

Bogra people suffer as majority of health complexes in bad health

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

The government health department miserably fails to provide treatment facilities for 32 lakh people of the district as two-thirds of the posts of doctors in the upazila health complexes and union health sub-centres are lying vacant. Poor patients, who cannot afford high treatment costs at private clinics, are the worst sufferers. A staggering 187 posts of doctors against 296 posts in the district hospitals, upazila health complexes and union level sub-centres in the district have remained vacant for long, Bogra Civil Surgeon's office sources said.

Besides, a large number of posts of nurses, medical assistants, and other employees, are also vacant in the government-run treatment centres in the district.

Twenty posts of doctors out of 29 are vacant in Adamdighi Upazila Health Complex and union level sub-centres under the upazila.

Of the doctor posts, 18 out of 30 in Kahaloo upazila, 21 out of 31 in Shibganj, 23 out of 31 in Dhunat, 23 out of 33 in Sariakandi, 20 out of 26 in Sonatola, 21 out of 30 in Gabtoli, 17 out of 22 in



PHOTO: STAR

Patients lie on the beds at the female ward of 50-bed Kahaloo Upazila Heath Complex in Bogra. But they are not getting proper healthcare facilities due to shortage of doctors, nurses and medical assistants at the hospital.

Dupchancia, 10 out of 15 in Nandigram, five out of 15 in Sherpur, five out of 20 in Shajahanpur and four out of 14 posts in Bogra Sadar upazila are vacant.

In Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital in Bogra, 54 posts of doctors out of 305 are vacant, official sources said.

Six posts of doctors out of

71 in Mohammad Ali Hospital are also vacant.

As patients are often deprived of proper treatment due to lack of sufficient doctors and staff and other facilities, a good number of beds at government hospitals and health complexes remain vacant.

There are around 92 private clinics in the district but large majority of the

valuable medicines from outside," she said.

"A large number of patients who go to the district hospitals and health complexes for treatment often return home frustrated as the number of doctors is too inadequate. A good number of people go to private clinics, but the poor patients cannot afford the high treatment cost there," said Faruk Ahmed, 47, another patient at the health complex.

Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Nirmalendu Chowdhury, also the in-charge of the health complex, said, "Shortage of doctors, nurses and employees and lack of ambulance and generator hamper treatment here. Besides, repair of the roof of the building and construction of a boundary wall is urgently needed."

Contacted, Bogra Civil Surgeon Dr Khalilur Rahman said, "I sent demand letter to the higher authorities several times, requesting necessary steps to fill up the vacant posts of doctors and solve other problems related to treatment. The higher authority has recently posted 10 doctors under the 31st BCS. I hope the other vacant posts will be filled up gradually."

people cannot even think of going there for treatment due to high cost.

Asthma patient Fazila Begum, 35, wife of Hares Uddin of Pabohara village of Kahaloo Sadar union, was admitted to Kahaloo Upazila Health Complex a few days ago.

"The doctors come to the female ward only twice a day. Often we have to buy

Outlaw killed in 'shootout', another in mob beating

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A 'notorious' outlaw was killed in a 'shootout' on Sunday night while a cadre of another outlawed was beaten to death by a mob yesterday.

A member of Janajuddho faction of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) was killed in a gunfight with police in Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga on Sunday night.

The deceased, Abdul Halim, 39, son of Harez Ali of Chadpur in the upazila was involved in various crimes, including extortion and robbery since 1996, reports our correspondent in Kushtia.

Ahsan Habib, officer in charge (OC) at Damurhuda Model police station told this correspondent that a patrol team led by himself was attacked by a gang near Iswarchandra field in the upazila at about 10:30pm.

"The gang of 7-8 led by Abdul Halim stopped the police van and enquired their identities. Sensing that

it was a police vehicle they then tried to flee away, the OC said.

The gang opened fire at the police personnel and the police team returned the fire, triggering an hour-long gun battle, he added.

"We found his bullet-ridden body on the spot after the outlaws fled the scene," the OC said, adding that police later identified him as Halim.

Police recovered a revolver and two bullets from the spot.

Halim was accused in at least eight cases including four for extortion, three for robbery and one for bomb explosion with Damurhuda police station.

According to police record, Halim joined the outfit in 1996. He was arrested three times in 1999, 2005 and 2010 on different charges.

He came out from jail in November last year after a local court granted him bail in a case.

Police said Halim was also leading a gang in the area known as Halim Bahini, committing robbery and

extortion.

