



Kalia Upazila Health Complex. Inset, patients wait in long queues for their turn to see a doctor at the hospital.

### Newborn dies of 'wrong treatment'

**Clinic director held**  
 OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria  
 A newborn baby died allegedly due to 'wrong treatment' at the Diagnostic Centre and Clinic in Narsingdi town on Monday evening.  
 After the incident, police detained Didarul Kabir Pathan, one of the directors of the clinic, and Liton Mia, a clinic employee.  
 Ashraful Alam Ripon, father of the newborn boy, said his wife was taken to the clinic on Monday afternoon after she felt labour pain.  
 "Later, Ashim Kumar Bhownik, a physician of Narsingdi Maternity Centre, came and conducted caesarean delivery of the baby at the clinic. But required treatment was not given after cutting the umbilical cord of the newborn," he alleged.  
 "I informed the clinic authority of the matter and they hurriedly took back the baby to the operating theatre [OT] for treatment of the navel. Getting no response from there for a long time, I entered the room and found the mother and the baby lying on the table while the doctor had fled through the back door," he said.  
 Immediately, the father took the baby to Narsingdi General Hospital where the on-duty doctor declared the baby dead.  
 "On receiving the complaint, police rushed to the spot and arrested clinic director Didarul Kabir Pathan and employee Liton Mia. Others of the clinic fled away."

### KALIA UPAZILA HEALTH COMPLEX

# A hospital in poor health

The health complex in Narail struggles to serve hundreds of patients

PARITHA CHAKRABORTY, Bagerhat

With 15 out of 21 posts of doctors lying vacant for around three years, the Kalia Upazila Health Complex in Narail is struggling to serve a hundreds of patients every day.  
 The posts of residential medical officer and dental surgeon are among the vacant posts. Surgeries are not being performed as there is no anaesthetist at the hospital where 45 patients are admitted at present.  
 Only three doctors come to the hospital regularly and see about 400 outdoor patients every day, according to Upazila Health Officer Sharif Shahabur Rahman.  
 Three other doctors have been irregular for quite some time now, he told this paper.

"One went on maternity leave in 2015 and did not return ever since while another doctor had gone on maternity leave on February 3 this year. She was supposed to join work in the beginning of this month but didn't," he said.  
 "She has sent an application seeking leave for another month. The third one, who is also the acting senior medical officer, joined work recently after remaining absent for a few days without notice."  
 This correspondent visited the complex on August 19 and witnessed how frustrated patients were engaging in brawls over collecting tickets from the outdoor counter.  
 While talking to this correspondent, Mariam Begum of Mirzapur area said she had come to the health complex at 9:00am and

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finally could see a doctor at 3:00pm. Rahima Khatun, a patient from Kaliya upazila headquarters said she came early in the morning but could not get a ticket until 11:00am. "Allah knows when I will get the ticket, see the doctor and finally return home," she said in despair.  
 Safader Shikder of Mohammadpur

village said, "We are not getting proper treatment as doctors are not available. We need more doctors."  
 Farzana Islam, who is the only medical officer currently serving at the health complex, stated how exhausted she was. "I might fall ill as I am seeing 125 to 150 patients every day with only two medical assistants."  
 Gynaecologist Jayanta Kumar Biswas said, "We are in a soup. Besides serving 400 to 450 patients daily, we have ward visits. The pregnant ladies have complicated issues."  
 Besides the scarcity of doctors, broken equipment is also an issue that is ruining the reputation of the health complex.  
 "The X-ray machine has been broken for the last 10 years," Health Officer Sharif said.

"The ultrasound machine is lying unused as there is no operator. The post of ultrasound operator has been vacant for over three months now.  
 "In this circumstance, it is very difficult to handle the emergency services, outdoor patients, and the admitted ones. Then there are administrative tasks, trainings, meetings, and many other responsibilities."  
 He told this paper that the district civil surgeon had been informed about the situation several times but no step has been taken yet.  
 Narail Civil Surgeon Dr Mohammad Asad Uz Zaman Munshi said he was aware of the situation.  
 "I did not want to release the doctors. Recently I wrote to the higher authorities asking them to appoint doctors for the health complex."

### Two boys found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar  
 The bodies of two boys were found in a pond in Baniachang upazila of Habiganj yesterday.  
 The deceased were Salman, 6, son of Faisal Miah, and Tavez Miah, 6, son of Tofazzal Miah of Ballabpur village in the upazila.  
 The kids went missing on Monday, said family members.

### 4 get life term for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria  
 A court here yesterday sentenced four people to life term imprisonment for killing a college student in Ashuganj upazila in 2013.  
 The convicts are Didarul Alam, Mamun Mia, Nahid Mia and Anisur Rahman. They hail from different villages in the upazila.  
 Brahmanbaria District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Shafiqul Azam also fined the convicts Tk 10,000 each. In default, they are to suffer two months more in prison.  
 The court, however, acquitted nine other accused in the case as charges brought against them could not be proved.  
 According to the prosecution, the convicts beat Saiful Islam, son of Sohrab Mia of Madhurpara village, to death in broad daylight over previous enmity on February 3, 2013.  
 Later, victim's uncle Selim Mia filed a murder case with Ashuganj Police Station against 16 people.

