

# Health centre in feeble health

ABM AMINUL ISLAM,  
Jamalpur

Madarganj upazila health complex in the district is miserably failing to provide proper medical services due to acute shortage of doctors, nurses and logistic support although it was upgraded to a 50-bed hospital from a 31-bed one on June 2 this year.

The hospital, now running with only three doctors, including the upazila health and family planning officer, a medical officer (MO) and another one on deputation, and five nurses, is struggling to provide treatment for a large number of patients in the upazila with around 2.79 lakh people.

Twelve posts of physicians including resident medical officer (RMO), surgery, gynaecology and anaesthesia consultants, medicine, paediatric and medical officers, and 11 posts of nurses including the nursing supervisor have remained vacant for about five months, said sources at the health complex.

Around 350 patients, most of them women and children, daily come to the hospital as out-patients with different problems including pneumonia, diarrhoea, typhoid, asthma, kala azar, urinary tract infection (UTI), acute respiratory tract infection (RTI), ante-partum haemorrhage (APH), post-partum haemorrhage (PPH), and accidental and assault injuries. Besides, 35-40 people suffering from serious diseases undergo treatment as admitted patients, said Medical Officer AMZ Kadir.

"But the patients spe-

cially serious ones are not getting proper treatment as we two MOs including Dr Shahnaj Parvin, who came to the health complex on deputation six months ago cannot cope with the pressure of so many patients. Often serious patients are



A patient with lower abdominal pain and antepartum haemorrhage lies on the bed at Madarganj Upazila Health Complex in Jamalpur without healthcare.

PHOTO: STAR

referred to Jamalpur General Hospital for better treatment," MO Kadir added.

Medical Officer Shahnaj said that 50-60 pregnant women come to her for ante-natal and post-natal check-up daily. Besides, patients suffering from UTI,

APH, PPH and a good number of children suffering from pneumonia and RTI visit her to have treatment regularly.

"I cannot provide proper treatment to such a large number of patients. The hospital is in dire need of

gynaecology and paediatric doctors. Besides, the authorities should create a radiologist post and provide an ultrasound machine to support pregnant women for diagnosis of complications in pregnancy and other abdominal tests," Shahnaj

said.

During a recent visit to the hospital this correspondent found that five-month-old Rumi, daughter of Amjad Hossain of Charboula village of the upazila suffering from severe pneumonia at the hospital bed, was referred to Jamalpur General Hospital for better treatment as there is no paediatric doctor at the health complex.

Poor admitted patients Shyamoli, 70, and Feroza Begum, 60, who came from Junail village with severe respiratory problem and lower abdominal pain respectively, alleged that they were not getting proper treatment at the hospital due to non-availability of doctors.

"After suffering from fever for 10 days, I came to the health complex but could not get any chance for treatment as the two doctors Shahnaj and Kadir were too busy due to huge rush of patients," said Abdur Rahman, 60, of Khilkati village, eight kilometres from the upazila headquarters.

Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Matiur Rahman said they are yet to open an Operation Theatre in the health complex for want of sufficient doctors specially surgery, gynaecology and anaesthesia consultants.

"Due to the situation, a large number of patients, particularly pregnant women, are deprived of operation facilities at a lower cost. We have written several times to the higher authorities concerned to fill up the vacant posts but to no effect," he added.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

### 12 rescued from traffickers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) rescued 12 people, including three women and a child, from Sadipur border early yesterday while they were being trafficked to India. The victims hailed from Narail and Gopalganj districts. Acting on a tip-off, a BGB team raided the area in the early hours and rescued the victims, said Rafiqul Islam, in-charge of BGB Benapole. Later, they were handed over to Benapole Port Police Station, he said. However, no one was arrested as the human traffickers fled the scene sensing the presence of the border guards.

### Schoolboy stabbed

UNB, Manikganj

A schoolboy was severely stabbed by a gang in Manikganj Sadar Upazila Wednesday evening. The victim was identified as Milon, a resident of Nabogram village in the upazila. Officer in-charge of Sadar PS Shafiqul Islam said, armed criminals numbering 10/12 picked up Milon at gunpoint from Korotala of the village while he was taking tea at a stall at around 7.00pm. They took Milon beside a graveyard about a kilometre away and hacked him indiscriminately. After a frantic search for half an hour, his relatives recovered him in a pool of blood. Veins of his both legs were cut off and his left hand severed from his body. He was rushed to Sadar Hospital and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

### Youths jailed for teasing

UNB, Kurigram

A mobile court sentenced two young men to six months' rigorous imprisonment each for teasing a girl in Nageswari upazila on Wednesday. The two convicts were identified as Shariful, 22, son of Abdul Mazid of Thana Para, and Dulal, 25, son of Abdul Hakim of Chandepar in the upazila. Sources said, two youths intercepted the girl at Nageswari bus stand while she was going home by a rickshaw and teased her Tuesday afternoon. As the victim, who is a university student, cried out help, local people rushed in but the duo managed to flee. Police arrested Shariful and Dulal after the victim's father lodged complaint with the Nageswari PS Tuesday evening and produced them before the mobile court.



PHOTO: STAR

People of Keranipara in Rangpur city yesterday form a human chain in front of Sabuj Sena Bhaban, a sports and cultural club in the area, protesting a move by the city corporation to demolish the building for widening the main city road.

### Man killed in B'baria clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A man was killed and at least 15 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Niamatbad village in Kasba upazila yesterday. The deceased was identified as Imam Hossain of the village. Police said, there was a longstanding dispute between Rafiqul Islam and Khurshid Mia of the village over a piece of land. Yesterday morning, both groups locked in an altercation and attacked each other with lethal weapons. Several houses were also ransacked during the clash which lasted for about an hour. The injured were admitted to different hospitals. Severely injured Imam was sent to Dhaka, but he died on the way.

