

SNAPS

Textile mills reopens

BSS, Kishoreganj
Production at Kishoreganj Textile Mills (KTM) began here on Monday after nearly one and a half years.

With reopening of the mills, over one thousand employees and labourers have got back their jobs.

The management had closed the mill in April last year following a discord the two owners of the mill.

On the occasion, a function was held on the mill premises with its Managing Director Syed Mohammad Arif in the chair. Deputy Commissioner Fazle Kabir and SP Saiful Alam were present.

Cinema hall gutted

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali
A cinema hall in Patuakhali town was gutted on Friday night.

The fire originated from short circuit at Rupali

cinema hall on Sadar road at about 3 am, fire officials said. Machines, screen, chairs and other articles worth about Tk 20 lakh were gutted.

Fire fighters from Patuakhali brought the situation under control after about two hours of frantic effort. Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury on Friday visited the spot.

However, no casualty was reported.

Same doctor does it again

Now baby fights for life at same clinic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Another 'blunder' occurred at the same 'unregistered' private clinic in the city where day labourer's wife Rashida was operated without any test that caused her death.

She died on Sunday after remaining unconscious for 24 days.

This time, the victim is a three and a half year-old son of another day labourer, now fighting for life at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

The urinary bladder and intestine of the baby were perforated during hernia operation at the private clinic. Infection has spread inside his belly.

Polash's parents are shading tears beside his bed as RMCH doctors have little hope for his full recovery from the damage done during the operation at the clinic.

Polash's parents Sayed Ali and Parul sometimes used to take him to RMCH from their house at Dangapara village in Dangapara upazila for treatment of his hernia.

In early August, Prafulla, a broker of Nazma Clinic in the city, advised Sayed that his son needed an operation at a clinic.

On August 18, Prafulla escorted Sayed Ali, Parul and their son to Nazma Clinic in the city.

At around 10.30am next morning, Polash was put on the operation table.

Dr Sarmin Sultana, medical officer of Paba Upazila Health and Family Welfare Center, performed the operation while an assistant professor of RMCH, Dr Intekhab Alam, applied anaesthesia.

The clinic authorities started avoiding Polash's attendants after the operation and kept the child at the clinic for two more days though they had earlier said he would be released within 12 hours. Polash's mother Parul told a group of news-men.

Seeing her child's swollen abdomen in the afternoon of August 21, Parul wailed and shouted at the clinic authorities.

The clinic authorities took Polash to RMCH at about mid night on August 21.

It is alleged that the clinic authorities forcibly took away all papers and prescriptions from Polash's parents before admitting him to the second operation.

Denying this, RMCH Asst Prof Dr Hasan Sarwar said the baby was admitted to RMCH with leakage in his urinary bladder.

Last month, as Rashida did not regain sense after operation, a probe team led by Rajshahi civil surgeon found that Dr Sharmin Sultana was only specialised in Gynaecology and emergency surgery.

The herniotomy of the child was "not touched" in the operation at the clinic. Rather his intestine and urinary bladder were perforated during the operation, RMCH doctors wrote on the patient's note.

On August 23, Prof Kamal M Chowdhury and Asst Prof Hasan Sarwar of pediatric ward at RMCH in another operation relieved the baby of his Hernia problem and also cured the intestinal obstruction.

But the senior doctors found the leakage in the child's urinary bladder "incurable at least for the time being" and decided to wait several days till the "leaked point dry up and become ready for mending".

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Chowdhury said the baby would be operated upon once again soon to cure the perforation at his urinary

bladder.

"We are not yet certain of Polash's life, but it is clear that his parents must spend a huge amount of money in future", Chowdhury said replying to a question.

If the third operation fails to do any good to the patient, he will be sent to Dhaka, he said.

When contacted, Nazma Clinic Director Reaz Uddin denied that Polash was wrongly operated. The baby developed intestinal obstruction, which is a common post-operation complexity.

When asked, he declined to show papers on treatment of the patient.

