



PHOTO: STAR

Labourers engaged by unscrupulous people take away earth from a side of the approach road of this bridge over a canal near Betagir Haat in Dashmina upazila of Patuakhali district. Built in 1997 under a rural development project (RDP-16), the unplanned bridge has remained unused since then.

Locals looting parts of an unplanned bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Virtually unused for years, an unplanned bridge over a canal near Betagir Haat in Dashmina upazila on Patuakhali-Dashmina road is getting decayed while unscrupulous people are taking away its parts including bars from iron pillars and RCC slabs of the floor.

Besides, locals often take away earth from both sides of the approach road of the bridge, making it even more vulnerable.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) built the bridge in 1997 at a cost of Tk about 18 lakh under a rural develop-

ment project (RDP-16) funded by DANIDA, a foreign donor agency.

Later LGED built a culvert about 200 feet away from the bridge and the culvert started being used to link the road, leaving the bridge unused.

In absence of proper supervision and maintenance, parts of iron pillars and RCC slabs of the bridge are being stolen.

During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent saw some people taking away earth from the approach road.

"It was an unplanned work. Authorities concerned did not communi-

cate with us before making the plan and building the bridge," said Moshiur Rahman Jhantu, chairman of Betagi-Sankipur union parishad.

It would serve a good purpose if removable parts of the bridge, like iron pillars and RCC slabs, are separated and used in building a bridge at a suitable place, said Abdul Aziz, chairman of Dashmina upazila parishad.

Jotirmoy Chakrabarti, Dashmina upazila engineer for LGED, said, "I joined here very recently and don't know anything about the matter. I will look into the matter soon."

C'nawabganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital itself in bad health for long

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Health services at Adhunik Sadar Hospital in the town remain in a deplorable condition due to the shortage of doctors, staffs and accommodation facilities.

There are only 18 doctors against 35 posts at the 'full-fledged' hospital meant for 16 lakh people of the district. Other important posts, including those of 14 specialist doctors and a medical officer of homeopathy are also lying vacant for long.

At present there is no senior consultant at cardiology, children, anesthesia, medicine departments and no junior consultants at several departments including child and plastic surgery, said sources at civil surgeon office here.

Besides, the posts of hospital superintendent, service superintendent, administrative officer, statistics officer, accountant, storekeeper and other 43 are also vacant.

Only four medical officers treat outdoor patients while three emergency medical officers are working at the emergency department.

The hospital was upgraded to a 100-bed one from 50-bed capacity in September 2006 without arranging adequate manpower, sources said.

The Prime Minister announced at a public meeting on Chapainawabganj Government College premises on April 23, 2011 that the hospital would be upgraded to a 250-bed one in the near future but the promise is yet to be fulfilled.

The existing manpower also do not perform their duties properly. Patients



PHOTO: STAR

Patients lie on the floor of a ward for want of beds at Chapainawabganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital, inset, crowd outdoor section for treatment. The photos were taken yesterday.

crowd in front of the doctors' chamber while doctors idle away their time on different excuses, patients alleged.

The consultants do not stay at their quarters in the hospital compound. Emergency patients who come to the hospital in the afternoon or at night are often deprived of their services, hospital sources said.

During a visit to Chapainawabganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital recently, this correspondent saw scores of patients lying on the floor of different wards, passages and corridors.

A patient from Masjidpara

in the town said that medical representatives often visit doctors at duty hours.

"I came here at 9:00am and failed to visit any doctor till 2:00pm", he said adding, many patients like him return home after waiting for long.

Many others patients and their attendants made similar allegations.

A medical officer of the hospital said "We have to serve some 400 to 500 outdoor patients daily. Sometimes patients and their attendants become frustrated, as we cannot give proper attention to them".

Indoor treatment is also badly hampered due to lack of doctors. On an average, 300 to 400 patients stay at different wards daily although there are only 100 beds at the hospital.

An elderly patient of Kalitala village under Nachole upazila said that she had been staying on the floor since her admission several days ago.

Another from Kamlakantapur village of Shibgonj upazila told the sametale.

There is a big generator at the hospital to supply electricity during power outages. However it is never used for

lack of budget, hospital sources said.

Dr Asit Sarkar, residential medical officer (RMO) at the hospital, said they could not run the generator because of manpower shortage.

We are trying to give better treatment to the patients, he asserted.

Contacted, Civil Surgeon Md Abu Yusuf said they sent several letters to the higher authorities concerned asking for steps to fill up the vacant posts but to no effect yet.

He also said that the hospital was providing its best services with the hinted resources.

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