

# 16 out of twenty-six clinics, pathological laboratories doing business without registration in N'ganj

From Ehsanul Haque



Two clinics in Narayanganj town having no registration continue to offer services.

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 23: Sixteen out of 26 clinics and pathological laboratories in Narayanganj town have been operating since long without having any registration. Only five clinics and pathological laboratories are registered, and the remaining five clinics were running unregistered for many years before they were closed, according to sources in the district Civil Surgeon office.

The services being rendered by these health centres are also lacking in standard, experts said adding these clinics were operating unhindered and making huge money due to lack of action against them by the authorities concerned. The owners of these medical centres were reportedly maintaining good relations with a section of the officials at the Civil Surgeon's office and the private medical practitioners of the town.

According to official sources, the office of the Civil Surgeon listed 16 unauthorised clinics and pathologies two years ago but no action had been taken against them till date. Civil Surgeon, Mokbul Hossain informed this correspondent that an investigation committee was formed after receiving complaints about the X-ray machine and pathology section of the four clinics: Modern X-ray and pathology Clinic, Narayanganj Poly Clinic and General Hospital, Super Pathology Diagnostic Centre and Samata X-ray and Pathology Clinic. But the investigation committee did

not deliver any report even after eight months of its formation. Recently Health Directorate has reminded the Civil Surgeon, Narayanganj of its letter and instructed him to form an inspection team including the representative of local Deputy Commissioner and Police Super to identify illegal clinics and take action against them. He was also instructed to send the Health Directorate the name list of the inspection team and report within 15 days on the progress of its work. But no activity of this inspection team is being observed.

According to government rules each clinic or nursing

home should have a team of MBBS doctors, three nurses, one pharmacist, one midwife and a sweeper. Beside, a clinic should have a capacity of minimum 10 beds and a modern operation theatre with necessary surgical equipment. But both the registered and the unregistered clinics and nursing homes in the town are running the business defying the government rules.

Dr Shanewaz Chowdhury, one of the owners of the registered clinic complains the weak administration of Civil Surgeon has made the process of registration unduly lengthy. In the meantime,

clinics which applied for registration but yet to get it are running without paying taxes. He also said that for lack of proper rules, the owners of these pathologies and clinics are taking advantages. The government is deprived of huge amount of revenue from these illegal clinics and nursing homes. Complaints were also received that during office hours in government hospitals doctors are giving their service in the unregistered clinics. It is alleged that a junior female consultant of gynaecology department of local government hospital is running a clinic at her residence with very poor

clinical facilities and even without registration and signboard.

A large number of patients alleged having received wrong diagnosis and treatments at these illegal medical centres but their complaints resulted in no improvement to the situation as the owners of these medical centres are very influential and are maintaining good relations with the private doctors as well as the concerned government officials. It is further alleged that a section of the technicians mostly serving in the local government hospitals were performing duties as pathologists at

these organisations reportedly providing wrong diagnosis of diseases. Some of them were even owning such unauthorised medical establishments, informed sources said.

According to information available, a section of the local medical practitioners were regularly referring their patients to these clinics and pathologies. These doctors were reportedly taking commission from the owners of the illegal medical centres.

The list of the unregistered clinics and pathological laboratories collected from the Civil Surgeon's office show that these centres had meanwhile, applied for registration to the relevant authorities. However, a source in the Civil Surgeon office told this correspondent that the black listed clinics and pathological centres were functioning reportedly after filing for registration. When contacted some owners of the black listed clinics and pathologies said they had applied for registration soon after their establishments were black listed in 1992.

But, they alleged, a section of corrupt officials at the Health Directorate were obstructing their authorisation and were harassing them for the last two years. They further alleged that the concerned officials and employees at the Health Directorate were lingering their registration process reportedly with a view to continue taking bribe on

the issue. It is also alleged that clinics are involved in illegal abortions in the name of Menstrual Regulation (MR) causing serious concern among the conscious people of the district.

The five authorised clinics and medical diagnosis centres are: Rose Clinic, Narayanganj Poly Clinic and General Hospital, Islamia Pathological Laboratory, Alpha Pathological Laboratory and Narayanganj Nursing Home while the unauthorised ones are Khan X-ray Clinic, Asna Pathological Laboratory, Medical Pathology and Diagnosis Centre, City Pathological Laboratory, Popular X-ray and Pathological Clinic, Dr Rafiqul Islam Pathological Laboratory, Central Pathology, Noor Clinic, Samata X-ray and Pathological Clinic, National X-ray Clinic, National Pathology Ultrapath, Super X-ray and Clinic, Modern X-ray and Pathological Clinic, Capital X-ray Clinic and City X-ray Laboratory.

