

Manpower shortage hampers leprosy control activities

DELWAR KABIR, Jhenidah

Number of leprosy patients may exceed than the government record in Jhenidah district. Leprosy control activities are being hampered due to shortage of trained manpower. It was revealed in a press briefing at Jhenidah District Civil Surgeon Office last week.

According to authoritative sources, leprosy control activities started in Jhenidah district in 1995. Between 1995 and 2000 a total of 70 leprosy affected patients were detected here. Upazila-wise break up was 13 in Jhenidah sadar and Kaliganj upazila each 22 in Saikupa, eight in Harinakundu, five in Cotchandpur and 10 in Mohepur. Of them 11 lepers in Jhenidah Sadar and Kaliganj upazila each, 19 in Saikupa, seven in Harinakundu and Mohepur upazila and five in Kotchandpur upazila were given treatment. They are now free from the diseases. The now one leper each in Jhenidah sadar and Harinakundu upazila, two in Kaliganj and three in Mohepur upazila are under treatment. Moreover, a new patient has been detected in Jhenidah sadar while three patients are dropped from the treatment.

Authorities said the patients in Saikupa are not interested to take drug either from the government, or from the private initiatives. To ensure proper treatment, Health Department authorities are trying their level best.

Usually two types of leprosy are visible in the

country. Borderline type of leprosy can be cured in six months and the severe type in maximum 12 months with Depsan and Clofazamine tablets and Rifampicin capsule. These drugs are provided free of cost from all six upazila health complexes (UHC) in the district among the lepers.

Dr Mainuddin Ahmed, Civil Surgeon of Jhenidah presided over the press briefing at his office. Lepers Abdur Rashid, 50, of village Naodagram under Mohepur sadar upazila and Safiqur Rahman, 17, of village Badpukuria under Jhenidah sadar expressed their experience. They said that although once people treated leprosy as curse, but now the notion has been changed. The lepers are not abhorred in the family as well as in society.

District Health Department authorities informed that one medical officer (MO) and a health worker (HO) from each upazila health complex (UHC) were provided training on tuberculosis (TB) and leprosy in 1995. But now there is only one trained MO on the discipline is serving in the district Rest five MOs were transferred elsewhere.

The field level workers of health and family planning (H&FP) were given orientation. But the simple orientation is not enough to detect and ensure treatment to the lepers. They should be given skill training on TB and leprosy.

The speakers also revealed that the number of lepers would be more than the government records. All the patients should be detected and brought under treatment with the help of all section of people in the society, they said.

7-man Durgapur NGO Co-ord committee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A seven-member Durgapur Upazila NGO Coordination Committee was formed in a meeting on Tuesday at CARITAS office, Durgapur. The meeting was chaired by Ashuk Kumar Chisim, Coordinator of Durgapur ADP of World Vision Bangladesh.

The office bearers are: Ashuk Kumar Chisim - President, Farida lasmin Champa - Vice President, Muklesur Rahaman - Secretary, Kazi Golam Kibria - Assistant Secretary, Sanath Saha - Publicity Secretary. Two other members are Promila Marak and Nurul Amin.

A total of 50 councillors of 14 NGOs including BRAC, World Vision, Proshika, CARITAS Padakkhep participated in the meeting. The meeting unanimously formed the committee for the current year - 2001.

Bid to divert Sumi murder case to another direction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, SIRAJGANJ

Gopinath Roy, an inhabitant of Tangail and father of ill-fated pretty housewife Sumi Roy, who was murdered in Sirajganj recently, alleged that an influential circle has been trying to divert the case to another direction.

Mystery of the murder has begun to unveil. According to sources who preferred to remain anonymous, the murder occurred at the Mujib Road residence of the victim's husband Babu Subir Kumar Roy, owner of Shila Jewellers on the fateful day where Sunil Roy, a teacher of Sirajganj Government University College, Shusil Roy, a doctor of Sirajganj General Hospital, both of them elder brothers of Subir Kumer Roy, mother-in-law of the victim along with her husband were allegedly involved in the murder. The sources also informed that on Friday (January

12) evening Professor Sunil Roy proposed a bad proposal to his younger brother's (Subir) beautiful wife Sumi Roy, but she flatly denied the proposal. Following this incident Sunil came to his younger brother's house and began to torture Sumi. At one stage Doctor Shusil and Subir, husband of the victim arrived there who kicked at the abdomen of Sumi resulting in her instantaneous death. She was four months' pregnant at that time. After this incident Doctor Sushil dragged the victim to the General Hospital and allegedly influenced the RMO, Dr Abdul awal including on-duty doctors to divert it as a suicide, where as Sumi was brutally murdered. The killers, in the mean time, fled away to the neighbouring India with huge amount of money and ornaments. Now through brokers the killers are allegedly trying to stage a comeback to Bangladesh proposing bribes.

Meanwhile, protest processions are going on in the town demanding arrest and punishment to the killers.

Dist coordinator's press confce

Census conducted in Moulvibazar smoothly

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, Moulvibazar

Population census was conducted in Moulvibazar district smoothly and without hindrance.

This was started by the District Coordinator of Census 2001 and officials of the district Statistical office in a meeting of exchange of opinion with local newsmen on January 27.

It was informed that total area of the district was divided into 29 zones to conduct census. A total 3,102 enumerators, most of them unemployed youths were appointed to conduct census.

Besides this, 521 supervisors, 29 zonal officers and six upazila coordinations were also appointed who worked round the clock during the period of census which started from the midnight of January 22 and concluded on the midnight of January 27.

According to the District Coordinator of Census 2001 a total of 417 enumerators, 71 supervisors, four zonal officers and a upazila coordinator were appointed in Baralekha upazila 476 enumerators, 77 supervisors four zonal officers and a upazila coordinators were appointed in Kamalganj upazila, 724 enumerators, 116 supervisors seven zonal officers and a upazila coordinator were appointed in Kulaura upazila, 397 enumerators, 67 supervisors, four zonal officers and a upazila coordinator were appointed in Rajnagar upazila, 531 enumerators, 91 supervisors, five zonal officers and a upazila coordinator were appointed in Srimangal upazila and 557 enumerators, 99 supervisors five zonal officers and a upazila coordinator were appointed in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila.

People from all walks of life supported and cooperated to conduct census, the district coordination mentioned.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Monir Ahmed, District Coordinator of Census 2001 and Faruq Ahmed Bhuiyan In-Charge, District Statistics Officer.



Enumerators conducting census in a ward of Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital on January 22 midnight.

14,000 bags of adulterated fertiliser seized

UNB, Jessore

The Anti-smuggling Task Force in a raid seized 14,000 bags of low-quality and adulterated Indian fertiliser from a godown in the frontier union of Bahadurpur in Benapole under Jessore district on Thursday.

Acting on a tip, the Task Force launched the operation at the godown of Joint Silver Traders', 2.5 km from Benapole Bazar.

The Task Force members found employees mixing sub-standard Indian MOP and SSP fertilisers with high quality fertiliser imported from Russia.

When asked godown in-charge failed to produce legal papers against the foreign fertiliser.

Employee of the godown, Mohammad Hafizur Rahman, informed the Task Force members that owner of the godown Mohammad Babul Akhter brought this fertiliser through Sona Masjid

Land Port of Chapainawabganj.

He said each 50 kg-bag of this adulterated fertiliser is being sold in local markets between Tk 280 and Tk 300 while each bag of low-quality SSP Indian fertiliser was purchased between Tk 60 and Tk 70.

Generally a 50 kg-bag Indian MOP fertiliser is sold in local markets between Tk 315 and Tk 360 while price of same quantity of Russian CIS fertiliser between Tk 420 and Tk 430, told the Task Force members.

NEWS SNAPS

Day labourer dies in accident

UNB, Bogra

A day-labourer was killed and nine others were injured when fertiliser bags fell on them in a godown in Bogra town on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Shahidul Islam, 30, of Hatfulbari village in Shariakandi upazila. Witnesses said the incident occurred when Shahidul Islam and others were removing the fertiliser bags from the huge row of the godown of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC). The injured Gani, 22, Altaf, 35, Helal, 38, Javed, 19, Janu, 35, Abed, 40, Labu, 25, Abul, 35, Alem, 38 and Shahidul Islam were admitted to the Mohammad Ali Hospital where Shahidul Islam died later.

Tiger kills man

BSS, Satkhira

A man eater tiger killed a man in Sroterkhal area in the Sundarbans under Shyamnagar upazila in Satkhira district last week.

The victim was identified as Abdul Mazid, 35, of village Jalindranagar under Shyamnagar upazila. According to his family sources, when Abdul Mazid along with his other companions was cutting wood suddenly a man eater tiger attacked them and took away Mazid into the forest. Later, his friends and family members recovered his decomposed body from the forest.

One killed in clash

UNB, Magura

A man was killed and five other people were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Armajhi village in Mohammadpur upazila in Magura district on Monday.

Police and witnesses said supporters of Kobad Hossain and Imanuddin Molla of the village attacked each other at about 11am over a land dispute. During the clash, Hossain was killed. Two houses belonging to Abdur Rouf and Iman Molla were ransacked and looted during the clash. The injured were admitted to local hospital. A case was filed with police in this regard.

Girl rescued

BSS, Satkhira

Police rescued a girl from Khanpur Bazar area under Kaliganj upazila in Satkhira while some traffickers were taking her to India last week.

Police arrested one woman trafficker in this connection. According to police the girl was identified as Nasima, 8, daughter of Din Ali of Village Laxmipur under Shyamnagar upazila. The arrested was identified as Sobironnessa, 30, of Village Kalikapur under Kaliganj upazila.

Two killed in road mishaps

UNB, Barisal

Two people were crushed under the wheels of trucks in the district on Monday. Police said Subir Bairagi, a passenger of a Barisal-bound tempo from Banaripara, was run over by a truck as he fell down from the tempo at Gariarpar here at about 2pm. In another accident at Kashemabad in Gouranadi upazila, a speeding truck hit a rickshaw van from behind, killing its driver Rezaul Karim on the spot.

Six hurt as BCL, JCD clash

UNB, Munshiganj

Six people were injured in sporadic clashes between BCL and JCD activists on Saturday-Sunday over a trivial incident that triggered tension on the Srinagar college campus.

Witnesses said the clash ensued Saturday when a BCL activist Rana was beaten up for teasing the sister of JCD activist on the previous day on the campus. Five were injured in the clash. The sporadic clashes continued for the second day Sunday as both the groups chased each other amid bomb blast. An activist was injured in the attack.

Man gets life term

UNB, Pirojpur

A man was sentenced to life term rigorous imprisonment by a court in Pirojpur under Woman and Child Repression Act.

The court also fined the convict, Abdur Razzak of Nodmulla village in Bhandaria upazila, Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer one year RI more. The case, in brief, was that the accused violated a housewife of the same village in absence of her husband when she was sleeping at her house on February 17, 1998. After examining the records and witnesses, the judge found him guilty and pronounced the judgement last week.

Heroin seized

BSS, Benapole (Jessore)

Bangladesh Rifles personnel on Monday recovered 500 grams of heroin worth about Taka 50 lakh from border village Sadipur in Benapole and arrested one person in this connection.

The contraband item was seized when the arrested person, Golam Mostafa, 35, an inhabitant of village Sargomta of Begumganj upazila under Noakhali district, had been crossing the border without any valid document. The BDR personnel challenged him and recovered 500 grams of heroin from his possession.

3 female drug traffickers held

UNB, Joypurhat

Police arrested three female drug traffickers along with 90 bottles of phensidyl from Joypurhat-Hilly road in Panchbibbi upazila last week.

Mehbuba, 30, Noor Jahan, 31, and Mala, 29, were arrested when they were carrying the contraband item from Naudapara village of Panchbibbi upazila to Bogra district by a rickshaw-van.

Three butchers held

UNB, Jhenidah

Local people caught three butchers red-handed while they were selling meat of a dead cow at Hatgopalpur Bazar in Sadar upazila Friday morning.

The arrested were identified as Azim Mondal of village Hazratata and his two sons Mosharrar Hossain and Jakir Hossain. After selling of 4 kilograms beef at the rate of Tk 60 per kg, the matter was leaked out. Later, on confirmation from the local sanitary inspector they were handed over to the police. The incident has created sensation in the area.

Two youths held

UNB, Joypurhat

Police arrested two youths along with a stolen motorbike from Balighata area in Panchbibbi upazila on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, police nabbed the two young men while they were selling the bike to one Nepal at Dhakajaya-patti in the area only at Tk 30,000. The arrested were identified as Nitai Mondal, 27, of Balukapara village in Mohadebpur upazila and Bablu, 28, of Kashtagram village in Badalgachhi upazila of Naogaon district. A case was filed.

Sewerage development scheme

BSS, Munshiganj

Munshiganj municipality and Local Government Engineering Department have undertaken Sewerage Improvement Scheme to improve the sewerage system of the district town.

The scheme of 1222 metre-long drains on both sides of the main thoroughfares has been undertaken at an estimated cost of Taka 34 lakh and 26 thousand under Middle Town Infrastructure Development Project-2 of Asian Development Bank (ADB). Work on the scheme is expected to complete within the current month, sources added. After the completion of the scheme, the long-standing sewerage problem of the district town would be removed, dwellers of the town said.

Eye camp held

UNB, Sherpur

A six-day eye camp at GK Pilot High School in Sherpur town was inaugurated on Saturday.

The camp has been organised by World Vision of Bangladesh's (WVB) Sherpur Family Development Project in cooperation with Bangladesh National Society for Blind (BNSB), Mymensingh and local administration. Project director of WVB's Mymensingh area, David Anup Sangma, inaugurated the eye camp as chief guest. Headmaster of the high school Abdul Jalil and officer of Sherpur unit project Fanindra Nokrek, were present, among others.