

# Spurious medicines supplied to RMCH?

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Questions about quality of medicines supplied to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) are being 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.

Joynal Abedin owns the Ruma cinema at Panter Dighi in the Sader upzila 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 source 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 anonymity 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 Saharia 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 Dangmarka 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.



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

PHOTO: STAR

## 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 Borkol Thana conducted a drive and arrested them from Aimaghara 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 Borkol Thana duty officer.

Unidentified assailants chopped Barun Kumar Chakma, 30, his wife Supurna Chakma, 24, and their one-year-old child Kompo Chakma in their house. Barun died on the spot while Supurna 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 Sayar 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.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP addressing the Bogra Awami League council on Saturday.

# Help flood victims, Jalil urges AL men

## New Bogra AL leaders elected at council

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP has called upon pro-liberation forces to unite to dislodge the government as it is distorting the Liberation War history and trying to liquidate the party that earned the country's independence.

He was addressing a council of Bogra AL, held on Saturday afternoon at Titu Milayaton (auditorium) in the town after eight years.

He said the people led by Awami League earned the independence at the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. But the present rulers are now trying to distort the history.

"This has to be resisted because the nation will lose its glory if its history is distorted".

He also criticised the government for "improper handling" of the crises from the flood.

People are starving and dying from diseases but the ruling party men are looting public property, he alleged.

He also urged the party men to

launch massive relief operations in their respective areas to help the flood affected people.

"If they (ruling party men) can not handle the crisis, they should take lessons from our experience during the 1998 deluge and also engage AL men in relief operations", Jalil said. People know well how the then AL government faced the crisis. There was no death after the 1998 floods, he claimed.

The council was presided over by Momotaj Uddin.

AL organizing secretaries Abdul Mannan and Mahamudur Rahman Manna, party leaders Mojibur Rahman Majnu, Thafazal Hossain and Hayder Ali also addressed the council opened by Abdul Jalil as chief guest.

Momotaj Uddin and Mojibur Rahman Majnu were re-elected president and general secretary of Bogra AL at the council.

Other members of a new committee will be selected by the party leaders subsequently, it was decided at the council.

Former Vice President of Bogra AL

advocate Razaul Karim Montu and former organizing secretary Ragibur Ahasan Ripu were also contestants for the posts of president and general secretary respectively.

The AL leaders said law and order has deteriorated in the country as the ruling party men are sheltering terrorists and criminals. Murders and incidents of rape and violence against women have increased.

Violation of human rights in the country has crossed all previous records after the takeover power by the alliance government, they alleged.

They alleged that the government is killing opposition party men and harassing them by filing false cases and called upon AL men to resist those.

Even AL men are being obstructed from distributing relief among flood victims at places, they alleged.

## Phensidyl inside sweet gourds

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A BDR patrol team signalled an auto-tempo to stop at Patamborpur on the Chowgachha-Jhikargachha road.

The vehicle stopped but all inside ran away.

The security men were bemused but could assume the reason behind.

The found some sweet gourds and gunny bags in the vehicle. Inside the gourds, there were phensidyl bottles. The bottles were kept inside by neatly cutting open the gourds.

The BDR team leader, Naib Subedar Atiar Rahman, later said they recovered 400 bottles of the drug from the vehicle and seized the vehicle. The incident happened on Wednesday.

## PCP leader, 8 activists arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

President and eight activists of Paharee Chhatra Parishad (PCP) 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 Cheng 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 Gorgojachhari.

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.



PHOTO: STAR

A big signboard hung by the Barisal City Corporation at the entrance of the Children's Park in the city after its takeover from the Planet World on Saturday.

# BCC takes over children's park from AL leaders

## Controversial lease alleged: AL leaders term it 'revenge'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

'Planet World', the lone children's park in the city near some Awami League

leaders was closed by the Barisal City Corporation on Saturday on allegations of "controversial lease" to them by the then BCC Mayor during AL rule.

A large number of BCC employees including its Chief Executive Officer, ward commissioners and BNP men took control of park at about 3 pm on the day, hung a big signboard and deployed BCC guards.

The AL leaders termed the takeover "an act of revenge" by the BCC Mayor and violation of lease terms.

'Planet World', created on the lone public park in the city, was inaugurated on January 5, 2002.

The 'Planet World' was owned by city Barisal city AL Convener Shawkat Hossain Hiron as its Managing Director and party leader Salauddin Kabir as its Director.

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.

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 lands.

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 contracts 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 Majibur 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 takeover, 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.

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

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Senior Assistant Judge of Netrakona Sheikh 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 sawmills 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 her verdict.

## 'Outlaws' abduct rival in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

'Outlaws' abducted their opponent following exchange of gunfire for one-and-a-half hours at Sahajira 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 group'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.

## 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 Manabik Sahajiya Sangstha (MSS) and Selidah Rahindra Sangstha (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 Gosaidanga 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 dependants, according to port sources. Ansars are guarding the area.



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 Balurtek in Manikganj.