

A farmer heads to a local market with freshly harvested spinach and red amaranth to sell. With winter setting in, markets are seeing an abundance of leafy greens. The photo was taken in the Baya area of Rajshahi's Paba upazila yesterday. PHOTO: **AZAHAR UDDIN**

PHULBARIA IN MYMENSINGH

A decade on, bridge awaits connecting road

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

A bridge over the Banar river in Mymensingh's Phulbaria upazila has remained unused for the past 10 years due to the absence of a connecting road at its western end, leaving hundreds of villagers unable to use it.

The 40-foot bridge was built by the Department of Disaster Management in the 2015-2016 fiscal year at a cost of Tk 30.90 lakh to connect the Shibpur-Harirambari road across the river in Naogaon union.

While a narrow earthen road leads to the bridge from the eastern side, croplands lie at its western end in Harirambari village.

Khelu Mia, a local farmer, said villagers had repeatedly urged the local administration and union parishad to build the connecting road, but no action had been taken.

Duli Rani Das of Palashihata village said, "Hundreds of residents of some 10 neighbouring villages would benefit if the bridge becomes functional."

Masud Sarker, a local union parishad member, said cooperation from Harirambari villagers would be needed to build the road, as government land earmarked for it had been occupied for years.



PHOTO: **STAR**

Another union parishad member, Motalab Hossain, said the department concerned had initiated a move to construct the road in 2024, but no funds were subsequently allocated.

Contacted, Shahidul Islam Sohag, Phulbaria upazila nirbahi officer, said he had asked the project implementation officer to submit a report on the current situation.

He said an initiative would be taken soon to construct the road.

RMG workers to get rice at Tk 30 a kg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday launched a special Open Market Sale (OMS) programme, offering rice to ready-made garments workers at Tk 30 per kg to ease their food expenses.

Each worker can buy up to 10kg a month through 66 trucks operating across Dhaka, Savar, Dhamrai, Gazipur, Narayanganj and parts of Chattogram district, according to a Ministry of Food press release.

Each truck will sell five tonnes every Friday, bringing the weekly allocation to 330 tonnes. Sales will continue until further notice, in two sessions -- 10:00am to 12:30pm and 2:30pm to 5:00pm -- subject to stock availability.

Gazipur will get the largest allocation, with 30 trucks selling 150 tonnes, followed by Narayanganj and Chattogram, with 10 trucks each selling 50 tonnes.

Dhaka will have six trucks selling 30 tonnes, Savar eight trucks selling 40 tonnes and Dhamrai two trucks selling 10 tonnes.

Workers must show their factory identity cards and sign a master roll to buy rice.

The programme comes amid unrest in RMG-sector areas over wage demands.

The Minimum Wage Board, formed early this month, has held two meetings. At Monday's meeting, the workers' representative proposed a minimum monthly wage of Tk 32,000.

Netrokona hospital stretched far beyond capacity

Upgraded to 250 beds, but resources remain for just 100

JAYDUL ISLAM, *Netrokona*

The 250-bed Netrokona District Sadar Hospital is struggling to provide healthcare services with just 30 doctors, as severe manpower shortages, inadequate equipment and insufficient allocations of medicines and food put patients under growing pressure.

Although upgraded to 250 beds in October last year, the hospital still operates with the manpower and resources allocated for a 100-bed facility. Its expanded capacity remains largely unused despite the construction of a new nine-storey building at a cost of Tk 47.25 crore.

According to the hospital administration, 38 of the 68 sanctioned doctor posts are vacant. Vacancies also include six of 97 nursing posts, 19 of 42 third-class posts and 10 of 22 fourth-class posts. The blood bank has no assigned staff.



Although upgraded to 250 beds in October last year, Netrokona District Sadar Hospital still operates with the manpower and resources allocated for a 100-bed facility. PHOTO: **STAR**

The shortage is particularly acute in cardiology, ophthalmology, anaesthesiology and dentistry, forcing the hospital to refer patients requiring specialised treatment to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Hospital records show that 2,44,511 patients received treatment at the outpatient and emergency departments between January and October 31 this year, averaging around 804 a day.

During the same period, 46,282 patients were admitted, averaging 152 admissions daily. On November 7, the hospital had 385 inpatients against its 100 operational beds.

However, the hospital still receives around Tk 4 crore worth of medicines and other supplies based on its 100-bed allocation, said Dr Md Mazharul Amin, resident medical officer. Many patients have to buy prescribed medicines from pharmacies outside.

Food allocations also remain limited to 100 patients, although 385 were admitted across 11 wards on November 7. "We cannot provide diets to everyone all the time. In that case, if we give diets to the first 100 patients in the morning, meals are arranged for another 100 in the afternoon -- that is how it is going on," the RMO said.

The hospital has neither an intensive care unit nor a coronary care unit.

Its two ambulances have remained out of order for more than two years. An ambulance brought from Mohanganj Upazila Health Complex is being used, mostly for medical team duties.

Rukan Uddin, a lawyer from Kendua, said he took his 80-year-old father to Mymensingh after two days at the hospital. "There is virtually no treatment at Netrokona hospital," he said.

Hospital Superintendent Ekramul Hasan said patients requiring unavailable facilities were referred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

The hospital authorities have proposed creating 229 additional posts, of which 115 received health ministry approval before the proposal was sent to the finance ministry.

Md Anwarul Haque, a member of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and lawmaker for Netrokona-2, said the hospital's operations could be expanded once the finance ministry approves the manpower proposal.

From hopes of a better life to descent into despair

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The embassy had contacted her brother in Bahrain before arranging her repatriation, but he declined to take responsibility for her, Shariful added.

"We have handed Lilufa over to her family. We want to ensure that she receives proper treatment and explore how we can continue supporting her," he said.

"Her parents are no longer alive, and all her siblings are married. She cannot even communicate normally now. She is suffering both physically and mentally. It is extremely unfortunate," he said.

Shariful said, "People returning from abroad in poor health, distress, or without contact with their families should have access to proper treatment, care, and rehabilitation. The state and all of us have a responsibility to stand beside them."

4-day nat'l debate fest begins at JU

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and 20, respectively. The prize-giving and closing ceremony will take place on November 21.

Al Luban, president of JUDO, said the organisation believes developing young people's reasoning abilities and sense of responsibility is essential to building a humane society. "That belief has inspired JUDO to organise this festival," he added.

The organisers expressed hope that the participation of debaters from across the country would make the festival vibrant and meaningful.

Channel One, Asia Post, and The Daily Star are the media partners of the event, while Prothom Alo is the associate partner, and Uttoron the logistics partner.

Singer Shaikh Shahed Ali

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banner of G Series, which was to include CDs, cassettes and vinyl records.

The release was scheduled for November 6 with a programme at the Krishibid Institution in Dhaka. His plans to travel to India's Delhi this month for a kidney transplant were also put on hold.

A familiar name in Bangladesh's band music scene since the 1990s, Shahed was the founder of Bangladeshi band The Gach. His other notable songs include "Upolobdhi", "Khola Chul", "Classroom-e Bose Shekha", and "Prem Ashbei". His debut album, "Probhu", was released in 1991.

He subsequently released five more albums, building a body of work that reflected his enduring connection with music and songwriting.

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Khanpur Main Road, Narayanganj-1400
www.nda.gov.bd

Memo No: 25.20.0000.001.07.001.26-50 Date: 12-11-2026

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e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of under mentioned service:

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Service	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time
01	1370672	Procurement of services of 20 (twenty) service personnel of 14 (fourteen) designations through outsourcing for Narayanganj Development Authority for the period from 01-12-2026 to 31-07-2028 (Package No. NDA_Outsourcing-01).	26-Nov-2026 10:00	26-Nov-2026 11:30

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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

12/11/26
(Mashuqul Islam Ragib)
Chairman
Narayanganj Development Authority
Narayanganj

GD-2761

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 14

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-00	12-45	3-45	5-22	7-00
JAMAAT	5-35	1-15	4-00	5-25	7-30

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