

Spurious medicines supplied to RMCH?

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Questions about quality of medicines supplied to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) are been raised by different quarters now after police on August 3 unearthed an unauthorised factory and seized a huge quantity of spurious medicines.

After the haul, police lodged a case against five persons including three medicine suppliers to RMCH for producing adulterated medicines and marketing those.

Three medicine suppliers are Abul Kalam Azad, Joinal Abedin, and Bablu.

Joinal Abedin owns the Ruma cinema at Panner Dighi in the Sader upzilla from where DB police recovered the adulterated medicines and equipment used in their production.

DB Sub-inspector Ashok Shingh who had led the drive said police are

looking for the three medicine suppliers who allegedly disappeared immediately after the recovery.

DB sources said that a well organised gang in Dhap area in Rangpur town in collaborating with some unscrupulous officials had been supplying spurious medicines to RMCH and other hospitals in the town for long.

"But they were very influential and difficult to be brought to book", one sources said.

"They had formed a network in and around the RMCH and the hospital authorities were helpless as they had musclemen", he said.

A professor at RMCH preferring unanimity told this correspondent that a number of medical officers on several occasions had complained of "ineffective medicines" but the authorities did not pay heed to their words.

A guard at RMCH said that a huge

quantity of medicines were taken away from the RMCH store room in a micro-bus on Friday after the recovery of adulterated medicines from a fake laboratory 500 yards from the hospital on Wednesday.

It is now thought by some quarters that the adulterated medicines procured for the current fiscal year were taken away in the wake of the police drive.

When contacted, RMCH Director Dr. KM Saharai said he did not know anything about the matter and asked this correspondent to talk to Dr Ershadul Bari, head of the medicine procurement committee.

Dr. Bari could not be contacted. Sources at RMCH said he is not attending office since August 4.

Cop escorts Phensidyl truck in Kushtia

1,286 bottles seized by BDR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

About 1,286 bottles of contraband Phensidyl were recovered by Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in Daulatpur border on Saturday.

Mirpur sector of BDR recovered those while being smuggled into Bangladesh by a truck allegedly escorted by a police officer.

Acting on a tip-off, a BDR team led by Commanding Officer of 9 Battalion Lt Col Badrul Huda stopped the truck at noon at Damgarka BDR checkpoint.

They recovered the contraband from a hidden place of the truck and arrested its driver Yusuf Ali. He confessed to BDR that a sub-inspector (SI) of police named Mosaddek Hossain escorted the

truck until it reaches Mahiskundi bazaar near the check post. The SI of police left the place saying 'no problem', BDR sources said.

One person named Munshi Mollah of Daulatpur upazila is the owner of the contraband, according to the driver.

BDR seized the truck and handed over the contraband along with the driver to police. They are looking for smuggler Munshi Mollah.

On contact, SI Mosaddek Hossain denied the allegations brought against him.

He, however, said he was on duty in the area during occurrence of the crime, but he is not at all involved with the incident.



PHOTO: STAR
A partial view of the corridor at the diarrhoea ward at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital, crowded with patients. The photo was taken yesterday.

Tribal couple murder in Rangamati: 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Two persons have been arrested on charge of murdering a tribal couple at Dandachhara village of Bhushanchhara union in Borkal upazila on August 3.

The arrested are Mohammed Ibrahim and Emdad.

Acting on a tip-off, Sub-Inspector Utpal Borua of Borkal Thana conducted a drive and arrested them from Aimachhara cluster village, according to police. They were produced to court on Saturday. Police prayed for seven days' remand to quiz them.

However, Tamir Ali alias Tamir member, the main accused in the case is yet to be arrested. He is still moving in his locality in front of police who are reluctant to arrest him, alleged a villager.

Earlier, two others Azizul and Shahidul Islam were arrested and released after quizzing, according to Borkal Thana duty officer.

Unidentified assailants chopped Barun Kumar Chakma, 30, his wife Suporna Chakma, 24, and their one-year-old child Kompo Chakma in their house. Barun died on the spot while Suporna died at Rangamati hospital the next day. Minor child

Kompo is still undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, according to hospital sources.

A relative of the victim filed a murder case accusing former Union Parishad member Tamir Ali, Ibrahim and Emdad, all inhabitants of Kolabunia. They had a feud with Barun, according to local people.

Father killed by drunken son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A father was killed by his drunken son at Bhatikashor in Mymensingh town on Friday for refusing to give him money.

Police said Badal Uddin wanted Tk 500 from his father Sayer Uddin in the evening. Refused, angry Badal went out.

He returned home after a while and hit his father with a sharp weapon, injuring him critically.

The father died at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on the same night.

A case has been filed. Police said Badal is fleeing home.

Diarrhoea, pneumonia alarming in B'baria 600 attacked with diarrhoea, 52 with pneumonia in 24 hrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

At least 600 people were attacked with diarrhoea and another 52 with pneumonia in the district in twenty-four hours Saturday evening, officials said.

Pneumonia claimed five lives and diarrhoea one, they said.

