



Pabna General Hospital where 50 beds of medicine unit are being used for the treatment of Covid-19 patients.

PHOTO: STAR

ONE YEAR INTO FIRST CONFIRMED COVID CASE

# Treatment facility in Pabna remains same

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The First Covid-19 patient was identified in Pabna on April 16 last year but on year down the line the treatment facility in the district remains the same although now there are several thousand Covid-19 patients in the district.

There is no scope to manage critical patients in the district as the hospitals are not properly equipped yet.

"The number of Covid-19 patients is increasing still but we have the same old treatment facility as we had a year back. We don't have PCR lab, 4-bed ICU unit is remaining inoperative, central oxygen supply work in 250-bed Pabna General Hospital is yet to be completed" Dr Saleh Mohammad Ali, medicine consultant and also a specialist doctor for the treatment of Covid-19, said.

"Hospitals are not properly equipped while we are mostly treating patients with mild symptoms here in Pabna," Dr Saleh said.

"We don't have the scope to manage critical patients here," he added.

A total of 2,065 have been tested positive in Pabna of them 193 patients have been identified in last one week. A total of 12 Covid-19 patients have reportedly died in last one year according to the district civil surgeon's office.

Dr KM Abu Jafar, deputy civil surgeon, said the district health department is whole heartedly trying to install a PCR lab in the district and has already submitted a project of Tk 2.7 crore, which is yet to be sanctioned. "Due to the lack of testing facility, we are taking samples from the patients and sending Sirajganj's PCR lab for examination," the deputy civil surgeon said.

A 100-bed Covid-19 unit is running in Pabna General Hospital's medicine unit, he added.

Visiting the Pabna General Hospital, it was found that 100-bed Covid-19 unit has been reduced to 50-bed due to less number of patients in the last few months.

Four-bed ICU unit in the hospital is not functioning and the high flow nasal cannula is also not in use due to the lack of central oxygen supply. The work of installing central oxygen

supply in the hospital is yet to be completed.

"Due to less number of Covid-19 patients last year, we have allotted 50 beds for medicine unit patients. Suspected patients are kept in isolation and a few patients are admitted in the Covid-19 unit," Dr Md. Aiyub Hossain, assistant director of Pabna General Hospital, said adding that the hospital authority has preparation to reuse the 100 beds if the surge of the patients further increases.

"Due to lack of central oxygen supply, we cannot operate the ICU unit and the training of doctors and nurses could not be initiated till now to operate the unit." Md Ruhul, an administrative officer of the hospital said.

Md Aiyub Hossain, however, said "We are trying to run the ICU unit as soon as possible. Selected doctors and nurses will be trained soon for operating the ICU unit."

The work for installing the central-oxygen supply in the hospital is undergoing but the progress of the work is slow, Aiyub said adding that the work is expected to be finished within the next two months.

# A zamindar mansion taken over by drug runners

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A place that could have been an attractive destination for archaeology and history enthusiasts has turned into a den of antisocial elements.

The derelict mansion, built in a bygone era by the then Nawdanga zamindar, in Nawdanga union of Kurigram's Phulbari upazila, is now a safe haven for drug dealers and addicts -- thanks to the indifference of law enforcers and government departments concerned.

Without any routine patrol or raid by law enforcers in the area, drug trade and abuse continues in the abandoned building openly, almost all throughout the day till late at night, said locals.

They also said that they are too afraid to report the illegal activity in the building to the police as the latter never take action against the criminals who are well-known for their involvement in drugs trade in the area.

Requesting not to be named, a resident of the area said those who buy and sell drugs in the building are affluent and politically influential.

Although the increased availability of drugs in the area has been a great concern for most law-abiding citizens and parents in the locality, the police are quizzically turning a blind eye to the crime, he also

alleged.

Nawdanga Union Parishad Chairman Musabber Ali Musa said many people from different parts of the country visit the historical Nawdanga Zamindar mansion every day and they unfortunately get a negative impression of the locality after finding empty Phensedyl bottles and other drug paraphernalia lying strewn in the building.

He had informed the police of the matter more than once, but they did not yet take any action, he alleged, adding that the police need to step up and protect the historical zamindar mansion as well as ensure peace and security of citizens.

Abu Zafar, assistant director of Department of Narcotics Control in Kurigram claimed that he was not aware of the situation.

Although they cannot always raid drug dens due to limited work force and transportation, they would soon take necessary action against the drug dealers at the Nawdanga zamindar mansion, he added.

Contacted, Phulbari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Rajib Kumar Roy admitted that the entire upazila of Phulbari is facing drug problem.

He also said that they would go into immediate action against the illicit drug trade at the mansion.



