

Dirt, untidiness all over Dinajpur medical

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Unclean wards, stinking toilets, corridors with littered wastes, medical wastes and stagnated drain water on the premises are now some of the features of Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital, thanks to the indifference of the authorities.

The hygiene condition of the hospital is far from satisfactory, even at the Operation Theatre (OT), said several patients.

During a recent visit to the hospital, this correspondent saw awful condition at the hospital that has become a nuisance for patients, staff as well as visitors.

"Condition of the toilets is so bad that foul smell spreads to wards and corridors, much to the inconvenience of staff, patients and their attendants," said a doctor seeking anonymity.

"Often I have to hold breath to avoid nausea," said an attendant.

The toilets in most of the departments, particularly in paediatric, emergency, medicine and diarrhoea wards and OT are in pathetic conditions.

Clogged sewerage and drains make the environment horrible as overflowing of sewerage water that stag-

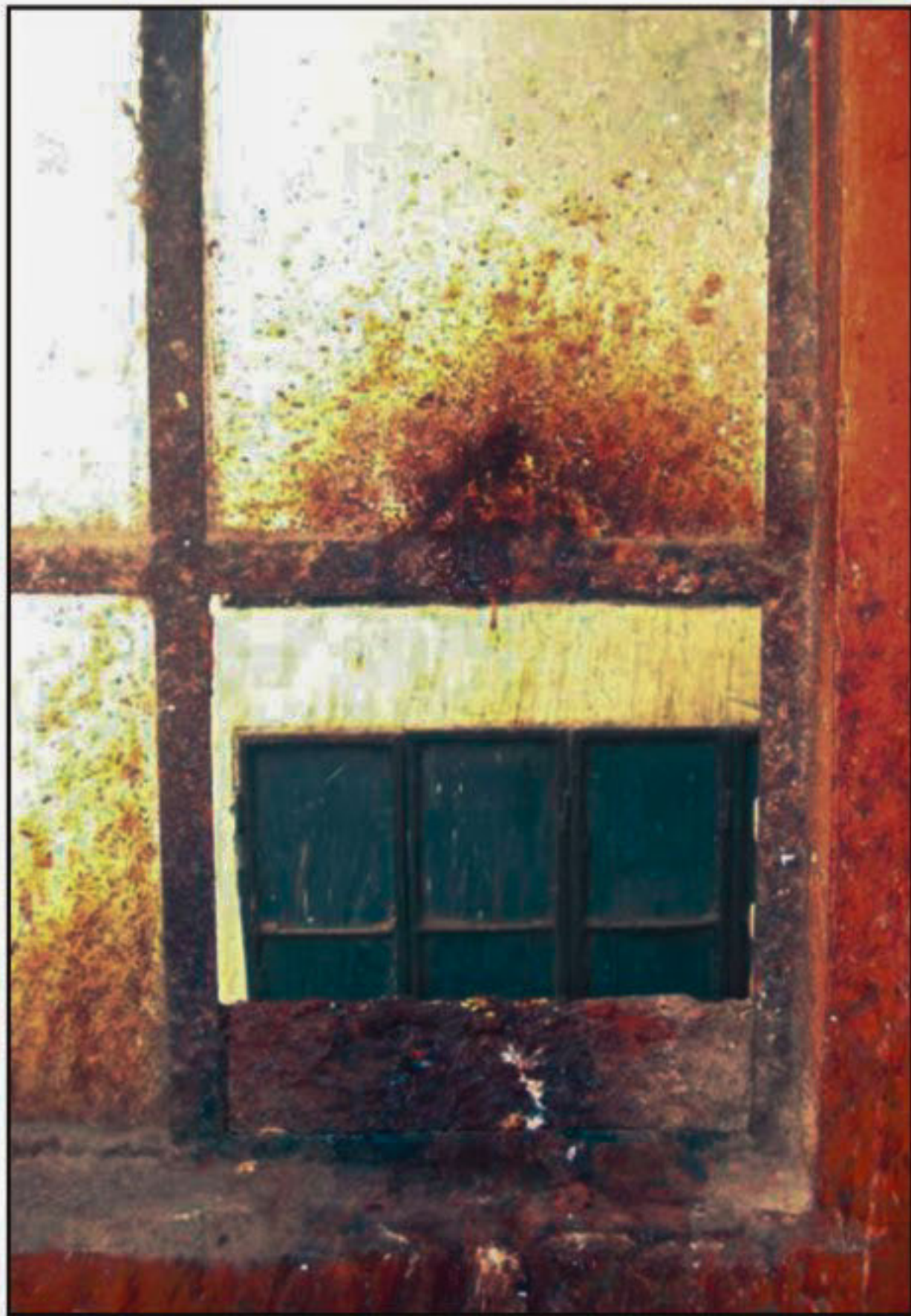


PHOTO: STAR
A scene from a ward of now awfully dirty Dinajpur Medical College Hospital exposes authorities' utter callousness about maintaining hygiene at the district's premier treatment centre.

nates on the hospital compound spreads out foul smell. A few medical officers, who have to visit the hospital

infection, can be seen on the corridors, ramps and staircases while the corridors are littered with waste bottles, waste paper.

Even bio-medical wastes can be seen in and around the hospital building as they are not properly disposed off.

The situation is not much better in the paying wards on the first and second floors as cockroaches, rats, even cats and dogs can be seen sometime, said Susmita Karmaker, a patient at the medicine ward of the hospital.

Poor patients, who cannot afford treatment in private hospitals, are the worst sufferers due to the unhygienic conditions in the hospital, said a doctor of diarrhoea ward.

This perennial problem of toilets and sewerage can be solved only if the entire system is overhauled but the authorities are turning a blind eye in this regard, said a hospital official.