### Outlaw held in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-6) yesterday morning arrested a member of regional outlawed outfit Biplobi Communist Party (Janajuddha) along with a gun from Goalkhali village under Shaikupa upazila. The arrestee is Korban Ali, 41, son of Berek Sarkar of the village. He is a leader of BCP - Janajuddha in Jhenidah, police said. Rab commander ASP Harun said, on secret information, that a group of BCP cadres were holding a meeting at Goalkhali village, they raided the spot in the early hours and caught Korban red-handed along with the firearms.



PHOTO: STAR

Over 20 categories of vegetables are abundant in local markets of Bogra as farmers of 45 villages in five upazilas of the district grow early winter vegetables, which are transported to different areas across the country. This photo was taken from Mahasthangarh Bazar a few days ago.

## 45 VILLAGES IN BOGRA

# Early farming of winter veg brings big bucks

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Luck has smiled on the farmers at 45 villages in five upazilas of the district because of early cultivation of winter vegetables.

The vegetables include cauliflower, cabbage, radish, carrot, turnip, tomato, leafy spinach, red spinach and bottle gourd.

About 11,000 hectares of land have been brought under vegetables cultivation in five upazilas of the district, said an official of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

Agriculture officer Mamunur Rashid of DAE said over 20 categories of vegetables are cultivated in Shibganj, Sadar, Gabtoli, Kahaloo and Nandigram upazilas.

The vegetables are largely being transported to Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and Khulna from Mohasthan

Garh, the largest wholesale vegetable market in the northern part of the country, headed.

Expressing happiness, growers said they are getting better prices at the beginning of the season.

Farmer Asharat Ali, 40, said that they spent about Tk 10,000 for cultivating different winter vegetables besides spices, brinjal, gourd and pumpkin. "We hope to earn a good profit", he said.

Shafiqul Alam, 54, of Gokul area in Sadar upazila, said he spent Tk 800 for farming cauliflower on each decimal of his land and got about two maunds of cauliflower.

"In the wholesale market, the price of cauliflower is Tk 1200 to 1400 per maund. Farmers are making a profit of about Tk 400-600 from each decimal, he added.

Vegetable trader Rabiul

Islam, 42, said, he earned over Tk 800 by selling 1000 pieces of bottle gourd.

Azim Uddin, 46, a trader from Chittagong, said he paid Tk about 1500 for buying 100 pieces of gourds and expected to earn around Tk 2000 by selling those at Halishahar Bazaar in the port city.

Md. Bazlur Rashid Raja, deputy director of DAE, Bogra, said good fortune smiled on the farmers in the areas due to bumper production of winter vegetables earlier than many other places in the country.

"We are trying to give all-out supports to the farmers for growing better vegetables," he said.

"We have taken a few steps for the farmers, such as, modification training, exchange of ideas on better farming and awareness tour," said the official.

## KPI AREA IN MAGURA TOWN

# That trader now sets up boundary pillars

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Magura

A local businessman, who earlier started earth-filling in the restricted area of four-vent Nabaganga regulator near Dhaka Road bus stand in Magura town, yesterday set up boundary pillars, apparently to 'establish' his claim on the land belonging to the Water Development Board (WDB).

The alleged land grabber, Rajab Ali Majnu, known as an adherent of ruling Awami League, has continued the mindless act ignoring the instructions from the local administration to refrain from any construction work in the area adjoining the regulator, also a key point installation (KPI) of the country.

On October 25, a team led by Magura Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC-Revenue) Gautam Chandra Pal and Magura Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Tabibur Rahman visited the spot and asked Majnu, proprietor of Laboni Steel Corner in

## Follow-up

Magura town, to stop all kinds of construction work there until measurement of the land which is scheduled to be held on November 5.

The team took the step following a petition filed by Magura WDB officials against Majnu who constructed a tin-shed structure and continued earth filling work on the same land, official sources said.

"We have already asked Majnu to stop his construction work at the land adjacent to Nabaganga regulator till November 5. We shall decide our next course of action after measurement of the land," said ADC Gautam Chandra Pal.

The official, however, expressing his ignorance about setting up of boundary pillars, said he would see the matter.

Earlier, Magura WDB served two notices to Majnu on October 1 and October 2, asking him to demolish his structures and stop the earth filling work in the restricted

area of Nabaganga regulator.

The two notices were signed by Mohammad Matiur Rahman, section officer (SO) of Magura WDB, and the other by Mohammad Faruk Bhuyan, executive engineer of the office.

Majnu ignored the notices and WDB authorities filed a criminal case with Magura Sadar police station on October 6, accusing Majnu of violating KPI Act.

As police did not record the case or take any step against Majnu, the executive engineer of Magura WDB submitted a petition to the deputy commissioner of Magura on October 23.

Nabaganga regulator cum bridge on Magura-Dhaka highway is the gateway to 10 south-western districts from the capital and so, if any multi-storied building is constructed on the land adjacent to the regulator, the KPI as well as the communication system on the important highway will be under threat, officials of Magura WDB said.



PHOTO: STAR

A local businessman has continued illegal earth-filling in the restricted area adjacent to the four-vent Nabaganga regulator cum bridge, a key point installation (KPI) on Dhaka-Magura highway in Magura town. In violation of KPI Act and ignoring recent instructions from the district administration, the influential land grabber has also set up pillars (inset) to 'establish' his claim on the land belonging to the Water Development Board.

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