

Tk 25cr medical equipment rusting away at hospital

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU,
Bogra

Medical equipment worth around Tk 25 crore has been lying idle at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital (SZMCH) in Bogra for long due to unavailability of technicians, shortage of maintenance funds and other problems.

A 1000 milliampere X-ray machine and several other pieces of equipment have remained virtually inoperative in several departments since the inauguration of the hospital on August 31, 2006, much to the frustration of patients.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine worth around Tk 9.68 crore has remained dysfunctional since April 17, 2010 due to lack of spare parts.

The government allocated Tk 20 lakh to repair the machine a few months ago but the authorities need around Tk 50 lakh to run the equipment, SZMCH sources said.

On an average every day, 10 patients of SZMCH have to bear additional cost for having the images in private clinics, sources said, adding that abdomen imaging charge at SZMCH is Tk 4,000 whereas one has to pay Tk 12,000 for the same image at a private clinic.

Another emergency equipment Computer Tomography (CT) Scan worth around Tk 4.54 crore has been lying idle in absence of spare parts worth Tk 4.75 lakh since February 27 this year. Around 60 patients of the hospital have to bear the cost for their CT scan in private clinics.

A Tk 60 lakh Mammography machine has remained inoperative at the hospital since 2006. The supplier failed to run the equipment used for breast



PHOTO: STAR

MRI machine, above, and CT Scan machine, below left, have become dysfunctional due to lack of spare parts, while 1000 milliampere X-ray machine has remained inoperative since inauguration of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra on August 31, 2006.

cancer screening but the authority paid its bills earlier.

Jostra Heart Lung Machine worth around Tk 60 lakh and Jostra Heart Exchanger for cardiac surgery department and Holter Monitor worth Tk 8.75 lakh have not started functioning after their supply to the hospital just after its inauguration due to lack of manpower.

Costly equipment Chat Lab worth around Tk 4.50 crore is also lying idle due to the same reason.

ETT worth Tk 50 lakh has been lying in cardiology

department in a packed condition for the last seven years, department sources said.

Hospital administration sources said they have workable and idle pieces of equipment worth Tk 60.70 crore, many of them were provided by the Central Medical Stores Depot in Dhaka for 500-bed Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra during its initial stage.

A senior official of the hospital admitted that many costly pieces of equipment of several departments

including cardiology have been lying idle since inauguration of the hospital.

When contacted, SZMCH Director Brig Gen Md Afzalur Rahman said, "The government has taken proper initiative to run the costly equipment immediately. The authorities instructed me to repair MRI and CT scan machines to ensure quality treatments for a minimum cost."

Extra Corporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy Machine and a few other instruments are running smoothly after repair, he said.

12 Rab men injured in attack by smugglers

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Brahmanbaria

At least 12 members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) of Bhairab Camp were injured as a gang of drug smugglers threw brickbats and stone chips at them at a village in Akhaura upazila yesterday.

According to Akhaura police sources, a team of Rab-9 raided notorious drug smuggler Badal's house at Noorpur village and recovered 174 bottles of phensidyl syrup, 114 bottles of rekodex syrup and 4 bottles of ilitex syrup.

When the RAB team was returning, the smugglers along with their wives and kins started throwing brickbats and stone chips at them.

In retaliation, the Rab personnel fired three blank shots from their guns as 12 of them sustained injury.

The injured Rab members are Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) Fazlul Haque, 55, SCP Md. Shaid, 36, CPL Amir Hosain Khan, 40, assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Abdul Jabbar, 33, ASI Masud Karim, 35, ASI Kazal Das, 33, ASI Sulaiman, 37, HA Abul Hossain, 30, constable Mohibur, 33, constable Mahub, 30, constable Ismail, 28, and constable Md. Faridul, 26. They were taken to Akhaura health complex.

Later, Rab filed a case accusing 11 to 12 people of Noorpur village, OC of Akhaura PS Md Manirul Islam said.

Contacted, Major Abdullah Al Mamun, Commander of Bhairab Camp of Rab-9 said that he himself led the operation. He said a few people including female smugglers threw stones at them.

Two cases, one for drug smuggling and another for police assault, were filed, he said.

2 siblings, both Shibir cadres, held with arms in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kushtia

Police arrested two siblings, both alleged cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir and recovered a pistol and two bullets from their possession at Hadiarpur in Chuadanga town Saturday night.

Police also recovered a few leaflets, CDs and memo books toll from them.

The arrestees are Rimon Chowdhury, 19, and his elder brother Miraj Chowdhury.

Police said they are brothers of Riyad Chowdhury, top Shibir cadre at Islamic University (IU).

Son of Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Rimon is student of Class IX at Technical School and College in Chuadanga, while Miraj is still unemployed.

Officer in-charge (OC) of Chuadanga Sadar police station Ershadul Kabir Chowdhury said, they raided the arrestees' house at about 12:30am on an information that a group of Shibir cadres were holding secret meeting there.

"Although there was no such meeting there, we searched the house and recovered the firearms and other things," the OC said.

During interrogation, Rimon and Miraj admitted that Riyad gave them the firearms and other materials to keep those at a secret place several months ago.

Police could not give details about Riyad but said they were investigating the matter.

The Daily Star - **বাংলা** ENGLISH FAIR

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Students of seven schools in Rajshahi, Khulna and Jamalpur districts yesterday joined the English language fairs held under English in Schools programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi.

Around 250 students of Bhojaniganj Government Girls' High School, Bhojaniganj Government High School and Baghmara Polot High School in Rajshahi upazila under Rajshahi district took part in the fairs held at Bhojaniganj Government Girls' High School auditorium, reports our Rajshahi University correspondent.