When contacted a couple of days ago, acting director of Dinajpur Medical College Hospital, also civil surgeon of Dinajpur Sadar Hospital, said he is unaware about the unhygienic condition of the hospital.

He said he would make a visit to see the conditions of toilets soon.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA
Although the biting cold subsided a little during the last two days, dense fog continues to persist in different areas of the country, much to the trouble of people and vehicles. The photo was taken from Narayanjanj town yesterday morning.

CID fails again to give probe report on Kibria murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court on Wednesday fixed February 7 for submitting the report on further investigation into former finance minister SAMS Kibria murder case.

Though the Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal had earlier extended time for submission of the report thrice, CID failed to submit it, court sources informed.

The tribunal ordered further investigation into the murder case following a petition filed by senior ASP of CID Munshi Atiqur Rahman on March 7, 2007. As Munshi had gone into retirement



SAMS Kibria

after a few months, CID's ASP Md Rafiqul Islam was given the task.

Former finance minister SAMS Kibria, his nephew advocate Shah Manzurul

Huda, local AL leaders Abdur Rahim, Abul Hossain and Siddique Ali were killed in a grenade attack on a public meeting at Baiderbazar under Habiganj Sadar upazila on the night of January 27, 2005.

On March 20, 2005, Munshi Atique pressed charges against 10 people including Chief of Zia Gobeshona Parishad and Habiganj BNP leader Abdul Quaiyum. The other accused were Zainal Abedin, Jamir Ali, Momin Ali, Tajul Islam, Shahed Ali, Chhondu Miah, Selim Ahmed, Enayet Ali and Muhibur Rahman.

On the day, complainant of the case advocate Abdul Majid

Khan (now AL lawmaker from Habiganj) filed a 'naraji petition' against the charge sheet. The magistrate of the court concerned rejected the petition and fixed May 10, 2005 for hearing of the case. But the case was shifted to the Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal before the date.

In May 2006, the then Tribunal Judge Biplob Goswami also rejected the complainant's 'Naraji petition' against the charge sheet. The complainant then went to the High Court that stayed the case proceedings. However, the high court vacated the stay order in December 2008.