In Pabna, an angry mob beat an outlaw dead in Hadal Doripara village in Faridpur upazila yesterday noon, reports our correspondent.

The deceased, Md. Sadek Ali, 35, son of Abdur Razzak of the village, was an operative of outlawed PBCP Red Flag faction, police said.

Officer in-charge of Faridpur police station Md. Asaduzzaman said, people of Hadal village caught the two outlaws, Sadek and Hassan Ali, at Hadal Madrasa field at about 12:00pm when they were trying to regroup here. Mercilessly beaten up, Sadek died on the spot while Hassan Ali was critically injured.

The two along with his accomplices used to extort and torture the villagers. Being agitated, they caught them and beat up in the village, the OC said.

Police recovered the body from the spot and sent it to Pabna Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Two killed as rival AL groups lock in clashes

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two rival groups of ruling Awami League locked in a fierce clash at Benapole, Jessore yesterday, exploding around 50 hand bombs and firing several gunshots.

Locals and police said, the clash erupted after an altercation between the supporters of the two groups over Sunday's 'joint Bangladesh-India programme' by locals on Shahbagh movement.

Five people were injured and condition of BCL activist Rafiqul Islam was stated to be critical.

Tension mounted on Sunday afternoon over establishing supremacy at the function at the no man's land, witnesses said, adding that the municipal mayor left the scene under police escort, sensing the situation.

The anti-mayor faction yesterday threw several hand bombs at the gate of the mayor's residence at Bahadurpur Road.

At this, the faction loyal to the mayor rushed to the spot

and chased the opponents with sharp weapons. They also exploded bombs.

Gunshots were also traded during the clash that lasted for over two hours, leaving five people injured.

The unruly activists of the ruling party also set ablaze a motorbike at Benapole Bazar.

Akul Hossain, general secretary of Sharsha upazila unit Chhatra League told journalists that the opponents of mayor exploded at least 20 bombs in front of the residence of mayor. They also stabbed BCL leader Rafiqul Islam critically, he said.

Benapole mayor Ashrafur Alam Liton alleged that the 'criminals' hurled several bombs and fired gunshots in front of his residence.

In Kushtia, a man was killed and at least 20 were injured in a clash between two rival groups of Awami League (AL) yesterday over occupying of a *beel* (water body) in Sadar upazila.

The deceased was identi-

fied as Moslem Uddin, 60, of Alampur in Sadar upazila, reports our correspondent.

The clash erupted when two groups -- one led by Akteruzzaman, general secretary of Kushtia Sadar upazila unit AL, also chairman of Alampur union parishad and the other by Sohrab Uddin, a local AL leader -- went to take control of the water body in the morning.

According to police, there had been a longstanding conflict between the two groups over establishing control over the *beel*.

Moslem Uddin, 60, belonging to Akteruzzaman group was killed on the spot, said the OC of Kushtia Model PS.

Both the groups used various lethal weapons during the clash, he said.

Of the injured, four from both sides were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital. They are Sohorab Uddin, 22, Roice Uddin, 49, Santona Khatun, 32, and Saheda Khatun, 22.



File photo of Bharateswari Homes at Kumudini Complex at Mirzapur in Tangail. Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, who is on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh, is expected to make a trip along with his wife Shuvra Mukherjee to the complex today.

Indian president will visit Kumudini complex today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The institutions under Kumudini Welfare Trust (KWT), founded by philanthropist Ranada Prosad Saha in Mirzapur upazila under the district, have taken all-out preparations as Pranab Mukherjee, first Bengali president of India, visits there today.

"Pranab, who is on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh, along with his wife Shuvra Mukherjee will land on Kumudini Complex by a helicopter at around 1:30pm today. They will be given reception by the students and teachers of Bharateswari Homes, Kumudini Women's Medical College and Kumudini Nursing School and College and staff of the trust," said Razib Prosad Saha, managing director of KWT, and grandson RP Saha.

After taking lunch at the library, the Indian president will visit Bharateswari Homes and enjoy acrobatics by the students of the institute, said Protibha Mutsuddi, director (Education) of KWT.

He will also visit several wards of Kumudini Hospital, said Dr Dulal Poddar, director of the hospital.

Pranab will also lay the foundation stone of a sewerage project funded by India inside the Kumudini Complex, KWT sources said. Ranada Prosad Saha,

popularly known as RP Saha, was born at Mirzapur village near the then sub-divisional town of Tangail under the erstwhile Mymensingh



Pranab Mukherjee

district on November 15, 1886.