Globally renowned movie The Lion King was screened, followed by quizzes on vocabulary, situation-based question-answer, extempore speech and role play.

Students took part in joyful interactions and watched the events based on the movie. Eighteen students won different competitions.

Over 500 students of Sardaha Government Pilot High School in Charchat upazila joint the same programme at the school auditorium yesterday.

Of them 18 students won the quizzes on vocabulary, situation-based question-answer, extempore speech and role play.

The students watched the movie The Lion King with great interest.

Sayed Begum, headmaster of the school, inaugurated the programme.

Our Staff Correspondent reports from Khulna: Over 200 students of Khulna Zila School yesterday took part in the English language fair held at its auditorium.

Headmaster of the school Maleka Begum inaugurated the fair.

The fair included screening of The Lion King, quizzes on vocabu-



PHOTO: STAR

A scene from the English language fair at Khulna Zila School yesterday.

7 more schools join the fray



Afterwards quizzes on vocabulary, one-word questions, situation-based question, extempore speeches and role play were held.

Students of the two schools took part in joyful interactions and watched the events based on the movie.

Later prizes were distributed among the winners at different events.

Aiming to promote English language learning among school students across the country, The Daily Star in cooperation with Robi undertook English in Schools programme in 2009.

Under the initiative, each of one thousand schools selected from 64 districts of the country receives three complimentary copies of The Daily Star five days a week.

The ongoing English language fairs at different schools are being held in coordination with the education ministry as part of the three-year-long programme.

Adcom Ltd is the creative and event partner of the English language fairs.

An extraordinary Maisha wins hearts of all

AM JAHID, RU

"I never consider myself as a physically challenged person. Rather, I am proud to be able to overcome the situation," said class ten student Maisha Marium, who won the first prize in extempore speech competition in the English language fair held at Seroil Government High School in Rajshahi city on Saturday.

She has been suffering from diabetes from her early life, but driven by sheer will power she has defied the challenge to continue her studies with an aim to become an English teacher of a university.

A student of Shaheed Nazmul Haque Girls' High School in Rajshahi city, Maisha, 15, also won in the quiz competition on 'situation-based question answer' in the fair held under English in Schools programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi, on Saturday.

At the programme, she impressed the audience with her attractive presentation.

She has acquired extraordinary skills in English language, in addition to her mother tongue Bangla.

She has also great taste and knack of music.

During an interview with this correspondent yesterday, she played her



PHOTO: STAR

Maisha Marium receives the prize for best performance in extempore speech at the English language fair held at Seroil Government High School in Rajshahi city on Saturday.

favourite mouth organ with the patriotic song 'Ei Padma, Ei Meghna, Ei Jamuna Surma Nodir Teere...'. She also excellently sang renowned English song of John Denver 'He was born in the summer of his 27th year, Comin' home to a place he'd never...'. She can recite the holy Quran very nicely.

She achieved score 5 out of 5 on English reading, writing, speaking and listening in the competition of Cambridge Young Learners English Starters organised in Dhaka by the University of Cambridge in 2004.

Nabila Khatun, English teacher of Shaheed Nazmul Haque Girls' High School,

said Maisha is a punctual and ideal student although she could not attend classes regularly due to her physical condition.

"My sister is the greatest inspiration to me in the world," said Maisha's younger brother Syed Mahadi Zaman Argha, a student of class eight.

Expressing pride for their only daughter, Maisha's father Syed Shahid Hossain, a businessman, and mother Amina Abedin, associate professor of English department of Rajshahi College, said they always give priority to Maisha's wishes and inspire her to succeed in study and other matters.



PHOTO: STAR

An HSC candidate at Rajshahi New Government Degree College centre brings water to her examination hall on the first day of the examinations yesterday as the city witnessed severe hot weather during the last few days.

36 houses gutted in fire in Rangpur, Pabna districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least 36 houses were gutted in fire incidents in Rangpur and Pabna districts on Saturday and the day before.

Twenty-five houses were gutted at Thakurdaah Mandirpara village under Barabil union in Gabgachhara upazila of Rangpur district on Saturday.

Locals and fire service sources said that the fire originated at Moglechar Rahman's house of the area and soon spread to the adjacent houses.

claimed that the extent of damage caused by the fire would be around Tk 10 lakh, reports a correspondent.

The victims are Moglechar Rahman, Mukul Mian, Abdur Rashid, Manzurul Haque, Shadikul Islam, Shahin Mian, Mosharraf Hossain and Amin Uddin.

The fire victims are now living under the open sky.

In Pabna, eleven houses were gutted in a fire at Talimnagar village in Sujanagar upazila on Friday night, reports our correspondent.

originated from a stove at Md. Shahidul Islam's residence of the village at about 8:30pm and quickly spread to the adjoining houses.

The devastating fire destroyed 11 houses of Md. Shahidul Islam, Korban Munshi, Iqbal Hossain, Babul Hossain, Billal Hossain, Mohsin Hossain.

The victims claimed that the fire damaged property worth Tk 20 lakh.

In Jessore, a jute godown and two shops were gutted in a fire which broke out at Sagardari Bazar in Keshabpur

upazila on Friday night, reports UNB.

SI Mahfuzul Haque of Keshabpur PS said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at the jute godown of Nimai Hari and soon engulfed the adjacent fertiliser and pesticide shops.

Being informed, firefighters from nearby Monirampur upazila town rushed to the spot and doused the blaze after one hour of frantic efforts.

The affected shop and godown owners claimed that the extent of loss from the fire could go up to Tk 5 lakh.

Locals said that the fire