

Trading on unsafe blood

Technicians of Satkhira Sadar Hospital among 8 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Joint forces yesterday arrested eight members of a gang who collected unscreened blood from poor people and sold those at high prices to different hospitals and clinics in the town, risking life.

The arrestees are Nur Ali and his wife Sakina Khatun; alleged drug addict and professional blood donor Moinuddin; Kasim Uddin of Farzana Clinic; Rabindra Nath Ghosh, blood technician at Satkhira Sadar Hospital and Abul Kashem and Monzur Kadir of Islami Bank Community Hospital in Palashpole in the town.

Acting on a tip-off, the joint forces first arrested Nur Ali, his wife Sakhina Khatun and Moinuddin from Palashpole area in the morning.

During interrogation, they said they lured poor people and took them to hospitals and clinics where technicians collected blood without test.

"We usually give donors Tk 80 to 100 per bag and get Tk 150 to 200 from clinics and hospitals," Nur Ali told police.

"I also sold blood from my betel leaf shop at Hospital Road intersection in the town," Nur Ali said.

He disclosed names of others engaged in the blood trade.

Joint forces then raided several hospitals and clinics and arrested the rest.

On contact, Sadar thana Officer-in-Charge Safiqur Rahman said, a case was filed with Sadar thana under the Emergency Powers Act, accusing all the arrested people.

On contact, Satkhira Police Superintendent Mirza Abdullahel Baki confirmed the incident and said

the culprits who are engaged in such heinous trade that imperils life would be punished.



Joint forces arrested 8 people for collecting unscreened blood for patients in Satkhira.

PHOTO: STAR

20 illegal clinics closed in Chandpur

A CORRESPONDENT, *Chandpur*

At least 20 private hospitals and diagnostic centres were closed for running illegally here, civil surgeon (CS) office sources said.

The hospitals and diagnostic centres located in Shahrasti, Matlab, Hajigonj, Kochua and Faridganj were closed as per order of Chandpur civil surgeon (CS) Dr Abdul Mannan for 'non-fulfillment of minimum requirements,' sources said.

On contact, Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Dr Shah Jamal said the hospitals and diagnostic centres were closed because of lack of legal papers and documents required for running their activities.

Meanwhile, many of the owners of illegal private hospitals and diagnostic centres already went into hiding to evade arrest, sources said.

GRAFT CHARGE AGAINST OC, SI Probe body formed, LDP man held in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khagrachhari*

A one-member body was formed yesterday to investigate the graft charge against the officer-in-charge and a sub-inspector of Khagrachhari police station who were closed to the police lines on Tuesday on this allegation.

Additional Police Superintendent Mohammad Ali Azam is probing the allegation and will submitted a report within 48 hours, sources at police superintendent's office said.

The accused persons are OC Mohammad Zahed Hossen and SI Mohammad Iqbal.

Sources said that some leaders of

Awami League and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) held a secret meeting at a local hotel Monday evening to arrange distribution of some tenders for work under the district council.

Being informed, SP Khandaker Lutful Kabir ordered the OC and the SI to arrest them. But the police officials took Tk 35,000 as bribe from them and did not abide by the order, the sources said.

On contact, the SP said, "Action will be taken against them after submission of the probe report".

LDP leader Mohammad Babul alias Subeder Babul was arrested yesterday in connection with the incident.

Magura AL joint secy, BNP leader held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Magura*

Joint forces Tuesday night arrested joint secretary of Magura district Awami League (AL) Abu Nasir Bablu and Sadar upazila BNP organising secretary ANM Shahed Hasan Tagor for their alleged involvement in criminal activities and corruption.

They were shown arrested in two separate cases for murders and in two other cases for attempt to murders. They were produced before a magistrate court, which sent them to jail.

Police said, Tagor also a former president of district Jatiyobadi Chattra Dal (JCD), was allegedly involved in tender manipulation.

3X3

Tk 55 lakh goods gutted in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Valuables worth Tk 55 lakh were gutted in a devastating fire in Kushtia town on Tuesday night, Fire Brigade sources said.

The fire originated from short circuit at about 9.30 pm in a warehouse owned by Hazi Rezaul Islam who is now staying in Saudi Arabia for pilgrimage. Soon the fire engulfed the adjacent areas burning two more warehouses of the same person and 20 other dwelling houses.

Firefighters of the town and three

6X3

12X4

Rejoinder

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist Khairul Murshed gave a rejoinder to the report headlined 'JCD activist turns big gun, earns quick buck' published on page 6 in The Daily Star on March 21.

He said he does not own 10 decimal land worth about Tk one crore in Uttara in Dhaka, a 50-acre farmland worth about Tk one and half crore and a luxurious house in his native village Barivadera in Netrakona district. He also said he do not have any bank account in Dhaka.

10X4