Empty Phensedyl bottles and other drug paraphernalia are a common sight inside the derelict mansion of Nawdanga zamindars, in Nawdanga union of Kurigram's Phulbari upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

# Fake doctor arrested, clinic owner fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A mobile court raided a private clinic in Thakurgaon municipality yesterday and detained a fake doctor from there.

The detainee, Rakibul Ahsan, 33, is son of Nurul Islam, who hails from Barishal.

The court led by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Abdullah Al Mamun also fined clinic owner Afazuddin Bhuiyan, 57, Tk 20,000 for appointing Rakibul at the hospital without examining his valid documents.

The UNO said on the basis of allegations from the service seekers, who received treatment at the clinic, they conducted a drive at Northern Digital Diagnostic Centre at Purba Goalpara in the municipality around 2:00pm yesterday.

Rakibul, who had been providing treatment to the patients for the last two to three years, tried to flee the scene when UNO Mamun asked him to show his registration from Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council (BMDC).



Criminals on Saturday night vandalised the sculpture of Sheikh Russel, youngest son on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, installed in Charkhamba area of Jashore town.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Youth held for raping schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Police yesterday arrested a youth in connection with a case for raping a fifth-grader in Sadar upazila.

The arrestee is Uzzal Kha, a resident of Benaygati village in the upazila.

Earlier, father of the victim girl filed a case with Bagerhat Sadar Model Police Station accusing Uzzal and his mother Farida Begum.

According to the case statement, Uzzal's mother Farida Begum, also sister of the plaintiff of the case, came to the victim's house on February 15 and took the girl to her house for a visit.

The girl finally returned to her parents house on March 29.

But seeing her physical illness and abnormal behaviour, when her mother asked her about the reason the girl said she was raped by Uzzal since February 17 till the day she returned her home.

Officer in Charge of Sadar Model Police Station Azizul Islam said after interrogation the arrestee was produced before a court that sent him to jail.

# Jatka seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police in a drive on Saturday night seized around 22 tonnes of Jatka, hilsa fry, from the Toll Plaza of Sheikh Kamal Bridge on Patuakhali-Kuakata highway.

Five people were also detained during the drive.

Later, the detainees were produced before a mobile court led by Kalapara Assistant Commissioner (Land) Jagat Bandhu Mandal the same night that fined them Tk 10,000 each.

The seized fish were later distributed among students of different orphanages in the town.

# Depression, anxiety rise

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percent in 2018, according to the study.

"We compared the findings of several studies done in 2020 and 2021 with the 2018 nationwide mental health survey. Based on this, it is confirmed that the prevalence of anxiety has increased four to six folds during the pandemic," Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed, co-author of the latest bulletin published by the IEDCR, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The study suggested that the collateral damage from the pandemic has continued with more people reporting rising levels of anxiety, depression and even suicidal thoughts.

Worryingly, around 38 people daily, and around 14,000 throughout the year, have committed suicide since March 2020, when the pandemic had begun, said the study revealed in a bulletin published by the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

Of them, at least seven had committed suicide "specifically due to Covid-19 related reason", according to the investigator of the latest NIMH study.

In 2019, this average was 32 per day, according to another study published in medRxiv journal by two researchers of the department of public health and informatics at Jahangirnagar University.

Physicians at the NIMH said they observed signs of deteriorating mental health in reaction to the toll of coronavirus infections and deaths and to the life-altering restrictions imposed by lockdowns.

He said, "The Covid-19 pandemic has already turned syndemic. It means that the pandemic is creating many problem [along with physical health issues] in human life indirectly. People from all occupations are suffering from a mental crisis. So, we have to put importance of the issue of mental health."

## THE REASONS AND WAYOUT

According to the NIMH study, panic over being infected with the virus, uncertainty over getting treatment, fear of death, economic upheaval and unemployment were among the reasons contributing to the mental health crisis.

The IEDCR bulletin also mentioned that the healthcare staffers of all levels are also suffering from stress and losing confidence due to Covid-19, which is badly affecting their mental health.

In this context, experts have suggested not to panic due to Covid-19 or any other reasons.

"We observed that the mental health problems have increased among people of all ages in different forms during the pandemic year. While the coronavirus disease itself is causing mental problems, the uncertainty over livelihood due to the lockdown has further aggravated it," Dr Nayem Akhter Abbassi, psychiatrist at the NIMH, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Dr Selim said, "Unless we can keep mental strength, we will not be able to sustain this pandemic. We have to take this pandemic as [a] normal [issue], because it will not be over soon. We have to learn how to live with Covid-19 instead of panicking."

"Panic weakens the normal immunity of the human body. So, it is urgent to reduce mental stress," the study said.

To stay safe from mental illness, the study mentioned made some suggestions, which include sleeping regularly on time, staying busy with favourite topics and tasks, spending quality time with family members, doing physical exercise every day, performing religious rituals at home, and being kind to others.

