

# Only 15 docs run 100-bed C'nawabganj hospital

Patients suffer also for want of other staff, accommodation

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Health services at Chapainawabganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital are badly hampered due to the shortage of doctors and other staff and lack of accommodation.

There are only 15 doctors against 36 posts at the 'full-fledged' 100-bed hospital meant for 16.50 lakh people of the district.

Important posts including those of 15 specialist doctors and a medical officer of ayurvedic and unani medicines are lying vacant for long.

At present there is no senior consultant at medicine, gynaecology and obstetrics, eye, neuron-

surgery, ENT, anaesthesia department and no junior consultants at surgery, medicine, cardiology, plastic surgery, orthopaedic surgery, ENT and pathology, said sources of the hospital.

The post of radiologist is also vacant.

Besides, second class posts of health superintendent, administrative officer, statistics officer, nursing supervisor and 48 third and fourth class posts are vacant.

Only four medical officers treat outdoor patients while three medical officers are working at the emergency department.

The hospital was upgraded to a 100-bed one from 50-bed capacity in

September 2006 without arranging adequate manpower, sources said.

There are allegations that doctors often idle away their time on different excuses although patients crowd in front of the doctors' chamber.

The consultants do not stay at their quarters in the hospital compound and so, emergency patients who come to the hospital in the afternoon or at night are often deprived of their services, hospital sources said.

During a visit to Chapainawabganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital on Sunday, this correspondent saw scores of patients lying on the floor of different wards.

Many patients were standing in long queues in front of doctors' chambers at the outdoor.

"Medical representatives often visit doctors during duty hours. I came here at 9:00am but failed to visit any doctor till now [1:00pm]," said a patient from Kalinagar of Sadar upazila.

Many other patients and their attendants made similar allegations.

Israil Hossain of Upara Rajarampur in the town went to hospital for ear treatment of his daughter, but they returned frustrated as there is no ENT doctor.

A medical officer of the hospital said they have to serve 300 to 400 outdoor patients daily while 200 to 300 indoor patients stay at different wards of the 100-bed hospital.

Contacted, Civil Surgeon Dr Md Alauddin said, "We sent several letters to the higher authorities concerned asking for steps to fill up the vacant posts at Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital but to no effect yet."

Visiting the hospital on December 23 last year, Health Minister Mohammad Nasim assured taking steps to fill the vacant posts and supplying necessary machines and equipment for the hospital, he added.

Meanwhile, work for upgrading the hospital to a 250-bed one at a cost of Tk 28 crore started in November last year, said sources.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

**HAPPY NEW YEAR:** Hundreds of people have flocked to Kuakata tourist spot, especially its sea beach, in Patuakhali district to enjoy and welcome the new year today.

## Jamaat-Shibir men stab AL leader

3 held, 46 sued and 2 jailed in three districts

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir allegedly stabbed a local leader of the ruling Awami League in Khansama upazila of Dinajpur district on Tuesday night, reports our correspondent.

The victim, Rafiqul Islam, 40, son of Tamij Uddin of Dakkhin Balapara village of the upazila, is an executive member of Khamarbari union unit of AL.

Police quoting Rafiqul said a group of Jamaat-Shibir men waylaid Rafiqul near Bottoli area in the upazila headquarters while he was returning home by his motorbike around 11:30pm. Later, the gang stabbed him mercilessly with sharp weapons and left the scene.

Hearing his hue and cry, villagers went to the spot and rushed him to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital later on the night, said Krishna Sarkar, officer in-charge of Khansama Police Station.

A case was filed with the police station yesterday. However, none was arrested in this connection.

Away in Joypurhat, police in separate drives detained three Jamaat men from different villages in Panchbibi upazila of the district yesterday.

The arrestees are, Ayub Ali, 55, of Nawdoba village, Milon Hossain, 35, of Angra village and Monwar Hossain of Kharia village.

Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, OC of Panchbibi PS,

said that the Jamaat men were arrested on charge of planning to carry out subversive activities in the upazila.

