

Doctors suspect new type of diarrhoea germ

More 106 admitted to Nilphamari hospitals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

As diarrhoea spread to newer areas in Nilphamari, doctors suspect that the patients might have been attacked with a new type of germ.

Many patients went home fully cured but returned to hospitals. Blood is found in their stool and vomit, which suggest that they are attacked with a new type of germ which is stronger than typical diarrhoea germ, they said.

But this is yet to be determined. A team from the ICDDR,B in Dhaka

has collected stool samples and sent those to Dhaka for culture, they said.

Most of the patients with such symptoms come from villages near Teesta and Charalkatha rivers, Civil Surgeon Nazrul Islam said while talking to this correspondent.

The river waters might be carrying the germ he said but declined to speculate on the type of the germs.

The civil surgeon said two more temporary diarrhoea treatment camps have been set up at Ramnagar and Panchapukur villages in the Sadar Upazila.

He however said the situation is under control as there was no death in the last 48 hours.

"The germ is so strong that it still survives (after treatment)", commented a doctor at Nilphamari Sadar Hospital.

"Blood is found in their stool and vomit", said another doctor at Jaldhaka health complex.

Meanwhile, more 106 patients were admitted to the six hospitals in the district in 48 hours ending at noon yesterday, according to Mahbub-e-Rabbani, at the district health department control room.

More 5000 bags of Colera I V saline reached the district health department yesterday from Dhaka, the civil surgeon said.

RDRS, an NGO, donated 2996 bags of Cholera IV saline.

Come to Work, another NGO, donated 2400 bags of oral saline.

The government has distributed 10 kgs of rice per head through 63,800 UGF cards in the district. Besides, 308 tonnes of rice have been allotted for distribution under test relief, officials said.

Unmitigated misery



Full moon, rain or flood, the people of Patuakhali town suffer always. The photos taken recently show an inundated road at Baramasjid (left) and Mohipur ferry ghat (right) in the town.

PHOTO: STAR

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Flood and erosion washed away about 20-kilometre Water Development Board (WDB) embankments and damaged another 35 kilometres in Patuakhali district this year, making vast areas and the district town vulnerable to tidal surge.

A total of 27 sluice gates have also been damaged, WDB sources here said.

Five upazilas in the district are most vulnerable.

These are Patuakhali Sadar, Galachipa, Kalapara, Dasmina and Mirzaganj. Besides embankments, most of the sluice gates in the five upazilas have been damaged, they said.

Executive Engineer of Patuakhali WDB said, they have prepared a budget for repair of the embankments and sent it to higher authorities.

Youth abducted for ransom in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

One young man was abducted on Tuesday night 'by outlaws' as his father failed to pay toll amounting to Tk 10,000.

After the kidnap the abductors demanded more Tk 2 lakh for his release from father.

According to police, kidnappers belonging to outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) on Saturday demanded toll from Mujibur Rahman, a trader at village Sheala in Daulatpur. But he declined to pay the toll which angered the hoodlums.

On the night, the gang stormed into Mujib's house, blasted hand bombs and picked up his son Tamizur Rahman, 25, at gun point. Tamiz was associated with his father in his business. Later, they sent a message to him demanding Tk 2 lakh in return of his son, otherwise they threatened to kill him.

Agri seminar held at RU

A RU CORRESPONDENT

The Agronomy and Agriculture Department at Rajshahi University (RU) and the International Maize and Wheat Development Research Association jointly organised a seminar on 'Resource Conservation Agriculture (Bed planning)' at the Institute of Biological Science on Monday.

Dr Kenneth Sower, departmental head of CIMMYT read out the keynote paper at the seminar, held with Dr M Aminul Haque in the chair.

Australian wheat researcher Dr Howerd Rouson and crop researcher of Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Dr Helena Gomes discussed the main topics at the seminar.

RU Vice Chancellor Prof Faisal Islam Faruki, Agricultural Faculty Dean Prof NIM Abdus Salam Bhuiyan and CIMMYT Country Director in Bangladesh Dr AB Sakhawat Hossain was present as special guests.

Rajshahi Jubo Dal meet ends amid violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A workers' meeting of Rajshahi district unit of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal (JJD) ended here Monday night amid incidents of violence.

The disturbance started after a leader of the city unit JJD along with ten workers suddenly assaulted some JJD leaders and drove out some party workers.

The meeting had started in the evening at Rajshahi District Council auditorium with district JJD president Tofazzal Hossain in the chair.

Central JJD Vice President Mubibul Alam Swapon was attending the meeting as chief guest. District BNP President Azizur Rahman and General Secretary Shish Mohammad were special guests.

Sources said that at around 8.30pm, Rajshahi city JJD Organising Secretary Waliul

Haque Rana along with around 10 activists came at the meeting venue and started shouting at the district unit leaders.

As central JJD member Mizanur Rahman Khokon and some others tried to hawl them down, Rana and his men suddenly started assaulting them.

At one stage, district JJD general secretary Sajedur Rahman Markoni stood up and protested. Failing to stop the violence, he left the stage, saying there was no security of life.

Later, some five injured leaders were seen taking first aid at different clinics in the city.

Talking to newsmen Markoni said the incidents were unexpected and action would be taken against the persons responsible.

Rana later denied the allegation of assaulting central leaders but said there was "tension at the meeting over internal matters".

Four killers get life in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Four killers were awarded life term imprisonment by a court here on Tuesday.

Judge Md Fazlur Rahman of the Additional District and Sessions Judge Court also fined Tk. 5,000 each convict, in default, to suffer six months more imprisonment.

The convicts are Fazlu Haq, Maznu Elahi, Alam Hossain and Del Mohammad.

The convicts had rivalry over land with Abdul Hannan, son of Abdul Karim at village Arkandi in Bheramara upazila. On the night of August 9, 1998, they along with nine of their accomplices entered Hannan's house and slaughtered him while asleep.

Victim's brother Abdul Mannan filed a case with Bheramara police station accusing 14 persons.

After investigation police submitted the charge-sheet on September 9, 2000.

5 'outlaws' caught in Kushtia, Patuakhali

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Six alleged outlaws were arrested recently in Kushtia and Patuakhali

Our Kushtia correspondent reported that people caught five alleged members of outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) from Jagati village in the Sadar upazila and handed them over to police.

They are Bhola of Jagati village, Razab and Mukul of Takimara, and Raihan and Sabu of Kumargara village.

They were caught and beaten when they went to the village to demand toll.

Meanwhile Daulatpur police arrested two alleged criminals from a bordering village and recovered two Indian firearms along with some ammunition from their possession.

The arrested persons-- Uzzal Hossain and Mahamudface several criminal cases each, filed with Daulatpur and Mirpur police stations, police said.

A correspondent reported from Patuakhali that police on Sunday arrested an alleged outlaw-- Mujibur Rahman--from Panjupara village under Golachipa upazila with a revolver.

Police said villagers caught and handed him over to them. He allegedly belonged to outlawed Sarbahara Party, police said.

12 BNP activists sued in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Twelve BNP activists were sued for their alleged involvement in damaging and looting a state-owned property.

Sub-Assistant Engineer of Water Development Board, Magura, Md Tanzilur Rahman on Sunday filed a case accusing them with Sreepur thana.

He alleged that unruly mob led by a local BNP leader Maruful Khondoker destroyed the 'guard shed' and 'patoari' twin quarter situated near the R-3 regulator of S-11-K-irrigation canal under the GK irrigation project at Sarongodia village in Sreepur upazila and took away bricks, iron rods and other construction materials.

Widow takes life after rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Dejected after allegedly being raped and failing to get justice, a young widow has committed suicide at Matikata village in Mohonpur upazila.

Habibur Rahman, brother of Shefali, 29, in a case filed with Mohonpur thana alleged that his sister took poison and ended her life after she was raped at the house of Yunus Ali where she worked as a maid.

Yunus's son Selim raped her on August 28 morning when other family members were absent, he said in the case filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

When the house mistress returned, Shefali complained to her, but she drove her out next morning.

Shefali and her brother then went to village elders Asadur Rahman and Rais Uddin, but to no result.

Shefali then complained to the local Union Parishad chairman but did not get any response. She went to Mohonpur police station to file a case, but was refused.

Finally, Shefali took poison on the night of October 1 and ended her life, the complaint said.

Habibur accused Selim, his mother Nur Banu and the two village elders -- Asad and Rais Uddin -- in the case.

When contacted, SI Khatebor Ali of Mohonpur police station said primary investigation proved that the allegation is correct. They are probing the matter, he said.

Teen gangraped, strangled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Unidentified gangsters have strangled a teenaged girl after gangrape at Kumirdah village in Mohadevpur upazila in Naogaon district.

The victim was identified as Eti Rani, 15. Police recovered her body from a jungle near their house Monday morning. She was missing since Sunday.

Police said the body bore marks of nail injury. The autopsy report said she was gangraped.

Her father in a case filed with Mohadevpur police station alleged that one Ranajit of the village had an affair with Eti and he and some of his friends might be behind the incident.

Outlaws distribute leaflets openly in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Walls in Khulna city have been flooded with posters of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho).

The party cadres are distributing leaflets openly, riding motorbikes, private cars and minibuses. The alleged outlaws are moving at large in the city.

Three other outlawed parties-- PBCP (M-L), BCP and NBCP-- have also increased their crimes including murders in Khulna and nine other districts under Khulna division following the "failed" Operation Spider Web, sources said.

Forty-nine murders were committed in September and six from October 1 to October 5 in the 10 districts, police records say. The figure was 36 in January this year.

Khulna district tops the list of political murders. Eighteen murders took place in the district in the last

nine months. All these victims belonged to ruling BNP, opposition Awami League and their front organisations.

Crimes did not show any sign of let-up despite arrest of a good number of 'listed criminals' and criminals, the sources said.

Fifty-three 'listed criminals' and 17 'outlaws' were arrested in the last nine months from the South-Western districts. They include notorious outlaws Debu, Haider Ali, Ali Akbar Aku, Sultan Gazi, Kala Quddus, Rafiq Joarder, Jinnat, Tauhid Sana, Rabiul, Tapan, Shukur Ghazi, Ripon, Keherman and Gautam.

But only 17 arms were recovered during the same period.

According to police record, 481 murders were committed in the 10 districts of Khulna division in last nine months. The victims include 28 political leaders and activists and 12 policemen.

SNAPS

One gets life for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A court here on Tuesday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing his wife three years ago.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Abu Ahmed Jamadar handed down the punishment to Rafiqul Islam and also fined him Tk 15,000.

Rafiqul Islam beat his wife Swarna Khatun to death on June 18, 2000.

Pistol recovered in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Army recovered one foreign pistol and 46 bullets from Dighinala on Monday.

Tipped off that arms would be transacted between two criminal groups, an army team led by Maj Mohammed Anayet Hossain raided a behind the T & T office at Dighinala upazila headquarter and recovered those. The gangs escaped, police said.

Architecture exhibition

CU CORRESPONDENT

A fortnight long exhibition on architecture titled 'vivre autrement' (living a different way) began at the Alliance Francaise in the city recently.

The exhibition presents an evolution in architectural designs and their adaptation by societies. The exhibition will give some new thoughts and dreams to architects in Bangladesh, says a press release.

It will remain open from Saturday to Wednesday from 4pm to 8pm and on Thursday from 4pm to 6pm till October 14.

Factory attacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A factory at Taloli in Gazipur Sadar thana was raided by a group of hoodlums on Tuesday night.

They attacked the Bengal Hurricane Dyeing and Printing Factory at about 2 am and damaged its property.

However, the attackers fled away after the staff of the factory chased them, an official of the factory informed.



Stipends were awarded to meritorious and poor students of Jakiganj-Kanaighat area in Sylhet district by the Shabbir Ahmed Education Welfare Trust at a function held recently at Jakiganj Government High School field. Founder chairman of the Trust Alhaj Shabbir Ahmed is seen speaking at the function.