

RED CRESCENT HOSPITAL IN DINAJPUR

Medicare stops as bldg rented for 'fund crisis'

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

The main medical services at Red Crescent Hospital in the town has remained stopped for the last four years as the centre meant for providing quality treatment for low cost rented out its building and complex on the plea of fund shortage.

A unit of global charitable organisation Red Crescent, the hospital at Paharpur in Dinajpur town was founded in 1972.

The hospital with an operation theatre, laboratory, an ICU, several cabins and separate general wards for male and female patients used to provide treatment to patients with a nominal cost and a good number of doctors and nurses served there.

Once around 40 operations took place at the hospital every month while around 50 to 60 patients including mothers and children came there daily for treatment, said a staff of the hospital.

"Our outdoor service is open, but other services have remained suspended. Now only a small number of patients come here," said Sister Danish, who has been serving the hospital for last 20 years.

Lying unused, diagnostic machinery including X-Ray, two incubators and an ultrasound machine are gathering dust while officially it is claimed that the machinery are dysfunctional, sources said.

There is a 10-member management committee to con-



PHOTO: STAR

This Red Crescent Hospital in Dinajpur town has been rented out to Dinajpur School of Librators, an English medium school, depriving locals of quality treatment at nominal cost.

duct the hospital activities.

Md Bazlul Haq, vice president of the district unit committee of ruling Awami League (AL), is chairman of the hospital management committee, while Md Alauddin, another vice president of district AL, is general secretary of the committee.

In 2010, the incumbent managing committee rented the hospital building to Dinajpur Medical Institute, a paramedics training centre, upon a contract that would end in 2016.

Till last month, the institution used the building,

paying Tk 20,000 as monthly rent.

Besides, the first floor of the building was used as its students' mess, for monthly payment of Tk 6300.

Although the agreement was for six years till 2016, the hospital managing committee made the authority of Dinajpur Medical Institute to vacate the hospital building, as the managing committee signed a contract to rent the building and its compound to Dinajpur School of Librators, an English medium School, for monthly rent of Tk 70,000.

Md Bazlul Haq, chairman

of the hospital management committee, said, "We rented the hospital as the country office stopped funding the hospital and we have no other source to bear the maintenance expenses including payment of salaries to hospital staff."

Locals said drug addicts often throng the complex area at night.

Md Shawkat, in-charge of Health of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in Dhaka, said, "There is no system to rent off the hospital building and complex to other organisations. We will investigate the allegation."

Extortionists attack houses of Hindus in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least six Hindu people were injured in an attack by extortionists as they refused to pay illegal toll at Nizpara village in Sadar upazila on Monday.

The gang also ransacked and vandalised their houses and grocery shop damaging property worth Tk 12 lakh, said police and locals.

The injured are Rajendra Nath Barmon, 45, his wife Joymala Rani, 34, son Uzzal Kumar, 6, Ranjit Chandra Barman, 48, his wife Lalita Rani, 26, and Ratna Rani, 33, of the village.

A gang, allegedly led by one Moksedul Islam, swooped on the houses of Rajendra and his cousin Ranjit at night as they refused to pay Tk one lakh.

Their security is now under threat in fear of oppression of the extortionists, said the victims.

Locals alleged that the same gang often disturbs the Hindus at the village for illegal toll.

Officer in-charge of Sadar police station Mansur Ali said police were raiding different areas to arrest the attackers.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of a panic-stricken Hindu family stand in front of their house vandalised by a gang of extortionists at Nizpara village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila on Monday, inset, a grocery shop ransacked and looted by the gang at the village.

Nationwide drive soon

FROM PAGE 1

until the government thinks that desired success has been achieved," Habibur Rahman, a deputy secretary of the home ministry, told The Daily Star yesterday.

However, he did not explain what the "desired success" means.

The circular instructed the authorities to hand the highest jail term and also fine those guilty of food adulteration and contamination.

Inability of the district magistrates in taking proper steps in line with the circular will be treated as their failure and it will be conveyed to the cabinet division.

authorities to maintain registers having specific information on the date of their imports, quantity and usage of formalin.

For import licences, businesses will have to collect at least two clearance certificates from two government agencies. The same rule applies for sale and usage of formalin.

To conduct the drive, each district headquarters will have a 27-member committee with the district magistrate as its president, each upazila will have a 19-member committee with the local lawmaker as its chief adviser and each metropolitan area will have a 21-member committee with the police commissioner as its

president.

The district magistrates, with the help of the executive magistrates, will collect information about adulteration and contamination of food. They will then prepare a plan for the drives.

The circular directed the magistrates to send monthly reports to the PMO, the cabinet division and the home ministry stating the number of mobile courts conducted, the number of arrests and cases and the amount of fine realised.

It also asked the authorities concerned to launch a campaign on the adverse impact of food contamination and adulteration using local and national media.

Politics banned in two universities

STAR COUNTRY Desk

The authorities of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) and Islamic University (IU) have banned all political activities on the campuses for an indefinite period.

According to our Patuakhali correspondent, the PSTU authorities imposed a ban on politics on the campus through an urgent notice issued on Monday night.

Contacted, Registrar Md Nawab Ali said, the authorities took the decision as students of the university staged a demonstration on the campus on Monday protesting punishment of 67 fellow students for their unruly acts at the university in July this year.

The registrar issued letters to the punished students on Sunday. Of them, seven were expelled for two semesters, 30 from the residential halls and the rest

were fined.

Campus sources said the students were allegedly involved in clashes between Patuakhali group and Barisal group on the campus on the ragday on July 5 and on July 6.

