

Blood crisis hampering emergency treatment, surgery at SBMCH

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Crisis of blood in Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) is seriously hindering emergency treatment and surgery.

Sources in blood transfusion department said at least 30 to 40 bags of blood are required in the hospital every day. But the blood bank is almost empty for the last few weeks.

When needed only patients' relatives having proper blood group donate blood.

On inquiry, sources in Sandhani, Medicine Club, Red Crescent Society and other blood supplying organisations said they are also running short of stocks. In this circumstance, many people turn to donors who possess cards.

About 30 to 35 blood donors come to the Red Crescent blood

centre every day. The centre can supply only 8 to 10 bags of blood now.

Pallab, a third year medical student working at the Red Crescent blood centre said, supply of blood fell drastically in June and current month as the number of donors decreased in the last few weeks.

SBMCH medicine club supplies blood for children for free. Naim, a medical student who was on duty at the club said they also extend supply for elder patients if only there is enough stock of blood.

The SBMCH blood transfusion department said it suspended blood supply since April.

Associate Prof Dr Brindabon Biswas, also in-charge of the centre said previously they bought blood from donors and sold them to patients. But the practice has been stopped following a govern-

ment order. Now there is no alternative to collect only blood from relatives of the patients, he said.

Inquired at different wards of the hospital it was learnt that blood seekers are now trapped in hands of brokers because they sometimes buy a bag of blood for Tk 2,000.

Joynal Mridha, husband of Nilufar Begum, a pregnant woman badly needed blood for his wife two days ago. A broker demanded Tk 2,500 for a bag of blood, he said.

'We are now compelled to buy 'unsafe' blood from brokers as we have no other alternative,' said a relative of a patient.

On contact, SBMCH director Dr Moniruzzaman acknowledged the fact saying they now have no other source of blood except for the relatives of patients.

Tornado lashes 2 dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

About 400 houses were damaged and several hundred trees uprooted by tornado that lashed Rangpur and Sirajganj areas yesterday.

Our Rangpur Correspondent reports: About 300 houses were completely damaged and several hundred trees uprooted in five villages in Badarganj and Taraganj upazilas.

The affected villages are Nayapara in Badarganj upazila and Ganglachara, Behara, Majhpara and Faridabad in Taraganj upazila.

Locals said the tornado lasted for five minutes only turning 297 families of five villages in Taraganj and Badarganj upazilas homeless. They are now living under the open sky.

On contact, Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur Khondker Atiar Rahman said he gave instruction to the respective upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) of Taraganj and Badarganj to visit the spot immediately.

After assessment of the extent of damage, the district administration will provide relief to the affected people, the DC said.

O U R S i r a j g a n j CORRESPONDENT reports: The tornado lashed several villages in Sadar upazila and Sirajganj town in the morning.

District administration sources said over 10 villages of Jamuna shoal in Sadar upazila and Goshala,

Motin Shaheberghat, Janpur, Ekdala, PTI morh, Railway coloni, Dattabari, Kazipur Nowkaghat, Hossainpur and Dhanbandi areas in Sirajganj town were affected by tornado.

JMB militant arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Nilphamari*

Police yesterday arrested an active member of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Bhogdaburi Patwari Para village in Domar upazila, police said.

Arrested Saidur Rahman, son of Badrul Rashid of Bhogdaburi Patwari Para village in Domar upazila was arrested in connection with a case under Explosives Act at Savar Police Station, Dhaka, said Domar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Manjur Rahman. He took part in August 17 serial bomb blasts in 2005, the OC said.

Acting on a tip-off, Chilahati investigation centre police led by ASI Dulal arrested him at noon.

Locals said he was a fugitive who secretly came to his village home recently. He is being interrogated at Domar Police Station till filing of the report in the evening.

He will be sent to Savar Police Station, police informed.



PHOTO: HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU

Chakjadu Cross Road in Bogra town went under water after moderate shower yesterday. Many other streets in the district town go under water due to faulty sewerage system.

ILLEGAL ROCK EXTRACTION GOES ON UNABEATED

1 killed as land subsides in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Nilphamari*

One person has been killed as an agricultural land near a rock extraction site subsided at a village in Dimla upazila.

Taibur Rahman, a rock extractor, along with five fellow workers and a rock loaded truck sunk into the ground soon after the incident at Madhya Goyabari Kouwa Dhanipara village on Sunday. The area covered 30 decimals of agricultural land.

Local people and fire brigade personnel rescued five people including the owner of the land, Ameer Ali, 60. The five included Moslem, 35, Hafizur, 32, Nazrul, 30, and two others. Fire brigade personnel tried their best to rescue Taibur Rahman till night but failed. Later, local people recovered the body yesterday morning.

There are about 200 illegal rock extraction sites in the area where landslide is a common phenomenon. Because of the phenomenon, local people live in constant panic.

Illegal rock extraction is going on unabated in the aforesaid area for the last one decade. Ignoring ban on extraction of rock and sand, unscrupulous traders were carrying on the illegal act since the Awami League regime. Rocks of different sizes are easily available from 3 to 4

feet depth in the area.

During the 4-Party Alliance rule jointly led by BNP and Jamaat, the ruling party leaders started engaging heavy rock extracting machines in cultivatable lands in Tepakhari Bari, Khalisa Chapani, Sutibari, Noutara, Goyabari and other villages.

A top BNP leader of Dimla at the blessing of former prime minister's nephew Shahrin Islam Tuhin was engaged to collect money from rock and sand loaded trucks till the fag end of the immediate past BNP-Jamaat rule.

The then ministry of mineral resources, in a gazette notification on 26 June 2004, directed to stop rock extraction. The assistant commissioner (Land) of Dimla upazila served notice to rock extractors to stop illegal rock extraction using heavy machine on February 14, 2005. Ignoring the ban, rock extraction is still going on unabated. In the meantime, land subsided several times at different places in the upazila causing several deaths.

Locals feared a major disaster might occur at any time if senseless rock extraction is not stopped immediately. On contact, the newly appointed Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Dimla Upazila said he would take steps against the violators of law after an investigation.



PHOTO: STAR

Underprivileged children take lessons in the open air at Pathapusdhpa Mela in Bhandaria, Pirojpur.

A school for underprivileged children in Pirojpur

A CORRESPONDENT, *Bhandaria (Pirojpur)*

A school has been established for underprivileged children who earn a living by collecting leaves at a remote area in Pirojour.

An organisation titled Centre for Human Empowerment and Development (CHED), has launched the non-traditional educational programme for leaf collecting children at Bhandaria.

A Bangladeshi expatriate, Fakhru, living in the USA is funding the project.

Children enrolled at the school, Pathapuspha Mela, get lessons in the open air and nutritious food and medicate for free. Stipends are also given to meritorious students of traditional schools. A housing complex for the homeless and a modern free clinic have been established at Dhaoa under the project. The clinic, Aziza Community Health

Centre, provides consultation, medicine, and nutritious food to the needy.

20 injured by highwaymen in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

Twenty people were injured and valuables worth Tk 15 lakh looted by highwaymen from the passengers of 20 transport vehicles at Baghra in Atpara upazila on the Netrakona-Madan Road in the early hours of yesterday, police and witnesses said.

The highwaymen barricaded the road and committed the highway robbery from 20 vehicles including bus, truck, microbus and motorcycle. At that time 20 people were injured when the highwaymen attacked them with sharp weapons. Seriously injured Ratan Roy, Sajan Sarker, Muklesur Rahman and Abdul Gani were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

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