

In this series, we cover three reports from Sirajganj, Pirojpur, and Habiganj revealing how a dysfunctional healthcare system is taking a heavy toll on the rural population. Together, these stories expose chronic neglect and mismanagement in public health infrastructure, leaving citizens to bear the consequences.

## MULIBARI OF SIRAJGANJ Tk 10.79cr trauma centre lies idle

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, *Pabna*

A 20-bed trauma centre for accident victims, established beside the Jamuna Bridge in Mulibari area of Sirajganj, has yet to become operational in four years.

As a result, the newly built infrastructure is gradually getting damaged due to a lack of maintenance, while more funds are being sought for repair work, sources said.

According to the Health Engineering Department (HED) in Sirajganj, the three-storey trauma centre was established to provide emergency treatment to road accident victims on the Jamuna Bridge West Zone, one of the busiest highways in the northern region, by acquiring around one acre of railway land beside Mulibari rail crossing.

The construction work began in 2019 and was completed in 2020 at a cost of Tk 10.79 crore. Later in June 2021, it was handed over to the health ministry,



## Long waits, limited care

Bahubal Health Complex crippled by manpower crisis

MINTU DESHWARA

Patients at the Bahubal Upazila Health Complex in Habiganj are being forced to wait hours for treatment amid a shortage of doctors, nurses and essential medicines, rendering the hospital increasingly dysfunctional.

Sadekur Rahman, 55, a resident of the Mirpur area, said they had arrived at 10:30am, but no doctor attended to them till 1:00pm.

Sabanur Rahman, who came from Rashidpur, echoed him.

With a population of nearly 1.98 lakh under its jurisdiction, the health complex appears to be more ill than the patients it serves, alleged locals.

According to hospital sources, against 20 sanctioned doctor posts, only six personnel are currently employed, while 14 positions remain vacant.

In 2016, the hospital was upgraded from a 31-bed to a 50-bed facility. However, the required staffing for such an upgrade has

doctors. Complicated cases are regularly referred to other hospitals. Caesarean services, introduced briefly, were shut down within four



not been fulfilled.

Patients admitted to the wards are being deprived of proper care due to the absence of specialised

months following the transfer of the gynaecologist.

Dr Mizanur Rahman Shahin, SEE PAGE 9 COL 7

Efforts are underway to initiate the hospital's operation soon after equipping it with the required machinery and appointing necessary manpower.

Dr Md Nurul Amin  
Civil surgeon of Sirajganj

said Md Shahinur Islam, assistant engineer of HED in Sirajganj.

Dr Md Nurul Amin, civil surgeon of Sirajganj, said although the construction work has been completed, the centre is yet to be equipped with necessary facilities and manpower, so its operation has not begun.

The health directorate approved 20 posts on February 5 this year, including two consultants, two medical officers and four senior staff nurses for the hospital, but appointments to the posts are yet to be made, he said.

"Efforts are underway to initiate the hospital's operation soon after equipping it with the required machinery and appointing necessary manpower," the civil surgeon added.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7



## KAWKHALI HEALTH COMPLEX

### Locals suffer as hospital project stalls for 17 years

KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, *Pirojpur*

The construction work to upgrade the facilities of Kawkhali Upazila Health Complex in Pirojpur remains incomplete even after 17 years, depriving around one lakh residents of essential medical services.

The work began on June 25, 2008, to upgrade the health complex from 31 to 50 beds. Nuri Enterprise from Barishal was awarded the contract to construct three buildings -- an outpatient

department (OPD) building and two residential buildings -- at a cost of over Tk 5 crore, according to sources at the Health Engineering Department (HED) in Pirojpur.

However, the HED cancelled the work order after the contractor managed to complete only 13 percent of the work within the deadline, which expired on January 25, 2010.

The contractor also violated project guidelines and attempted to withdraw SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

## Bangladesh at a 'crucial crossroad'

FROM PAGE 3

At the event, BNP standing committee member Abdul Moyeen Khan said Xi Jinping's ideas of inclusive society, equitable development, and transparent governance align with Bangladesh's aspirations.

