

## Life saving drugs scarce in Moulvibazar

A packet of Bardinal tablets sells at Tk 400-500 against Tk 24

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

An acute scarcity of some life saving drugs is prevailing in Moulvibazar markets, affecting treatment of patients.

Tablets and injections of Phenoerbiton, eye drops of Cloromphenicol and Vitamin-C tablet are in scarce. Some patients at different hospitals said they purchases the medicines at much higher prices.

Representatives of some medicine companies said production of the drugs has been curtailed due to rise in prices of their raw materials in local and international markets.

Patients and medicine store owners said smuggled Indian medicines of these groups are also being sold at higher prices.

According to doctors, tablets and injections of Phenoerbiton group are life saving drugs.

Sources said only two Bangladeshi companies - Jayson Pharmaceuticals and Gaco Pharmaceuticals produce medi-

cines of Phenoerbiton group.

This correspondent during an investigation found that a pack of Bardinal (Phenoerbiton) tablets, manufactured by Gaco, is being sold at Tk 300 to Tk 500 against its price of Tk 24 only. The same medicine produced by Jayson under a different name is being sold at prices about 50 times higher.

This correspondent talked to a number of medicine store owners in the town. They included Abdul Hannan Babu, owner of Jannat Medicos; Azmal Ahmad Chaudhury, owner of Chaudhury Pharmacy; Subud Ranjan Deb, manager of Oushadhi Bitan and Sanjat Pal, manager of Usha Pharma.

They alleged that the companies are not supplying Phenoerbiton group medicines. SM Farhad Uddin, regional sales manager of Gaco in Sylhet, also said these medicines are not being supplied to its Sylhet depot from Dhaka head office though these are on the product list of the company.

Supply of Indian medicines is unpredictable as most of those cross the border illegally, medicine store owners said.

They said eye drop of Cloromphenicol group and Vitamin-C tablets are also scarce as medicine companies supply only one or two boxes in a week.

"Vitamin-C tablets are very essential for operation patients", said doctor Gopesh Chandra Das in the town.

Local representatives of pharmaceutical companies said due to abnormal price hike of raw materials of Cloromphenicol and Vitamin-C tablets, these can not be produced as per needs.

This correspondent tried to contact Brigadier Abdul Matin, director of Drug Administration in Dhaka over phone. An employee who received the phone call said the drug administration has nothing to do if any company does not produce any particular medicine.

He however said they can take action on written allegations if any medicine is sold at higher price in market.

## No Durga Puja at Ratna Tea garden this year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Laborers of Ratna Tea Garden in Goalbari in Juri upazila of Moulvibazar district have decided not to observed Durga Puja this year for alleged poverty.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the tea garden 'Ponchayer' (association of labourers) yesterday.

Owners of the garden suspended all activities in the garden on December 21, 2004 due to an 'internal dispute', sources said.

Following agitation programmes by the labourers, the then deputy commissioner of Moulvibazar Md Younusur Rahman persuaded the owners to open it. The garden was reopened on June 27 last year. But after only seven days, the garden was closed again. Sources claimed that about 5,000 labourers staff are yet to get their arrears.

Management of the garden was not available as they had left the garden after its closure.

On August 5, he was released on bail by a court and admitted to Khulna hospital. He filed the case against him with Kaligonj police station on June 10, Babla he alleged.

On the same day, Kaligonj police station accepted a false case filed by Romjan Ali and Abdul Gafoor, he alleged.

On April 15, one Azizul Islam, son of Abdul Mannan of Ibrahimpur village in Ashulia

## 3 cops sued in Satkhira for 'demanding bribe'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Three police officials including the officer-in-charge of Kaligonj police station Nur Islam were sued yesterday for allegedly implicating one person in false cases and torturing him as he declined to pay them Tk 50,000.

Sheikh Kamruzzaman alias Babla, son of Sheikh Abdus Sabur of Bazar Gram Kashimpur village in Kaligonj upazila, filed the case against him with Satkhira District and Sessions Judge's court.

After hearing, the court asked magistrate Himayet Hossain to probe the allegation, court sources said.

The other accused are sub-inspectors Akkaj Ali and Zahangir Hossain of Kaligonj police station.

Babla in his complaint said he has been running a motor parts

shop, built long ago on a land leased from Road and Highways Department near Kaligonj bus stand.

On March 21, the three policemen went to his shop, demanded Tk 50,000 and threatened him of implicating him in a false case for noncompliance, Babla alleged.

Thereafter, a gang allegedly led by Romjan Ali and Abdul Gafoor forcibly occupied his leased land on April 14 but police did not take any action against them despite complaint as he refused to pay them their demanded money, he alleged.

On the same day, Kaligonj police station accepted a false case filed by Romjan Ali and Abdul Gafoor, he alleged.

On April 15, one Azizul Islam, son of Abdul Mannan of Ibrahimpur village in Ashulia

thana in Dhaka, filed another false case with Kaligonj thana accusing him in an incident in Savar, he alleged.

One Gopal Chandra Roy of Laxminathpur village in Kaligonj upazila also filed a false case against him with Kaligonj police station on June 10, Babla he alleged.

Kaligonj police then arrested him from Satkhira town on July 11 and allegedly tortured him. He was treated at Sadar Hospital while in custody, he said.

On August 5, he was released on bail by a court and admitted to Khulna hospital. He filed the case against him with Kaligonj police station on June 10, Babla he alleged.

On contact, OC of Kaligonj police station Nur Islam denied the allegation and said filing of the case is conspiracy against him as he is discharging duties properly.

## Haluaghata OC suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Haluaghata police station officer-in-charge (OC) Muksedul Momen has been suspended for alleged negligence in duty.

The police authorities suspended the OC last night after he was found guilty in an investigation conducted by the joint forces recently.

Newaz Ali and Kudrat Ali, two day labourers at Kailati village in Haluaghata upazila were injured critically in an attack by criminals on August 18 night. As condition of Newaz Ali deteriorated, he was being shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) for treatment the next day. But on way to the hospital he succumbed to his injuries. He was buried without post mortem.

Haluaghata OC visited the spot but he did not take any action or did not inform the matter to the higher authorities. Later, a team of joint forces conducted the investigation and found him guilty.

On contact, Mymensingh Superintendent of Police (SP) Md Rafiqul Islam confirmed the report.

ABUL HASANAT ABDULLAH

## Special Tribunal sends 2 cases to Sessions Judge's court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Two cases against Awami League leader and former chief whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah were transferred to Barisal District and Session Judge's court from the Divisional Special Tribunal here.

The cases relate to recovery of freedom fighter certificates, gold ornaments and money from his house in a raid on October 22, 2002 during anti-crime drive Operation Clean Heart.

Court sources said the tribunal was scheduled to frame charges yesterday and fix a date for delivery of verdict.

Judge Khandaker Kamaluzzaman of Divisional Special Tribunal, after five days' hearing, transferred the cases to the district and sessions judge's court yesterday. Special public prosecutor Abdus Sattar and district public prosecutor Mirza Salauddin submitted depositions



before the special tribunal in the five days.

Court sources said the cases were sent to the district and sessions judge's court for 'further decision'. The cases were filed by Rahela Khatun, deputy director of Anti Corruption Commission, with Dhamondi police station in Dhaka on September for allegedly concealing facts in his wealth statement, court sources said.

Filed under Section 5(2) of Anticorruption Act. The cases were lodged after recovery of 355 blank certificates of freedom fighters, Tk 6, 13,275

and some gold ornaments from Abul Hasanat's residence on October 22, 2002.

Sub Inspector Borhan Reza, lodged the both cases with Barisal Kotwali police station as complainant. Inspector Zillur Rahman, the then officer-in-charge of the police station and investigation officer of the cases, submitted charge sheet against Hasanat on April 13 last year.

In the mean time, Hasanat obtained interim bail from High Court till submission of charge sheet. He did not appear before the court after submission of charge sheet.

Abul Hasanat also faces another case filed by Rahela Khatun, deputy director of Anti Corruption Commission, with Dhamondi police station in Dhaka on September for allegedly concealing facts in his wealth statement, court sources said.

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## Prepare a correct voter list

EC Sakhawat urges polls officials in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (rtd) M Sakhawat Hussain at a view exchange meeting yesterday urged polls officials to work sincerely to prepare a correct voter list.

He attended as chief guest at the concluding session of the three-day training programme of 943 enumerators selected for voter registration work in 30 wards of Barisal City Corporation area.

The work of voters' enumeration has become more important as it also connected with the preparation of national identity cards and performing this duty successfully would be considered as a great prestigious duty to the nation, he said at the function at Barisal Zila School.

Luthfumnahar on behalf of the trainees requested giving reasonable honourable for their work and providing sufficient logistic supports to the enumerators.

In response the election com-



EC Sakhawat Hussain

wards of BCC, District Election Officer Maniruzzaman said.

This manpower also included additional 16 supervisors and 74 enumerators to remain as stand-by in case of any absence of regular manpower, he added.

Electors of different districts and upazilas of Barisal division acted as the resource persons in the training programme.

Manjre Elahi, deputy commissioner of Barisal, presided over the concluding ceremony of the training programme and Lt Col Abu Sayeed Muhammad Ali, commander of district joint forces, Mehdi Hassan, chief executive officer of Barisal City Corporation, and Md Moriruzzaman, district election officer, attended the programme as special guests.

The enumerators will start door to door visit from October 4 to list names of citizens who would reach 18 years of age on January 18, 2008, sources said.

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With initiation of community policing, the people of Manikganj have launched a campaign against drug use and vowed to make Manikganj a drug-free district.

Manikganj Police Superintendent Imtiaz Ahmed on Monday inaugurated the 'community police' at West Dashora village under Ward No 5 of Manikganj.

On this occasion, Manikganj municipality and district police administration jointly organised a function where around 500 people from all walks of life including teachers, lawyers, businessmen, students, sportsmen and NGO activists were present.

To run the programme, they formed a committee with Officer-in-Charge of Manikganj Sadar Police Station Yasin Ali and Prof Basudeb Saha as convener and member secretary.

The use of drugs will be reduced if people help the police to arrest or rehabilitate the drug traders and peddlars, the speakers said at the programme.

The participants vowed to do their best to create a favourable atmosphere against drug use.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Iqbal Pathan, Manikganj Press Club Secretary Golam Sarwar Sami, municipality commissioners AKM Hamidur Rashid Kajol, Roton Mojumder and Arshed Ali Biswas addressed the function presided over by Manikganj Municipality Chairman Sudeb Saha.

It will help much in meeting the ever-increasing demand for LPG in future, the sources added.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

missioner assured them of increasing the rate of honararium from Tk 5 to Tk 6 for registration of a voter.

Under this programme, 30 assistant registration officers, 175 supervisors and 808 enumerators have been trained up for preparing voter lists and national identity cards in 30

wards of BCC, District Election Officer Maniruzzaman said.

This manpower also included additional 16 supervisors and 74 enumerators to remain as stand-by in case of any absence of regular manpower, he added.

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