

Two women killed for dowry

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two housewives were murdered allegedly by their husbands for dowry in Jessore and Lalmonirhat on Monday.

In Jessore, a young woman was beaten to death by her husband for dowry in Monirampur upazila on Monday night.

The deceased, Ruma Khatun, 20, was daughter of Ejlat Ali of Shayampur village, reports our Benapole correspondent.

Deceased's elder brother Shahidul Islam said Ruma's husband Sagar Hossain, a resident of Saila village in the upazila, had been frequently putting pressure on their family for dowry since their marriage six years ago.

The couple locked in an altercation over the issue around 11:00pm and at one stage, Sagar beat his sister mercilessly, leaving her dead on the spot, Shahidul said.

Meanwhile, our Lalmonirhat correspondent reported that police recovered the body of a housewife from underneath a bridge in Kaliganj upazila on Monday.

The victim was Hosne Ara, 25, wife of Jobaidul Islam of Kazirhat village.

Officer-in-Charge Maqbul Hossain of Kaliganj Police Station said they detained Jobaidul's parents Abdul Sattar, 58, and Jobeda Begum, 50, for interrogation. The body bore several marks of injuries, the OC said.

Incessant rain disrupts life

Tangail-Sirajganj road communication cut, Rangamati-Khagrachhari link road damaged

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Continuous rain snapped road communication between Tangail and Sirajganj on Monday, damaged the link road between Rangamati and Khagrachhari again yesterday and paralysed life in Jhalakathi.

Our Tangail correspondent reports that vehicular movement between Nagarpur upazila of Tangail and Chowhali upazila of Sirajganj was snapped as the approach road of a bridge collapsed due to heavy rain for the last three days.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Asma Shahin, Assistant Commissioner (land) Pulok Kanti Chakraborty and Upazila Engineer in Nagarpur ATM Rabiul Alam visited the spot.

Ershad Miah of the area said hundreds of passengers and farmers with goods-laden trucks are suffering due to the situation.

An accident may happen any time and the bridge will collapse if the damage is not repaired immediately, he added.

Nagarpur Upazila Engineer of Local Government and Engineering Department ATM Rabiul Alam said vehicular movement has been suspended to avoid risk of accidents.

"Emergency repair work will be done so vehicular movement on the bridge can resume," he added.

The link road between Rangamati and Khagrachhari was closed to traffic for about 33 days due to landslide on June 13. After repair, the road was opened on July 16 for only light vehicles, but about 20 metres collapsed yesterday due to heavy rain and surge of water from upstream.

This correspondent visited Sapchhari Khamara Para area yesterday and saw that a portion of the road was destroyed. Another portion had collapsed two kilometres from Khamara Para.

Executive Engineer of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in



PHOTO: STAR

The approach road of this bridge at Duajani in Nagarpur upazila of Tangail collapsed on Monday evening amid heavy rain for a couple of days, snapping road communication between Nagarpur upazila headquarters and Chowhali upazila of Sirajganj.

Rangamati Muhammad Amdad Hossain said the damaged place was repaired 17 days ago, but it broke down due to heavy rainfall. Now the roads are shut off.

Sub-assistant Engineer of RHD Muhammad Abu Musa said about 20 metres of the link road was fully damaged due to heavy rain.

The executive engineer said work to restore the link road will begin on Wednesday, adding that it will take one week for vehicular movement to start.

Continuous rain has brought untold

sufferings for the low income people, particularly day labourers and rickshaw pullers, in the district.

The rain has been continuing for five days due to depression in the Bay, reports our Jhalakathi correspondent.

Vast agricultural lands have gone under water due to rise in the water level.

"Our work has remained stopped for the last five days because of the bad weather," said Kamal, a day labourer of Rajapur Bazar area, adding that he had to borrow money to buy food for his family.

"It is the peak time for planting Aman paddy but we cannot work in the field due to rising water level," said Al-Amin, a farmer of Monohorpur of Rajapur, adding that some of his seedbeds are now under water.

"The seedbeds may be harmed if the rain continues for a few more days but we are not worried as we have made many floating seedbeds," said Sheikh Abu Bakar Siddik, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension in the district.



Attendants crowd the female ward of Sarishabari Upazila Health Complex in Jamalpur. Bottom left, Tk 19 lakh X-ray machine out of order since 2014 and bottom right, ECG and ultra-sonogram machines are lying idle on two hospital beds since 2014 and 2015 respectively for lack of cardiographer and sonologist.

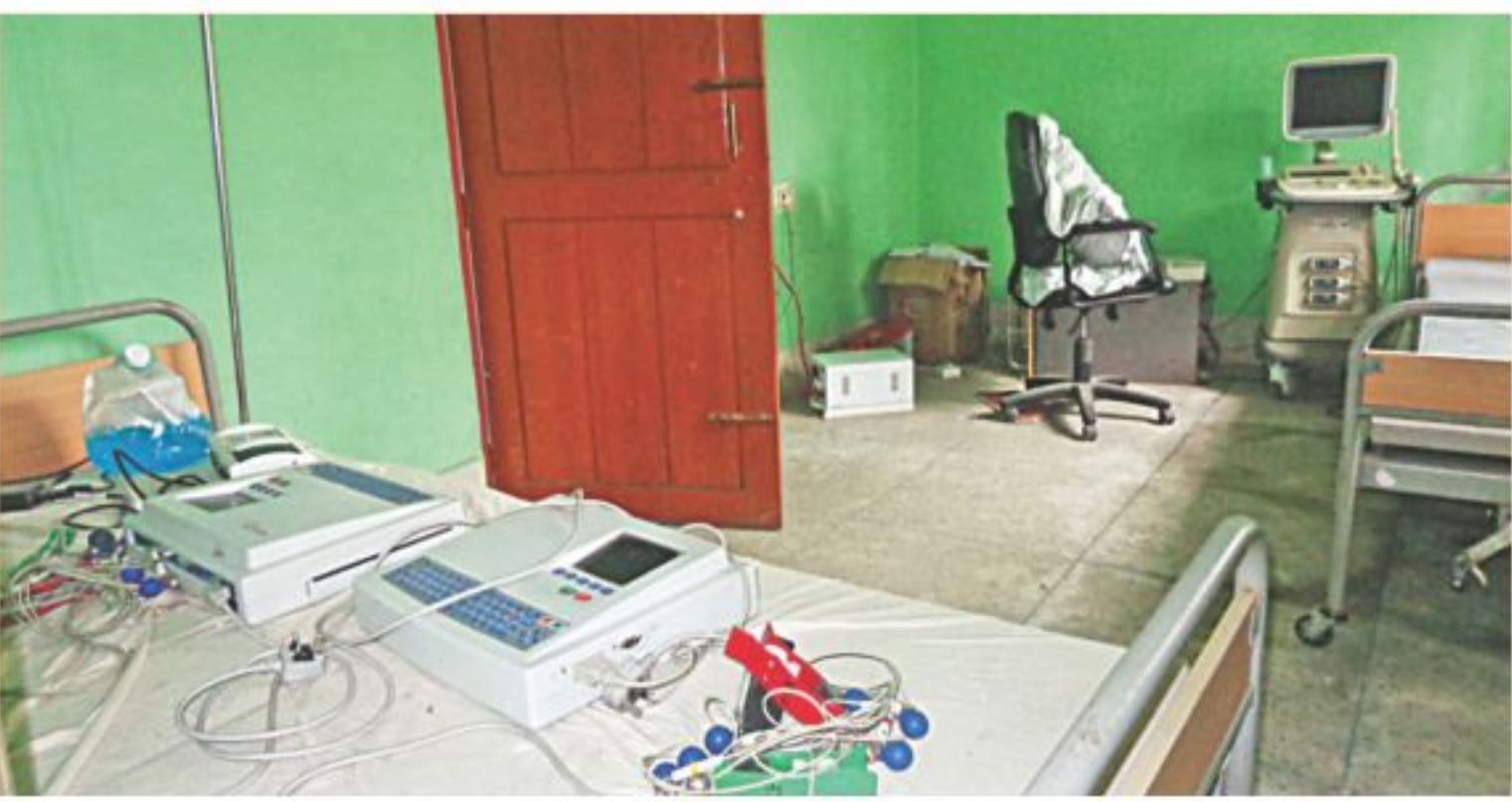


PHOTO: STAR

ROAD DAMAGED Three LGED officials asked to explain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Show cause notices have been issued to three officials of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) over alleged corruption and irregularities in building of a newly constructed road in Aditmari upazila.

Five days after completion of the one kilometre road, the carpeting went away on Sunday.

The officials are upazila engineer Fazlul Haque, sub-assistant engineer Zakir Hossain and work-assistant Ashraf Alam.

Lalmonirhat LGED Executive Engineer SM Zakiur Rahman also issued a show cause notice to Shahidul Islam, contractor of the department, for re-carpeting the road.

The three officials were asked to reply why they did not monitor properly while the road was built with low quality and less quantity materials within three days. The contractor was also asked to reply to the notice within the same time, said the executive engineer.

JHALAKATHI'S FLOATING MARKET Tourist haven without amenities

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL with ANDREW EAGLE

Jhalakathi's three-hundred-year-old floating guava market at Vemruli in Sadar upazila is a sight to behold. But visitors to the market are let down by a lack of amenities. What could be a major tourist attraction yet fails to realise its potential.

"We are a group of thirty tourists who have come to experience this unique market," says one visitor, Sumia from Dhaka. "But there are so few shelters around. We had to wait in the rain."

"The place is beautiful; hundreds of boats on the zigzag canals are really great to see," says another member of the group, "but there really is no comfortable way to do so."

"There is a shortage of bathroom facilities for tourists," notes Suvrojit, owner of a restaurant that caters to market visitors, "and as for places to stay, sometimes the tourists stay in private homes."

There is currently no hotel or guest house; even there are few places to sit or buy refreshments.

"If the government provided some basic facilities," remarks local college teacher Milton Halder, "this place could be one of the most important tourist attractions in the country."

Visitors arrive year round at the market, but it's during the rainy season that numbers peak, when the market is at its flourishing best. Yet it's also then that the lack of facilities is arguably most acutely felt.

"We have plans to develop the area for tourism," says the local government engineering department's deputy commissioner in Jhalakathi, Md Hamidul Haque. "The plans are being processed and we hope to implement them in due course."

Patients bear the brunt

Shortage of doctors, X-ray machine out of order in Sarishabari Health Complex

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Medical services at Sarishabari Upazila Health Complex are being seriously hampered due to shortage of doctors and out-of-order equipment, thanks to the indifference of the authorities concerned.

As many as 400 to 520 patients, including 100 to 150 emergency patients, 250 to 300 outpatients and 50 to 70 inpatients are being given treatment daily by only four doctors, whereas there are 27 posts, including 10 posts of junior consultants at the 50-bed hospital. As a result, patients are being deprived of proper treatment, said Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer (UHFPO) Dr Muhammad Rabiul Islam.

Out of 10 posts of junior consultants at the hospital, nine have been lying vacant for over two years, he said.

Only nine medical officers (MO) against 13 posts have been posted at the hospital, but seven of them have been sent on deputation, attachment and training for months, Dr Rabiul said. The posts of dental surgeon and medical officer (herbal) have been lying vacant for years, he added.

In the prevailing situation, Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Momtaj Uddin, medical officers -- Saifur Rahman Khan and Debashish Rajbangshi -- and junior consul-

tant (pediatrics) Miraj Ali are to deal with so many patients round the clock, Dr Rabiul said.

"Patients, especially the poor, are suffering much as they cannot get X-ray, ECG and Ultra-sonogram tests done as the X-ray machine went out of order in early 2016 while the other two have not been used since their installation in 2014 and 2015, respectively, due to absence of a cardiographer and a sonologist. They have to spend three to five times more money to get the tests done at private diagnostic centres," he added.

"It has not been possible to conduct any sort of operation or caesarean section at the hospital's operation theatre since 2013 due to absence of a pair of anesthetist and surgeon or a pair of anesthetist and gynaecologist," Dr Rabiul said.

"We wrote to the authorities concerned about the problems prevailing at the hospital five months ago, but to no effect," Dr Rabiul said.

"Despite frantic efforts, we four doctors cannot cope with handling 400 to 520 patients by rotation round the clock. In most cases of major complications, patients are immediately referred to other hospitals in Jamalpur town and Mymensingh," said Dr Momtaj.

1750 yaba tablets seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Detective Branch (DB) of Police in separate drives arrested two drug peddlers with illegal drugs and arms in Dewanganj and Islampur upazilas of the district on Monday night.

They seized 1,750 Yaba tablets and 100 grams of heroin worth Tk 15.25 lakh, a pipe gun and 20 cartridges.

The arrestees are Abdul Karim, 48, son of late Habibur Rahman, and Laily Begum, 50, wife of late Tandarur.

Detectives arrested Karim with a pipe gun, 20 cartridges, 750 Yaba tablets and 100 grams of heroin worth Tk 12.25 lakh from Dewanganj upazila of Jamalpur, said Ziaul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Jamalpur DB.

Detectives arrested Laily with 1,000 Yaba tablets worth Tk 3 lakh from Aiyermari village in Islampur upazila, the OC said.



The traditional floating market, selling mostly guavas from boats on the canal at Vemruli in Jhalakathi Sadar upazila, is an attraction for wholesale buyers as well as curious visitors. Inset, a boatload of young tourists in a jovial mood at the site.

PHOTO: STAR