When he was only seven years old, his mother died from tetanus infection during childbirth. Since then, he dreamt of establishing a hospital to provide medical treatment for the poor, especially women.

After working as a ticket collector on trains during the British rule, RP Saha joined the Medical Corps of the British Bengal Regiment during the First World War. He was given a gallantry award for saving some British officers from a fire.

After his return from the war, RP Saha engaged in coal trade. He later started a river transportation business and made a fortune in it.

In 1943, he set up a dispensary and a 20-bed outdoor facility, naming it after

his grandmother Shova Sundari.

Thus began Kumudini Hospital, named after his mother and formally inaugurated in July 1944. Today, with 750 seats, it continues to serve the people, especially poor patients, providing them with hospital accommodation, meal and treatment free of cost, and charging only nominal fees for surgical procedures.

In 1944, RP Saha established Bharateswari Homes, a residential school for girls. Currently it has 1200 seats and continues producing well-rounded and socially responsible students who excel in different fields.

In 1947, RP Saha placed all his companies under Kumudini Welfare Trust (KWT), making provision for using their earnings to run the welfare activities.

After the partition of 1947, friends and well-wishers advised RP Saha, being a Hindu, to move to India. But he decided to stay in his home country and serve the people here.

During the Liberation War, members of the Pakistan occupation army picked up RP Saha and his eldest son Bhabani Prosad Saha Robi from their Narayanganj residence on May 7 in 1971, and they remained traceless ever after.

SNIPPETS

Man killed over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A man was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash over a piece of land at Paschim Aldi village in Tongibari upazila yesterday. Officer in charge of Tongibari PS SA Khalique said, there had been a longstanding conflict between Kamal Mallick, 37, and his neighbour Hasan over the land. When Hasan went to harvest mustard from the field in the morning, Kamal along with his supporters resisted it, triggering a clash. At a stage, Kamal received serious injuries. He was rushed to Munshiganj General Hospital where the on-duty doctor declared him dead. None was arrested in this connection till filing of this report in the afternoon.

Robbers loot house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Robbers looted cash, a vehicle and other valuables from a house at Mirerbari village in Rajarhaat upazila early yesterday. Police said a gang of three swooped on the house of Ranobir Narayan, 50, of the village and looted a private car and Tk 10 lakh at gunpoint and fled the scene with the booties. Police were raiding different areas to arrest the robbers, said Md Sadequul Islam, officer in-charge at Rajarhaat police station.

Journo's house torched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The house of a journalist was burnt as his rivals torched it in Dakkhin Bagh area of Borolekha upazila on Thursday night. Victim Abdur Rob is district correspondent of the daily Jugantor. The fire incident took place at around 8:00pm over previous enmity, said Abdur. On information, firefighters from Borolekha fire service station rushed to the spot and doused the blaze after one and a half hours frantic efforts, said Azizul Islam, senior officer of the station. The affected house owner claimed that the loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 20 lakh. A general diary was filed in this regard, said Borolekha police.

Man kills father

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

An elderly man was killed allegedly by his son at Dolarhat village in Sadar upazila on Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Abdul Jabbar, 75, of Dharmapur village. Family sources said Raju, 35, stabbed his father mercilessly, leaving him critically injured while he was returning home from Dholarhat Bazar at about 8:00pm. Jabbar was rushed to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital where he died after sometime. The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately, said Md Rezaul Karim, officer in-charge at Sadar police station. Raju went into hiding after the incident, said the OC.

Jamaat leader arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police arrested a local Jamaat-e-Islami leader from Kalmati village in Sadar upazila on Sunday. The arrestee was identified as Aminur Rahman, 35. He was Sadar upazila unit secretary of Jamaat and resident of the village. Local people handed him over to police after a mob beating as he was wanted by the law enforcers over two cases. He was arrested from Khunia Bazar area on charge of his involvement in violence in the district, said police sources. Jamir Uddin, officer in-charge of Sadar PS said that Aminur vandalised vehicles during hartal on Thursday and Sunday.