Dr Sharmin Sultana, talking to this correspondent however claimed that the leakage in the child's urinary bladder was not done during operation by her. She claimed that the hospital doctors might have done it during the second operation.

Denying this, RMCH Asst Prof Dr Hasan Sarwar said the baby was admitted to RMCH with leakage in his urinary bladder.

Last month, as Rashida did not regain sense after operation, a probe team led by Rajshahi civil surgeon found that Dr Sharmin Sultana was only specialised in Gynaecology and emergency surgery.

The probe team also revealed that the clinic was operating in the city without any registration and necessary infrastructure and equipment.

The probe team also found that operations were done at the clinic in a "non-sterile environment risking patients' life". It was doing business using the name of the deputy director of Rajshahi divisional health department on its sign-board.

When contacted, Alam said he just told her to tell journalists the truth.

Asked why he, being a dignified doctor, works at the unregistered private clinic, he said, "If I don't go here, any less qualified doctor will do the job and the situation would be more dangerous".

Dr Sharmin also said that she did "hundreds of operations so far and have one year internship training, six months' training on Gynaec, five months' training on medicine, one month's training on surgery and one year training on Emergency Obstetric Care at DMCH (Dhaka Medical College Hospital)".

Asked why she operated upon the child at the private clinic on August 19 avoiding her official duty at Paba Upazila Health and Family Welfare Center, she said she went to Paba Health Complex just after the operation.

"Hundreds of government doctors with minimum training have been operating at hundreds of unregistered clinics in the city...Why should you then cover only me?" Dr Sharmin asked this correspondent at one stage.

She also said that the deputy director of health department, who is to survey unregistered clinics, was randomly practicing at unregistered private clinics.

Dr Reaz Uddin, the deputy director however told that he never did any operation in any sub-standard clinic.

Dr Sharmin also informed that she paid nearly Tk 6,500 for better treatment of Polash and used to give his mother Tk 100 to Tk 200 whenever she visited her.

It was also alleged that the clinic authorities yesterday threatened Polash's mother not to talk to newsmen over the issue.

One Rajib from the clinic met her yesterday morning at the hospital and rebuked her for talking to journalists.

Dr Intekhab Alam of RMCH who applied anaesthesia before Polash's operation at the clinic also allegedly threatened her for talking to journalists.

When contacted, Alam said he just told her to tell journalists the truth.

Asked why he, being a dignified doctor, works at the unregistered private clinic, he said, "If I don't go here, any less qualified doctor will do the job and the situation would be more dangerous".



PHOTO: STAR
Because of lack of a town protection embankment, tidal water enters into Patuakhali town paralysing normal life. The picture has been taken from the Puran bazaar area recently.

Save Patuakhali, its people

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Most areas of Patuakhali town go under water during flood or high tide but an embankment-cum-drainage project taken up five years ago is yet to be approved.

Besides flooding and erosion, water-logging is a constant problem in the low-lying coastal town.

The Tk 17.27 project was taken up after the visit of the then agriculture minister Majid ul-Haque and Water Development Board (WDB) secretary to Patuakhali in 1997.

The water resources ministry approved the project but the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) is sitting on it. Patuakhali Pourashabha Chairman Mostaq Ahmed told this correspondent on Thursday.

A project was taken up in the sixties to protect Patuakhali town and coastal upazilas of Bauphal, Dashmila Kalapra and Mirjagoni from flood and saline water. The town was later excluded from the

project, considering its low-lying position.

The authorities later included Patuakhali town in the project and styled it Patuakhali Town Protection Embankment Cum-Drainage Project.

The town is inundated even with a normal rise in river water.

The most vulnerable areas include Puran Bazar, Kathpatti, Nabadpara, Muslimpara, Government Collage Road, Sabujbagh, Arambagh, Kalikapur, Town Jaintkathi and Bahalgachi, where water remains stagnant for days together after high tide or rain.

The new project is designed to protect the town from flash flood and erosion and remove stagnant water.

The project includes construction of 4.20 km flood control embankment, eight water drainage slice gets, 38 outlets, one km wall and installation of four power pumps.

College teachers on student-hunt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Non-government college teachers are now going door to door to collect students, but with little result.

There are 87 non-governmental colleges in nine upazilas of the district. Most of those are worried, apprehending cancellation of MPOs (monthly pay orders for teachers) if required number of students can not be shown on roll, some teachers told this correspondent.

Less number of students are seeking admission to colleges this year because of poor pass percentage in SCC and Dakhil examinations following strict measures against cheating in examinations, the sources said.

On an average, there are about 10 colleges in each upazila. Only those at upazila headquarters will get students, they said.

In outlying areas, there are colleges even with 20 to 30 students. In such a situation, MPOs of many of the colleges might be cancelled as those are very much unlikely to be able to collect the required number of students, they said.

Attack on Shyamnagar UNO's residence

Tension prevails, police deployed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Tension prevails in Shyamnagar upazila headquarters following filing of a case by the Upazila Parishad night guard against 50 people including upazila Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami for allegedly damaging the Upazila Nirbahi Officer's residence on September 2.

Police are deployed at the upazila.

Night guard Abdur Rashid filed the case with Shyamnagar thana accusing upazila Jamaat Amir Maulana Abdul Bari and 49 others under the Special Power Act.

On September 2, Jamaat activists led by party lawmaker Gazi Nazrul Islam brought out a procession and laid a siege to the residence.

denences of UNO A N Ahmed Ali and Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Radhe Shyam Das protesting their alleged misappropriation of funds in implementation the Gabura-Chandrimukhi road reconstruction project in collaboration with the local Union Parishad chairman Shafiqul Azam Lenin.

At one stage, the people damaged window panes and furniture.

Gazi Nazrul Islam alleged that completion of the project work was approved at a meeting of Shyamnagar Upazila Development Co-ordination Committee on June 16 in his absence. But his signature was forged in the resolution of the meeting, he alleged.

When contacted ADM AKM Abdus Salam said Jamaat lawmaker Gazi Nazrul Islam had called the UNO at the local Jamaat office. As he did not turn up, Jamaat activists laid a siege to the UNO's residence.

On the other land, ten UP chairmen in Shyamnagar upazila in a joint statement condemned the attack and demanded arrest of the persons responsible.

The statement was signed by Shafiqul Azam Lenin, GM Liakat Ali, GM Abdul Karim, Gazi Anisuzzaman, Jagul Haider, Amjadul Islam, GM Abdul Kader, Bakhtiar Ahmed, Asim Kumar Mridha, and Alhaj Sheikh Alamgir Haider.

Meanwhile, the Co-ordination Committee at a meeting at the district Jamaat office on September 3 said the September 2 incident was a conspiracy by Awami League to tarnish the image of 4-party alliance government.

With BNP lawmaker Habibul Islam Habib in the chair, the meeting was attended by SM Riasat Ali MP, Kazi Alauddin MP, MA Khaleque MP and Gazi Nazrul Islam MP were present in the meeting.

Awami League denied the charge.

Death anniversary of teacher held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The 2nd death anniversary of Nadira Sultana, an eminent educationist, was observed here recently.

Nadira Sultana, wife of Md Fazlur Rahman Siddique, Mymensingh correspondent of the News Today, died on September 1 in 2001.

She was a mathematics teacher at Government Ananda Mohan College and Mominunnisa College.

Nadira Sultana Smriti Parishad brought out a souvenir, held a Milad Mahfil at her residence in the town and arranged destitute feeding on the occasion.

Nadira Sultana, wife of Md Fazlur Rahman Siddique, Mymensingh correspondent of the News Today, died on September 1 in 2001.

She was a mathematics teacher at Government Ananda Mohan College and Mominunnisa College.

Nadira Sultana Smriti Parishad brought out a souvenir, held a Milad Mahfil at her residence in the town and arranged destitute feeding on the occasion.