

Huge cache of narcotics recovered in drives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Law enforcers recovered a huge cache of illegal drugs and narcotics during anti-narcotic drives conducted in five upazilas of Thakurgaon over past eight months.

At least 48,175 contraband yaba pills, 8,871 illegal painkiller Tapentadol tablets, 2,399 bottles of phensidyl, 38 kilogrammes of marijuana and 73 grammes of heroin were recovered during the drives.

Police also arrested 835 people in this connection, said Uttam Prasad Pathak, superintendent of police in Thakurgaon, during a press briefing recently.

Also, 160 people were rescued after abduction, and 76 stolen mobile phones were recovered by police during separate drives, the SP also said.

Furthermore, police realised a revenue around Tk 2 crore from different vehicles under transport law and disposed of about 3,500 arrest warrants, he added.

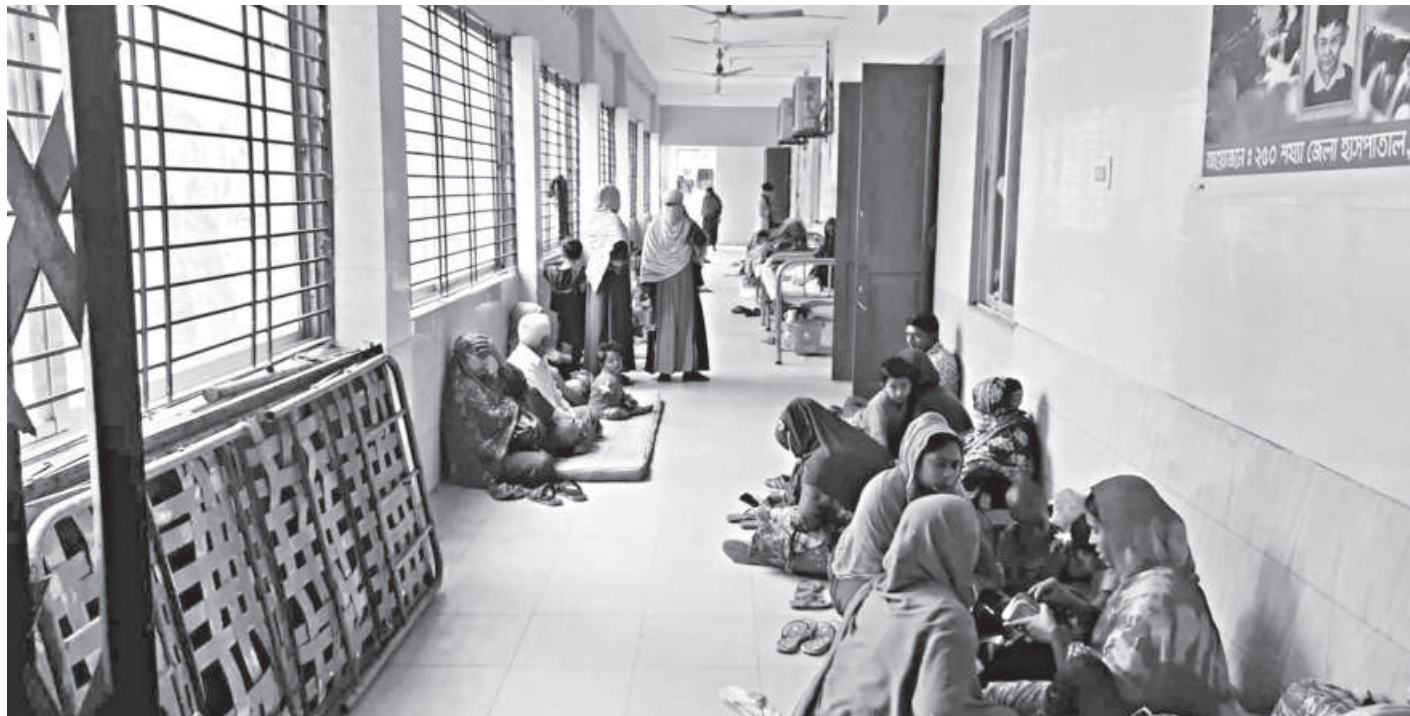
Govt directives

FROM PAGE 3 government and private hospitals across the country to follow the instructions regarding the use of isoflurane instead of halothane, as well as determining the specification for the purchase of new anesthesia machines, the circular also said.

It further directed for taking measures to prevent the purchase, sale and use of Halothane without the approval of the Directorate General of Drug Administration.

BAGERHAT 250-BED HOSPITAL

Services in jeopardy amid acute manpower shortage



PARTHA CHAKRABORTY, Bagerhat

An acute shortage of doctors and staff has left patients at the Bagerhat 250-bed hospital deprived of much needed medical care.

The lone public hospital, that serves 17 lakh people in the district, is currently running with less than half of its required manpower.

The hospital was originally established in 1970 with 50 beds. Later, it was upgraded to 100 beds in 1997 and 250 beds in May of 2022.

Of the 56 posts of doctor at the hospital, 30 are vacant at present, including the posts for assistant director, consultants for ophthalmology, anaesthesia, surgery, and cardiology.

Additionally, 28 out of 109

posts for nurses, and 44 posts of second, third and fourth grade employees remain vacant.

As such, patients are being deprived of the services of essential specialist doctors, diagnosis and medical care. Patients from Bagerhat are often having to travel to Khulna and Dhaka seeking medical treatment, bearing a burden of expenses that many find difficult to afford.

According to hospital sources, 700-1,000 patients are treated daily in its outdoors area, while 300-450 patients are regularly admitted against the 250 available beds.

Amid the shortage of manpower, the doctors and nurses often struggle to serve patients adequately.

The shortage of manpower even left the hospital's maintenance aspects, including cleaning and

hygiene, in utter disarray.

"I admitted my father here a week ago. The doctor says all tests are not available here. So, I am taking him home today. If we can arrange the money, I will take him to Khulna for treatment," said Rabiul Islam of Hazrakhali village under Kachua upazila.

Patients Ranu Rani and Masnu Sheikh shared similar experiences.

Waiting at the ticket counter with his ill child on his lap, Ruhul Amin Sheik said, "There are many counters, but tickets are being sold at only two, while the rest are empty, including the one for pregnant women. As such, patients have to wait in long queues before getting admitted."

Serajul Sheikh, an attendant for a patient at the hospital, said the toilets are so dirty that it is difficult to use those, especially for the patients.

"There has not been the desired development in Bagerhat's health sector. The district's main hospital does not even have CT scan or echocardiogram facilities, or specialist doctors for consultation, which tells much about the sorry state of healthcare in the district," said Babul Sardar, convener of health sub-committee of Bagerhat Sachetan Nagarik Committee.

"Of the 58 first-grade posts, 32 are vacant at present. There are also some crises regarding pathological services. The number of patients the hospital has to deal with daily is also high. Yet, we are trying our best to serve the patients despite the limitations. The manpower crisis has been reported to the higher authorities," said Dr Asim Kumar Samaddar, superintendent of the hospital.



Drive to recover Louhajang river continues

District admin constructing walkways on riverbanks

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

With the drive to recover the Louhajang river in Tangail municipal area continuing in full swing, the once beautiful river is gradually returning to its previous shape.

The Tangail district administration began the drive on March 1. On the first day, around 2,000 members of BD Clean, a voluntary organization, took part to clean-up around 1.5km stretch of the river in the municipal area.

The district administration then started constructing walkways on both banks of the river after removing most structures on the riverbanks from Housing Bridge to Stadium area. Local environmental activists Ratan Ahmed Siddique and Nur Mohammad Rajjo are assisting the administration in the works.

Earlier, the then district administrations evicted illegal structures from both sides of the river during drives in 2016 and 2020.

Tangail Sadar UNO Hasan Bin Ali, who is coordinating the river recovery drive, said they are following the Water Act 2013 in carrying out the drive.

The people living in vicinity of the river are helping the administration spontaneous, with many of them having removed their structures from the river's land on their own, the UNO also said.

"The construction of the walkways may be completed by next week. The district administration is bearing the cost of the works so far," Hasan Ali added.

Gautam Chandra Chanda, divisional coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), lauded the initiative and recommended the authorities to keep the riverbanks free of traffic movement. "We request the authorities to follow the instructions of the higher court in this regard," he added.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
"Construction of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society National Headquarters"
Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief (MoDMR)
Address: 684-686, Red Crescent Sarak, Boro Moghbazar, Dhaka 1217.

Memo No: 51.00.000.241.14.078.23.124 Date: 28/03/2024

Request for Expression of Interest (Firm).

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Consulting Firm (National) for Preparation of BoQ as per PWD, related Tender Documents and full time Supervision of Construction of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society National Headquarters.

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief (MoDMR)
2. Agency	Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief (MoDMR)
3. Procuring Entity Name	Project Director "Construction of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society National Headquarters"
4. Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6. Expression of Interest for Selection	Consulting Firm (National) for preparation of BoQ as per PWD, Related Tender Documents and Full time Supervision of Construction of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society National Headquarters.
7. EOI Ref No	51.00.000.241.14.078.23.124
8. Date	28/03/2024
Key Information	
9. Procurement Method	QCBS
Fund Information	
10. Budget and Source of Funds	GoB Fund
11. Development Partners	Not Applicable
Particulars Information	
12. Project Code (if Applicable)	2243839
13. EOI Closing date and time	16/04/2024 (Tuesday) at 3.00 pm
14. Project Name	Construction of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society National Headquarters.
Information for Applicant	
15. Brief Description of Assignment	The Project is being implemented by the Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief (MoDMR) where 10 Storied Office Building for Bangladesh Red Crescent Society National Headquarters will be Constructed. Entity would like to engage a consulting firm. The required service includes but not limited to (a) To prepare of Detail BoQ and related Tender Documents of the construction contract/s (b) To assist the Employer in the Tendering procedures for selection of Contractor/s (c) Full time and detail supervision of the construction work as per approved drawing & design along with required logistics support. (d) Approval of materials and quality of works (e) Change/alteration/modification of drawings and specifications as per requirement of the authority. (f) Recommendation of revised estimate including rate of nontendering items of works (g) Preparation of submission of monthly report which includes construction progress with all other related information
16. Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required	The EOI will be evaluated on the basis of the following to prepare a short list and interested firm must provide the following information. 1. Background of the firm with Brochure. 2. Experience and expertise of the firm. 3. a) Local firm who has minimum 12 (Twelve) years of experience in Estimate, BoQ and Full-time supervision consultancy and having past consultancy experience of at least 2 (two) similar in nature minimum 10 storied building of Government or autonomous organization and among them at least one project should be completed. The work completion certificate shall have to be issued by the officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent officer of the concerned Department/Organization. b) Submit Company profile with detail information or experienced professional such as Team leader, Senior Architect, Structural/Foundation Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Water & Plumbing Engineer, Supervision Engineer, and other related experts & Officials. c) Submit information regarding Financial Capacity and VAT registration, up to date Income Tax Clearance Certificate, Trade License etc. d) Submit documentary evidence against experience, professional, resource and capacity as mentioned above. e) Submitted firms may obtain further information from the above address during normal office hour.
17. Other details (if applicable)	Envelope containing the application (EOI) along the relevant supporting documents to be marked with Expression of Interest (EOI) from Consulting Firm (National) for providing detailed information for above mentioned works.
18. Association with foreign firms is	Not applicable
Procuring Entity Details:	
19. Name of official inviting REOI	Mohammad Nazmul Abedin
20. Designation of official inviting EOI	Joint Secretary (Planning) Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief (MoDMR) & Project Director "Construction of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society National Headquarters"
21. Address of official inviting EOI	Project Director Office of the Project Director, "Construction of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society National Headquarters" Address: 684-686, Red Crescent Sarak, Boro Maghbazar, Dhaka-1217.
22. Contact Details of official inviting	Phone: 02-55100772 E-mail: nazmul.abedin@modmr.gov.bd (official) And nazmul6629@yahoo.com (personal)
23. Place of Receiving the EOI	Project Director Office of the Project Director, "Construction of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society National Headquarters" Address: 684-686, Red Crescent Sarak, Boro Maghbazar, Dhaka-1217.
24. Special Instructions	Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all EOI's

Mohammad Nazmul Abedin
Joint Secretary (Planning),
Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief (MoDMR)
And
Project Director
"Construction of BDRCS NHQ"