



PHOTO: STAR

Doctors, nurses and employees of Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital gather outside the hospital to welcome the health minister, leaving patients in the lurch and disrupting health services for nearly two hours yesterday.

Patients suffer as docs kept on toes for VIPs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Many patients at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital were not only left without healthcare services but also had to bear the din of political slogans for around two hours yesterday, all because of the health minister's visit.

Staffs were busy spraying air fresheners ahead of Mohammed Nasim's scheduled visit at 10:00am.

But Nasim was an hour late, accompanied by local lawmaker and Jatiya Sangsad Whip Md Iqbalur Rahim.

The frenzied mob of local Awami League leaders and

almost all the hospital officials, doctors, nurses and staff nearly blocked off the hospital's entrance in their attempts to greet the two.

Once inside, they followed the guests to the new kidney ward and then the cardiology ward on the second floor, voicing their presence all along.

This continued on to the third floor and for the next hour or so till the two left the hospital.

Meanwhile, no doctor was available in the outdoor's dental and child wings.

"I have been waiting here for an hour but am yet

to see any doctor," Ruhul Amin, a patient from Bochaganj upazila, told this correspondent around 12:00 noon.

In the surgery ward, no doctor or nurse had been seen since morning, acknowledged Md Monjel Ali, an attendant of a patient from Khansama upazila, around noon.

Patients at the remaining wards said that doctors had made the rounds around 9:00am.

The hospital's deputy director, Dr Amir Ali, however, claimed that all services had been rendered unhindered.

SEA TRUCK SERVICE STALLED FOR 18 DAYS

People cross 'danger zone' by trawlers, boats in Bhola

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

A large number of people of Monpura and Tazumuddin suffer a lot as the sea truck service between the two upazilas has remained stopped for 18 days since August 28.

Though the authorities concerned enforced a ban on plying of small vessels on the river route for six months from March 15 to October 15, people are crossing the danger zone of the River Meghna in fishing trawlers and boats.

"We cross the Meghna in fishing trawlers in the winter, but now it is very risky to cross

the river in fishing trawlers or boats," said Abdulla Jewel, a college teacher of Monpura.

Abdul Akkas, master of the sea truck, said several parts of the vessel got damaged and journey by it is very 'risky'.

Passengers travel in fishing trawlers or boats, taking risk of their lives as they have no other means of communication. The absence of sea truck service on the route added to the woes of the passengers.

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the river in fishing trawlers or boats," said Abdulla Jewel, a college teacher of Monpura.

Simanto Helal, a student of Bhola College, said people of Monpura and Tazumuddin face problem to take patients to Bhola or Barisal in trawlers or boats.

Contacted, Abdullah Baki, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Monpura, said he informed BIWTA of the problem. "The authority concerned assured me that they would take immediate steps to resume sea truck service on the route," the UNO said.

A suspected robber was killed in a 'gunfight' with police in Monirampur upazila early yesterday.

Two policemen were injured during the incident. They are constables Nazrul Islam and Prabir Kumar.

The deceased was identified as Osman Dofadar, 35, son of Azibor Dofadar of Hasadanga village in the upazila.

Officer in-charge of Monirampur police station Mollah Khobir Uddin said, on secret information, police arrested Osman at the village on Saturday noon.

According to his confessional statement, they went to nearby Aminpur graveyard with Osman and recovered a locally made gun and two bullets.

While the police team was returning, cohorts of Osman fired 3/4 bullets from a hideout near the graveyard.

In retaliation, police opened fire. Osman died in the crossfire while the rest managed to flee the scene, police said.

Abducted boy rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Police on Saturday night rescued an 8-year-old boy, who was abducted from Sunamganj, from Bhulta area of Rupganj upazila in Narayanganj district.

Criminals picked up Rubel Miah, son of Ghaus Miah of Jinarpur village under Bishambari upazila of Sunamganj district on August 16 while he was going to a shop at his uncle's village to buy chocolate.

Later, the gang demanded Tk 80 thousand as ransom from the family members.

Contacted, upazila nirbahi officer Asraf Alam Khan said, punitive action would be taken against those responsible for the offence after investigating the matter.

Officer in-charge Abdus Salek of Moulvibazar police station refuted the allegation of taking money from the *jatra* organisers by police.

Several locals alleged, they earlier protested the matter but it fell on the deaf ears of the authorities as the ruling party men had managed police and upazila adminis-



Passengers get on two fishing trawlers at Hajirhat in Monpura upazila of Bhola to go to Tazumuddin of the district yesterday as sea truck service on the river route has remained suspended for 18 days since August 28.

OBSCENE DANCES AT JATRA

Protesters vandalise stage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Local people vandalised a stage meant for *jatra* (open air drama) to protest obscene dances under the cover of the traditional entertainment for rural people at Olha village in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

A week ago, a group of ruling party men arranged the *jatra* after taking permission from the deputy commissioner.

The organisers allowed obscene dances by women *jatra* artistes and gambling at the venue, locals said.

Everyday, a large number of people, especially youths including school and college going students from different villages, throng the *jatra* venue to watch obscene dances while many of them take part in gambling.

Several locals alleged, they earlier protested the matter but it fell on the deaf ears of the authorities as the ruling party men had managed police and upazila adminis-

tration with handsome amount of bribe.

"*Jatra* is our local culture. But obscene dances and gambling are being held in the name of *jatra*. If allowed to continue, it will spoil our youths", said Abdul Rahim, 45, a farmer of the village.

Asked about the matter, Kabir Miah, Anwar Miah and Masud Miah of the *jatra* committee, also local leaders of AL, said they got permission for staging *jatra* at Olha village for seven days. "We arranged it only for entertainment of the villagers. We are not aware of any obscene dance and gambling here", said an organiser.

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Following a case filed by Ghaus, on a tip-off, Rupganj police raided a field in Bhulta area under Rupganj upazila and rescued the kid.

The kidnappers fled the scene, sensing the presence of the law enforcers.

Grabbers eye two khas ponds used by Rakhines

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Two khas ponds—one at Kalachandpara in Kuakata area of Patuakhali district and the other at Kabirajpara in Taltoli upazila of Barguna district—are being grabbed by local influential people.

The influential people are building concrete structures, occupying the khas ponds in the two areas, mostly inhabited by Rakhines.

In Kuakata, the khas pond at Kalachandpara is the only source of sweet water. Locals, especially Rakhines, have been using clean and sweet water of the pond for long.

An influential man has

already built a concrete structure, grabbing a portion of the pond, which belongs to Patuakhali Zila Parishad (district council).

Moncho Talukder, a Rakhine, has recently leased the pond from Zila Parishad to cultivate fish, but some local influential people are illegally occupying the pond and erecting structures.

"We urged the local administration to save the pond from grabbers, but to no effect," he said.

In Barguna, Monthinjo, a Rakhine community leader of Kabirajpara under Taltoli upazila, said he filed a written complaint to the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) and other officials concerned on

July 7 against some influential people who are trying to grab the khas pond in the area, but no action has been taken yet.

A 10-member team from Dhaka University led by Rubayet Ferdous, associate professor of mass communication and journalism, visited Kalachandpara in Kuakata and Taltoli in Barguna on Friday and Saturday.

They urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to save the two ponds.

Contacted, Patuakhali Zila Parishad Administrator Khan Mosharraf Hossain, said they are taking steps against the illegal occupiers.



A section of local influential people have started constructing illegal structures, grabbing a portion of the khas pond at Kabirajpara, mostly inhabited by Rakhines, in Taltoli upazila of Barguna district.

'Robber' killed in 'gunfight' with police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

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SNIPPETS

Cotton factory, godowns gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A cotton factory and its three godowns were gutted in a fire incident at BSCIC estate in Mashkanda area of the town yesterday morning. Fire Brigade sources said, the fire originated at a machine at Sumon Cotton Spinning Mills while processing jute around 10.45am. The fire later engulfed the adjacent three godowns of the spinning mills, said a fire official. Properties worth Tk. seven lakh were gutted in the incident, said the official.

Housewife 'commits suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A housewife allegedly committed suicide at Nishchintapur in the municipal area of the district on Saturday night. The deceased was identified as Batashi, 28, wife of Jahangir Alam of the area. Police and local sources said, Batashi took poison at about 12:30pm on Saturday after a family feud. Later she was brought to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital where she died at mid-night.

BCL men attack BNP office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Chhatra League (BCL) activists vandalised Borolekhia upazila BNP office in the district and set it on fire on Saturday night. Sources said, BCL man Tanor Ahmed was stabbed by JCD activist Tarek Ahmed on Saturday evening over previous enmity. After the incident, BCL activists vandalised the BNP office and set it on fire. No BNP man was present there at the time of attack. Borolekhia upazila BNP president Abdul Hafiz condemned the incident and demanded immediate arrest of the people involved in the attack. BNP Borolekhia unit also held a rally in the town yesterday, protesting the attack. Contacted, Tanimul Islam, president of BCL upazila unit, said they did not attack or set the BNP office on fire.

Policeman hacked by youth

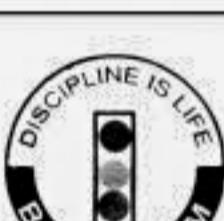
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A police constable was seriously hacked by a criminal in Zahid Metal area of Chakruttapur in the district town yesterday noon. The victim was Abdul Alim, 45, of Sadar police out post under Sadar Police Station. Police said that a team raided a den of drug addicts. They arrested Polash but two other youths, Ranju, 23, and Raihan, 25, fled the scene. At a stage, Polash hacked the police constable and fled away. The injured policeman was taken to local hospital.

Boy killed in wall collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A minor boy was killed in wall collapse in Chirirbandar upazila yesterday afternoon. The deceased was Joy Chandra Roy, 7, son of Jonaku Chandra Roy of Durgapur-Dangapara village and a Class I student at Durgadanga Government Primary School. Family members said, the boy was playing near a mud wall. Suddenly it collapsed on him. Locals rescued the boy and took him to Chirirbandar Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared him dead.



BIRDEM GENERAL HOSPITAL

(An Enterprise of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh)

Ibrahim Memorial Diabetes Centre, 122, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000.

Employment Notice

Applications are invited from the citizen of Bangladesh for the following posts.

SI#	Name of the Post	Qualifications

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