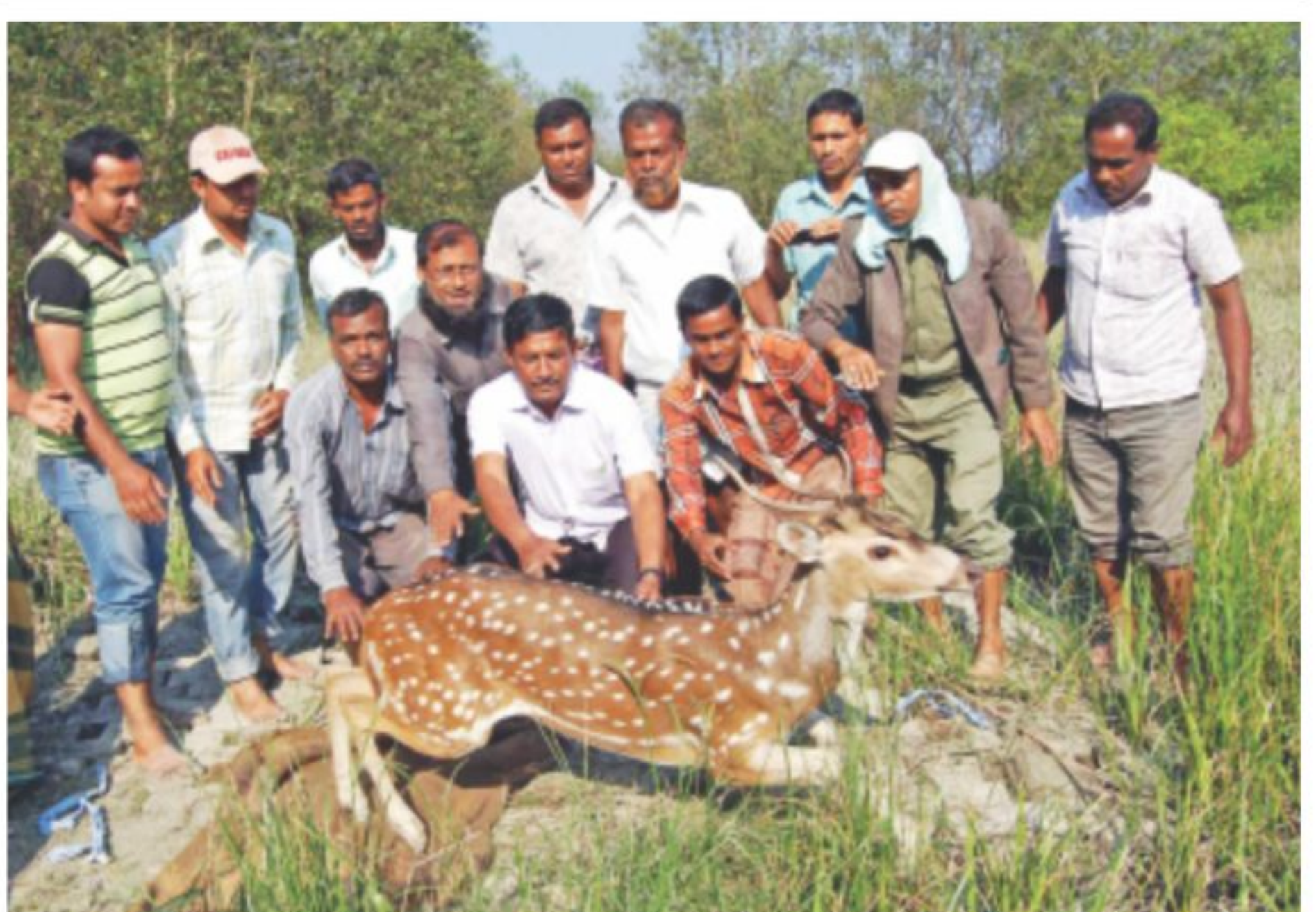


PHOTO: STAR

A spotted deer, which entered Gourichanna area in Barguna from nearby forest, was caught by local people yesterday noon. Being informed, forest staff rushed to the area, rescued the deer and set it free in Bainchutki reserve forest.

To express solidarity.....

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Several thousand youths from Indian Pashchimbanga state gathered on the 'no man's land' at Benapole frontier on Sunday afternoon to express their solidarity with the demand of 'Gonojagoron Mancha' at Shahbagh in the capital for capital punishment to war

criminals.

The Indian youths, led by state Jubo Congress General Secretary Kirtiman Basu, arrived here at around 4:30pm.

Around 500 Bangladeshis, including Benapole Pourasava (municipality) mayor Ashrafur Alam, Baidyanath Das, a representative of Shahbagh 'Gonojagoron Mancha',

Harunur Rashid, joint convenor of Jessore 'Gonojagoron Manacha' and freedom fighters, were present.

National flags of the two countries and banners inscribed with slogans against war criminals were exchanged there.

Held amid tight security, the programme continued for half an hour.