BCL confines UNO to his office, ransacks room

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday ransacked the offices of the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) and project implementation officer (PIO) of Debiganj upazila in Panchagarh district and confined them to their office rooms for an hour over recruitment of staff of a project under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The ministry is implementing National Nutrition Programme at Debiganj upazila through Thengamara Shabuj Shangha (TMSS), a non-governmental organisation. A committee headed by UNO Md Abu Jafar arranged a written test for recruitment of 16 supervisors and 162 community programmers for the project on January 10 and published the list of qualified candidates on January 17.

UNO office and local sources said a group of BCL activists, led by their leaders Swapon, and Sohel, came to the UNO office yesterday morning and hurled abusive language at him for not recruiting their candidates. At one stage, the BCL men

ransacked the UNO office and confined him to his room.

They then entered the office of Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Motiur Rahman, vandalised the room and assaulted him. They also locked the door of the office room, keeping the PIO inside.

Law enforcers from Debiganj Police Station rushed to the spot, dispersed the BCL men and rescued the UNO and PIO by breaking open the doors.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Abu Jafar filed a case with Debiganj Police Station against 10 BCL men, including Swapon and Sohel, at around 4:00pm.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Nazrul Islam and Assistant Superintendent of Police visited the upazila headquarters in the afternoon.

Contacted, BCL upazila unit President Asaduzzaman said those who have ransacked the UNO and PIO offices are not BCL activists. But upazila Awami League General Secretary Gias Uddin said they the activists of local BCL unit.

Two of new militant outfit held in Bagmara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police have arrested two members of the newly formed militant group styled 'Abbu Bahini' in Bagmara upazila and recovered arms from their possession.

Militants Majnu and Shahin Alam were held from Rayapur village of Hamirkutsa union of the upazila on January 17. They were placed on two-day police remand next day. A revolver and five bullets were found from behind the toilet at Majnu's house yesterday at around 12:30am, said Harun-ur Rashid, officer-in-charge of Bagmara police station.

The group was formed under the leadership of one Ibrahim of Natore town. Lately the militants were recruiting the teenagers for their group and planning subversive activities like murder and extortion, said the OC.

"We will continue operations as we have the information that the group has already collected a few small arms," he added.

Arrestees Majnu and Shahin are nephews of convicted Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh leader Bangla Bhai's associate Abul Hossain member. Hailing from Rayapur, Abul was a member of underground extremist group Purbo Banglar Communist Party.

Meanwhile, members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Wednesday night recovered five locally made bombs, a pipe-gun and two bullets.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab-5 team from Railway Colony camp raided the Railway field in the city's Boalia area and found the bombs in abandoned condition.

None was arrested as the arms were left abandoned, said Major Anwar, commanding officer at the Rab camp.

BAGERHAT CASE AGAINST 'WAR CRIMINALS' Complainant drops names of 34 out of 36 accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Complainant through an affidavit has dropped the names of 34 out of 36 alleged war criminals from a petition case she filed with a Bagerhat case on January 4.

Khadija Begum, wife of martyred freedom fighter Ismail Hossain of Rajapur village under Sharankhola upazila, filed the petition case with Bagerhat Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, accusing 36 people of killing her husband during Liberation War in 1971.

The petition case was recorded as a regular case with Sharankhola Police Station on January 16.

Khadija appeared before the court on January 17 and submitted an affidavit, dropping the names of 34 out of 36 accused. She,

however, included the names of two other people in her supplementary case.

Nayeb-e-Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Maulana AKM Yusuf and ex-BNP lawmaker Dr Mian Abbasuddin are among the 34 whose names have been dropped from the petition case.

Now the four accused of the supplementary case are Matar Rahman Talukder, 70, of Rayenda Bazar, Abdul Hamid Farazi, 70, of Paschimpara village, Rafaz Pahlan, 75, of the same village and Abdul Khaleque, 70, of Khada village under Sharankhola upazila.

Khadija in the affidavit stated that the names of 34 people were included wrongly in her first petition case. "They were not at all involved in the murder of my husband Ismail Hossain," she said.

Top outlaw murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A 'regional leader' of outlawed PBCP 'Janajudhha' faction was shot dead at village Lakhmipur Charpara under Aataikula police station yesterday.

