

Arsenic alarming in 195 B'baria villages

154 arsenicosis patients identified: Booming trade on drinking water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Arsenic contamination of ground-water is alarming in Nabinagar upazila where all 196 villages except one are affected. The lucky village is Rasulpur in Natargar union.

In 58 of the villages, there is no tubewell free from arsenic.

The serious contamination is now a health hazard, with 154 people suffering from arsenicosis, a virtually incurable silent killer disease, according to the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Brahmanbaria.

But health officials in other government departments claim that the number of arsenicosis patients is 216. The number is increasing, they said.

Arsenic damages kidney, liver, skin and nerves system and leads to death gradually.

The DPHE in a recent survey found that 23663 out of 28068 tube wells in the upazila are contaminated with high percentage of arsenic.

The survey identified 34 villages as worst affected.

DPHE field officials have marked the affected tube wells with red colour and asked people not to use those.

But finding no alternative, people are drinking arsenic contaminated water from red-marked tube wells.

According to the DPHE survey report, arsenic contaminated water is found only at a depth of 30 feet.

The DPHE has installed 11 ring tube wells in different areas of the upazila and has a plan to install 125 deep tube wells. But work on the plan is progressing at a snail's speed due to lack of funds, its officials said.

The government's Arsenic Mitigation Project and UNICEF are working on a project to store rainwater for supply to people in worst affected villages.

When contacted, DPHE Executive Engineer Fajlul Haque said he has received a report on arsenic problem in Nabinagar and has taken a plan to

mitigate the problem.

Meanwhile, trade on arsenic-free water has become a booming business in view of the crisis of pure drinking water.

A trade association-Ashar Alo

Bebosaye Samati--has set up a treatment plant at Nabinagar upazila headquarter and selling 6000 litres of water a day at the rate of Tk 5 per bucket. But this is too inadequate to the demand.



Booming trade in water... Arsenic-free water purchased at Tk 5 per Jerry can is being taken from the treatment plant at Nabinagar upazila headquarter.

Zia fertiliser stops prodn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

The Ashugonj Zia Fertilizer Company Limited (ZFCL) stopped production since Saturday morning for nine days due to technical fault and short supply of gas.

The technical fault developed due to shortage of gas, officials at the factory claimed.

It will suffer a production loss of about 15,000 tonnes of Urea in the nine days, sources said.

It is learnt that the factory was supposed to stop production on July 10 for repair of its Amonia plant. But the authorities ran it with the fault for seven days. Finally it grind to a halt on Saturday.

Production in the factory was interrupted several times despite overhauling for about 65 days in the last financial year, sources said.

The factory produced 1500 to 1600 tonnes of Urea fertiliser a day.

BTV mockery?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A news broadcast by BTV (Bangladesh Television) has become a matter of discussion in Daulatpur.

BTV in its 8 pm bulletin on Saturday said local lawmaker Reza Ahmed Bachhu Mollah visited some flood affected area of Daulatpur upazila earlier on the day.

But Bachhu Mollah actually did not visit the area. He is staying in Dhaka.

When contacted over cell phone in Dhaka yesterday, Bachhu Mollah declined to make any comment.

Workshop on school dropout held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

A day-long workshop on Community Mobilisation and Advocacy Campaign for Implementation of School Feeding Programme was held at Tuljapur Government Primary School in Sadar upazila on Sunday.

Aiming at increasing school enrolment and reducing dropouts by eliminating malnutrition, the workshop was jointly organised by the Directorate of Primary Education and a local NGO, Uttar, with financial assistance from World Food Programme (WFP).

Asmat Ali, Headmaster, Jhowdhang Government Primary School presided over the workshop. It was addressed, among others, by Union Parishad member Hosne Ara Begum, Hafizul Islam, Headmaster, Tuljapur Government Primary School, Dr Ayub Ali, President, Tuljapur Primary School Managing Committee, Firoza Sultana, a guardian, Uttar's School Feeding Project co-ordinator Mohibullah conducted the workshop. He was assisted by Bikash Biswas and Sharfuddin Biswas.

Since 2001, the School Feeding Programme is being implemented in 26 unions and two municipalities in Sathkira Sadar, Kalaroa and Debbata upazilas.

Uttar is implementing the programme. Thirty teachers, guardians, members of school managing committees, representative of local government bodies and community leaders participated in the workshop.



Pervez and Sumsuddin collecting eggs in their Dreamland Poultry Farm.

PHOTO: STAR

An example for unemployed educated youths

Pervez and Sumsuddin earn Tk 40,000 profit a month from poultry in remote village, train others

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

The two fiends named it Dreamland Poultry Farm. It was true to its name-- materialising their dream in only two years.

Ali Hassan Pervez and Sumsuddin Sabu passed the BA examination in 2002. As usual, they looked for jobs but were disappointed.