### Punish culprits, ensure security of minority people

Locals urge at rally protesting Sunday's attack on Hindu family in Dashmina  
 OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali  
 Several hundred people yesterday formed a human chain and brought out a procession at Thakurer Hat in Dashmina upazila protesting Sunday's attack on a Hindu family in the area.  
 They also arranged a meeting where Altaf Hossain Master, vice president of Dashmina upazila unit Awami League (AL), advocate Uttam Karmokar, president of upazila Pujya Udjapon Committee, its secretary Debashish Majumder, Md Nasir Uddin Pahloan, upazila Jubo League president, and local UP member Poshari Rani addressed, among others.  
 The speakers demanded immediate arrest of the culprits involved in the attack and adequate security measures for Hindu community in the area.  
 Ten people were injured as some 50 people allegedly led by Jahir and Iraq attacked the shop and house of Khitish Majumder at Thakurer Hat on Sunday night apparently to occupy his 10 decimals of land.  
 Khitish filed a case with Dashmina Police Station on Monday evening accusing 10 people including Jahir and Iraq.  
 On Monday morning, police arrested Alam Mridha and Zahidul Islam of Adamapura village in Dashmina in connection with the incident and both were sent to jail.  
 Of the 10 injured, four are undergoing treatment at Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital and six others at Dashmina Upazila Health Complex.  
 Policemen have been deployed on the spot and drives are on to arrest the accused, said SM Jalal Uddin, OC of Dashmina Police Station.



Mehedi Hasan displays caps made in his factory, where a large number of women, inset, work in different shifts.



PHOTO: STAR

# Worker-turned factory owner dreams big

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Mehedi Hasan was once an ordinary worker at a factory in Dhaka's Mirpur area.  
 Now, aged 28, he himself is an owner of a cap factory and generates employment opportunities for others at his home village of Choumuhoni in Saidpur upazila.  
 As many as sixty workers now work at his factory, set up in a five-room rented house, round the clock in three shifts. All sorts of caps are manufactured there with fabric scrap and all the equipment are either used or refurbished.  
 The caps made in Mehedi's factory are high in demand as traders otherwise would have to buy items of similar quality from markets in Dhaka, but at higher prices.  
 Soon after passing HSC in 2009, Mehedi had to start working at a cap factory in Dhaka to make a living as his father was no longer able to provide for the family.  
 He developed all necessary skills to make quality caps during his work at the factory till 2014.  
 "In 2015, I returned to my village and spent

Tk 10 thousand to set up a small cap factory in a rented room. I named it Mehedi Cap House. I was the only worker there with one sewing machine," Mehedi said.  
 "I used to buy garment scrap, the raw material, from Dhaka and transport those on roofs of buses. I made around 300 to 400 caps a week and carried those on my bicycle to showrooms of different traders at nearby markets in Saidpur, Taraganj and Ranir Bazar."  
 Prospect of higher profit made Mehedi's low-priced caps popular among local traders. And within the next couple of years, Mehedi saved up enough money to expand his business.  
 He rented a larger house with five rooms, where he set up 18 more machines that include cutting, sewing, embroidery and button-setting machines.  
 While visiting the factory some time before the Eid-ul-Fitr, workers were seen busy at work, while traders were waiting eagerly to collect their Eid orders.  
 The workers were mostly youths and housewives from surrounding villages. One

of them, Tanjila Begum, said that the good thing about the factory is that "we can start work after finishing household chores and each of us can earn Tk 250 to 300 daily by making 25 to 30 caps."  
 Another female worker, Mukta Begum, said job at the factory helped her turn the corner after her husband, the sole earner for their family of four, became paralysed two years ago.  
 Shahidul, a part-timer and a student, said "Caps with varieties of designs and types, such as seminar cap, DJ cap, wash cap, word cap, parachute cap and winter cap are made here."  
 "Now I'm making a good profit from the factory," Mehedi said humbly, adding, "Knowing the agony of poverty, I dream of providing employment to thousands of locals by setting up a multi-storeyed cap factory with digitalised machinery in the village, just like the ones in Dhaka."  
 Asked to make comment on Mehedi's success, SM Golam Kibria, Saidpur upazila nirbahi officer, said, "Mehedi Hasan is an inspiration to all educated youths."



Boothakata floating market in Pirojpur's Nazirpur upazila is a favourite destination of traders and farmers from nearby areas. From here, vegetables and seasonal fruits such as coconuts, bananas and hog plums are sent to Dhaka and other distant locations. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN