

# Water crisis grips Dinajpur Medical College Hospital

## Dirty environment troubles patients as tap water often elusive, lone tube-well main source of drinking water

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Scarcity of water brings woe to the patients and their attendants at 500-bed Dinajpur Medical College Hospital, especially during the ongoing heat wave in the district.

The taps of the hospital fail to supply water most of the time, and the situation turns critical during the long power outages, said patients and their relatives.

Several attendants of patients at the hospital said they have to bring water from the lone tube-well set up at an unhygienic place on the hospital premises.

"We have to take the

trouble to go downstairs to bring drinking water from the tube-well," said Asma Begum, attendant of a medicine ward patient on the fourth floor.

"Somehow we bring drinking water from other places but doing so for bathing purposes is almost impossible," Ayub Ali, a patient of the orthopaedic ward.

Shortage of water inside the hospital badly affects cleanliness and hygiene, said patients and staff during this correspondent's visit to the hospital a couple of days ago.

The washrooms and even the floors of different wards of the hospital remained

awfully dirty.

All the taps of medicine, orthopaedic and ophthalmology wards were found without water.

Several staff seeking anonymity said often they have to go outside for washing their hands after deliveries as water is not available inside.

The cleaners come twice a day, but they cannot properly clean the dirty floors and toilets due to shortage of water.

Sometimes it becomes difficult to get water from the lone tube-well and patients and staff have to get water from across the street in case of emergency, said the sufferers.

Many doctors of the hospital run clinics in Dinajpur and they do not care about cleanliness of the hospital, said sources.

"If people get good environment and good treatment at the government hospital, how will private clinics get patients and run business?" said an official seeking anonymity.

Dr Amir Ali, director of Dinajpur Medical College Hospital, said the water pump installed at the hospital cannot be operated with power generator and only one tube-well is not sufficient to meet the water requirement of the entire hospital.



PHOTO: STAR

Attendants of patients of Dinajpur Medical College Hospital collect drinking water from a tube-well on the hospital premises as the taps inside the building fail to supply water most of the time. Inset, awfully dirty basins of a washroom at the hospital remains virtually unusable due to the same reason.



### SSC RESULTS

# School in remote hills outshines others in Bandarban

SANJOY KUMAR BARIJA

Tucked away among the green hills of Bandarban, Rowangchhari Government High School looks like an ordinary education institution from outside. With only nine teachers, only three of them regular, the school is in fact much less than an ordinary one.

But when it comes to performance in the public examinations, the only high school in Rowangchhari upazila beats the overall pass rate of the impassable hilly district of Bandarban.

Situated 158 kilometres away from the district headquarters, the school achieved a pass rate of 93.46 percent in this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations in comparison to 63.39 percent of the entire district and 82.77 percent of the Chittagong Board

under which it belongs.

Out of 107 students -- 57 boys and 50 girls -- who took the exam, 100 [53 boys and 47 girls] passed and three of them scored GPA 4.96. Eighty-three of the successful students were from the humanities group and 17 from the business studies group.

"There were no students from science as we do not have any science teacher for last two years," said Md Abdur Sabur, headmaster of the school that has 550 students.

Sabur said they had nine teachers -- three of them are under the government pay roll, two have been appointed by the District Council and others are part-timers.

Yet the school was quite consistent in its last year's SSC performance as well with 75 out of 85 students coming out successful.

"The District Council has also built a

boys hostel two years ago where 32 residential students stay. Before the SSC exam we make it mandatory for the examinees living in remote areas to stay at the hostel," the headmaster added.

Most of the students come from indigenous communities whose villages are located in distant parts of the upazila.

"We also arrange extra-hour coaching at the school after the test exams and conduct regular parent-teacher meetings," said Sabur.

This year 93,631 examinees got GPA-5 (Grade Point Average-5) in eight education boards with a pass percentage of 86.72.

Under the eight education boards, 11,08,683 students -- 5,48,362 boys and 5,60,321 girls -- passed the SSC exams this year, while 1,47,278 students failed.



PHOTO: STAR

An assembly of students at Rowangchhari Government High School that topped the schools in Bandarban district in terms of pass percentage in this year's SSC examinations.

# Bumper sesame yield expected in Panchagarh

## The easy, profitable farming sees gradual increase

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

Farmers and agriculture officials in Panchagarh district are expecting a bumper yield of sesame this season.

The pollination was well due to favourable weather condition and the plants are still unaffected by pest attacks or natural calamities, said SM Ashraf Ali, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Panchagarh.

Most of the plants have already passed the pod formation stage, he added.

The farmers in the district have cultivated sesame on 2,396 hectares of land this season against the DAE's target of 2,223 hectares with expectation to produce one tonne per hectare, officials said.

A good number of honey farmers set wooden hives alongside the oilseed fields, and it helped better pollination.

The farmers are showing interest to cultivate the crop on more areas of lands after getting its bumper yield and good prices in recent years, DAE officials said.

It requires lower production cost in terms of irrigation, fertiliser and labour compared to other Rabi crops, and less fertile lands, where other crops do not usually grow well, can be used for sesame cultivation, they said.

Usually farmers in the district grow local variety T-

6 sesame.

Bari Til-3, Bari Til-4 and Bina Til are also being cultivated in some areas as the DAE authorities are campaigning for cultivating high yielding sesame varieties invented by Bari between the gaps of potato and aman.