Patients coming to Upazila health complexes and Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital with diarrhoea and pneumonia are increasing they said.

The diarrhoea ward at the Sadar hospital was seen packed with patients yesterday, many on floors and corridors.

Finding no space at the hospital, many diarrhoea patients were going to private clinics in the town.

The people coming to hospitals in the town said diarrhoea has spread in many of the flooded areas and flood shelters.

There are many diarrhoea patients at flood shelters at Sultanpur, Kazipara, Sarkerpara, Sultanpur, Baraiabari, Bertola, Birampur, Mauvaili, Sunarampur, Paton, Chutaharun, Shuhulpur, Beel Kendua, Araushidha, reports reaching here said.

The actual number of diarrhoea patients will be much more than the official estimate because many patients are taking treatment at homes and at flood shelters, people coming to hospitals.

Health workers are giving incorrect reports to the Civil Surgeon, they claimed.

One Mahbubul Alam of Sayedobod village alleged that villagers are not getting any treatment as no health worker visited his village since the flood began.

At Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital, many patients alleged that they were not getting required oral saline packets. Some others claimed that they had to buy intra-venous (IV) saline from outside.

This correspondent during a visit yesterday saw an awful scene at the hospital. At least 70 patients were lying on dirty beds.

Senior Staff Nurse Monwara Begum said only 25 to 30 IV saline injections were supplied daily. The requirement is much more. So patients have to buy those from the district, he said.

When contacted, Civil Surgeon Md Ishak Khan said 136 medical teams are working in the district. There is shortage of IV saline as only 1166 are in the store for the whole district, he said.

He said he sought 45,00,000 oral saline packets, 60,50,000 water purification tablets and 2,00,000 IV saline injections but got only 50,000 oral saline, 5000 water tablets and 500 IV saline injections. This is too little to cope with the demand, he said.

2 months' civil jail for Dhaka DC for violating court order

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Senior Assistant Judge of Netrakona Sheik Mofizur Rahman on Saturday sentenced Dhaka Deputy Commissioner Abdul Bari to two months' civil imprisonment for violating a court order.

One Jahura Begum had filed a case with Durgapur Assistant Judge's Court on November 6, 1993 against the then Durgapur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Abdul Bari and the Netrakona Deputy Commissioner Dewan Afsaruddin for closing her three saw mills there.

The Assistant Judge's Court ordered reopening of the sawmills. As the court order was not obeyed, she filed another case with Netrakona Senior Assistant Judge's Court.

The Judge sentenced Bari and acquitted Dewan Afsaruddin.

Bari can appeal to higher court, APP Mofizuddin told this correspondent after his verdict.

'Outlaws' abduct rival in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

'Outlaws' abducted their opponent following exchange of gunfire for one-and-a-half hours at Sahajara village in Gournadi upazila on Friday.

The abducted victim is Siraj Munshi, 26.

Two groups of 'outlaws', one led by Zia and the other by Kamrul were engaged in the day-long clash which ensued over a rumour of Kamrul group leader Humayun Kabir's return to the area, according to police and locals.

Zia group led by Babul Sardar attacked Kabir's house with bombs and gun shots. Kabir's accomplices retaliated. Both the group locked in a fierce clash.

At one stage, Kamrul's men retreated when Humayun's close aide Siraj Munshi, 26, sustained serious injuries and was abducted by their rivals. Additional police forces were deployed in the area.

PCP leader, 8 activists arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

President and eight activists of Paharee Chhatra Parishad were arrested in Khagrachhari town on Friday, according to police sources.

They were arrested while they were chanting anti-army slogans during a demonstration in front of troops at Chengi Square in the hilly town.

PCP President Mithun Chakma was leading the demonstration which was brought out demanding release of two others arrested earlier by army in Gorgajachhari.

In another incident, army picked up two other United People Democratic Front (UPDF) men from Joutho Khamar area in Dighinala, Khagrachhari.

UPDF demanded immediate release of their activists.

25 hurt by dacoits

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

At least 25 persons were injured when armed robbers hurled bombs and opened fire on them at Farakpur village in Daulatpur upazila on Sunday night.

According to police, an armed gang of robbers stormed into the house of Akram Hossain.

At the sight of dacoits, inmates of the house cried for help.

Hearing the hue and cry, villagers rushed to the spot and encircled the house. Sensing trouble, the armed gang opened fire and blasted crackers on them.

They claimed that 'Planet World' took 30 years' lease of 8.5 acres BCC lands in two phases on January 16 and May 11 in 2000 on annual payment of Tk 1.65 lakh as rent.

BCC takes over children's park from AL leaders

Controversial lease alleged: AL leaders term it 'revenge'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The area included the lone public park, adjacent United Nations Children Park and an abandoned bus terminal.

As per the lease terms, Planet World was supposed to establish a zoo and a botanical garden on the land.

After the first BCC election on March 2003, the newly elected BCC authorities found "gross irregularities" in the lease contract. The contract was also termed "controversial" as it was not duly approved by "proper authorities of BCC and ministries concerned".

At a general meeting of the BCC held on March 3, 2004, the lease contract was cancelled and a notice was served on the Planet World on Saturday to hand over the premises to the BCC within seven days. But the BCC took control of the premises ahead of expiry of the notice period.

The takeover evoked a sharp reaction from the AL leaders, who termed it "illegal and violation of the lease terms and the BCC notice also".

They said, as per the lease terms, BCC has no right to evict them without prior notice and giving compensation.

They said they have appointed more than 70 staff and invested Tk 2.75 crore by

taking loan from Pubali Bank and created recreation facilities. They were working to establish a zoo as per the terms, they added.

Mayor Majibul Rahman, Sarwar MP, who is also president of district BNP, at a hurriedly called press conference at the BCC Bhavan at about 5 PM on Saturday said the action was taken "in public interest as per an unanimous decision of a BCC general meeting and provisions of Section 72 (ga) of BCC Act".

Legal experts were consulted before the take over, he said. He alleged that there were "irregularities" in the lease. Trees were felled and lands more than provided by the so-called lease were grabbed but no attempt was made to set up a botanical garden and a zoo, he alleged.

BCC will reopen the park as soon as possible. It could be leased to interested parties, even to the Planet World authorities, on short term contract, he said.

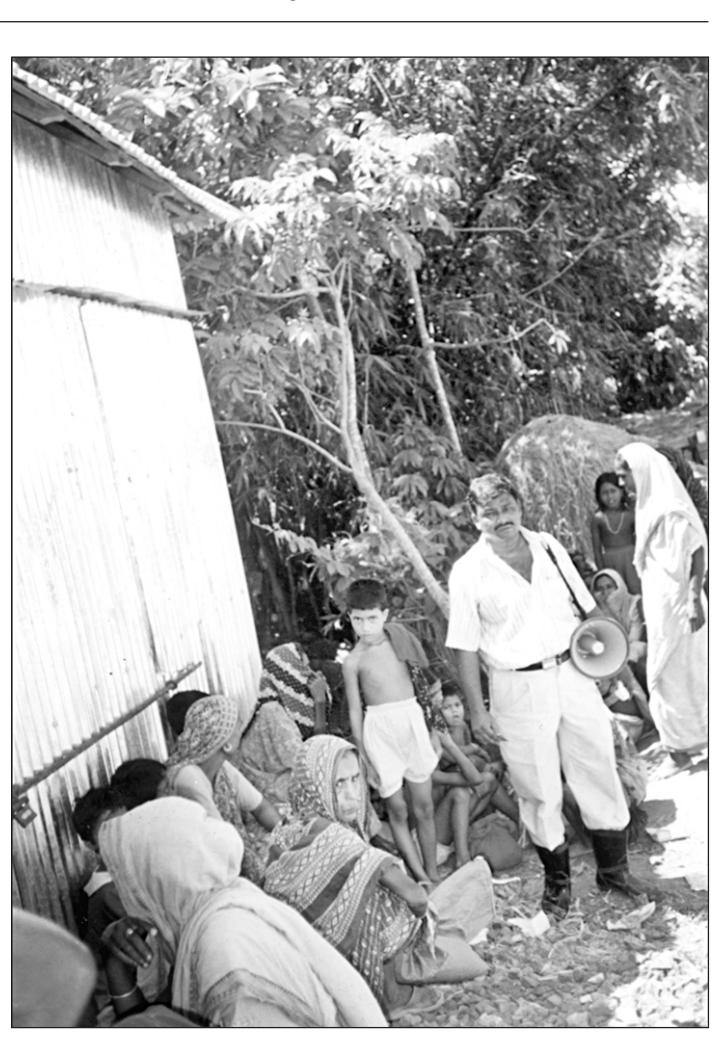


PHOTO: STAR

Four persons led by one Towhidul Abedin of Naya Paltan in Dhaka city distributed rice, ORS packets, water purifying tablets, and medicines among 400 families in flood affected Balurkot in Manikganj.

SNAPS

Workshop on human rights

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Speakers at a workshop here on Saturday underscored the need for introducing human rights education at all levels in society. Human Rights Education Project (HREP) of Manabib Sahajya Sangstha (MSS) and Selidah Rabindra Sangsada (SRS) jointly organised the workshop titled Role of Community Participation to Prevent Human Rights Violation in Bangladesh at Kushtia Zila Parishad auditorium.

Tk 2 cr CPA land recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) on Saturday recovered its land worth Tk 2 cr after 29 years of illegal occupation, official sources said. The land was recovered after a seven-hour eviction drive in Gossaldanga of the port area. A team comprising police, port security men, staff of PDB and Chittagong City Corporation launched the joint drive. Led by port magistrate Md Munir Chowdhury the team dismantled Rahman Mansion, an unauthorised commercial building. Bank, godown, automobile engineering workshop, offices of shipping, stevedore and C&F agents were housed there over 4,000 square feet area. The land was under illegal occupation of Haji Abdur Rahman and his dependents, according to port sources. Ansars are guarding the area.