



Newly built 250-bed Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

PHOTO: STAR

Hospital handover delayed over alleged faulty design

The seven-storey building is constructed to upgrade Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital from 100-bed to 250-bed

MD QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

A Tk 26.69 crore newly constructed building of Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital is lying unused as the hospital authority has refused to take it from the Public Works Department (PWD) citing several 'faults' that might hinder the medical care giving process.

The seven-storey building is constructed under a government project to upgrade it from a 100-bed hospital to 250-bed.

The hospital remains overcrowded throughout the year.

Over 400 patients are currently admitted in the old one-storey building. The balconies and corridors were seen packed with patients during a recent visit.

People from not only Thakurgaon but also Panchagarh regularly come to this hospital to take treatment.

Kazi Erfan Enterprise won the bid in May 2015 for constructing the new building behind the old building inside the same compound.

The work was due to be completed by November 2016.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the building on March 29 last year, but the construction firm finally completed the construction work in August this year.

On August 26, through a letter, the PWD asked Prabhas Kumar Roy, superintendent of the hospital, to take over the new building.

But the hospital authorities refused to do so because a 10-member committee earlier inspected the building and on September 2 submitted a report that almost every floor lacked basic facilities.

Dr Tozammel Haque, who headed the committee, submitted the findings at a meeting chaired by local Lawmaker Ramesh Chandra Sen. PWD officials were present there.

"The CT scan control room on the ground floor lacks ventilation. There is no toilet for doctors at the outdoor section on the first floor although there are eight rooms for

them. Similar condition was seen on the second floor," says the report obtained by this correspondent.

"There are toilets in the pathology department on the north side of the first floor but there are no signboards indicating which ones are for males and which ones for females."

An operation theatre is located on the third floor but to one's surprise there is no basin where doctors and nurses can wash their hands, the report says.

Also, there is no station for the nurses on that floor. No sitting arrangement or toilets were found on the fourth and fifth floor.

On the seventh floor, no room for doctors and nurses had been constructed.

The building lacks modern waste management system and construction of the drainage system is still half-done, according to the committee's report.

Hospital Superintendent Prabhas Kumar Roy said, "The committee found so many faults in the building. Patients,

physicians and nurses will greatly suffer if we accept the building in such condition."

The hospital authority demanded that PWD should finish the recommended tasks before handing over the building to them.

After hearing the committee, MD Ramesh said, "The handing over process should be halted. The PWD officials must take steps to resolve the issues within a month and then hand it over to the hospital authorities."

"The Department of Architecture did consult the hospital authority before creating the plan for the building. We followed their design. The hospital authority never raised any objection. I do not understand why they are coming up with so many complains at this stage," PWD Executive Engineer Mohammad Moniruzzaman said.

"They want additional toilets, basins, collapsible gate and several other items. We will talk to the higher authority on what steps we can take following the lawmaker's order," he told this paper.

Road gets damaged within 2 days of repair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Two days after completion of renovation work of a five-km-long portion of Kulaura-Chandagram regional highway stretching from Dakkhinbagh bazar to Rotulibazar in Barlekha upazila, numerous cracks and potholes have developed on the road.

The road lies in awful state as substandard materials have been used in the renovation work, alleged locals.

Moulvibazar-Kulaura via Chandgram regional highway is the only road for two upazilas -Barlekha and Juri -of Moulvibazar and some parts of Bianibazar in Sylhet district. Floods in 2016 and 2017 have badly damaged a stretch of five km of the road.

At the time, contractor Jamil Iqbal of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) got the work order of Tk 93 crore for renovation of 17-km-long portion of the highway.

But the contractor started the repairing work of the road at the end of 2018. He later finished the renovation work of a major portion of the road, leaving the five kilometres incomplete, said local people.

Abdur Rob, a journalist of Dakkhinbagh area, said two days after completion of the renovation work of the road, it became unfit for traffic and motor vehicles due to huge potholes and cracks, causing

immense sufferings to the commuters, especially local school and college going students.

As the contractor used low quality stones and bricks, a number of potholes and cracks developed just two days after completion of the renovation work of the road on Sunday, said another resident Khairul Islam of the area.

During a visit, this correspondent found that the carpeting wore away at many points of the road.

The contractor completed the repair work with low cost, otherwise the road would not have damaged at such a short time, locals apprehended.

Yusuf Ahmad, site manager of the contractor firm Jamil Iqbal, said according to the schedule, the road work was done.

He ensured the construction work with 100 percent sincerity but could not explain the reason behind the early damage of the road.

"We will repair the road if it is damaged," said Yusuf.

Moulvibazar RHD Executive Engineer Shariful Alam said stern action would be taken against the contractor concerned if found responsible for the awful condition of the road.

"We are investigating the matter," said the engineer.



Lorries loaded with electric poles of Pirojpur Palli Bidyut Samity occupy a portion of the road in over half a kilometre area of Barishal-Pirojpur-Khulna road at Ranipur village in Pirojpur Sadar upazila, hampering vehicular movement on the important regional highway. The practice has continued for long as the poles, brought from different areas, are regularly unloaded at the spot for sending to local destinations.

PHOTO: HABTUBUR RAHMAN

13-yr-old boy beaten dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A 13-year-old boy, who was beaten by one of his neighbours and his relatives in Kulaura upazila on Wednesday allegedly over a previous enmity, died at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital on Saturday night.