They took training on poultry farming, provided by the government's Youth Development Department (YDD) in Gopalganj.

After 3 months training, Pervez and Sumsuddin come back to their Khatra village in Gopalganj Sadar upazila and planned to set up a poultry farm. But they had no capital.

The Karmasangstan Bank come forward and offered them Tk 45,000 loan. They rented a house and bought 1000 layer hens.

In some months, the hens started laying eggs, which opened the door to prosperity. They gradually expanded their farm.

Seeing their success, government officials visited their poultry farm. Last year they promised to supply electricity to the village, construct a road and provided

with financial assistance for further development. But nothing has been done yet, they told this correspondent during a recent visit.

Now they are sell over 900 eggs and earn Tk 2640 a day. Their monthly income is around Tk 79,200 a month, which brings a profit of around Tk 40,000.

Traders from Gopalganj town and another districts come to their farm to buy eggs.

Life is now meaningful to once jobless Pervez and Sumsuddin.

They have employed four persons in their farm and say they will expand their farm and create more jobs. Some local youths are now taking training in their farm.

On April last year, Dhaka Divisional Director of Livestock Department Dr Abdur Rashid, District Livestock Officer Abul Kalam Azad, Assistant Director of Gopalganj YDD Gopal Bhowmick and Upazila Livestock Officer SM Awal Haque visited the farm. The officials also promised further assistance.

The two friends alleged that they sell their eggs at cheaper rates to traders due to lack of good communication facility. On the

other hand, carrying cost of poultry feed to their farm is higher.

Autopsy report missing from case docket

Murder case trial suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Trial of the sensational Rawshan Ara murder case here was suspended as the post-mortem report of the victim is missing.

Rawshan Ara was allegedly burnt to death for dowry by her husband Ruhul Amin, at Shivashuni village in Tala upazila on November 22, 2002.

Victim's father Abdul Mazid filed a case with Tala police accusing Ruhul Amin and four others. Police submitted charge sheet against two persons including Amin.

Since then the autopsy report is missing.

Complainant of the case Abdul Mazid told this correspondent that the judge suspended the trial due to this.

SNAPS

Mother, son drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A mother and her son drowned in a boat capsized in Shinghagran Beel of Nasiragar upazila on Sunday.

They are Mala Rani, 70, and Adhir Chandra Pal, 40. They were among twenty people going to Maiza village in Habiganj. All except them swam ashore when the boat, caught in a gusty wind, capsized.

The bodies were recovered later on the day from a nearby water body on the day.

Shalika traders down shutters, hold rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Traders at Arpara bazaar observed a two-hour shutdown and held a rally at Shalika upazila headquarter yesterday in protest against armed attack on a businessman.

They also submitted memorandums to the Shalika Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Officer-in-Charge (OC) of the police station demanding immediate arrest and of the culprits.

Grocery owner Sohel Mian was hacked by some local youths allegedly led by Nayan and Mohabbat on Sunday. Local traders claimed that the hoodlums has demanded toll from Sohel. He is now being treated at Magura Sadar Hospital.

BABU LAL MURDER

Hartal observed in Uzirpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A day-long peaceful hartal was observed in Uzirpur upazila yesterday in protest against the murder of freedom fighter Babu Lal Shil, 48, a central leader of Workers Party and upazila coordinator of 11-party Alliance.

Local units of the two parties had called the hartal.

Black flags fluttered atop all houses and shops and protest meeting and processions were held

during the hartal hours. Speakers at a meeting organised by the Alliance at the upazila headquarter demanded arrest of Babu Lal's by 15 days and threatened of tougher programmes for non-compliance.

All educational institutions, offices and business centres remained closed and transports except rickshaws kept off the roads during the hartal.

Police were deployed at the upazila town to maintain law and

order. No untoward incident was reported from any place in the upazila.

Babu Lal, was gunned down by unidentified gunmen at his house at Uzirpur Friday evening. Six others including his wife Shima Rani and brother-in-law were also injured. They are now under treatment at Barisal Medical College Hospital.

A case has been lodged with Uzirpur thana but none could be arrested till yesterday.



A helpless couple looks on as gushing flood waters from Swameswari river washes away their house in Kollati village in Kamlakanda upazila in Netrakona district. The river devoured at least 200 homesteads in last two days.

PHOTO: STAR

DENGUE IN KHULNA

3 attacked, KCC launches drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Khulna City Corporation (KCC) on Sunday launched a drive to destroy Aedes mosquito in breeding grounds in the city.

It will also launch an awareness campaign in each ward soon despite resource constraints and shortage of manpower, according to Mayor Shaikh Toyebur Rahman.

Citizens' participation in mosquito eradication is very important because Aedes mosquito grows in clear water in empty pots left in and around houses, the Mayor said.

