

## National



(Left): Trucks usually remain parked in Supanighat area of Sylhet town creating traffic jam. The situation is due to absence of a modern truck terminal in this divisional town.  
 (Right): A common scene of traffic mess in Zindabazar area.

— Star photo by Iqbal Siddiquee

## Arsenic panic grips Tangail, Chandpur

By Staff Correspondent

People of Tangail and Chandpur districts have become panicky due to increasing arsenic contamination in ground water.

**A correspondent from Tangail reports:** Waters of a great number of tubewells in all 11 upazilas have been found contaminated with the deadly arsenic.

Local Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) sources said, water of 420 tubewells are arsenic contaminated. The affected areas are Delduar, Nagarpur, Mirzapur, Shakipur, Basai, Gopalpur, Ghatal, Madhupur and Tangail Sadar Upazila.

DPHE checked water of tubewells of the aforementioned upazilas and after examination, 420 tubewells of the 11 upazilas have been sealed off.

Some persons have already been attacked by arsenic related diseases in Gopalpur Upazila. Arsenic has also been found to a great extent in the Deputy Commissioner's (DC's)

residence in Tangail and its adjacent areas.

DPHE installed two 300 feet deep tubewells in Nagarpur and Basai upazilas.

Mohammad Awail, Sub-Assistant Engineer of DPHE told this correspondent that arsenic has been found in Tangail sadar upazila.

Meanwhile, DPHE taken up a programme to set up 1,000 feet deep tubewells in arsenic affected areas. Each such tubewell costs Taka 4,200 for its installation. But poor people can not afford the higher cost of installation of such tubewells.

The authorities concerned should spend the required amount of money for this purpose to protect poor people from arsenic contamination.

**SS from Chandpur reports:** According to Chandpur De-

partment of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) sources, about five lakh people here have been suffering from arsenic related diseases. Water of about 80 per cent tubewells in different upazilas is more or less arsenic-contaminated.

DPHE, Chandpur office has already tested the proportion of arsenic pollution in tubewells in different areas. Arsenic contamination in tubewell water has been found in large number in Chandpur, Faridgonj, Hajiganj, Matlab, Shahrastali, and Kachua upazila.

A large number of people have been suffering in these upazilas from arsenic related diseases for long time. About 2000 tubewells have already been sealed off marking red and with warning signboard and some more tubewells are likely to be sealed off very soon.

After examining water sample from different tubewells, it has been found that dangerous level of arsenic contents in water is above .05 mg, arsenic

contents are found below the danger level which is up to .02 mg.

The Executive Engineer of the DPHE said steps are being taken to examine all the remaining tubewells. The department has already informed the concerned ministry about the widespread arsenic contamination.

Despite sealing off arsenic contaminated tubewells many people of the rural areas are found using water of the contaminated tubewells.

The Public Health Department experts said that surface water, rainwater, and water of rivers and ponds is free from arsenic. Water of the 500 feet deep tubewells is also free from arsenic.

PDHE has undertaken a comprehensive scheme to install about one thousand deep tubewells at a cost of Taka two crore and eighty-eight lakh. The work of the scheme has already been started.

## Unnatural deaths increasing

By Staff Correspondent

Incidents of unnatural deaths have increased in the districts of Barisal and Kurigram recently.

**Agencies report:** Three unnatural deaths were reported in Gouradi and Agoijhara upazilas in Barisal district in last 48 hours till Saturday morning.

Police said Jahanara Begum, 55, of village Khanjupur in Gouradi upazila allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself at her house on Friday night.

She was one of the accused of the sensational Habul Mridha murder case and was on bail. Police recovered her body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Grocer Susanta Halder, 22, of Kodaldhao village in Agoijhara upazila allegedly took his life by taking poison on Friday night as he was refused to give money by his father for business. He was rushed to the Goila Hospital where he breathed his last.

Widow Belukha Rani Baroi, 60, of the same village also allegedly committed suicide by taking poison over a family feud on Saturday.

The bodies were sent to hospital morgue. Separate UD cases were filed with the police.

**Another report from Kurigram says:** At least 10 persons including five children died in separate incidents during the last one month at different places here.

According to various sources, these unnatural deaths occurred in Sadar, Rajarhat, Fulbari, Nageswari and Ulipur upazilas during the period.

A young man by name Rezaul Karim, 21, was electrocuted while he was repairing a water tank in Hospital Road of the town recently.

**A report from Bogra says:** Eight unnatural deaths, including two murders, were reported in Bogra district last week, ac-

ording to police and local sources.

Of the victims, seven were identified as Kalam, 35, Sumi, 18, Zinatunnesa, 5, Zakir, 15, Mariam Akhtar Lata, 16, Liton, 26, and Zaheda, 60. Another was an unidentified man.

