

Appeal for help

STAR REPORT

Dr Md Shahadat Hossain Shibly, a decorated physician from Bangladesh known for his service, intellect, and unwavering compassion, is now waging the most personal and painful battle of his life -- against an aggressive form of recurrent metastatic squamous cell carcinoma.

For over a decade, Dr Shibly, an alumnus of Chattogram Medical College and a fellow of the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (FCPS in Internal Medicine), has been a symbol of healing for thousands, said a press release.

He is a member of the American College of Physicians and a junior consultant in the 33rd BCS health cadre.

Currently admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre in New Delhi, Dr Shibly is undergoing intensive treatment for a rare and aggressive cancer that has resurfaced after years of surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy.

The current protocol includes six cycles of costly immunochemotherapy -- each costing an estimated Tk 8-10 lakh -- followed by potentially curative



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Farmers from various upazilas in Natore transport their bumper jute harvest to the Patul Beel area. As most local canals and wetlands have yet to fill with water, they are bringing their produce there to carry out the retting and washing processes

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

RU to announce Rucusu polls schedule July 28

STAR REPORT

Rajshahi University administration yesterday set July 28 to announce the election schedule for the Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucusu).

A notice signed by Rucusu Chief Election Officer Amzad Hossain confirmed this information.

The election schedule was supposed to be announced on June 30, but the university authorities failed to do so.

Speaking to this correspondent, Amzad said, "We held a meeting today [Wednesday] and made this decision during the discussion. There was no external pressure influencing our decision."

Earlier in the day, RU unit Islami Chhatra Shibir staged a protest rally on the university campus, demanding the announcement of the Rucusu election. The protest was held in front of the RUCSU building.

MINTU DESHWARA

With the only wooden bridge in the area -- their only means of travel to nearby markets, schools, and health facilities -- washed away by recent torrential rains, residents of Maijgaon in the Raniganj Union of Chunurughat upazila in Habiganj are now relying on a makeshift banana raft to cross the river.

About 6,000 people living in the area have been left stranded since the collapse of the bridge recently. The bridge, constructed earlier by a local union parishad chairman, had long been in a precarious condition, according to residents.

Locals say the bridge served as a vital communication link with Raniganj Bazar, the Union Parishad office, and Chunurughat town. Its collapse has caused immense suffering, particularly



for students, patients, and farmers.

"The temporary wooden bridge was our only hope. Now that too is gone," said Mahid Ahmed Chowdhury, a resident of Maijgaon. "We are practically cut off. There is no alternative road. We demand that a permanent bridge be built here without delay."

Farmers in the area are among the

worst affected, as they can no longer transport their produce -- particularly rice and vegetables -- to the local market, resulting in financial losses.

According to locals, the bridge had remained in a risky condition for years. Heavy rainfall over the past few days triggered a landslide that washed away the structure entirely.

When contacted, Chunurughat Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Robin Mia said, "The wooden bridge was in a risky condition and was washed away by a landslide. An estimate was sent in the last fiscal year for a permanent bridge. While approval is still pending, we hope to receive it soon. Construction will begin as soon as approval is granted."

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Bridge collapse leaves thousands isolated

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