The deceased, Suleman Ali, was son of late Bajit Ali of Fatiguli village.

Meanwhile, following a case filed by the victim's elder brother with Kulaura Police Station police detained three people yesterday.

Deceased's family members said neighbour Redwan Mia, 34, and his men picked up Suleman on Wednesday afternoon, tied him with a pillar and beat him mercilessly.

Locals later rescued him and admitted him to the hospital where he died around 11:00pm yesterday.



Two days after completion of renovation work of a five-km-long portion of Kulaura-Chandagram regional highway in Moulvibazar's Barlekha upazila, it gets damaged.

PHOTO: STAR

Female launch passenger found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police recovered the body of an unidentified young female passenger, aged about 20, from a double-decker launch in Galachipa upazila of the district yesterday.

The body was sent to Patuakhali General Hospital for autopsy, said Akhter Morshed, officer-in-charge of Galachipa Police Station.

On information, police recovered the body of the passenger from a Galachipa-bound double-decker launch 'MV Bagerhat-2' from Dhaka around 8:00am but nobody could identify her.

An unnatural death case was filed with the police station in this connection, said the OC.

They are interrogating all staffers of the launch to find out the reason behind the death, said the police official.

Police found a handkerchief inside a shopping bag of the deceased. Two words -- Lamia + Alam -- were inscribed on the handkerchief. Two letters 'LA' on her left hand were also painted with mehedi.

According to police and the launch authorities, the victim board the launch from Dhaka's Sadarghat terminal with a youth on Saturday evening. They later ate puffed rice.

The youth went missing when the launch reached Fatullah launch ghat in Narayanganj.

Since then, the victim started feeling unwell and at one stage, she died on the launch, said Abdul Latif, supervisor of the launch.

Birangona gets new house

Patuakhali OC arranged it with UNO's help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A Birangona (war heroine) at Itbaria village under Patuakhali Sadar upazila has got a new house, as the officer-in-charge (OC) of the local police station with the help of the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) made the arrangement.

Fulboru, 65, recently went to Patuakhali Police Station OC Md Mostafizur Rahman with an allegation over a land dispute and the latter learnt that the woman, tortured by Pakistani occupation army during the 1971 Liberation War, was listed as a Birangona.

Then he went to Itbaria village with the woman and saw the shanty where the widow and childless woman lives alone.

After settling the land dispute, the OC assured the woman, widow and childless, building a new house for her.

Then the OC requested Patuakhali Sadar UNO Latifa Jannati to provide help for the purpose and the UNO gave two bundles of CI sheet and cash Tk 8,000 from the office fund.

With his own money, the OC provided for the rest of the expenditure to buy wood and other materials and build a tin-shed house.

"I feel happy to arrange a moderate house for the war heroine," said the OC, who handed over its key to the woman on Saturday.

After getting the new house, Fulboru showed all signs of gratitude and happiness.

"I feel happy that a Birangona got

a new house to live in," said Ayub Ali Matubbor, a local freedom fighter.

The name of Fulboru is included in the list of Birangonas in Patuakhali, said Nirmal Kumar Rakkhit, former deputy commander of the district's Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

On May 2 in 1971, amid attack by a group of 30 to 40 members of Pakistan army aided by local Rajakars at Itbaria, villagers including a good number of women started fleeing.

The brutal army caught several women including Fulboru, took them to Patuakhali Circuit House and raped them continually.

As Fulboru became senseless after days of ordeal, soldiers left her on the bank of the Payra river. Later locals rescued her and arranged treatment.

12 gold bars seized, 1 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-6) members arrested an alleged smuggler along with 12 gold bars worth around Tk 70 lakh from BSCIC area in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The arrestee, Sharif Uddin, 53, is son of late Shafi Uddin of Puratan Bazar area in Chuadanga's Damurhuda upazila.

Additional Superintendent of Police Mohammad Masud Alam said, acting on a tip-off, they searched a Darshana-bound bus from Dhaka and detained Sharif and seized 12 gold bars from his possession.

After interrogation he was produced before a court that sent him to jail.

Beaten by students, college teacher hospitalized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A teacher of Domar Government College landed in hospital yesterday following serious injuries due to beating by a group of unruly students.

The victim, Md Solaiman Ali, lecturer of Islamic history and culture department of the college, filed a case with Domar Police Station against Saikat and Liton as main accused and 16 or 17 other unnamed boys.

"When I was taking class of intermediate first year at 12:30pm, student Shafiqul Anam complained to me that one Munna of the same class beat him and threatened not to come to college again from next day," Solaiman mentioned in the case.

"I with physics teacher Abdul Malek went to the second floor of the academic building to look for Munna for talking about the allegation when some associates of Munna lead by Saikat and Liton beat me and dragged me to the ground floor, making me injured. As Malek tried to save me, the boys assaulted him too," the victim said.

Colleagues brought Solaiman Ali to Domar Upazila Health Complex.

"The injured teacher is suffering from severe pain in the head and face and different points of his body swelled. We will conduct city scan of his head," said Dr Raihan Bari, resident medical officer of the hospital.

Condemning the incident, Principal Rabiul Karim said, "I've called a teachers' meeting tomorrow [Monday] to take decision for expulsion of the accused students from the college."



Fulboru with OC Md Mostafizur Rahman in front of her new house at Itbaria village under Patuakhali Sadar upazila after the OC handed over the house to her on Saturday.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN