



PHOTO: STAR

RANGPUR CHEST DISEASE HOSPITAL TB patients left without indoor care

S DILIP ROY, *Lalmirihat*

Patient admissions at the only 20-bed Chest Disease Hospital in the Rangpur division have remained suspended since June after the stoppage of dietary supply for inpatients.

With no admissions for months, the hospital has become virtually non-functional, despite being the only specialised government facility for chest disease patients in the region.

Outdoor services continue at the Chest Disease Clinic located on the hospital premises. Doctors said many tuberculosis (TB) patients, particularly those in critical condition, urgently require indoor care, but the suspension of admissions has deprived them of the treatment they need.

Established in 1965 in the

Tajhat area of Rangpur city, the hospital operates from a single-storey building with six rooms. It has separate wards for male and female patients, with 16 beds for men and four for women. The other three rooms serve as office space and staff quarters.

According to hospital sources, the facility currently has two medical officers, five nurses, one pharmacist, one ward boy and one moshalsi. The hospital also has a modern X-ray machine, GeneXpert facility and a microscopy lab, but most diagnostic services are underutilised due to the halt in inpatient care.

On Sunday, Abdul Kuddus, 65, and his wife Rowshan Ara Begum, 60, from the Ambari area, arrived seeking admission. Both are suffering from TB and are in a critical state. They

were disheartened to learn that inpatient services were suspended. After undergoing necessary tests, they received medicines from the outdoor clinic.

Nurun Nabi, 60, of Chanmari area, said, "I heard patients receive better treatment when admitted. But when I arrived, they said admissions are closed. I had to return with only medicines."

Data from the Chest Disease Hospital and Clinic shows that 1,621 patients received treatment for chest diseases in Rangpur district over the past six months, of whom 828 tested positive for TB.

Senior staff nurse Shamsul Alam said, "There are no patients in the hospital, so we have no work. The patients who used to be admitted here were mostly from marginalised communities."

Medical Officer Dr Mahmudul Hasan said, "Medicine alone is not enough. Regular nutritious food is vital for TB recovery. But the poor cannot afford it. When admitted, they receive nutritious food from the hospital. But due to the suspension of dietary supply, we cannot admit patients."

He said outdoor services continue and free medicines are being provided under the National TB Control Programme (NTP). "Earlier, we always had 6-7 patients admitted. The demand still exists," he added.

Rangpur Civil Surgeon Dr Shahin Sultana said, "Dietary supply has been stopped because there are no admitted patients. TB patients now prefer home-based treatment. However, if inpatient demand rises again, dietary supply will be restored."

A missing son

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the call from Shahbagh Police Station she had long awaited -- and feared. Their DNA matched one of the six bodies that had already been buried at Jurain graveyard in August this year.

When contacted around 5:40pm yesterday, Mukta said they were at Shahbagh Police Station to complete the formalities.

She was unable to continue speaking and hung up.

Rashedul Alam, sub-inspector of Shahbagh Police Station, said the

bodies had remained unclaimed for months and were buried with assistance from Anjuman Mofidul Islam following a court directive.

He confirmed that one of the bodies has now been identified as Sabbir Hossain, son of Shafiqul and Mukta. "We have completed the formalities and shared the details with Anjuman Mofidul Islam," he told The Daily Star.

He added that while the family may not be able to retrieve the body, they can visit the grave.

Politicians, officials

FROM PAGE 3
clarified the implications for people who have already suffered unjust prosecutions under the law."

The report recommended further reforms to protect journalists and press freedom in Bangladesh, so that no one is afraid to report the truth.

The findings were presented during a panel discussion on the last day of the Bay of Bengal Conversation -- a three-day international event that ended yesterday -- at a hotel in the capital.

At the discussion, Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman expressed hope that the upcoming parliament would refrain from introducing such restrictive laws in the future. "They should discuss with all stakeholders before enacting laws," he said.

He also urged journalists

to propose solutions for protecting citizens who may be victims of irresponsible or misleading reporting. "We should find a balance between protecting journalists and protecting citizens," he added.

Maneka Khanna, senior legal program manager at the Clooney Foundation, presented the findings.

Barrister Sara Hossain, honorary executive director of BLAST, and Prof Sajjad Siddiqui, chairman of Dhaka University's Peace and Conflict Studies department, also spoke at the event.

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). For more details please contact to the PE's Support Desk (01717-299645).

RANGABALI OF PATUAKHALI

Forestland grabbed for watermelon cultivation

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, *Patuakhali*

Protected forestland and riverbanks are being illegally occupied in the Char Signboard area of Kachipara village under Patuakhali's Rangabali upazila, allegedly to cultivate watermelon by building an embankment.

Locals said tree felling and earth-cutting are being carried out at night using three excavators.

According to the Coastal Forest Division, Char Signboard was declared a 415-acre reserve forest on April 4, 2010 through a gazette notification, which also states that any newly emerged land attached to the shoal would automatically fall under Forest Department jurisdiction.

Mangrove afforestation later began in the area, with jhau, koromja, keora, gewa and bain trees planted.

In the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Forest Department planted jhau trees on 20 hectares, koromja on 10 hectares and keora-bain trees on 30 hectares in this protected forestland.

On November 8, local resident Manik Mollah reportedly brought in two excavators and began cutting soil inside the protected forest to build an embankment around his proposed watermelon plantation, allegedly felling more than 300 trees.

Forest officials visited the site on November 19 and temporarily halted the work.

"This is protected forestland. When we went to the spot, we saw two excavators destroying trees and cutting through the forest to build an embankment. We stopped the work and informed the UNO. However, on that night, another excavator was brought in, and the three machines continued cutting soil throughout the night. Around 30 hectares of forestland and more than 200 trees have been damaged," said Md Jalal Ahmed Khan, acting officer of the Kaukhali Forest Beat.

Contacted, Manik Mollah claimed

he was working with permission from Tahsildar Jahidul Islam.

The tahsildar said the UNO was aware of it and declined to comment further.

Rangabali Range Officer Abu Kalam Azad said they visited the site on November 19, ordered all activities to stop, and submitted the protected forest gazette and supporting documents to the UNO.

"The UNO then told us he would look into the matter, so we did not file a case.



Yet, three excavators were used that night to continue cutting soil in the forest," he said.

"No one will be allowed to harm protected forestland. Legal action will be taken against those responsible," he added.

Contacted, Rangabali UNO Rajib Das Purkaysha said, "I was not aware of the matter earlier. The Forest Department has since provided the gazette and documents. Necessary action will be taken after consulting with higher authorities."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Noakhali
www.lged.gov.bd

Dated: 23/11/2025

Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works)

e-Tender Notice No-41/2025-26

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as stated as below:

Sl No	Tender ID No	Procurement Method	Name of Works	Last Selling Date & Time	Last Date & Time of Tender Security Submission	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1	1155085	LTM	IRIDPNFL/NOA/SAD/RHB/24-25/W-1971 (a) Maintenance of Bhati Tack - Hazir hat Road (Ch. 00m-300m) under Sadar Upazila, District: Noakhali, ID no: 475875183 (b) Maintenance of Charchi - Lalpur Road (Ch. 00m-500m) under Sadar Upazila, District: Noakhali, ID no: 475875203	10-12-2025 17:00	11-12-2025 13:00	11-12-2025 14:00
2	1155086	LTM	IRIDPNFL/NOA/SUB/RHB/24-25/W-1607 Maintenance of Panthar bazar-Rampot Ferry ghat Road. (Ch. 00m-180m) under Subarnachar Upazila, District: Noakhali, ID no: 475894024	10-12-2025 17:00	11-12-2025 13:00	11-12-2025 14:00
3	1155087	LTM	IRIDPNFL/NOA/SUB/RHB/24-25/W-1609 Maintenance of Char Jhabbar-Sowdagar Bazar (Kallar hatt-Bhulay hatt-Chaiyakhali) Bazar (Ch. 100m-3016m) under Subarnachar Upazila, District: Noakhali, ID no: 475894026	10-12-2025 17:00	11-12-2025 13:00	11-12-2025 14:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Executive Engineer
LGED, Noakhali

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GD-2544

Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre

Savar, Dhaka-1343
www.bpatc.gov.bd

No. 05.01.0000.130.07.866.24.1546

Date : 24/11/2025

e-Tender Notice 02/2025-26

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

Tender ID No.	Description	Online Tender Notice Publication Date and Time	Online Tender Closing Date and Time
1181978	4(Four) pcs Stainless Steel Rack purchase	20-Nov-2025 20:45	02-Dec-2025 12:45
1181371	Purchasing 09(Nine) Nos. 3KVA Online UPS for BPATC Computer Section	20-Nov-2025 18:30	02-Dec-2025 12:30
1160919	Purchasing Network Accessories for the Computer Lab on the Ground Floor of the 15 Storied Dormitory.	19-Nov-2025 22:00	30-Nov-2025 16:00
1183111	Repairing Different types of Furniture in BPATC Auditorium and Rajanigandha Classroom	23-Nov-2025 22:00	04-Dec-2025 15:00

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Sd/-

(Mst. Tahmina Akter)
Deputy Director (Finance)
Phone : 02224446617

GD-2544

PRAYER TIMING

NOVEMBER 25

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-10 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00

JAMAAT 5-45 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



GD-2545