex from 31-bed to a 50-bed one at a cost of Tk 2.37 crore, it was handed over to local authorities on January 20 this year.

The 31-bed Dhunat upazila hospital was upgraded to 50-bed hospital at a cost of Tk 2.92 crore in 2006.

But extended portions of both the hospitals have remained unutilised due to shortage of doctors and medicines, CS office sources said.



Completed several months ago at a cost of Tk 7.04 crore, this impressive building of Shahjahanpur Upazila Health Complex in Bogra district remains a farce to patients in the area as the healthcare centre is still virtually inoperative due to shortage of doctors and other facilities.



PHOTO: STAR

Rapid Action Battalion destroyed at least 6,000 bunches of bananas at Jalchhatra in Modhupur upazila of Tangail district yesterday as unscrupulous traders had continued ripening the fruits with toxic chemicals, defying earlier warning by law enforcers in the area.

Huge chemically treated bananas destroyed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday destroyed chemically treated 6,000 bunches of banana worth Tk 9 lakh at Jalchhatra, the largest banana market in Madhupur upazila of Tangail district.

Acting on a tip, a team of Crime Prevention Company-3 of Rab-12 went to Jalchhatra and caught two banana vendors red-handed when they were spraying harmful chemicals to ripen the fruits, Rab sources said.

A mobile court led by Executive Magistrate Mohammad Kamal Hossain fined the two banana vendors Tk 5,000 each under Food Purity Act and had other banana vendors promise not to spray harmful chemicals on fruits in future.

The court also fined two chemical traders Tk 2,500 each for selling harmful chemicals.

The Rab men later destroyed over 6,000 chemically ripened bunches of banana at the market.

"The destroyed banana would be worth about Tk 9 lakh. Earlier we had warned Madhupur banana traders not to use harmful chemicals to ripen the fruits," said Rab Company Commander Major Mohammad Nasir Uddin.

On September 9 last year, Rab members from the same team raided the Madhupur banana market and fined several banana vendors Tk 25,000 and destroyed over 1000 bunches of banana that were ripened with harmful chemicals.

Brickfield owner kidnapped

Tk 30 lakh ransom demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Members of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) early yesterday kidnapped a brickfield owner from his house at Bhuiaganti village under Solonga police station in Raiganj upazila.

The outlaws were demanding Tk 30 lakh as ransom for release of Shahidul Islam, 45, son of Join Uddin of Bhuiaganti village and owner of Bhuiaganti brickfield.

Police and victim's family sources said that a gang of criminals introducing themselves as members of PBCP had been demanding a big sum from Shahidul over cell phone for the last few days.

As he failed to pay the money, a gang numbering 15 to 20 wearing black mask stormed into his house at around 1:30am and picked him up at gunpoint in presence of his family members.

During abduction, the abductors also told his family members that Shahidul would be freed on payment of Tk 30 lakh ransom.

Contacted, officer-in-charge (OC) of Solonga police station said, they are investigating the incident and trying to rescue the businessman.



PHOTO: STAR

This large canopy, erected to accord reception to BNP leader Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan at Parulia in Narsingdi, lies damaged after police action yesterday against the BNP activists for defying Section 144, inset, police beating an activist.

BNP men batoned for defying Section 144 in Narsingdi

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

At least 20 BNP men were injured as police charged baton on them while holding a programme at Parulia upazila playground under Palash upazila defying Section 144 yesterday noon.

Palash upazila BNP organised the programme at the playground to accord reception to former minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan who was recently made a member of the party's standing committee.

As Palash upazila unit of

Swachhasebak League organised a discussion on the Victory Day at the same venue at the same time, local administration imposed Section 144 in the area apprehending trouble.

Upazila Land Officer Md Tariqul Islam in presence of a large number of police requested the leaders and workers of both the groups to leave the place, but BNP men did not pay heed to his request.

When the BNP leaders and workers tried to hold their programme at the playground defying Section 144, the law

enforcers charged baton to disperse them, leaving at least 20 people injured.

The injured, including Chhatra Dal leader MA Baset, were admitted to Palash Upazila Health Complex.

Outraged by police action, the BNP activists later attacked Parulia Bazar and ransacked shops.

BNP Secretary General Khandker Delwar Hossain in a statement yesterday strongly condemned the attack on the reception programme.

He blamed the police and ruling party men for the attack.

SNIPPETS

Man kills younger brother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A man killed his younger brother at Kuturikona village under Netrakona Sadar upazila on Monday night. The dead was identified as Abdur Rahim of village Kuturikona. Police and locals said, at about 11:00 pm Abdur Razzak hit his younger brother with a sharp weapon at a stage of altercation. Rahim died on the spot. A case was filed with Netrakona police station but Razzak went into hiding.

Two held with arms

UNB, Narayanganj

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two alleged criminals along with arms on Chittagong road in Siddhirganj upazila on Monday. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-11 raided a vehicle of Econo exclusive paribahan near the Roads and Highways office and held Rabiul Hasan alias Khokon, 22, and Yousuf Khan, 25. One foreign made pistol, one homemade gun and six bullets were recovered from their possession.

Fake Rab man held

UNB, Sylhet

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members detained a fake Rab man from a hotel in the city on Sunday afternoon. The arrestee was identified as Ahsan Ullah Hasan, 43, of Shamserpur Purbopara village in Laksam upazila of Comilla district. Acting on secret information, a team of Rab-9 raided the hotel of one Babul Mia at about 3:00pm and caught Hasan red-handed while he and his accomplice were taking money from a man in the name of selling old cars of Rab. Sensing presence of the elite force, Hasan's accomplice Ankur Das managed to flee but Hasan was held from the spot.

Press club executives

The 15-member executive body of Kurigram Press Club for 2009-2011 was elected on Friday with Prothom Alo correspondent Shafi Khan and the daily Jugantar correspondent Ahsan Habib Nilu as president and general secretary respectively. The other elected members of the body are the daily Ittefaq correspondent Fazle Elahi Shawpon and the daily Nayadiganta and Diganta TV correspondent Rezaul Karim Reza as vice-presidents, the daily Dinkal correspondent Harun Ur Rashid Harun as joint-secretary, the daily Janakantha correspondent Raju Mostafiz as treasurer, the daily Samokal and BSS correspondent Abdul Khaleq Faruk as literary and cultural secretary, the Daily Star correspondent Abdul Wahed as sports secretary, the daily Manobjamini correspondent Mizanur Rahman Mintu as publicity and publication secretary, the daily Khabor correspondent Ahmedul Kabir as social welfare secretary, local daily Chawa Pawa correspondent Abul Hossain Babul as office secretary and Radio Bangladesh correspondent Md Shahabuddin, the daily Shakti correspondent Rabintra Nath Roy, the daily Sangbad correspondent Mominul Islam Monju and Editor of local daily Kurigram Khabor SM Sana Lal Bakshi as members.

Youth's body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Police on Saturday morning recovered the body of an unidentified youth, aged about 30, from a paddy field at Suriapur village under Nachole upazila. Criminals took the youths to the paddy field and murdered him, said Rawshan Kabir, sub-inspector of Nachole police station. On information, police recovered the body at around 10:30pm and sent it to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

Schoolboy rescued, outlaw arrested for abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Local people in Meherpur rescued a schoolboy abducted from Kushtia Sadar upazila and caught one of the abductors on Monday night.

The beat up the abductor, Asadul, and handed him over to the police.

Asadul, 35, son of Ejahar Ali of Radhanagar in Mirpur upazila of Kushtia, is a leader of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML), police said.

They said Asadul and his accomplices made a plan to kidnap Alhaj Ismail Hossain's son Saiful Islam, 16, an SSC candidate, from Harinarayanpur village under Kushtia Sadar upazila.

Accordingly, they went to the village in a microbus Monday noon and stopped the vehicle near the house of Ismail, a trader of the area.

Police quoted Saiful as saying that the gang called him when he was returning home from Harinarayanpur Bazar at around 4:30pm. When he went there, two to three men got down from the microbus and gagged him.

The gang then lifted Saiful onto the microbus, tied up his

hands and legs and took him to a farmhouse owned by one Yasin at Mohamadpur village in Gangni upazila of Meherpur district, police quoting Saiful said.

Police said Yasin is also involved in abduction and using his farmhouse as den of the PBCP.

"The gang then removed the gag and asked me to inform my family to pay them (abductors) Tk 7 lakh for my release," Saiful told police.

He also beat up Saiful as he told the gang that he did not know the phone number of his father, police said.

Hearing scream, ten to eight passers-by rushed to the spot, saw the boy tied up and cried for help from people nearby. As the abductors started to flee sensing danger, locals caught Asadul on the spot while the rest two managed to flee.

They beat up Asadul and informed Gangni police who went to the spot, rescued Saiful and arrested abductor Asadul. Police later handed over Saiful to his family.

When contacted, Motiur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Islamic University Police Station said drive is on to arrest the two other abductors.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of five departments under the science faculty of Rajshahi University lay siege to the administrative building yesterday demanding arrangement for giving them certificates under the newly formed engineering faculty.

Science students lay siege to RU admin building

Demand certificates under engineering faculty

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred students of five departments under science faculty of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday laid a siege to the administrative building demanding certificates under newly formed engineering faculty.

Students of the departments under 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 academic sessions also blocked the building's main gate for an hour at noon. They formed a human chain in front of the first science building followed by a silent procession that paraded the campus.

At a rally in front of the administrative building, they called upon the university authorities to take immediate steps to meet their demand.

The students alleged that the university authorities are trying to deprive the students of the departments of their due facilities.

Later, a five-member students group met vice-chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan and

placed a memo demanding issuance of certificates under the Faculty of Engineering for all batches from 2006-07 academic session.

The students also threatened to go for indefinite strike including class boycott programme if their demands were not met immediately.

The vice-chancellor assured the agitating students of looking into the matter and taking necessary steps in this regard.

The university authorities recently launched the "Faculty of Engineering" placing applied physics and electronic engineering, applied chemistry and chemical technology, computer science and engineering, information and communication engineering, and material science and technology departments under it from 2009-10 academic session.

Earlier on Saturday, the students formed a human chain, held silent procession and submitted a memorandum to the university vice-chancellor to press their demand.