Our correspondent from Benapole, Jessore reported that, over 46 leaders and activists of BNP and Jamaat were sued in separate cases filed with Chougachha Police Station yesterday.

Abdur Rahim, a sub-inspector of the police station, said the BNP-Jamaat men were sued in two cases, one under the Explosives Substance Act and the other for attacking police during yesterday's day-long hartal called by Jamaat-e-Islami.

Meanwhile, in Kushtia, a mobile court in Daulatpur upazila on Monday night sentenced two Jamaat activists to one year imprisonment for distributing leaflets which were written protesting the execution of its assistant secretary general Abdul Quader Molla.

According to the case statement, Jamaat activists-- Fazlur Rahman, 25, of Saloa village, and Mizanur Rahman, 32, of Gaccherdia village were distributing leaflets among the general people at Allahrdarga Bazar around 9:30pm.

Being informed, police arrested the duo from and recovered 120 leaflets from their possession.

A mobile court led by Shamimul Haque, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) in Daulatpur, handed down the verdict after police produced the arrestees before the court later the same night.



PHOTO: STAR

**Patients crowd the ticket counter of Chapainawabganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital. However, they often go back home without proper treatment for want of sufficient doctors and staff.**

## Risky bridge, but who cares?

Overloaded vehicles regularly cross it defying RHD warning

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A large number of vehicles including overloaded ones regularly move on the risky bridge over the Swarnamoti River on Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway at Sarpukur village of Aditmari upazila under the district, posing risk of serious accident anytime.

Defying a caution notice by the Roads and Highways

Department (RHD), overloaded vehicles use the risky bridge as it is lone route connecting Burimari land port in Patgram upazila, said RHD officials and locals.

The Swarnamati Bridge was declared risky as its longevity expired in 2000.

As a few of its girders collapsed six years ago, RHD set several steel sheets on it for continuation of movement of light vehicles there.

The RHD authorities hung notices on both sides of the bridge for not movement of vehicles loaded above five tonnes, but heavily loaded stone carrying trucks even weighing over 30 tonnes daily cross the bridge, officials said.

"We violate the RHD's caution notice as there is no alternative way to go to the land port," said Zahir Ali, a truck driver from Rangpur.

"The bridge has

remained in a vulnerable condition for over a decade but I have to move on the route to transport imported goods from Burimari land port," said truck driver Manirul Islam from Bogra.

Suruz Miah, executive engineer of RHD in Lalmonirhat, said, "Process is on for a work under the Western Bangladesh Bridge Improvement Project for constructing a new bridge over the Swarnamoti River."