So far, three Dengue patients

have been detected in Khulna city. They are Mamunur Rahman, an official of Khulna branch of Bangladesh Bank, SM Zamanul Islam, 30 and Saidul Islam. They were admitted to a private clinic and then sent to Dhaka.

Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) does not have any separate arrangement to treat Dengue patients.

When asked, officials of the Health Department and the Civil Surgeon's office said they do not have correct information on the actual number of Dengue patients in the city or elsewhere in the district.



Forty-one GPA-5 scorers in this year's SSC examination pose for photograph with Mouvibazar Pourashava Chairman Foyzul Karim Moyun after a reception by the municipality on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

JCD men at CU stage sit-in, ask for removal of finance deptt head

CU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, staged a sit-in in front of the office of the vice-Chancellor (VC) of Chittagong University (CU) yesterday demanding cancellation of the appointment of Dr. Md. Zahurul Haq as chairman of the Finance Department.

JCD activists led by its General Secretary MR Chowdhury Milton staged the sit-in for two hours from 11:00am.

They also held a rally in front of the administrative building and threatened to continue the movement until the appointment was cancelled.

Chaired by MR Chowdhury general secretary of JCD Chittagong University unit, the rally was addressed, among others, by JCD leaders Shafiqul Islam Sadeq and Khorshed Alam.

The CU authorities on Saturday appointed Jamaat-backed teacher Dr. Md. Zahurul Haq the chairman of the Finance Department.

Earlier, Dr Zahur was sacked from the university in 1995 for his alleged involvement in question paper leakage. Later, he got back his job under special consideration.

When contacted, VC Professor AYM Nuruddin Chowdhury told The Daily Star that the appointment was made following a legal decision.

Pirojpur journo boycott BNP, Jamaat news for 6 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pirojpur Press Club yesterday decided not to carry reports on the district unit of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami for the next six months to protest against the alleged attempts on the life of Janantha correspondent Shafiqul Haq Mithu.

The executive committee of the club took the decision at a meeting, says a press release.

Political activists attacked on Mithu on his way to home by rickshaw on December 28 last, leaving him seriously injured.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Institute of Mass Communication
125/A, Darus Salam, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216

Media Management Course (Third Course) Notice Regarding Training

The National Institute of Mass Communication is going to arrange for a 04 (four) week Third Media Management Course from 07 August to 02 September 2004.

Interested candidates must possess graduation degree from recognised university & primary knowledge about theoretical & practical side of media management.

Application form will be available at Tk 10/= (ten) only from National Institute of Mass Communication during office hours. Two copies passport size photo, copy of SSC & degree certificates & character certificate from first class gazetted officer should be submitted with the application.

The last date of submitting application is 26-07-2004. Selection of candidates will be finalised through interview of candidates on 27-07-2004 at 10:00am. No separate letter shall be issued for this.

The selected candidates shall have to deposit Tk 2,000/= (two thousand) only as course fee through Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Director General, National Institute of Mass Communication by 29 July 2004.

Decision of the authority shall be treated as final in matters of selection of candidates. Selected candidates have the provision of staying at dormitory of the National Institute of Mass Communication and taking day time & night time meals at subsidised rate.

Md Monzurul Alam
Course Conductor
Phone: 9007410-4

DFP-17451-13/7
G-438



Export Promotion Bureau

Information Department
1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka

Tender Notice

Tenders are hereby invited from reputed printing firms for printing 1,00,000 sets certificate of Origin (EEU) textile products. Tenders will be received in tender box kept at the Reception Centre of the Bureau upto 3:00 PM of 26-07-2004. Tender schedule can be collected at Tk 400/= (four hundred) only (non-refundable) from the Finance & Accounts Section of the Bureau during office hours upto 25-07-2004. Earnest money (refundable) at the rate 5% of quoted amount through Pay Order in favour of Export Promotion Bureau and sample of paper to be used & background of the form prepared on computer should be submitted with the tender. The Publication Section of the Bureau may be contacted for detailed information on sample of paper & background of form.

DFP-17510-14/7
G-445

Director (Information)
Phone: 8151501



Notice To-Let Vacant Space for Office

500 sq.ft. vacant space on 7th floor of Jiban Bima Tower at 10, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, under ownership of Jiban Bima Corporation will be let out for office purpose. Interested person or firm willing to hire shall have to drop tender in sealed envelope in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned within 11.00 AM of 29/07/2004 collecting the prescribed application form from the office of the undersigned and the tender will be opened on the same day at 11.30 AM in presence (if any) of the tenderers.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject all the tenders without assigning any reason.

JBC/PRD/04-218/04
Dated: 06/7/04
DFP-17163-8/7/04
G-416

General Manager-E/E
Jiban Bima Corporation, Head Office
24, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
Tel: 9550702