In Kushtia, the authorities of Islamic University (IU) on Monday banned all political activities on the campus for an indefinite period to avert any unwanted incident, reports our correspondent.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the university syndicate on the day.

On August 24, at least 30 Bangladesh Chhatra League activists were injured in an hour-long clash with cops. The clash erupted when the BCL men went on the rampage after the activists of Islamic Chhatra Shibir brought out a procession on the campus.

Later, the IU authorities closed the university until September 8.

Hotelier killed by gang in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Criminals killed a businessman and critically injured a police constable at Damurchakla under Pirgachha upazila on Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Khairul Islam, 35, son of Abu Hossain of Hasna village in the upazila and a hotelier while the injured was Anifuzzaman Rasel, 32, cousin of Khairul and a member of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

Police and the family members of the deceased said, there had been a long standing dispute between Ruzu, elder brother of Rasel and Kafi of the same village over the

ownership of RK Bricks.

Police said, at around 11:00pm on Monday, a gang of unknown criminals waylaid Rasel, and Khairul while they were going to Damurchakla from Kaliganj Bazar riding a motorbike.

The gang hacked them indiscriminately with sharp weapons, leaving Khairul dead on the spot and Rasel critically injured.

Rasel was admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

Dr Golam Mostafa, Director of RMCH, said left hand of Rasel was almost severed and he was not out of danger yet as he sustained severe injuries on his head and several parts of the body.

3 Muktijoddha Sangsad leaders

FROM PAGE 1

Following this, Wahidur Rahman sent the documents to the LGRD ministry on September 3 in an attempt to prove himself a freedom fighter.

The ACC move came following a report titled "Bought out! Fake freedom fighters, war crimes suspect to 'ensure welfare' of war heroes" published in The Daily Star on June 16, according to commission sources.

The report mentioned that the Muktijoddha Sangsad now had fake freedom fighters and even a war crimes suspect in its central command council.

It also stated that Wahidur Rahman managed a false certificate although his name was not included in Muktibarta (Red Book), a list of freedom fighters, prepared by the 1996-2001 Awami League-led government. And Babul Chisty is accused of killing a freedom fighter in 1971 and allegedly was a member of the notorious auxiliary force Al-Badr.

Wahidur Rahman was scheduled to go into retirement on December 9, 2010. But using the certificate, he served till 9 December, 2013 and then got one more year on a contractual basis, which

will end on 8 December this year.

Interestingly, while the ACC is probing Wahidur's alleged fraudulence, the liberation war affairs ministry is investigating his wife Sufia Khatun and brother-in-law Md Mohiuddin following allegations that they obtained war hero certificates without even participating in the Liberation War.

The duo managed the certificates using their political clout and family ties with AB Tajul Islam, former state minister for liberation war affairs, alleged an ex-commander of Dhaka's

Nababganj thana command of the Muktijoddha Sangsad in a letter to the ministry on August 20.

Their names were not mentioned even in Muktibarta (Red Book), he stated.

In response to the letter, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque asked the National Security Intelligence on 3 September to investigate the matter, according to ministry sources.

Contacted, a freedom fighter of Nababganj, the hometown of Sufia and Mohiuddin, said the two were adolescents in 1971 and never fought the war.

SNIPPETS

Sramik League leader killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A 'missing' Sramik League leader was found murdered at Pashchim Rajarampur village in Senbag upazila early yesterday. The dead is Azizul Haque Saiful, 32, joint convener of Yakubpur union unit of Sramik League in Dhagonbhuyan upazila of Feni district and son of Mominul Haque of Chandipur village in the union. Md Zakir Hossain, officer in-charge of Senbag police station, said locals found the boy beside a road at Pashchim Rajarampur village at 12:30am and informed the police. He might have been killed by suffocation, said police. Azizul remained missing since Sunday night, said his younger brother Md Fazlu.

Murder suspect on remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

A Jessore court on Monday placed Milon Kumar Das on a two-day remand in a case filed for killing local Jubo League leader Ibadat Hossain in May this year. Police produced the arrestee before the court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Abdul Hai, seeking a five-day remand. However, the court granted two days. According to the case statement, Ibadat Hossain was abducted and critically injured by a gang in Alam Super Market area around 8:00pm, and dumped his unconscious body at Jamtola area in Sharsha upazila on May 4. He later died at DMCH.

Indian national held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Detective Branch (DB) of Police arrested an Indian citizen from Bandhura village in Sadar upazila of Joypurhat yesterday on charge of illegal intrusion. The arrestee is Moti Lal Mondal, son of Kandan Lal Mondal, of Khayerbari village in Jalpaiguri district of Pashchimbanga in India. Abdur Rashid, officer in-charge of Joypurhat Police station, said a DB team arrested Moti around 9:00am for entering the country without valid documents. The DB men, later, handed over the arrestee to Joypurhat police.

Sunken trawler salvaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

The sunken trawler that capsized on August 28 was salvaged from Meghna River near Nabinagar upazila of Brahmanbaria on Monday along with two decomposed bodies inside. The deceased are Abdur Rouf, 70, and Poriskar Begum, 55, of Baishmouja village in Nabinagar upazila. The trawler was recovered around 7:00pm by local divers after a frantic effort for a week, said Badrul Alam Talukder, officer in-charge of Bhairab Police Station. Earlier, a trawler with 35 passengers on board capsized in Meghna River in Bhairab upazila of Kishoreganj. Most of the passengers managed to swim ashore while 10 remained missing.

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