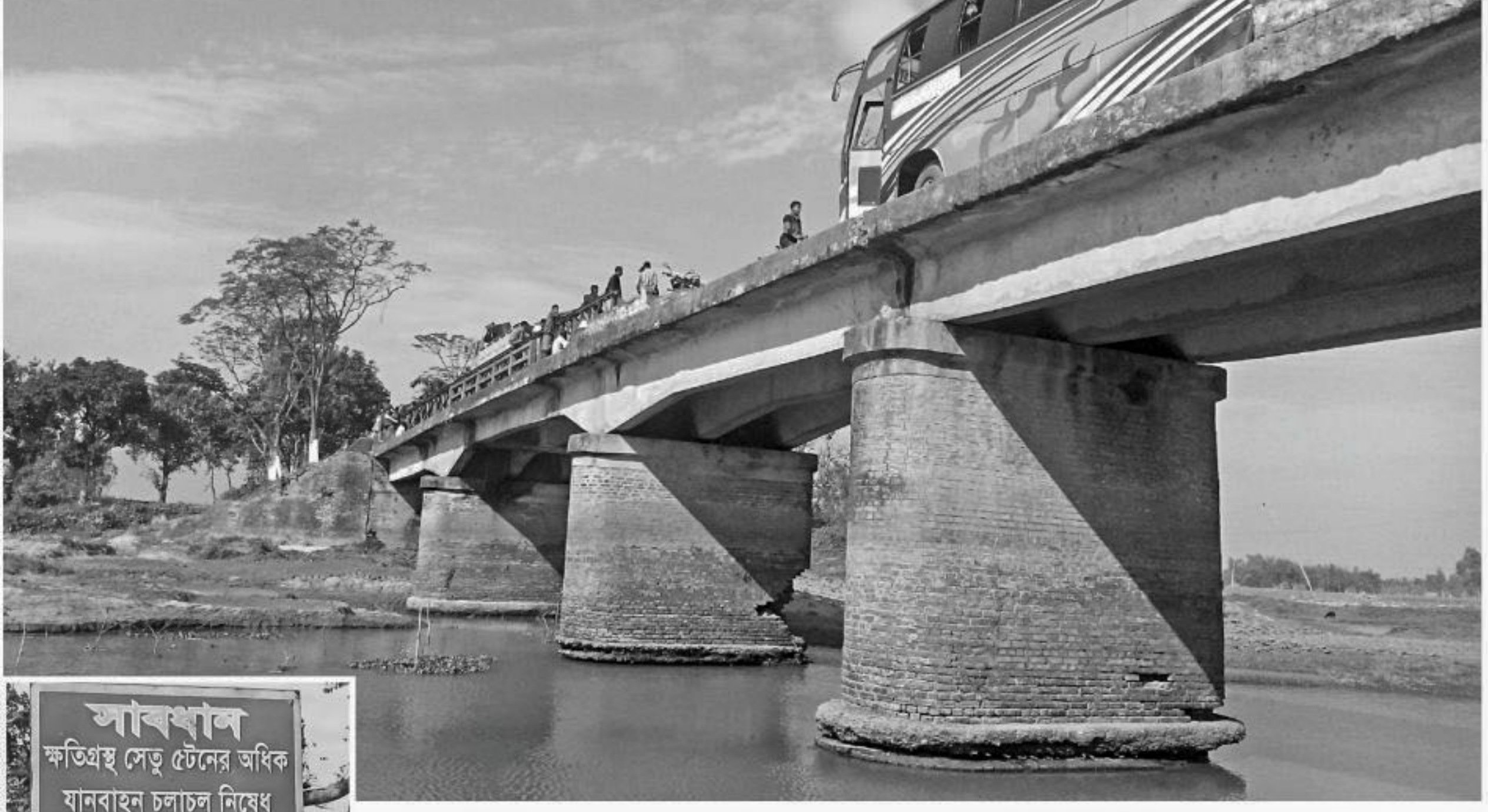


PHOTO: STAR

**Overloaded vehicles regularly cross the vulnerable bridge over Swarnamoti River in Lalmonirhat, defying RHD warning (inset) not to carry more than five tonnes of goods.**

## Girl 'commits suicide' for JSC exam failure

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

A girl allegedly committed suicide at Char Rampur village in Faridganj upazila on Tuesday as she could not pass this year's Junior School Certificate (JSC) examination.

The deceased was identified as Nasrin Akter, 13, daughter of Taslim Bepari, of the village.

OC Nazmul Haque of Faridganj PS quoting family members, said Nasrin, who had appeared at this year's JSC examinations from Rampur Majidia High School, went to the school in the afternoon to know her result that was published on that day.

Being upset due to failure in the examination she late hanged herself from the ceiling of her room.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Chandpur Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

## Missing youth found killed in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

Police recovered the body of a young man with the throat slashed from a hillock at Lamashyampur in Jaintapur upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Yunus Ali, 32, son of Ibrahim Ali, a resident of Haripur area of the same upazila.

Deceased's family mem-

bers said, Yunus had remained missing since Monday night. He was returning home from his workplace.

Police said locals spotted the body of Yunus, with the throat slit lying in the area in the morning and informed police.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

## GANGES, PADMA RIVERS

### JRC teams to start monitoring water levels today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The Joint River Commission of India and Bangladesh will start monitoring water level at different points of the Ganges and the Padma today.

In line with the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, 1996, two joint expert committees, one in India and one in Bangladesh, record the water level for five months from January 1 to May 31 every year, said sources of water resources ministry.

