

Metropolitan

Arsenic poisoning costs life of Abdur Rahman Khan

By Staff Correspondent

Arsenic poisoning finally cost the life of fifty-four years old Abdur Rahman Khan ending his three years fight against the 'curse'.

The government is now mainly depending on UN and other agencies for mitigation of this top priority issue though it is no where near reality as experts view it.

The toxin accumulated in Khan during a 10 years period when he and his family drank water from a contaminated tubewell.

The Daily Star reported about Khan's status of cancer from arsenic first on March 3 headlined - 'A death knell for Khan' and second time on April 4 headlined - 'Arsenicosis eating away Abdur Rahman'.

The tubewell water that Khan drank contained very high level of the poison. According to his neighbours, any other people are also facing similar fates with visible symptoms like Khan but are helpless.

Khan was admitted to Dhaka Community Hospital on February 23 and underwent amputation of his left hand on March 3 After surgery Khan's only hope was on radiation therapy to the parts of his body where cancer is more pronounced.

Doctors at the Dhaka Community Hospital had said that arsenic poisoning had spread to such a level that it was quite impossible for doctors to save him.

Khan had told this correspondent when he was hospitalised that his wife and children were also affected and exhibiting similar symptoms. 'There is no treatment or advice available at the nearest health (government) centre. We are helpless and in panic. please help us to fight against this menace,' Khan appealed.

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