Various socio-cultural and business organisations including Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Bangladesh Hosiery Association, Bangladesh Yarn Merchant Association, Rotary Club of Narayanganj Mid City, Lions Club of Narayanganj City, Cultural Organisation 'Shapla' and 'Papyrus' urged the government to take effective steps to stop the activities of these illegal pathological laboratories and clinics and their malpractice.

## 3 injured in Myanmar border security force firing

From CHT Correspondent

NAINGKHOINGCHHARI (Bandarban), Sept 23: The panicked inhabitants of the border hamlets and the fishermen fishing in the Naf river have been passing their days in extreme insecurity as the Nasaka troops, the border security force of Myanmar has intensified their atrocities on them, officials said.

Three wood-cutters sustained bullet injuries when the Nasaka troops opened fire on them while they were cutting woods at Bhaditola, bordering forest in the thanz on the morning of September 9. The wounded woodcutters who returned home with grievous bullet injuries were Abdus Salam and Kabir Ahmed of village Tulatali alongwith Habibur Rahman of a cluster village of Ukhia Thana.

Sources added that the Nasaka troops opened fire on the wood-cutters while they were patrolling across the border. The incident created a panic among the inmates of Bhaditola, a bordering hamlet in Naingkhiongchhari Thana of the district.

Meanwhile, the Nasaka troops abducted eleven fishermen alongwith their fishing accessories from the Naf river, intruding into Bangladesh territory on September 05 last, officials said.

The abducted fishermen were Saleh Ahmed, Lal Miah, Amir Hussain, Syed Alam, Manu Miah, Nurul Amin, Mohd. Younus, Mohd. Tayeb, Mohd. Farooque, Hussain Ahmed and Kamar Hussain.

## BR conducts mobile courts: 39 fined, 11 sent to jail

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 23: Bangladesh Railway (BR) West Zone conducted mobile courts at Rajshahi and Ishurdi railway stations recently, to ensure safe and smooth running of the trains, says a press release.

Some 50 ticketless passengers were caught, 39 of them were fined and 11 were sent to prison for different durations.

BR West Zone will conduct mobile courts in different railway stations in the forthcoming days, the press release added.

## Two die after taking poisonous wine in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 23: Two actors of open theatre died by taking poisonous wine recently.

According to reports Rajjit Kumar, 27, and Nibed Kumar, 28, both from village Sujaypetpur in Manirampur thana of Jessore district, after rehearsing in an open theatre at Charlia village at Sailkupa thana of the district reportedly took huge quantity of poisonous wine on the night of September 12.

They were admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital in critical condition and at about midday both of them died.

Another report says: Bablu, a farmer, became ill while spraying pesticide on his land. He was rushed to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital, where he died.

Two separate UD cases were lodged with the respective thanas, it was learnt.

## UNICEF launches programme to fight against diseases

Sept 23: UNICEF has launched a programme of dissemination of educational and motivational messages on immunisation for children against preventable diseases, and to bolster government's efforts in this respect in collaboration with an NGO: Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS), says a press release.

The project will cover 248 unions in 28 thanas of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts of northern Bangladesh. This will involve 10,000 groups of nearly 1,50,000 families. The project involves deployment of 750 volunteers, one in each ward.

The project is being implemented in two phases. The project period will be 7 months from July 1995-January 1996. Successful implementation of Phase I may pave the way for Phase II for 2 years effective from February 1996.

## 4,966 applications for only 14 posts of teachers

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 23: 4,966 applicants applied for only 14 positions of assistant teachers in primary schools in Jhenidah district, it was learnt.

According to reports, to fill up the 14 vacant posts of assistant teachers the department of education invited applications from the candidates of five thanas out of six thanas of the district.

Sources said, 1,344 applications were received for only one post in Jhenidah sadar thana, 514 applications for five posts in Harinakundu thana, 1,292 applications for four posts in Sailkupa thana, 420 applications for two posts in Mohespur thana, 620 applications for two posts in Kotchandpur thana and 746 applications for Kaliganj thana was received so far though no application was invited for Kaliganj thana, it was learnt.

## RHDLCG office, rest house ransacked, tense situation

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Sept 23: A tense situation has been prevailing in the town following the ransacking of Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council (RHDLCG) office and rest house as well as damaging three vehicles on September 16 last by the militant activists of Pahari Chhatra Parishad.

The activists of Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) while leading a procession following a meeting at Bonarupa petrol pump campus launched the attack, official sources said. Chairman of RHDLCG condemned the attack at a meeting of council held in the afternoon of the day of attack at his official residence.

Maintaining close link with the tribal insurgents, the PCP was working in favour of the Parbatya Chattagram Jono Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), the umbrella organisation of the tribal insurgents, the meeting alleged quoted the intelligence agency as saying.

The organisations of the tribal students and local people are procuring firearms from across the border, the sources said. Members of the tribal insurgents and a section of Bangladeshi tribal refugees encamping in Indian state of Tripura procure firearms and despatch those to the leaders of the said organisations based in CHT.