They also suggested contacting physicians or calling online health service numbers -- 16263 or 333 -- for further help.

# Even in pandemic

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for the health sector, which has the lowest implementation rate among the significantly large ministries.

"It is shameful because even the biggest health crisis of the last hundred years appears to have made no difference to the implementation capacity of the very ministry which was supposed to be at the frontline. It is as if the commanders on the battlefield kept napping while the enemy was on a strategic retreat to mutate into a more ferocious force."

Dr Taufique Joarder, public health and health system expert and vice-chairperson of Public Health Foundation of Bangladesh, said, "Health services division has been showing such inefficiency for a long time. The reason behind such chronic inefficiency is we do not have the right people in the right positions in the health services sector. A very few policymakers of this sector have knowledge on technical issues of public health management, which seriously decreases efficiency."

"On the other hand, our recruitment and placement system are faulty. We recruit only doctors in the health sector through the Bangladesh Civil Service Examination, but without public health professionals, health economists, biostatisticians, epidemiologists and health communication experts, an efficient health service sector cannot be developed," he added.

Pradip Ranjan Chakraborty, secretary, IMED of planning ministry, said, "Slow financial progress does not mean there is no physical progress. Sometimes ministries pay bills to the contractors after thoroughly evaluating the projects, which may cause such delays in disbursing the funds."

"To increase efficiency, we have suggested not changing project directors frequently and not assigning more than one project to a project director. If all the divisions and ministries work in a synchronised manner, we shall be able to increase our efficiency," added Pradip.

**ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিমিটেড**

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**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ফাইল নং-০৬.০২.৬৭৫৮.১৬৫.০৭.১৯৪.২১.১৬৯৭ তারিখঃ ১৮ এপ্রিল ২০২১

অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানে নবনির্দিষ্ট ০১টি ফ্লট ডেক পল্টন ও ০২টি সেক্স সাসটেইন্ড পল্টনের জন্য বিভিন্ন প্রকার মুরিং মালামালসমূহ সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী/উৎপাদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/উৎপাদনকারীর নিয়োগকৃত ডিপ্লার/আমদানিকারকের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে উল্লিখিত তারিখে খোলা দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

০১	ক্রয়কারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ
০২	ক্রয়কারী মালামাল	বিভিন্ন প্রকার মুরিং মালামালসমূহ (দকা ০১-১৭)।
০৩	দরপত্রের নথি নং	০৬.০২.৬৭৫৮.১৬৫.০৭.১৯৪.২১.১৬৯৭
০৪	তারিখ	১৮ এপ্রিল ২০২১।
০৫	ক্রয়ের প্রক্রিয়া	খোলা দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে।
০৬	উৎস	নিজস্ব তহবিল।
০৭	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	১৯ মে ২০২১ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
০৮	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার তারিখ ও সময়	২০ মে ২০২১ বেলা ১২.২৫ ঘটিকা।
০৯	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২০ মে ২০২১ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১০	দরপত্র বিক্রয় ও গ্রহণের স্থান	ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ
ক। দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান	ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ এর হিসাব বিভাগের ক্যাশ শাখা।	
	ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ	
খ। দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ	
	(১) ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।	
গ। দরপত্র খোলার প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	(২) দরদাতা এবং অনুমোদিত প্রতিনিধি দরপত্র খোলার সময় উপস্থিত থাকিতে পারিবে।	
	(১) তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী খোলা দরপত্রের অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে সম্পূর্ণ মূল্যের শতকরা ৩ ভাগ (৩%) আনুষ্ঠানিক হিসেবে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ এর নামে দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে (তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারদের জন্য প্রযোজ্য নহে)।	
১১	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টের মূল্য	টাকা ২,০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার) মাত্র (অক্ষেরতথ্যে)।
	যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	Web: www.dewbn.gov.bd, মোবাইলঃ ০১৭৬৯-৭১৯৮৮৮, ০১৭৬৯-৭১৯৮৮৭।
১৩	দরপত্রের সহিত যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা ও আনুষ্ঠানিক প্রদান করিতে হইবে	(১) তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী খোলা দরপত্রের অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে সম্পূর্ণ মূল্যের শতকরা ৩ ভাগ (৩%) আনুষ্ঠানিক হিসেবে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ এর নামে দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে (তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারদের জন্য প্রযোজ্য নহে)।
		(২) হালদাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালদাগাদ আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট, ড্রাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি (বিপত ৬ মাসের স্টেটম্যান্টসহ), এ্যাক্টিভিটি, পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি ০১ কপি (তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারদের জন্য প্রযোজ্য নহে)।
১৪	বিশেষ নির্দেশনাবন্দী	ডিউট্রি লিঃ কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল, সংশোধনের সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

জিডি-৭৮৯ পক্ষে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক