



The lone generator machine at Chest Disease Clinic and Hospital (CDCH) in Faridpur has remained inoperative for a long time, much to the suffering of the patients. Manpower crunch and lack of medical equipment have crippled the hospital.

PHOTO: STAR

# Understaffing, equipment shortage cripple CDCH

SUZIT KUMAR DAS

Chest Disease Clinic and Hospital (CDCH) in Faridpur is plagued with manpower crisis and necessary equipment shortage for a long time, much to the suffering of the patients.

According to sources, the 20-bedded hospital was established on eight acres of land in Bhajandanga area near Faridpur town in 1961.

The lone X-ray machine was given to the hospital in 2009 and it was installed in 2015 but it never came into operation due to technical problems.

However, a new X-ray machine was installed at the hospital two months ago and a new radiologist has joined the clinic recently.

There is only one medical officer against three posts, two assistant nurses against four, one office attendant against four, and one medical technologist on deputation,

added the sources.

Currently, the post of a junior consultant, two for pharmacists, one for office assistant, two posts for home visitor and one for driver have been lying vacant, they added.

During a recent visit to the hospital, this correspondent found only six patients undergoing treatment at inpatient wards at the hospital. Of them, two were in the male ward and four in the female ward.

Signs of negligence and lack of supervision were found everywhere as cows and goats were found roaming on the hospital premises.

People from the adjacent area usually come to take bath in the pond of the hospital. The X-ray room was found to be locked and the lone generator has been remaining inoperative for a long time.

Jane Alam, 65, a resident of Byaparipara area under Sadar upazila, said "I have been taking treatment at the hospital for three

months for my chest pain. I come here at 8:00am and return home around 2:00pm after taking lunch. No patients stay here at night as there is no doctor and nurse to attend the patients then. At night, the hospital seems to be a haunted place."

Halima Begum, wife of Delwar Byapari of Uttar Tapakhola area, said, "I have been suffering from tuberculosis and that's why I got admitted here. But necessary medical tests like blood, ultra-sonogram and X-ray cannot be conducted here. I have had to pay Tk 500 for an X-ray report and Tk 550 for an ultra-sound report from outside of the hospital."

Maliha Bapari, 50, wife of Sukdum Byapari of Tapakhola area, said, "I have been taking treatment for tuberculosis at this hospital for the last two months. We are only four female patients taking treatment here. No new patients come here due to long distance from the town."

"Tuberculosis patients need to eat a

highly nutritious diet. We are poor and we cannot afford to buy nutritious food. For this reason, we have come here for food and treatment. We get breakfast and lunch daily from the hospital," added Maliha Byapari.

Merina Parvin, medical officer of CDCH, said, "Due to lack of manpower and arrangements for other essential tests like blood, ultra-sonogram etc, we cannot give proper treatment. Only cough is examined in this hospital. The patients are advised to get other necessary tests done from outside."

On average, 30 patients take treatment from the outdoor at the clinic every day, she added.

"But due to lack of testing facilities and manpower crunch, we cannot provide due services to them. We have written to the higher authority about the X-ray machine and generator but no step has been taken yet," she further said.

## Kishoreganj youth killed for protesting stalking of sister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A young man, who sustained serious injuries after being beaten up by a group of stalkers for protesting harassment of his younger sister in Kishoreganj's Kuliarchar upazila on Thursday night, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Saturday.

The victim, Alam Mia, 23, son of Khorshid Mia of Bhatir Jagat Char village, was a BA (Pass) first-year student at Katiadi Government College in Kishoreganj, police said.

Deceased's family members said although a case has been filed with Kuliarchar Police Station on Saturday, police are yet to arrest any of the culprits involved in the murder.

Meanwhile, local people brought out a procession and blocked Agarpur-Laxmipur road, protesting Alam's murder.

They also demanded arrest of the killers within 72 hours, otherwise, they would go for tougher agitation.

Quoting locals, Officer in Charge (OC) of Kuliarchar Police Station Mohammad Golam Mustafa said Alam along with his parent and younger sister went to attend a waz mahfil (religious gathering) at adjacent Uttar Laxmipur village on Thursday evening.

On their way back to home, a group of youths started stalking Alam's younger sister, a Class IX Student at a local school, near Purbapara area. When Alam protested the stalkers, the latter intentionally locked in an altercation with Alam and his family members.

At one stage of altercation, criminals swooped on Alam and hit him on the head with bamboo sticks, leaving him critically injured, the OC added.

Injured Alam was first taken to Jahurul Islam Medical College Hospital in nearby Bajitpur upazila, from where he was immediately referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

He succumbed to his injuries there on Saturday. Sujon Mia, deceased's brother-in-law, filed a case accusing Rocky Mia, 21, and Shawon, 20, the same night.

They were conducting drives to arrest the accused of the case, the OC further said.

## Manikganj free day today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Today is Manikganj free day.

On this day in 1971, local valiant freedom fighters freed the district (the then sub-division) from the Pakistani occupation forces and hoisted the national flag atop of the Primary Training Institute (PTI) in the town.

In March 1971, freedom-loving people of the district started preparing themselves under the leadership of Captain Abdul Halim Chowdhury.

On March 27, a day after the declaration of the country's independence on March 26, freedom fighters looted firearms from Manikganj Treasury.

The following day, freedom fighters led by Engineer Tobarak Hossain Ludu, Lokman Hossain and Zahidur Rahman killed 82 Pakistani soldiers and held 50 others wounded in a fierce battle at Golaidanga village in Singair upazila.

Moreover, another group led by Bir Protik Ibrahim blew up Siddhirganj Power House.

In the last week of November, freedom fighters entered the district and finally declared the then sub-division free from the clutches of the occupation forces on December 13.

## HC refuses

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"The next session of parliament will start at the end of January next year. As far as I know, the tenure of the current Election Commission will expire on February 14 or 15 next year. Practically speaking and with due respect, I am saying that it is not possible to make a law for the formation of the Election Commission within this short period," he said.

Anisul made the remarks after holding a meeting with a delegation of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) at his Gulshan residence.

## Liberation

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National Press Club.

Board officials said Bangla, general knowledge, Bangladesh and Biswa Parichiti books will have the topics on Liberation War struggle and Liberation War.

Qawmi madrasas have so far been an uncharted territory with no government monitoring, supervision or support. They mostly run with private donations.

These madrasas operate under several education boards run privately. They are said to follow the syllabus of Darul Uloom Deoband, a historic Islamic school of India, focusing mainly on Arabic, Persian and Urdu languages.

It is understood they don't teach science, social science, math and literature. Only a handful of Qawmi madrasas teach Bangla and English up to class-VIII.

## Assange suffered 'mini-stroke' in prison: fiancée

AFP, London

WikiLeaks publisher Julian Assange had a mini-stroke during his battle to avoid extradition from Britain to the United States, his fiancée Stella Moris said.

## Half a billion pushed into

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budgets," Juan Pablo Uribe, global director for health, nutrition and population at World Bank, said.

Meanwhile, Australia yesterday said it will shorten the wait time for people to receive a Covid-19 booster following a rise in cases of the Omicron variant.

Australia had previously said it would offer the booster to everyone over 18 who had had their second dose of the vaccine six months earlier.

But with rising cases of the Omicron variant, Health Minister Greg Hunt said the time interval will be shortened to five months after the second dose.

"A booster dose five or more months after the second dose will make sure that the protection from the primary course is even stronger and longer lasting and should

## Failing to blackmail, 3 men

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three people were sent to jail on Saturday in connection with the gang rape of a woman.

The three are Md Aslam Mia, 23, Rabbi Hossain, 20, and Md Raihan, 20. They are all residents of Panditpur village under Joypurhat Sadar upazila.

They were sent to jail after Joypurhat police produced them before a local court.

Quoting the victim of the gang rape, police said the three men, who were neighbours of the woman, allegedly entered the house compound by climbing up the boundary walls on Thursday night and secretly videotaped intimate moments between her and her husband.

