

KHAGRACHHARI HOSPITAL

Erratic power supply hampers treatment

KAFIL MAHMUD, *Khagrachhari*

Erratic power supply badly hampers treatment at Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital in the district town.

In absence of alternative arrangement for sufficient power supply at the hospital often the instruments for different diagnostic tests including ultrasonography, X-ray, electrocardiography and blood tests remain inoperative.

The admitted patients badly suffer due to the hot weather.

During a recent visit to the hospital, this correspondent found a good number of patients coming for different diagnostic tests waiting for the services.

"I took a serial number for ultrasonography around 11:00am but I am waiting for it for four hours as the service hampered due to random load shedding," said Mariam Akter from

Kadamtali area of the district town.

Umaching Marma from Madhupur area of the district town said, she got ultrasonography two days after taking the serial number due to disturbance caused by power cuts.

"Amid the ongoing hot weather, staying at the hospital for a few days seems too painful as often we have to remain without electric fan due to power cuts," said Manashi Chakma, a patient from Babuchhara area under Dighinala upazila of the district, who was admitted to the hospital a few days ago.

Dr Jaya Chakma, gynaecologist of the hospital, said, they face serious problem, especially if electricity is gone during operations on pregnant women.

Admitting the situation, Dr Sanjib Tripura, resident medical officer of Khagrachhari Adhunik

Sadar Hospital, said, "There is only one generator, which is barely enough to light the electric bulbs. And so, the diagnostic instruments cannot be operated when electricity is gone. Over 100 patients come to the hospital for diagnostic tests daily but they are deprived of smooth service due to frequent load shedding. We informed the higher authorities about the problem on several occasions."

Contacted, Civil Surgeon of Khagrachhari Dr Hassan Imam Chowdhury said they urged the local Power Development Board (PDB) authorities to arrange a special power supply line for the hospital.

The executive engineer of Khagrachhari PDB said process is on for installation of a special line for the hospital.

He, however, could not say how long it will take to complete the process.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Buffaloes immerse themselves in a small water body at a remote char (landmass emerged from riverbed) of Dakkhin Musapur in Companiganj upazila under Noakhali district to have a respite from the scorching summer heat. The photo was taken a few days ago.

Passengers suffer as transport strike on 18 routes continues

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Transport on 18 routes of the country remained off the roads for the second day yesterday due to an indefinite strike enforced by the transport owners and workers in several southern districts, report our correspondents.

Eight associations of transport owners and workers on Friday went on strike in Bagerhat, Satkhira, Pirojpur, Barisal, Gopalganj, Jessore, Faridpur and Dhaka, demanding a ban on plying all unauthorised battery-run three-wheelers on highways.

Bus Owners and Workers Oikya Parishad yesterday joined the indefinite strike in all the routes to realise the same demands, causing immense sufferings to thousands of commuters.

The unauthorised three-wheelers include Nasimon, Karimon, Mahendra, Alam-Sadhu, Bhotbhoti and shallow-engine run vehicles.

Meanwhile, transport workers brought out processions in several districts yesterday.

President of Khulna bus-

minibus owners association Nurul Haque Lipon said, they were compelled to call the strike as the local administration failed to a decision on the illegal vehicles.

Contacted, acting secretary of Khulna district coach-bus-minibus owners association Md. Anwar Hossain Sona said, they gave an ultimatum last year to the local administration for taking steps to stop plying of shallow engine-driven vehicles on highways.

As the administration did not pay heed to our demand,

we took the decision at a meeting in Khulna on Thursday to enforce the indefinite strike from Saturday, he said.

Khan Monir Hossain, general secretary of Bagerhat inter-district transport owner association, said eight associations called the strike at a joint meeting of owners and workers on April 29.

According to the transport owners and workers, unauthorised three-wheelers driven by unskilled drivers cause frequent accident on the highways.



PHOTO: STAR

Buses did not come out of Sonadanga terminal in Khulna yesterday, the second day of the indefinite strike on 18 southern routes.

Bangladeshi cattle trader killed by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was shot dead and three others were injured by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Putkhal border under Benapole PS on Friday night.

Identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.

Sources said, when a group of cattle traders were crossing into Bangladesh territory along with cattle through Choreramat point of Putkhal border around 11:30pm, BSF at Angirai border of India opened fire on them, leaving one dead on the spot and three others injured.

Two of the injured man-

aged to return to Bangladesh territory. They were admitted to a local hospital in critical condition.

The Indian border force took away the body. They also caught an injured cattle trader, and later released him after torturing severely.

Polly Begum, wife of injured cattle trader Bangla Bhai, 38, said other cattle traders got him admitted to a clinic in Kolkata in critical condition.

However, BGB-23 Putkhal camp commander Shafiuddin Hawlader said a letter was sent to the BSF protesting the incident while both sides agreed to hold a company commander level flag meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

A woman fans her kid undergoing treatment at Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital as electric fans are off due to power outage that has become very common during the ongoing summer. The photo was taken a few days ago.

9 schools, colleges 'risky' in Patuakhali, Gaibandha

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Nine educational institutions—seven in Patuakhali and two in Gaibandha town—are in a vulnerable state as cracks have developed in their walls, roofs and pillars.

The seven risky educational institutions in Patuakhali districts are AKM College in the district town, SKJB High School and Charipara Government Primary School in Kalapara upazila are running in dilapidated buildings, posing life risk to students, teachers and employees of the two institutions.

Pranab Kumer, upazila LGED engineer, recently visited the schools and asked the school authorities not to use both dilapidated buildings. Students of Uttar Kalaiya Government Primary School under Bauful upazila are attending classes under the

open sky due to awful condition of the school building. "We found cracks at several places on Thursday and locked the building," said Nazir Ahmed, headmaster of the school.

In Dashmina, three school buildings in the upazila are in bad condition due to lake renovation for long. Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Tafayel Hossain recently visited the schools and asked the headmasters to arrange classes at alternative places.

Contacted, Md Helal Uddin, assistant engineer of Education Engineering Department in Patuakhali, said they are preparing a list of school buildings which are in a vulnerable state.

In Gaibandha, cracks have developed in the buildings of two educational institutions in the municipality area. The institutions are Ahmeduddin Shah Shishu Niketan School and College at Sadullapur Road and Government Shishu Sadan at College Road, according

to our correspondent. Cracks were detected in the roofs of room Nos 414, 304 and 311 on the third and second floors of the four-storey building of Ahmeduddin Shah Shishu Niketan School and College on Thursday. The school authorities closed the institution on the day.

Being informed, Gaibandha municipality Mayor Shamsul Alam asked pourasava engineer Mehdul Karim to inspect the school building. During inspection, the engineer found several cracks in the roof of the school building.

Engineer Mehdul Karim told this correspondent that the school authorities constructed the fourth floor without taking permission from the authorities concerned.

The building should be declared abandoned immediately to avert any major incident, he added.

Besides, several cracks were also found in the building of Government Shishu Sadan at College Road on Thursday.



PHOTO: STAR

Cracks have developed in the walls and roof of the first floor of the two-storey building of SKJB High School in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali, right, students coming out of vulnerable Ahmeduddin Shah Shishu Niketan School and College in Gaibandha town as several cracks have been detected in the roof of the four-storey building of the institution. The photos were taken on Thursday.

Abducted garment trader freed, ransom money recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has rescued a businessman of Meherpur here 29 hours after he was picked up by a gang for ransom.

Rab also arrested one of the alleged abductors along with the ransom money.

According to Rab-6 Meherpur unit, Abdul Bari, 55, a garment trader at Gangni upazila bazar came to Kushtia on Thursday morning for business purpose.

A gang, allegedly led by Bachchu Rahman alias Babu of Purbo Mazampur area in the town, picked him up from Mazampur rail gate area at about 4:30pm.

Gias Uddin Shyamal, son-in-law of Abdul Bari, started negotiation with the abduc-

tors. At a stage, Shyamal paid Tk 1 lakh to the abductors through a money transfer system in Gangni upazila at about 8:30pm on Thursday.

But the abductors demanded Tk 1 lakh more and threatened not to release Bari, Shymal told the journalists.

"Then we informed the matter to Rab," he said.

Assistant police superintendent of Rab-6 Shakiluzzaman said they located the abductors by tracking the mobile calls.

Later Shakiluzzaman along with a team of Rab-12 Kushtia unit raided the house of Bachchu Rahman in Mazampur area at about 9:30pm on Friday and rescued the businessman.

They arrested Bachchu from the spot and recovered Tk 1 lakh from him.

Guns inside melons!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a drive recovered a gun hidden inside watermelon in Sharsha upazila of the district on Friday night.

Jessore Rab-6 camp sources said, a team of the elite force, on a tip-off, searched a Dhaka-bound bus from Benapole on the Benapole-Jessore Highway at Navaron intersection in the upazila and recovered a shut-

ter gun along with a bullet hidden inside a watermelon.

Earlier, on Tuesday evening, Rab personnel recovered two guns and two bullets hidden inside two yellow melons from Police Line Talikhola area in the district town.

Sources at Rab-6 camp in Jessore said acting on a tip-off, Rab members took position in the bus stand area of the town at midnight and asked two motorcycle riders to stop but they sped away.

Chased by the Rab members, the motorcycle riders left behind a bag containing two yellow melons.

The elite force later recovered two shutter guns and two bullets from inside the fruits.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Jubo League man killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A local Jubo League activist was killed allegedly by a party man following a feud over plucking litchi at a government-owned garden in Meherpur district yesterday. The deceased was identified as Nakarram Hossain, member of district unit Jubo League and son of late Mozibur Rahman of Dighirpara area in the town. Police superintendent Mofazzol Hossain said Nakarram along with his two associates went to the orchard at Meherpur General Hospital to pluck litchi at about 2:30pm. At this, an altercation took place with one Ripon Hossain, another member of the unit, who took lease the litchi garden. At one stage Nakarram hit Ripon with a stick. In retaliation, Ripon stabbed Nakarram indiscriminately, leaving him critically injured. Nakarram was rushed to the hospital where doctors declared him dead.



PHOTO: STAR

A girl gives a big smile after her father bought her a bunch of juicy litchis. A hundred of the summer fruit now sells at Tk 200 at Tangail markets.

Boy killed in roof collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A seven-year-old boy was killed and five others were seriously injured as a portion of the roof's slab of the main gate of a house collapsed in Pachbibi upazila of Joypurhat district yesterday. The deceased was identified as Imon Hossain, son of Md Mosharaf Hossain of Korla village. The injured were admitted to Joypurhat Modern Hospital. Locals said that the children were playing under the gate.

Man's tendons severed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

A man was seriously injured as his rivals severed his tendons in Kalkini upazila yesterday. Injured Meraj Sarder, 45, a Saudi expatriate, was admitted to Barisal Medical College Hospital. Locals said, there was a longstanding conflict between one Nasir Kha and Chunnu Bepari of Echagura village over establishing supremacy in the area. As a sequel to the conflict, followers of Nasir Kha attacked Meraj, who is a supporter of Chunnu Bepari, leaving him seriously injured.

Notice

The weekly Insight section of the newspaper that comes out on page 9 could not be published today due to an unavoidable circumstance.