

# 89 out of 114 clinics in Tangail illegal

At least one tonne harmful waste dumped in the open daily

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

At least 89 private clinics and nursing homes out of 114 in Tangail district are illegal.

In Tangail town, there are 29 clinics, 17 of them illegal. Three of the illegal clinics have applied to the health directorate for permission, according to sources at the Civil Surgeon's office.

Most of the clinics, legal or illegal, are doing brisk business defying laws as regards treatment facilities and dumping clinical waste, polluting the environment and causing serious health hazard.

According to a survey by Shuvo Unnayon Sanghita, a local NGO, the clinics dump over one tonne of harmful wastes in the open daily.

But the authorities are yet to take any step to stop pollution of land, water and air by the clinics.

Some of the illegal clinics are located close to Tangail General Hospital and upazila health complexes.

Of the illegal 89 clinics, 23 have applied for license through the Civil Surgeon while 66 are operating without bothering for any sort of official permission. Of the 89, 14 each are in Madhupur (Madhupur-Dhanbari) and Ghatai upazilas, 13 in Mirzapur, 12 in Tangail Sadar, 10 in Sakhipur, 8 in Kalihati, 5 in Basail, 4 each in Gopalpur and Nagarpur, 3 in Bhuapur and 2 in Delduar.

Most of the clinics are operating without required numbers of doctors, qualified nurses and qualified technicians.



Harmful clinical wastes dumped near a private clinic in New Bus Stand area in Tangail town.

PHOTO: STAR

Owner of a licensed clinic in Tangail town seeking anonymity said that all unlicensed clinics are doing business allegedly by managing local authorities and officials at the health department.

This correspondent while visiting some clinics in Tangail town saw clinical wastes were dumped in open spaces nearby.

Dr Ratan Chandra Saha, a chest diseases specialist, said clinical wastes are very harmful and spread fatal diseases like Hepatitis B.

Mir Jalal Ahmed, an official of

Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (BELA), said the clinics are doing a crime by knowingly dumping wastes and polluting the environment.

"We (BELA), on several occasions, drew attention of owners of the clinics and health department officials about harmful effects of clinical wastes and requested them to dispose them properly, but no result," he said.

Talking to this correspondent, engineer Shahidul Islam, a resident at Zila Sadar Road in the town, said

a clinic in the area has been dumping wastes beside the road despite repeated protests by local people.

After declaration of the state of emergency, they are dumping wastes behind the clinic, he added.

A private clinic owner in Old Bus Stand area in the town however said local health department is yet to give them any suggestion on how to dump or dispose of wastes properly.

When contacted, deputy civil surgeon Dr Firoz Khan said steps will be taken against illegal clinics and improper disposal of wastes.

*'Emergency treatment not available for time being'*

Govt doctors spend less time at clinics as diagnostic labs raided

MUKLESUR RAHMAN LITON,  
Kishoreganj

Most private clinics in Kishoreganj town have hung signboards: Emergency treatment not available for time being.

Patients are taken aback by the unusual gesture because earlier they used to get a cordial reception at clinics, mostly manned by government doctors employed at public hospitals.

The situation has changed because government doctors are spending less time at private clinics than before after proclamation of emergency and recent raids on some diagnostic centers, sources at the clinics said.

Earlier government doctors spent hardly two to three hours at Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital and then came to private clinics.

Employees at receptions in some clinics said government doctors do not come to the clinics during their official working hours at Sadar Hospital since February 9, when a mobile team led by a magistrate raided a good number of diagnostic centres.

"Government doctors now have to attend public hospitals full time and so we can not give emergency services", said an employee at a clinic.

"Now we send patients to doctors at Sadar Hospital", he said.

This correspondent during a visit to a modern clinic at Kalibari

crossing in the town yesterday noon did not find any doctor. Around 15 government doctors used to work there during office hours earlier, employees there said.

On February 7, joint forces led by First Class Magistrate Abu Sayeed Ahmed detained 21 pharmacy owners on charge of keeping sex stimulating banned medicines and date-expired ones.

On February 9, joint forces led by the first class magistrate sealed 'fully or partially' 28 diagnostic centers out of 31 in the town as these were illegal and had no proper waste management system.

Some doctors at the Sadar Hospital seeking anonymity said, government doctors who are permanent residents of the town are mainly involved with private clinics and they are influential.

Hospital authorities can not take action against them even if they remain absent for days as they have backing of local political leaders.