India Border Security Forces rounded up Aunglia Chakma, while he was smuggling firearms into Bangladesh territory recently. Upendra Lal Chakma, President of the Jumna Refugees Welfare Association stationed in Indian state of Tripura has reportedly been trying to get him released, intelligence sources said.

**Unable to continue payment of dowry oppressed Minu seeks justice**

From Our Correspondent

NOAKHALI, Sept 23: Local elites urged the benevolent individuals and organisations to come forward with helping hand to protect an oppressed woman mother of two sons, who was thrown out of her husband's house and allegedly accused of theft even after payment of dowry in many a times.

After rendering ceaseless seven years indifferent association and presenting the husband with two tender sons, Minu, a victim of dowry and wrath of her husband has been passing her days at her fathers house in extreme mental agony apprehending police harassment and husband's repression, sources said.

Lutfun Nahar Minu, daughter of Sujaetullah of village Binodpur in Sudharam thana was married to Ashrafuddin, son of Abdul Ali of village East Shullakia in the same thana of the district in December, 1988. The wedlock was solemnised with Taka 50 thousand of which Taka 10 thousand was realised. Minu's father, reportedly ornamented his daughter with two tolas of gold ornament as well as clothings admitted by his best efforts.

Immediately after a year of the marriage, Ashraf demanded and realised Taka 20 thousand as dowry on the plea of starting business. Meanwhile, he sold out his wife's ornament to maximise the business capital. But Ashraf spent all the money in some evil means and started humiliating his wife for bringing more dowry. By this time Minu was blessed with two sons.

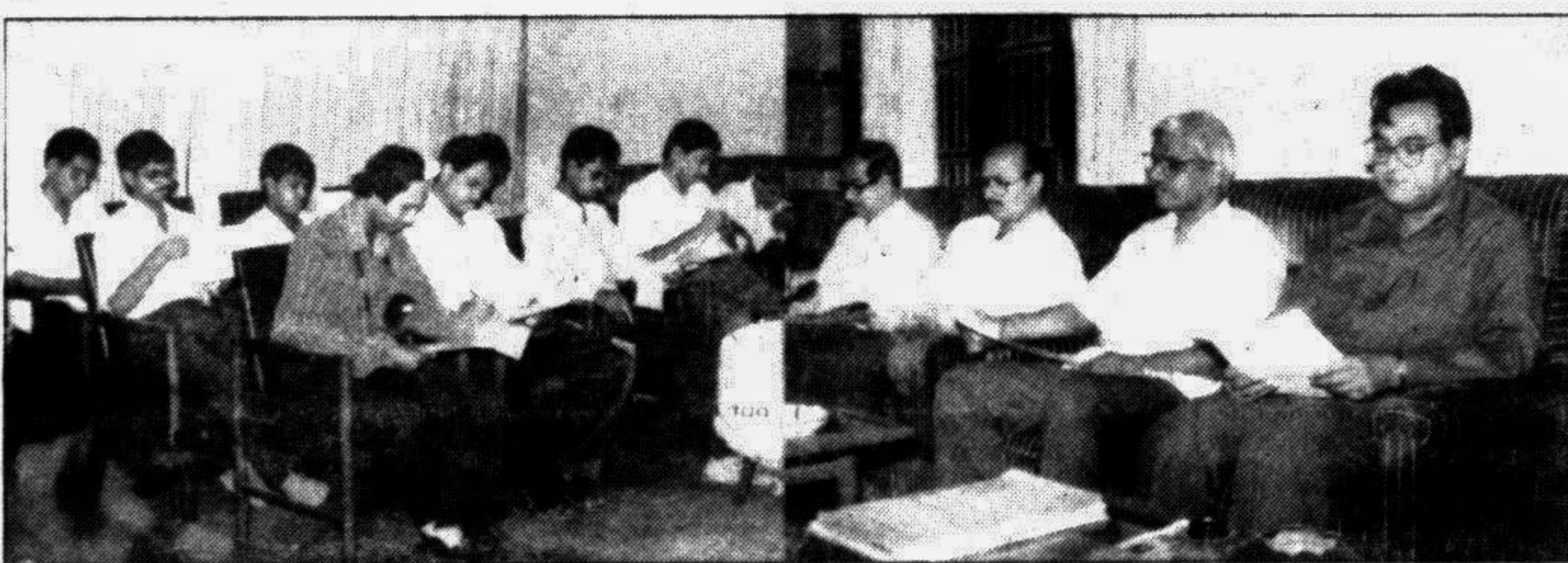
While Minu was passing her days with joyful aspect of life embracing her sons and sorrowful aspect of life apprehending humiliation from the greedy husband, Ashraf directed his wife to bring Taka 70 thousand from her parent for his passage to abroad on February 20, '95. As the parent of Minu was unable to pay it, Ashraf roughed up his wife mercilessly till she went to coma. After getting back sense, Minu apprehending to be killed, left for her parent's house with her sons.