According to the treaty, Bangladesh is to get 67,650 cusecs of water on an average daily in the first cycle of 10 days of January.

A four-member Bangladesh team led by executive engineer Md Mofazzal Hossain is now in India to measure the Ganges water level at two

points of Farakka while a two-member Indian team led by Shuresh Kumar, deputy director of Central Water Commission, India, came to monitor the water level of the Padma at Hardinge Bridge point.

The officials of Joint River Commission will examine the water flow just beside the Hardinge Bridge today, Md Rois Uddin, acting executive engineer of hydrology department of Water Development Board, Pabna, told this correspondent yesterday.

"The water level in the Padma is higher than the previous years during this time. There are about 96 thousand cusecs of water flow at Hardinge Bridge point according to the latest statistic of the hydrology," Rois said.

## SNIPPETS

### Book fair in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A book fair will begin on Zila School premise in the town today. Secretary of Cultural Affairs Ministry Dr Ranjit Kumar Biswas is expected to inaugurate the 10-day long fair jointly organised by the district administration and Bangladesh Gaan and Srijonshil Prokashok Somitee, Dhaka. At least 65 stalls have been set up at the venue, said the organisers.

### Worker falls from rooftop, dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A worker died after falling from the rooftop of an under construction building in Robertsanganj area of the city yesterday. The deceased was identified as Mostafizur Rahman, 30, son of Anwarul Islam of Mondolpara area in the city. Md Abdul Qader Jilani, officer in-charge of Rangpur Kotwali police station, said Mostafizur suddenly fell from the rooftop of a seven-story under construction building of Karupannya Rangpur Ltd while he was working there at 1:30pm and died on the spot.

### Cop held with phensidyl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

A policeman was arrested in the district town yesterday on charge of possessing phensidyl. The arrestee is Mamun Islam Chowdhury of Mekurtary village in Rajarhat upazila and a constable of Rangpur Reserve Force of police. The law enforcers arrested Mamun along with 10 bottles of phensidyl at 11:00 when he came to the town without leave. Later, he was produced before a court which sent him to jail, said Waheduzzaman, sub-inspector of Sadar police station.



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Joy of remembrance grips medical professionals earlier graduating from Jahurul Islam Medical College at Bhagalpur in Bajitpur upazila under Kishoreganj district as they join a two-day reunion programme that included colourful procession and cultural programmes recently.**

### Arms peddler arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a man along with two Indian made shutter guns, 50 bullets and 50 grams heroin at Kazipur village in Gangni upazila of Meherpur district yesterday. The arrestee is Shariful Islam of the village. ASP Nuruzzaman, commander of Rab-6, said on secret information, the elite force arrested Shariful from his house and recovered the arms and bullets from his possession.

### BGB destroys seized drugs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) destroyed seized drugs worth Tk 10 lakh at the headquarters of BGB-18 Battalion in Panchagarh district yesterday. The destroyed items are 1,158 bottles of phensidyl, 482 bottles of Indian liquor and 70 ampoules of sedative injections, said Lt Col Mohammad Ariful Haque, commanding officer of the battalion.

### Basalt stone statue seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The law enforcers have recovered a black statue made of basalt stone from an orchard at Hatkora village in Dhamrai on the outskirts of the capital. Firoz Talukder, officer in-charge of Dhamrai police station, said on secret information, a team of plainclothes police raided the area and seized the statue weighing 24 kg from the garden owned by one Shakwat Hossain. However, none was arrested in this connection, said the OC.

### Press club election

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Shafiul Haque Mithu has been selected as the president and Fasiul Islam Bacchu as the secretary in the election to the executive committee of Pirojpur Press Club in the town on Tuesday. Other elected candidates are vice presidents Shirina Afroz and Md Firoj Ahmed, joint secretary Hasan Mamun, treasurer Sheikh Md Rashid Al Munan, literature, culture and sports secretary Oviyet Mondal, information, technology and publication secretary Md Hasibul Islam Hasan, said sources at the press club.