The next day, one of the three contacted the woman and said the video clip will be uploaded on social media unless she pays them Tk 50,000.

## Man 'dies in DB custody'

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around 11:00am on Saturday along with 50 bottles of Phensedyl. After a case was filed with Debhata Police Station in this connection, Babul was taken to the DB office in the district.

Satkhiira DB Inspector Yeasin Alam Chowdhury said the arrestee was kept at the DB lockup at the police lines for interrogation.

Babul died by suicide using the rope around his waist sometime during the night, the inspector claimed.

Talking to reporters, Babul's daughter Sultana Munni said his father was innocent. She said an unidentified woman came to their home about an hour before Babul's arrest and met him in his room.

Munni claimed that the Phensedyl bottles were planted in their house by that woman.

Later, four to five people, identifying themselves as DB policemen, recovered the bottles, beat Babul and arrested him, she

help prevent spread of the virus," Hunt said in an emailed statement.

"Data from Israel shows boosters supporting reductions in the rate of infection in eligible age groups, severe disease in those aged over 40 years and deaths in those over 60 years."

Australia will use both vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna in its booster programme.

Australia is one of the most vaccinated countries, with about 90% of people over 16 fully inoculated.

Still, Australia on Sunday reported 1,556 cases in the previous 24 hours as infections lingered near the six-week high reported a day earlier.

Australia has recorded about 229,000 Covid-19 infections, well below the toll of other nations, and 2,100 deaths.

The woman refused to pay the money, according to the first information report.

Then during the early hours of Friday, the three again went to the woman's house in her husband's absence, confronted her and demanded the money.

When she said she did not have any money to pay them, they gang raped her and fled the area.

The next day, the woman filed the case against them with Joypurhat Sadar Police Station, police said, adding police arrested the three that same day and produced them before the local court that sent them to jail.

AKM Alamgir Jahan, officer-in-charge of Joypurhat Sadar police station, said all the accused confessed to the gang rape during primary interrogation.

Meanwhile, the victim was sent to hospital for medical tests.

claimed.

Babul's wife Sahanara Khatun said her husband did not die by suicide. He died due to police torture. She demanded justice.

DB Inspector Yeasin said the body was sent to Satkhira Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy after an inquest report was prepared in presence of a magistrate and a physician.

Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman, superintendent of police in Satkhira, said Assistant Sub-inspector Sheikh Sohel and constable Shariful Islam, who were on duty at the DB office that night, were suspended. "We will investigate the incident," he said.

Police claimed that Babul was accused in four more cases filed under the Narcotics Control Act and the cases were under trial.

Debhata Sadar Union Parishad chairman Abu Bakar Gazi, however, said he never heard about any such allegation against Babul and that he knew that Babul was a good man.

## At least 93

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very sad and solemn operation at this point."

As Americans grappled with the immensity of the disaster, condolences poured in, with Pope Francis saying he is praying "for the victims of the tornado that hit Kentucky."

Biden's Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, in a break from tense bilateral relations, said his country "shares in the grief" of those who lost loved ones and expressed hope that victims quickly overcome the tornadoes' consequences.

The catastrophe has shaken many Americans, including officials who have worked in the aftermath of tornadoes and other big storms.

## How the

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Quetzalcoatlus likely took to the sky like a fighter jet off an aircraft carrier - punching 2.4 metres off the ground before flapping huge wings.

It took nearly 50 years between the time the bones were discovered in Big Bend National Park in Brewster County, Texas, and when scientists could determine how the creature flew.

Brown attributes that to the painstakingly slow process of unearthing the bones. Like many other flying species during that time, this pterosaur had bones that were hollow to aid in flight, Brown said.

"You have these sort of potato chip-like bones preserved in very hard rock, and you've got to remove the bones from the rock without destroying them," he said.

Over the last half century, two new smaller species of pterosaurs were discovered in the national park as well.

At first, the scientists weren't sure if the animals were juvenile versions of the Quetzalcoatlus or a different species altogether. The researchers took precise measurements of the fossils and ran them through a computer algorithm.

## Third Soviet veto bars truce

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resolution mainly because it did not include a call for a political settlement acceptable to the Bangladesh authority.

Italy and Japan immediately after the vote submitted a new resolution that they hoped might bring a break in the deadlock between the big powers. Their proposal called for an "immediate opening of negotiation [for] a comprehensive political settlement" as well as for a ceasefire "as a first step" and for "operations of disengagement and withdrawal" without any allusion to borders.

ON THE WAR FRONT Mitro Bahini today continued their three-pronged advance on Dhaka and an Indian spokesman declared that "within 24 to 48 hours we will be in a very strong position around Dhaka".

General SFHJ Manekshaw, the Indian army chief of staff, made a third appeal tonight to the Pakistan generals in East Pakistan urging them to surrender because

## Murad returns

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Murad and digital media host Mohiuddin Helal Nahid under the Digital Security Act (DSA).

The cases were filed with cyber tribunals in Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi and Sylhet for making derogatory comments about BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her family members during a Facebook Live video.

Murad resigned from his cabinet post last Tuesday after an uproar caused by the misogynistic and sexually abusive remarks heard on social media and in a leaked audio clip of another conversation.

Murad had left the country for Canada last Thursday. A source at the information ministry said Murad got the visa to visit Canada for official purposes when he was a state minister.

But he went to Canada on Friday on a personal tour after his resignation, which could be a reason why the Canadian authorities denied Murad entry into the country, added the source.

After ending the immigration formalities yesterday at the HSIA, Murad left the airport using the domestic terminal instead of the VIP terminal exit to avoid media.

Sources at the airport said none but his brother came to receive him. He was then seen going towards Uttara with his brother instead of his Dhanmondi home.

Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) did not make any official statement regarding the incident, or for putting Murad back on the Emirates Airlines plane on which he landed in Toronto Pearson International Airport at 1:31pm Eastern Standard Time on Friday.

Expatriate Bangladeshis in Canada as well as Toronto-based Bangla news portals reported that the CBSA denied the former state minister entry after receiving an overwhelming number of objections

"your garrisons are now within the range of my artillery".

The western front was reported largely quiet today, with the only significant action reported in northern Kashmir, where the Indians said they had taken two more mountain posts near Kargil.

The International Committee of the Red Cross announced today that it would assist the wounded and prisoners of both sides in the India'Pakistan war. A committee spokesman said India and Pakistan had agreed to accept Red Cross help. A similar assurance that the Bangladesh government would abide by the conventions had also been received, the spokesman said.

Bangladesh Radio was broadcasting personal appeals from Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed to be quiet and not to take revenge. It would be bad for the new nation to be launched with bloodshed, he said. *Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com*

against him.

Following public outrage over his misogynistic remarks, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on December 6 directed Hassan to hand in his resignation.

The next day, he sent in his resignation to the prime minister and President Abdul Hamid.

DSA CASES AGAINST MURAD

According to the statements of the DSA cases filed yesterday, the accused -- Murad Hassan and Mohiuddin Helal Nahid -- used "profoundly vulgar, misogynistic, and derogatory language" against Khaleda Zia, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and Zaima Rahman during a Facebook Live and disseminated false information.

Murad Hassan also shared the interview, which was broadcasted live by Helal Nahid from his verified Facebook page on December 1, the complainants said in the case statements.

In four cases, the complainants brought similar allegations against the accused under Sections 25/29/31/35 of the DSA.

In Dhaka, Omar Faruk Faruqui, former general secretary of Dhaka Bar Association, filed the case.

The hearing on the complaint is likely to be held today, court sources said.

In Chattogram, Badrul Anwar, president of Jatayatnabadi Ainjibi Forum Chattogram unit, filed the complaint.

The court set December 15 to decide whether to take the case into cognisance.

In Rajshahi, AKM Saiful Islam, senior joint convener of Bogura district unit of BNP, filed the case.

No date was fixed for hearing in the case till this report was filed yesterday.

In Sylhet, Tanvir Akhter Khan of Sylhet District Bar Association filed the case.

The hearing of the case was scheduled on December 15.