Kalam, son of Babar Mandal of village Kasahar in Sariakandi upazila, a molasses merchant, was stabbed to death by a group of muggers after snatching his money in the morning of August 13. Critically injured Kalam was rushed to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital, where he died the same morning.

Sumi, a class X student of Raninagar High School in Adamdighi upazila, was strangled to death by some unknown culprits on the same day (Aug 13) after the strangers kidnapped the teenaged girl and raped her.

Zinatunnesa, daughter of Zia Ali of village Baramahar in Kahalu upazila, was run over by truck on Bogra-Naogaon road on August 15.

A college student Abdul Hossain, 20, son of Abdul Rahim of village Punnakor under Rajarhat upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison recently.

A shopkeeper Chand Mia, 30, son of Jourul Haque of village Madhyapara under Ulipur upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on July 8.

**A report from Bogra says:** Eight unnatural deaths, including two murders, were reported in Bogra district last week, ac-

ording to police and local sources.

Of the victims, seven were identified as Kalam, 35, Sumi, 18, Zinatunnesa, 5, Zakir, 15, Mariam Akhtar Lata, 16, Liton, 26, and Zaheda, 60. Another was an unidentified man.

Kalam, son of Babar Mandal of village Kasahar in Sariakandi upazila, a molasses merchant, was stabbed to death by a group of muggers after snatching his money in the morning of August 13. Critically injured Kalam was rushed to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital, where he died the same morning.

Sumi, a class X student of Raninagar High School in Adamdighi upazila, was strangled to death by some unknown culprits on the same day (Aug 13) after the strangers kidnapped the teenaged girl and raped her.

Zinatunnesa, daughter of Zia Ali of village Baramahar in Kahalu upazila, was run over by truck on Bogra-Naogaon road on August 15.

A college student Abdul Hossain, 20, son of Abdul Rahim of village Punnakor under Rajarhat upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison recently.

A shopkeeper Chand Mia, 30, son of Jourul Haque of village Madhyapara under Ulipur upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on July 8.

**A report from Bogra says:** Eight unnatural deaths, including two murders, were reported in Bogra district last week, ac-

ording to police and local sources.

Of the victims, seven were identified as Kalam, 35, Sumi, 18, Zinatunnesa, 5, Zakir, 15, Mariam Akhtar Lata, 16, Liton, 26, and Zaheda, 60. Another was an unidentified man.

Kalam, son of Babar Mandal of village Kasahar in Sariakandi upazila, a molasses merchant, was stabbed to death by a group of muggers after snatching his money in the morning of August 13. Critically injured Kalam was rushed to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital, where he died the same morning.

Sumi, a class X student of Raninagar High School in Adamdighi upazila, was strangled to death by some unknown culprits on the same day (Aug 13) after the strangers kidnapped the teenaged girl and raped her.

Zinatunnesa, daughter of Zia Ali of village Baramahar in Kahalu upazila, was run over by truck on Bogra-Naogaon road on August 15.

A college student Abdul Hossain, 20, son of Abdul Rahim of village Punnakor under Rajarhat upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison recently.

A shopkeeper Chand Mia, 30, son of Jourul Haque of village Madhyapara under Ulipur upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on July 8.

**A report from Bogra says:** Eight unnatural deaths, including two murders, were reported in Bogra district last week, ac-

ording to police and local sources.

Of the victims, seven were identified as Kalam, 35, Sumi, 18, Zinatunnesa, 5, Zakir, 15, Mariam Akhtar Lata, 16, Liton, 26, and Zaheda, 60. Another was an unidentified man.

Kalam, son of Babar Mandal of village Kasahar in Sariakandi upazila, a molasses merchant, was stabbed to death by a group of muggers after snatching his money in the morning of August 13. Critically injured Kalam was rushed to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital, where he died the same morning.

Sumi, a class X student of Raninagar High School in Adamdighi upazila, was strangled to death by some unknown culprits on the same day (Aug 13) after the strangers kidnapped the teenaged girl and raped her.

Zinatunnesa, daughter of Zia Ali of village Baramahar in Kahalu upazila, was run over by truck on Bogra-Naogaon road on August 15.

A college student Abdul Hossain, 20, son of Abdul Rahim of village Punnakor under Rajarhat upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison recently.

A shopkeeper Chand Mia, 30, son of Jourul Haque of village Madhyapara under Ulipur upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on July 8.

**A report from Bogra says:** Eight unnatural deaths, including two murders, were reported in Bogra district last week, ac-

ording to police and local sources.