"We believe in socialism in the context of people's welfare. A peaceful society is possible when we reduce the gap between rich and poor," he said.

Road, Transport and Bridges Adviser Fouzul Kabir Khan said Xi Jinping's book highlights national unity, economic development, and good governance.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam

said Bangladesh follows a Western model of governance and is less familiar with the Chinese approach, but China's development deserves close study.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen said China's modernisation journey could serve as a reference for Bangladesh and other Global South countries, as Bangladesh stands at this "crucial crossroads of transformations".

"China achieved in decades what took the West centuries -- rapid economic growth and lasting social stability -- proving modernisation doesn't require Westernisation," he

said.

He added that Xi Jinping's book, published in four volumes and 42 languages, offers insight into contemporary China and its development strategies.

"Many Bangladeshi friends ask how China lifted nearly 100 million people out of poverty. I tell them, 'The answers may be in this book,'" Yao Wen said.



Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-10	12-45	5-00	6-36	8-30
JAMAAT 4-45	1-15	5-15	6-40	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## National plan must

FROM PAGE 3

"We must put an end to this culture," he said.

Amar Bangladesh Party (AB) Chairman Mujibur Rahman Manju said unplanned development over the past 53 years has taken the greatest toll on national resources.

Zonayed Saki, chief Coordinator of Ganosambhati Andolan, said every national plan must prioritise people, life, and nature. "Every inch of Bangladesh must be brought under inclusive planning," he added.

Ariful Islam Adeeb, senior joint convenor of the National Citizen Party, echoed the need for strong environmental accountability. He urged all political parties to pledge that they would not nominate individuals harmful to the environment. "In addition, the Election

Commission should ensure that such individuals are barred from candidacy," he said. He also criticised the tendency of elected representatives to focus solely on their own constituencies, which he said is a major reason behind uncoordinated and unplanned development across the country.

Saiful Haque, general secretary of the Biplobi Workers Party, described Dhaka as a "toxic city" and emphasised the urgent need for decentralisation of development, education, and healthcare.

The session was chaired by BIP President Dr Adil Muhammad Khan. Other speakers included Nagorik Oikya President Mahmudur Rahman Manna and Ashrafur Alam, joint secretary of Islami Andolon Bangladesh.

## Amendment to try organisations

FROM PAGE 3

action against organisations, having this power within a tribunal of international standards adds credibility and public trust," he added.

With the amendment, the tribunal can now suspend or ban an organisation's activities, declare it illegal, suspend or cancel its registration or licence, and confiscate its property.

The ordinance also defines "organisation" as any political party, any group affiliated with or associated with such a party, or any group of individuals that,

in the tribunal's opinion, supports, propagates, endorses, facilitates, or engages in the activities of such a party or entity

It states that the tribunal can take action against any organisation found to have committed, ordered, attempted, aided, incited, abetted, conspired, or in any way facilitated crimes against humanity.

The ordinance followed a special meeting of the interim government's advisory council on Saturday, where the amendment was approved.

The meeting was held amid protests demanding a ban on the Awami League.

During the session, the council also decided to prohibit all activities of Awami League, including its online presence, under the Anti-Terrorism Act until the tribunal's proceedings against the party and its leaders are completed.

The council said the decision aims to protect national security, the July Movement's activists, and ensure the safety of complainants and witnesses in the tribunal cases.

## Lack of political will stalls critical

FROM PAGE 3

Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, head of the labour reform commission, said, "From the 1960s to the 1980s, planning consistently overlooked workers. Any development effort should begin with the working class."

Dr M Shamsul Hoque, professor of Civil Engineering at Buet, called for a coordinated, eco-conscious transport policy. "Globally, transport ministries operate in harmony across rail, road, air, and waterways. In Bangladesh and India, it's the opposite," he said.

Prof AK Enamul Haque, director general of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), said, "Every kilometre of

Dhaka's roads serves around 80,000 people daily. At New Market junction alone, 5,000 people cross every hour."

"Yet, we don't even have public restrooms. Footpaths last just 1.5 years before being dug up again. Our development is so unplanned that we're turning cities into vertical slums," he added.

Eminent economist Prof Anu Muhammad said, "No ruling party has taken a holistic approach to governance. Our cities are shaped by a nexus of bureaucrats, political-business elite, and foreign agencies acting as a shadow government."

While Bangladesh has natural advantages -- fertile

land, rivers, canals, and biodiversity -- it is spending billions to destroy them, he warned. "In the Middle East, they're turning deserts green. Here, we are turning green into desert," he said.

Feroz Ahmed, member of the Constitutional Reform Commission, said Dhaka is being designed to exploit youth labour rather than function as a humane city.

"All professionals must take responsibility for the roles they play in shaping this reality," he said.

Dr Adil Muhammad Khan, president of BIP, presided over the programme, while BIP General Secretary Shaikh Muhammad Mehedi Ahsan moderated the sessions.

## PUSH-INS BY INDIA

### Rizvi slams govt for silence

UNB, Dhaka

BNP senior leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday slammed India for pushing its citizens into Bangladesh and criticised the government for "remaining silent", accusing it of following Sheikh Hasina's policy.

"India is pushing its people through borders, including today [yesterday] in Satkhira, Kurigram, Khagrachari and Moulvibazar. This is a great injustice being done by the neighbouring country," he said while addressing a rally.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Buddhist Forum organised the programme in front of the Jatiya Press Club, marking Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community.

Rizvi, the BNP senior joint secretary general, voiced concern that the government is not lodging a strong protest against the unfair move by India.

"The government has not said a single word about this. Where is Khoda Bakhsh, where is the Home Affairs Adviser's Office, and where is the government? Why is the government not taking any action in this regard?" he said.

"A neighbour is pushing its people through various borders as they wish, and you are silent and not making a sound. You are doing what Sheikh Hasina has done," he said.

During her rule, Sheikh Hasina would not have said a word if people were killed along the border, said Rizvi. "But this interim government, which has been supported by all democratic political parties in the country, remains silent. How dare they push their people into our country through the border? I strongly condemn and protest it," he said.



## Case filed over assault on 2 girls Jihad made prime accused, sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Munshiganj*

Police yesterday filed a case naming Nehal Ahmed Jihad as the prime accused in connection with the assault of two girls at Munshiganj launch terminal on Friday.

Jihad, 24, was arrested around 2:00pm on Saturday, said police.

Mohammad Milon Biswas, a sub-inspector of Muktarpur Naval Police Outpost, also made 20-25 unnamed people accused in the case, said Munshiganj Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Saiful Alam.

The OC said the case has been filed under Section 10 of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, among other charges.

A court sent Jihad to jail when police produced him before it with a five-day remand prayer, said Court Inspector Kamrul Islam Mia, adding that it will hear the appeal today.

According to the case, Jihad and 20-25 unidentified individuals unlawfully boarded the MV Captain launch around 8:00pm on Friday at Munshiganj launch terminal and assaulted the teenagers.

In the case, they have been accused of sexual harassment, physical assault, property vandalism, and issuing threats. A viral footage circulating on social media shows Jihad assaulting two female passengers on the deck using a belt. Another widely shared video shows several men beating a woman on the second floor of the vessel.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Registrar General, Birth and Death Registration  
Local Government Division  
Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives  
Transport pool Building (8<sup>th</sup> Floor), Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000.  
Memo No. 46.04.0000.000.101.36.001.17.752 Date: 11/05/2025

**Re-Tender Notice**  
Re-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following package-

Tender ID No.	Reference No.	Description	Tender Publication Date and Time	Tender/Proposal Closing & Opening Date and Time
1072596	Re-Ten.46.04.0000.000.102.07.0005.25.20	Procurement of End Point Security/Protection for BDRIS	12 May 2025 2:00 PM	22 May 2025 3:30 PM

These are online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to date & time.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

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