When contacted, Civil Surgeon Sayij Uddin said, steps will be taken so that government doctors work full time at public hospitals in the district. He however said there is no rule to bar doctors from private practice.

**DEATH OF KUSHTIA FARMER IN CUSTODY**  
**Family files case challenging police claim of 'crossfire'**

AMANUR AMAN, From Kushtia

Babul and Azizul and took Daud to the police station at around 3.30am. After about two hours, bullets hit body of Daud was found on a field at Kirtinagar village.

The incident triggered more protests by villagers, who also put up a barricade on Kushtia-Khulna highway halting transports for two hours.

Police tried to disperse the mob charging batons but failed. Around 30 people were injured. Police also beat Daud's brother Sanwar when he went to the field to see his brother's body.

Army led by Maj Ahmed from Kushtia rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, saying the incident will be properly probed. The army officer also asked the villagers to submit a memorandum to authorities concerned.

Later, police claimed to local journalists that Daud was killed in a 'crossfire'. Police said Daud's accomplices ambushed them at the field when they were returning to the police station taking Daud into custody.

Odhikar, a human right organization, after investigation in the area also claimed that Daud was killed in torture, not in crossfire. Local people also claimed that Daud was an innocent farmer.

Odhikar also quoted Kushtia General Hospital sources, who said marks of injury were found on Daud's body.



Hundreds of rickshaw-pullers queue at Sylhet City Corporation office yesterday for licences (left) as law enforcers launched a drive against illegal rickshaws and citizens line up at Sonali Bank to pay arrear holding tax and others bills.



PHOTO: STAR

## EXTORTION BY POLICE OC suspended in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Shyamanagar thana officer-in-charge Inspector Ishaque Dukhu Mia was suspended yesterday for picking up an innocent man and realising Tk 10,000 from him.

Earlier, on February 3 and February 5, two police officials and a constable of the police station were suspended for the same offence. They are Sub-inspector (SI) Mafizul Islam, assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Anisur Rahman alias Anis and Constable Manirul Islam.

According to sources, Arshad Ali of Iswaripur village in the same upazila was brought him to the police station on a fake charge of being a drug peddler. The police officials released him after realising Tk 10,000 from his son.

After the incident, Arshad Ali

complained to Satkhira Police Superintendent Abdullah Baki against the police officials.

The SP went to Shyamnagar thana on February 3 and found the allegation correct after probe. The SP suspended ASI Anis on that day. On February 5, after further verification, the SP suspended SI Mafiz and cop Manirul.

After thorough investigation it was revealed that OC Ishaque Dukhu was present at the police station when the incident took place but he neither take any action against the cops nor informed higher authorities, sources said.

On contact, Satkhira SP Abdullah Baki confirmed the incident and said departmental cases have been initiated against them.

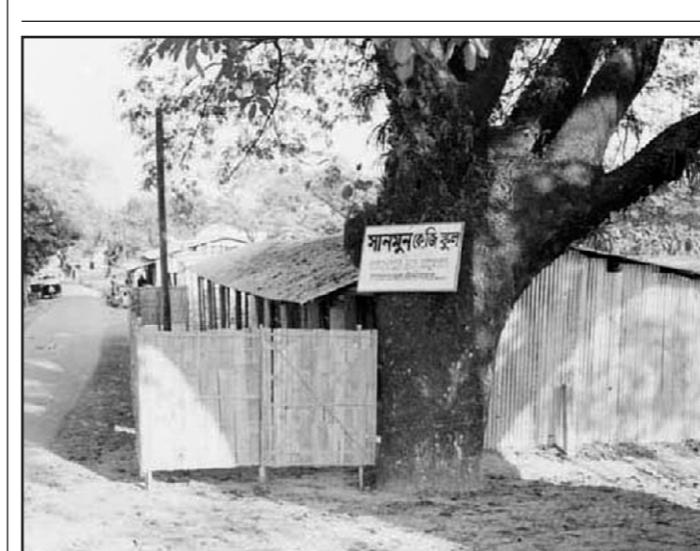


PHOTO: STAR

BNP leader and Moulvibazar Sadar upazila chairman Phulor Mia has adopted a unique way to save his encroached land. He has raised a tin shed on the grabbed Roads and Highways land in Khalilpur along the Dhaka-Sylhet highway and hung a signboard of a kindergarten school.

12x3

7x3