Of the victims, seven were identified as Kalam, 35, Sumi, 18, Zinatunnesa, 5, Zakir, 15, Mariam Akhtar Lata, 16, Liton, 26, and Zaheda, 60. Another was an unidentified man.

Kalam, son of Babar Mandal of village Kasahar in Sariakandi upazila, a molasses merchant, was stabbed to death by a group of muggers after snatching his money in the morning of August 13. Critically injured Kalam was rushed to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital, where he died the same morning.

Sumi, a class X student of Raninagar High School in Adamdighi upazila, was strangled to death by some unknown culprits on the same day (Aug 13) after the strangers kidnapped the teenaged girl and raped her.

Zinatunnesa, daughter of Zia Ali of village Baramahar in Kahalu upazila, was run over by truck on Bogra-Naogaon road on August 15.

A college student Abdul Hossain, 20, son of Abdul Rahim of village Punnakor under Rajarhat upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison recently.

A shopkeeper Chand Mia, 30, son of Jourul Haque of village Madhyapara under Ulipur upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on July 8.

**A report from Bogra says:** Eight unnatural deaths, including two murders, were reported in Bogra district last week, ac-

ording to police and local sources.

Of the victims, seven were identified as Kalam, 35, Sumi, 18, Zinatunnesa, 5, Zakir, 15, Mariam Akhtar Lata, 16, Liton, 26, and Zaheda, 60. Another was an unidentified man.

Kalam, son of Babar Mandal of village Kasahar in Sariakandi upazila, a molasses merchant, was stabbed to death by a group of muggers after snatching his money in the morning of August 13. Critically injured Kalam was rushed to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital, where he died the same morning.

Sumi, a class X student of Raninagar High School in Adamdighi upazila, was strangled to death by some unknown culprits on the same day (Aug 13) after the strangers kidnapped the teenaged girl and raped her.

Zinatunnesa, daughter of Zia Ali of village Baramahar in Kahalu upazila, was run over by truck on Bogra-Naogaon road on August 15.

A college student Abdul Hossain, 20, son of Abdul Rahim of village Punnakor under Rajarhat upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison recently.

A shopkeeper Chand Mia, 30, son of Jourul Haque of village Madhyapara under Ulipur upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on July 8.

**A report from Bogra says:** Eight unnatural deaths, including two murders, were reported in Bogra district last week, ac-

ording to police and local sources.

Of the victims, seven were identified as Kalam, 35, Sumi, 18, Zinatunnesa, 5, Zakir, 15, Mariam Akhtar Lata, 16, Liton, 26, and Zaheda, 60. Another was an unidentified man.

Kalam, son of Babar Mandal of village Kasahar in Sariakandi upazila, a molasses merchant, was stabbed to death by a group of muggers after snatching his money in the morning of August 13. Critically injured Kalam was rushed to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital, where he died the same morning.

Sumi, a class X student of Raninagar High School in Adamdighi upazila, was strangled to death by some unknown culprits on the same day (Aug 13) after the strangers kidnapped the teenaged girl and raped her.

Zinatunnesa, daughter of Zia Ali of village Baramahar in Kahalu upazila, was run over by truck on Bogra-Naogaon road on August 15.

A college student Abdul Hossain, 20, son of Abdul Rahim of village Punnakor under Rajarhat upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison recently.

A shopkeeper Chand Mia, 30, son of Jourul Haque of village Madhyapara under Ulipur upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on July 8.

**A report from Bogra says:** Eight unnatural deaths, including two murders, were reported in Bogra district last week, ac-

ording to police and local sources.

Of the victims, seven were identified as Kalam, 35, Sumi, 18, Zinatunnesa, 5, Zakir, 15, Mariam Akhtar Lata, 16, Liton, 26, and Zaheda, 60. Another was an unidentified man.

Kalam, son of Babar Mandal of village Kasahar in Sariakandi upazila, a molasses merchant, was stabbed to death by a group of muggers after snatching his money in the morning of August 13. Critically injured Kalam was rushed to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital, where he died the same morning.

Sumi, a class X student of Raninagar High School in Adamdighi upazila, was strangled to death by some unknown culprits on the same day (Aug 13) after the strangers kidnapped the teenaged girl and raped her.

Zinatunnesa, daughter of Zia Ali of village Baramahar in Kahalu upazila, was run over by truck on Bogra-Naogaon road on August 15.

A college student Abdul Hossain, 20, son of Abdul Rahim of village Punnakor under Rajarhat upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison recently.

A shopkeeper Chand Mia, 30, son of Jourul Haque of village Madhyapara under Ulipur upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on July 8.

**A report from Bogra says:** Eight unnatural deaths, including two murders, were reported in Bogra district last week, ac-

ording to police and local sources.