Police said rivals shot dead Makbul Hossain, 39, son of Rawshan Ali of village Phulbaria in Santhia upazila in the early morning.

Locals found the bullet-hit body at Lakhmipur Charpara and informed police. A team from Aataikula police station rushed to the spot to recover the body and sent it to Sadar hospital for autopsy.

Internal feud in outlawed factions might be the reason behind the murder, police said.



PHOTO: STAR
Students of Dinajpur Textile Institute bring out a procession in the town yesterday demanding permanent expulsion and punishment of the criminals responsible for cutting tendons of fellow student Nuruzzaman Tuktuk.

Houses, shops gutted in Thakurgaon, Ctg

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Devastating fire in Thakurgaon gutted 53 houses on Wednesday while another fire incident in Chittagong yesterday destroyed twelve business establishments and five houses.

Our correspondent in Thakurgaon reports: At least 53 houses were gutted in two separate devastating fire incidents on Wednesday in Panchagarh and Thakurgaon.

In first incident, at least 50 houses were destroyed at Premgonj village under Atwary upazila in Panchagarh.

Panchagarh fire service men and locals said the fire originated from a kitchen oven at Mosh Mohammad's house at about 1:00am and so engulfed the adjacent houses.

Fire fighters rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after two hours of frantic efforts with the help of local people.

The fire damaged properties worth about Tk 30 lakh, claimed the house owners while the fire service and civil defence estimated the loss at Tk 5 lakh.

Another fire incident on Wednesday evening at Kaharpara village under Sadar upazila gutted three houses.

The fire broke out at Samsul Islam's house at about 5:30pm and spread to three adjacent houses.

Locals said, the fire gutted properties worth about Tk 3 lakh.

In Chittagong, twelve business establishments and four shanties were gutted yesterday morning in City Gate area.

Sources said, the fire broke out at a furniture shop opposite to Glaxo-Smithkline head office around 6:00am.

It spread fast to engulf the adjoining tin-shed shops and factories. Five shops of second hand wooden furniture of scraped vessel, one hardboard shop, a saw mill, two cotton godowns, two factories of puffed rice, a motor workshop and

four shanties were gutted in the fire.

Three trucks kept at the adjoining garage were also partially damaged in the fire.

Eight fire fighting units from two fire stations rushed to the spot and managed to douse the blaze at around 10:00am.

Fire service officials suspected that the fire might have originated from electric short circuit. The loss in the fire was primarily estimated at Tk 40 lakh, they said.

A correspondent from Benapole reports: At least 20 shops were gutted in a fire at Mir Kadim Kathpatti under Munshiganj Sadar upazila early morning on Tuesday.

Three fire units from Munshiganj and Narayanjanj after several hours of frantic efforts brought the fire under control. The fire broke out at around 1:45am.

Mir Kadim Municipal Mayor Mohammad Hossain Benu said, the fire originated from a burning mosquito coil. He said a huge quantity of logs and furniture adding, the loss would exceed Tk 1.5 crore.



Sagardari wears festive look as Madhu Mela begins today

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Madhu Mela, a fair marking the 186th birth anniversary of great poet Michael Madhusudan Dutta will kick off at Sagardari under Keshabpur upazila today.

Jessore district administration has chalked out an elaborate programme for the week-long fair which will continue till January 28.

Information minister Abul Kalam Azad is expected to inaugurate the fair.

Sagardari, the birthplace of the poet, wore a festive look as all preparations were completed to celebrate the day in a befitting manner.

The fair will take place on the premises of Michael Madhusudan Academy while the programmes included discussion on life and works of the famous poet, recitation, cultural functions including song, dance and drama.

Michael Madhusudan was born in a zemindar family on January 25 in 1824. He was the son of Zemindar Rajnarayan Dutta and Jhannabi Devi.

Madhusudan passed away at Kolkata General Hospital on June 29, 1873 only three days after his wife Henrietta breathed her last.

The poet was buried at Park Street in Kolkata.

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