

# Cashing in on patients' woes

70 pc diagnostic centres in Rangpur illegal

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Rozina Begum of Borodargah under Pirgachha upzila had gone to Dr. Omor Ali at Rangpur Medical College Hospital with pain in the abdomen. He advised her to have ultra sonogram test to confirm whether she had stone in the kidney. The test report given by a diagnostic centre in Rangpur town said unmarried Rozina was pregnant and carrying a five-month baby. Disgusted and ashamed, she went to her doctor again. He suggested her to have the test done again in another diagnostic centre. This time the report said there were several stones in her kidney. Dr. Omor Ali removed the stones by an operation at a clinic and she was cured. Instances of such wrong diagnostic tests are many. Ahmed Ali of Palichara village under the Sader upzila was shouting in front of a X-ray centre in Dhap area recently. His doctor had asked him for X-ray of his left hand. But the technician did it on his right hand, may be due to carelessness or illiteracy. Such deceitful acts and irregularities

by diagnostic centres and pathological laboratories is a talk of the town now. On investigation, it was found that there are about 60 diagnostic centres and 60 pathological laboratories in the town. But the number of M.B.B.S radiologists, sinologists and microbiologists in the district headquarters is one tenth of the number of pathological laboratories and diagnostic centres. Conscious people now ponder how so many laboratories run with so few specialists. They allege that government rules are being totally ignored by these centres and laboratories, which are virtually deceiving patients, often leading to serious complications and even to death. This illegal business is going on while there is a monitoring cell of the government's health department to check them. An investigation by The Daily Star revealed that about 70 per cent of the diagnostic and pathological laboratories do not have registration from the Department of Health. Many of them do not have the required equipment and unqualified men. There are eight microbiologists in

Rangpur town, three of them at RMCH. The rest five are retired government officials now working with private laboratories. There are only two M.B.B.S radiologists at RMCH while the number of X-ray centres in the town are around 30, mostly allegedly run by technicians having no academic certificate. It was gathered that in many of the centres, technicians having no academic certificate are doing pathological tests and preparing reports. Before delivery, they collect signatures of microbiologists on the reports in exchange of 45 percent of the fees per test. When asked, Porimol Chandra Sarker, Associate Professor of RMC and a specialist in microbiology, said he does not have any idea about the irregularities. Drastic action should be taken against pathological laboratories if they are found doing such irregularities, he said. A technician at an X-ray centre seeking anonymity said an orthopedist takes 70 percent of the amount it earns for putting a signature on a report. As per law, opening of a diagnostic centre requires approval from the

Director General (DG) of the Department of Health. A diagnostic centre has to fulfill all conditions, which include procurement of appropriate equipment and recruitment of specialists. But a few of the centres fulfill these conditions. Owners of some of the centres when contacted said they applied to the DG Health. But it is a long process to get approval. So they obtained a trade licence from the municipality and started the business. Dr Ekramul Hoque Swapan, convener of Rangpur Clinics and Diagnostic Center Owners Association denied that a large number of centres are operating illegally. "A few may be doing the business with trade license from the municipality," he said. Asked if it was legal, he said, "It is a long process to get registration from the health department and so entrepreneurs open business after submitting prayers to the DG through the district civil surgeon". When contacted, the Civil Surgeon said he would not pass any comment before investigation. He said he will order an investigation into the matter.



Afroza displaying garments at her shop (Left) and some of the women workers at her factory.

## A successful woman entrepreneur

### Widow Afroza employs 30 women, plans to recruit 200

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Afroza Rahman is an example how a helpless woman can be a successful entrepreneur by dint of hard work, devotion and talent. She had started dressmaking at home. Now she employs about 30 women and owns a well decorated block, batik and printing and set up a cottage garments shop at Cantonment Road. She earns around Tk 30,000 a month. Afroza also supplies readymade garments to Dhaka and other districts. This has been done only in five years. Afroza Rahman of Gupta Para in Rangpur town is a widow. She was helpless after death of her husband Doula Rahman in 1997. "I began thinking what to do for survival. I started tailoring at home. Gradually I learnt dress making, block, batik and printing and set up a cottage garments factory at my house." Her relatives and well-wishers were the customers in the initial days.

She collected orders moving from door to door. Day by day, she earned reputation as a good dressmaker in the town. Her devotion and skill helped her. People, especially women, began to come to her with orders from different areas of the town. Within five years, Afroza reached a position that that encouraged others. "I is a great satisfaction that 30 women are learning and earning from my factory", she told this correspondent during a recent visit to her small garments factory at her Gupta Para's house. She plans to expand the factory to provide jobs for about 200 unemployed women. When asked if she got any loan from any government agency or NGO, she said she did not try for that. "I will need financial support from banks or NGOs when I will expand my factory," she added.