Suspecting to be sued with women repression and dowry case, Ashraf well ahead of time lodged a case of theft accusing his wife. Minu and father-in-law, Sujaetullah in the court, which is now under police investigation.



NOAKHALI: Lutfun Nahar Minu with her children, Nahid, 2, and Shahed, 5, is seen standing.

— Star photo by Shamsul Faruque



RAJSHAHI: RU VC Prof M Yusuf Ali addressed a press conference on September 19 to explain the prevailing situation of the campus.

## Maintain peace on campus, urges Rajshahi University VC

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 23: Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University urged all sections of people to cooperate with the university authorities in attaining and maintaining congenial atmosphere in the university.

He sought this cooperation while he was addressing a press conference on September 19 evening, on the eve of reopening of the university, held at his residential office.

The Vice Chancellor said, "We have reopened the university after a long closer but we are still fearing occurrence of violence."

Expressing deep concern he said that the concerned sections did not help him to manage the university upto the expectation, rather few people had been engaged in floating rumours against him.

To keep peaceful and friendly atmosphere in the campus all, especially the politicians and the teachers have responsibilities and without their help nobody can stop clashes and terrorism, he said. "They cannot avoid the responsibilities by just only criticising the university authorities for its alleged failure to curb terrorism or blaming some body or an organisation for creating anarchy, but they should play their positive role in this concern."

Prof Yusuf Ali reiterated his firm commitment to work for the interests of the students, the teachers, the official and workers, the university and the nation as a whole. He alleged that a section was opposing him for their personal interests which was not desirable.

The Vice Chancellor informed that he had appointed only 14 adhoc officers as per recommendation of the concerned departments and rescheduled 30 adhoc appointments of his predecessors.

I have my own ideals, but I am the Vice Chancellor. When I do official works I do these as the Vice Chancellor, he said.

RU Proctor Prof Nazrul Islam and the RU Students Adviser Prof Abul Qasem and the Registrar (Acting) Syed Mushtaq Ali were present in the press conference.

## RU reopens after two months

## Students, leaders optimistic of congenial atmosphere

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 23: Rajshahi University reopened on Sept 22 after a long two months closure following a clash between two rival groups of student on July 22. The residential halls were reopened the previous day. Most students have already returned to their respective halls on the campus and the rented quarters in the city. Classes have also started to resume since the opening day.

The activists of different student organisations have also returned to the campus. No untoward incident has yet been reported.

The overall situation as observed said that the university is gaining congenial atmosphere. But there still exists panic, and uncertainty among the students. Many still question how far the situation will persist.

Our Correspondent interviewed a number of students and leaders. Following are their reactions: Abdul Maood, a third year student of physics said, "we expect the university will run smoothly. We hope the concerned sections will realise the demands of thousands of general students."

Khaleda Khatun, a final year student of Islamic History reacting in the same way said, "we are interested to complete our education here. We hope the authority will take all possible measures to curb terrorism and run the university well."

Chattra Dal leader Nishtak Ahmed Rakhi stated that the campus situation is better than before. He said "we hope the university authorities will play impartial role in handling any situation". He also suggested to frame a code of conduct to maintain normal situation on the campus.

Another JCD leader, Yusuf Ali demanded withdrawal of ban on political activities on the campus as soon as possible after normalisation of the situation and announcement of RUCSU elections.

The President of Islam Chattrra Shibir, Nurul Islam Bulbul and Secretary, Abdul Jabbar also stated the situation as normal and better but expressed doubts saying, "we are observing that identified killers and terrorists are wondering about on the campus before the nose of the police creating panic among the general students."

The student leaders criticised the university authorities for its alleged partial role and hoped "all concerned should step forward as per law and justice, otherwise all will go in vain." They also demanded resumption of political activities as soon as possible.

Students, Adviser of the university Dr Abul Qasem said, "we have already met and talked with different student organisations. They reacted positively. We are very ambitious of gaining and maintaining congenial atmosphere."

The Vice Chancellor Prof Mohammed Yusuf Ali expressed enthusiasm and said, this time all quarters especially the teachers, students, police and local elites have extended their hands of cooperation to hold the admission tests and reopen the university. But we have much more to do. Holding of incomplete and due examinations, reduction of session jams and above all development of friendly atmosphere among the students and teachers are in front of us. We are really busy now."

Social worker murdered: 4 arrested

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Sept 23: A social worker was stabbed to death at Char Uttarban village under Nandail thana recently. Police said, the victim, Abdul Mazad, 60, was stopped by a union parishad member, Ramzan Ali, and eight to ten others, on his way to the mosque for prayer. They stabbed him to death. A case was filed with the police and four persons were arrested in this connection.