Sesame requires 70-80 days for attaining maturity and mid-February to mid-April is the optimum period for its cultivation.

During this correspondent's recent visit to differ-

ent areas of Panchagarh district, farmers said they would start harvesting the crop within a week.

Azahar Ali, 45, a farmer of Bhitargarh village in Panchagarh Sadar upazila, said he cultivated sesame on one bigha (0.3306 acre) of land last year spending Tk 700 and got four maunds (one maund = 37.32 kg) of yield.

"That time I made a profit of Tk 6,500. This season I cultivated sesame on two bighas of land," he said.

Cultivation of sesame,

requiring moderate irrigation only once, is easier and less costly than other crops but brings good profit, said Shamsuzzoha, 55, a sharecropper of Sahapara village under Boda upazila.

"Sesame farming between the gap of potato and aman paddy cultivation periods helps earning additional money. It also helps to make the soil fertile," said Shamsuzzoha, who cultivated sesame on 1.5-bigha of land.



PHOTO: STAR

A blooming sesame field at Jalashi village in Panchagarh Sadar upazila.

# Six 'aborted' babies found on Teesta bank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Police recovered the bodies of six "aborted" babies from the bank of the Teesta at Tapa Kharibari union of Dimla upazila here on Tuesday.

Locals near the Banni Hat outpost of Border Guard Bangladesh saw the bodies packed in a polythene bag around 11:30 am and informed police, said Rabiul Islam Shahin, chairman of Tapa Kharibari Union Parishad.

Law enforcers suspected that the babies were illegally aborted at any clinic in Cooch Behar district of the Indian state of West Bengal.

The polythene bag was thrown into the Teesta sometime on Monday when the river swelled after a heavy rainfall. It got stuck on the river bank after recession of water on Tuesday, said police.

Ruhul Amin, officer-in-charge of Dimla Police Station, said they could not even ascertain the gender of the babies.

Autopsies were carried out on the babies at Nilphamari Adhunik Sadar Hospital yesterday, according to hospital sources.

# Nephew kills uncle over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man was stabbed to death by his nephew over a land dispute in Phulbari upazila of the district on Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Md Aminul Islam, 38, son of late Manjurul Islam of Ramchandrapur village in the upazila.

Locals said there had been a longstanding dispute over a piece of land between Mahmudul Hasan and his uncle Aminul Islam. The duo had an altercation over the issue at around 8:30pm and at one stage, Hasan stabbed Aminul.

Hearing screams, locals rushed to the spot, rescued Aminul and took him to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries soon after admission.

# Kibria murder case transferred to Speedy Trial Tribunal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The SAMS Kibria murder case was transferred to Sylhet Speedy Trial Tribunal from the Habiganj Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court on Tuesday for its quick disposal.

Judge of Habiganj Chief Judicial Magistrate's court Nishat Sultana passed the order for transfer of the case.

Talking to reporters, the former finance minister's lawyer advocate Alamgir Bhuiyan Babul said the tribunal will begin its proceedings on 21 June and the case will be disposed of by 135 working days.

Five people, including Kibria, were killed and 70 others injured in a grenade attack on a public meeting held by Awami League at

Baidder Bazar in Sadar upazila on January 27, 2005.

Awami League leader Abdul Mazid Khan filed two cases -- one for the murder and another under the Explosives Substances Act -- with the Habiganj Police Station the following day.

CID Assistant Superintendent Munshi Atique submitted a charge sheet against 10 BNP leaders and activists on March 19, 2005.

On 20 June 2011, CID Senior Assistant Superintendent Rafiqul Islam submitted a supplementary charge sheet incorporating the names of 14 more people, including former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and Mufti Hannan. The plaintiff filed a petition expressing no-confidence.

Upon an appeal by the complainant, the High Court on May 5, 2006 stayed the proceedings of the cases. Following another appeal by the complainant, the tribunal on May 14, 2006 ordered further investigation into the cases.

After further probe, Rafiqul submitted the first supplementary charge-sheet.

However, Asma Kibria, wife of the slain minister, filed a petition with a local court expressing no-confidence in the investigation. The court then forwarded the case documents along with the petition to the tribunal concerned.

Later, the tribunal on January 5, 2012 ordered the CID to carry out further probe into the killing.

# 87 sued, 11 held as villagers clash with cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

At least nine people, including four policemen, were injured in a clash between the law enforcers and villagers at Medical Square in Bholahat upazila of the district on Monday night.

Of them, five were admitted to the upazila health complex and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries.

Police said one Bijoy Shil, 35, son of Sukumar Shil of

the village, stormed the house of a young woman and tried to violate her on Sunday night.

When the matter became public, locals caught Bijoy the following day and arranged arbitration at around 8:00pm, said Mohsin Ali, officer-in-charge of Bholahat Police Station.

On information, a police team rushed to the spot and arrested Bijoy, triggering the clash.

The law enforcers fired

four bullets as the villagers attacked them, leaving four policemen injured, said the OC, adding that they also damaged a police van during the incident.

The injured are Sub-Inspector Shishir Kumar, constables Mahubb, Naimuddin and Iftekhar.

Eleven people were arrested for their involvement in the attack on the law enforcers, said the OC.

Police filed a case, accusing 87 people.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Barisal Government Women's College form a human chain in front of Ashwini Kumar Hall in the city on Tuesday protesting increase of their hostel fees.