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## SNAPS

### Santhal Uprising Day observed

A CORRESPONDENT, Joypurhat

Santhal Uprising Day was observed recently at Mohipur of Panchbibi Thana.

On the day the sacrifice of Sidhu Kanu, a golden son of Mohipur was also remembered. To mark the occasion, a day-long programme was chalked out by Mohipur Adivasi Cultural Council. Thousands of indigenous people from different parts of the district participated in rally, workshop, discussion meeting and cultural function.

## Traffickers threaten woman for complaint

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Traffickers are threatening a woman, her husband and parents with death as she lodged a complaint to Satkhira Police Superintendent Abdur Rahim after returning home from a brothel in Calcutta, sold there by them about five months back. Tazmira Khatun, 25 wife of Sayeed Hossain of Hawal Khali village in the Sader upzila filed the complaint against Aminur Rahman of Mridiganga village and Abdur Raman of Shikri village in the same upzila. In the complaint she alleged that the two persons took her out of her father's house in Mridiganga village promising her a job in India. They

handed her over to Mizanur Rahman, younger brother of Aminur Rahman. She was then taken to Kolkata and sold to one Ranjan, who sold her at Sonagachhi brothel. She managed to escape from the brothel and returned to her husband's house on June 28. "They are threatening me, my husband and parents with death if I do not withdraw the complaint", she told this correspondent. On contact, SP Abdur Rahim said he has ordered Sader thana Officer-in-Charge Abdul Kader Beg to investigate the incident and take action against the traffickers. The OC said he is investigating the matter.

## Criminal case filed against arrested Barguna Islamists

### "Nothing new or important" revealed: OC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police at last filed a criminal case against the "Islamic militants" arrested in Barguna last week. Police sources said Baizid Hossain Sagor, Imam of Sonalipara mosque in Lakurtala, filed the case as complainant under Section 448 386, 342, 307 and 34 of CRPC with Barguna Sader thana. In the FIR, Baizid said he participated in the training program of the militants. As he differed with the training process, they had planned to kill him so that their plan is not

disclosed, he said in the complaint. He fled from the training camp and informed local people and police when he knew about the conspiracy. Local observers said the case was filed under non-bailable Sections of law due to political pressure from the ruling party men. Police refrained from filing the case so that the militants can obtain bail, they said. "Nothing new or important" could be revealed during interrogation of six of the arrested militants by a joint interrogation cell in Dhaka

and the rest in Barguna. Syed Saifull Islam, OC of Barguna Sader thana said, investigation is going on. Barguna Police Superintendent Zahurul Islam said most of the arrested persons were teenagers. He said primary investigation revealed that they were engaged in preaching the ideology of Hale Hades sect of Muslims. Police recovered some booklets and magazines during their arrest. "Other cases may be filed depending on findings of the investigation", the SP said.

## Cash award for rescue of missing Coast Guard

### Search by Navy continues

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Bangladesh Navy and Coast Guard yesterday continued their search for missing Coast Guard Saifuddin and the trawler that sank in Kocha river at Darul Huda under Bhandaria police station in Pirojpur district on Tuesday. But neither the trawler nor any body could be located, official sources said here. The trawler sank in turbulent waters when Saifuddin along with three others were toeing the seized trawler to Mongla as it was carrying illegal timber. Saifuddin had an SMG

and 90 bullets with him. The sources said Naval ship BNS Shahid Dawlat under the command of Lt. Commander Nizamuddin, Coast Guard vessel CGS Patuakhali under the command of Zonal Commander M A Matin and some speedboats with frogmen are engaged in search operation from Charkhali to downstream. The district administration has declared cash reward for rescue of Saifuddin or recovery of his body. Two other Coast Guards --Liton and Mamta-- and the trawler's crew Kamal swam ashore when it sank.

## Chittagong Port Authority Civil Engineering Division Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 41/EE/Jetty/2003-2004 Dated: 22-6-2004

- Name of work : Supply of Garzan timber tender during 2003-2004.
- Time limit for completion of work : Supply should be started within 30 (thirty) days of issuing supply order and 50% of total quantity completed within 60 (sixty) days & full supply completed within 120 days.
- Eligibility of contractor : Chittagong Port Authority enlisted 1st class contractors & bonafide timber traders/timber suppliers.
- Price of tender : Tk 750/= (seven hundred fifty) only (non-refundable) can be purchased through Pay-Order/Bank Draft.
- Tender security : Not less than 3% (three per cent) of quoted amount which should be submitted with tender through Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of CPA.
- Place of selling & obtaining tender schedule : a) Deputy Chief Engineer (Civil)/CPA, Room No. 213, Port Annexe Building (1st floor), Chittagong Port Authority, Chittagong. b) Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong Division, Chittagong.
- Place of submitting tender : Deputy Chief Engineer (Civil)/CPA, Room No. 213, Port Annexe Building (1st floor), Chittagong Port Authority, Chittagong.
- Place of opening tender : Deputy Chief Engineer (Civil) CPA, Room No. 213, Port Annexe Building, Chittagong Port Authority, Chittagong.
- Last date of selling tender : 25-7-2004 (during office hours).
- Last date & time of receiving tender : 26-7-2004 up to 12:00 hours.
- Date & time of opening tender : 26-7-2004 at 12:30 hours in presence (if any) of attending tenderers.
- No tender schedule will be sold on the date of opening tender.
- Special terms & conditions: The undermentioned documents should be submitted with tender: a) Valid trade licence. b) VAT regi certificate. c) Income tax certificate with TIN.
- If, under unavoidable circumstance, it is not possible to sell, receive or open tender schedule on the last date of selling, receiving or opening tender schedule, then tender will be sold, received & opened on the next working day as usual at the said time.
- The Chittagong Port Authority reserves the right to accept, reject any tender or distribute the work without assigning any reason.
- This tender will be conducted as per the Public Procurement Regulations-2003.

DFP-16342-26/6 Md Tamjuddin Molla Deputy Chief Engineer (Civil) Chittagong Port Authority

## Extortion: Two local govt leaders among 25 sued in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Twenty five persons including two local government leaders were sued here on Thursday in two separate incidents relating to toll collection. In the first incident, four persons including a municipality commissioner were sued on Thursday for allegedly hurting a man due to non-payment of toll. Victim Shahidul Islam, son of Abdur Rashid of Parulia village in Debhata upazila, filed a case accusing Satkhira Poursabha commissioner Mominullah Mohon, Abdul Wadood, Nimai Chandra and Abdur Rab of Sultanpur in Satkhira Poursabha. Police said, the accused led by the poura commissioner abducted the victim from Paranpur in Shyamnagar on June 7. They confined him in a room of Jubo Academy, a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) and demanded 50,000 taka as toll from him. They beat him as he denied to pay the toll.

Being informed, police rescued him on June 8 and sent him to Satkhira hospital in a critical condition. The injured was fighting for life in the hospital. In another incident, 21 persons including a Union Parishad (UP) chairman were sued in a toll collection case on Thursday. Magistrate's court sources said a group of armed cadres of an outlawed party entered the house of Idris Sheikh of Shira Shani village in Tala upzila on June 25. They demanded toll amounting to 50,000 taka from him. He at once paid them 10,000 taka. While fleeing local people caught two of the miscreants and handed over them to Tentulia UP chairman SM Mokbul Hossain, but the chairman released them. Idris Sheikh filed a case with the magistrate's court accusing 21 people including chairman Mokbul Hossain as local thana declined to record the case.

## Arms recovered in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Army personnel in a drive seized two foreign made revolvers, two home made guns and three barrels of guns in an abandoned condition from Amtoli area in Sader upzila in the early hours of Wednesday. However, army could not arrest anyone during the drive. Government sources said, acting on a tip-off army men conducted the drive at Amtoli, a place inhabited by indigenous people, 12 kilometres off the Bandarban Sader and recovered the arms. Local sources said, incidents of extortion by criminals increased alarmingly in Dola Para, Gunguru Para, Thoinga Para, Chorui Para of Kuhlalong union, Bagmara, Monjoy Para of Razbila union, Nachalong Para in Noapotong union of Roangchori upzila and Boritol, Betchhara of Tarachha union. Extortionists demanded annual toll from engine-boat drivers plying along the Shankho river. Requesting not to be named, a trader told this correspondent, extortionists threatened the contractors, engaged in different project works in Bagmara and

Roangchhari, to pay them toll amounting to Tk 50,000. The extortionists also demanded toll from Jumm cultivators. Security sources said, army patrol was intensified in the area in face of increasing criminal activities.

## None passes in 18 schools

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Not a single examinee came out successful in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination in 18 high schools here this year. Only one candidate passed from 19 schools each. This year, 14,146 candidates appeared from 333 high schools in the district, according to administration sources. Of them, 5,195 students came out successful. The pass percentage is 36. Teachers of the ill-fated schools fear cancellation of MPO and grant for the result debacle.

## Man killed by outlaws in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

One person was killed allegedly by outlawed criminals on Thursday night at Moslempur village in Daulatpur upzila. The dead was Galim Uddin, 35, son of Huzur Ali. Local BNP claimed the dead to be their activist. Police said a gang belonging to an outlawed party stormed Galim's house and shot at him point blank after dragging him out of the house. Galim died in the spot. The outlaws also beat up Galim's pregnant wife Tahamina Khatun and looted their belongings. Police recovered the body and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy. Three persons were arrested for their alleged involvement in the incident. The arrested are Kausar, 45, Khaleq, 40, and Mohammad Ali, 42, from Sadipur village.

## Seven trees sold in Rajshahi saying 'dead ones'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two employees of Rajshahi district administration sold seven trees showing those as dead ones much below the actual price. The employees, Habib and Bachhu sold the mango and Devdaru trees to a wood trader from Boalia Club near the town protection dam in the city. The trees were sold at 14,000 taka only but the actual price was two lakh taka. On contact, Deputy Commissioner (revenue) Abdur Rahim told newsmen five dead trees were sold in auction at Tk 14,000 under supervision of government employees Habib and Bachhu. He informed the decision was taken after the concerned department's confirmation as dead trees. However, witnesses termed the trees alive. They told the mango trees were bearing fruits every year. "Even leaves of the trees were green after it was fell down", said an inhabitant of the locality. The inhabitants also alleged that the two employees threatened them of dire consequence if they resist them.

## Ghorashal Pourashava District: Narsingdi Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Memo No: GP/Eng-32/BMDF/2004-2005/573 Date: 08-07-2004  
 IFB No: 02/2004-2005 Date: 08-07-2004  
 IDA Credit No: 3177-BD Credit name: Municipal Development Fund

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of Municipal Development Fund (MDF) and intends to apply part of the Credit proceeds to cover eligible Municipalities for Infrastructure & Service Development.
- The Assistant Engineer, Ghorashal Pourashava, Palash, Dist: Narsingdi invites sealed bids for the improvement of road as mentioned below. Procurement is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the IDA's Procurement Guidelines. However, countries not eligible under the Project also include: The Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Kuwait, Qatar, Singapore, United Arab Emirates.

Contract Package No.	Name of the Works	Bid Security (Taka)	Time for Completion of Work (Days)	Price of Bidding Documents (Taka)
W-27/BMDF-12-GHO-04-89-R/02	(a) Improvement of Road from Dhaka-Sylhet Highway near Ghorashal Tan Station to Palash Bus Stand Ch. 2000.00 to 4000.00m	1,75,000.00	120 days	8,000.00
W-28/BMDF-12-GHO-04-89-R/03	(a) Improvement of Scenic Road 1.67 km.	1,50,000.00	120 days	8,000.00
W-29/BMDF-12-GHO-04-89-R/04	(a) Improvement of Road from Ghorashal Bazar to Kortetayl 1.5 km	1,20,000.00	120 days	8,000.00

- Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased from the office of the (1) Deputy Commissioner, Narsingdi, (2) Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Palash, District: Narsingdi, (3) Assistant Engineer, Ghorashal Pourashava, District: Narsingdi, on submission of a written application upon the payment of a non-refundable fees mentioned in the above table for each set in the form Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh drawn in favour of Administrator, Ghorashal Pourashava, Narsingdi during normal office hours on all working days up to 09-08-2004. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the same address during office hours up to 09-08-2004.
- The provisions in the instructions to bidders and in the conditions of contract are the provisions of the Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Works (SBD), National Competitive Bidding (Trial Edition-January 1998, revised February 2003), issued by the World Bank Office, Dhaka.
- Bids shall be valid for a period of 91 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security as mentioned in para 2 above in the form Pay Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee drawn in favour of Administrator, Ghorashal Pourashava, Narsingdi. Bid must be delivered to the office of the (1) Deputy Commissioner, Narsingdi, (2) Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Palash, District: Narsingdi, (3) Assistant Engineer, Ghorashal Pourashava, District: Narsingdi, on or before 10-08-2004 by 2:00 PM.
- Bidders may deliver their bids by either in person or by courier service or by mail, which must reach the above office before the deadline for submission of bids. Bids received after the deadline will not be accepted.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 3:00 PM on 10-08-2004 at the office of the Assistant Engineer, Ghorashal Pourashava, District: Narsingdi.
- A pre-bid conference will be held on 28-07-2004 in the office of the undersigned at 11:00 AM. The bidders are requested to attend the conference in time.

Engr. Md. Mashur Rahman  
 Assistant Engineer  
 Ghorashal Pourashava, Palash  
 Dist: Narsingdi  
 Phone: 0628-74004