

Drug addiction raises alarm in Bogra town

57 addicts died at Katnapara in the town in 3 years due to lack of treatment

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

At least 57 drug addicts died in one area in the town in last three years due to lack of treatment.

This was revealed by Programme for Eco-Social Development (PESD), a local non-governmental organization (NGO) who conducted a survey on drug addicts here recently.

About 100 persons including children of eight years old have become addicted to heroin, hemp and other drugs in the area, the report said further.

About 37 people including women are involved in drug trade in Katnapara and its adjacent areas, the report said.

At least 50 drug addicts in the area prayed to the NGO authorities to ensure their treatment.

Mafuz Ara Miva, Executive Director, PESD told that she had been working in the area to improve the socio-economic condition of local people. 'I have

failed to change the habit of drugs abusers in the locality due to non-cooperation of local administration, she said. In this connection she showed several correspondence with local administration and the Department of Narcotics control to combat the social ill.

She told that Saddam, 8, is habituated with hemp along with other boys of almost the same age. Biplob and Babu, both six years old are also involved with drug business, according to the survey report of PESD.

Heroin addict Badsha, 30, and his brother Thanda, 40, died a few years ago for want of proper treatment, Miva said. Remaining two brothers Shipon and Khakon are still taking heroin regularly with their brother Bappi, she said.

Nasim Banu of the same area lost her heroin addict son Rahim one and a half months ago for lack of treatment. She handed

over her son Rahim to police to change his habit but in vain.

Local people didn't participate in the namaz-e-Janaja after the death of heroin addict Majnu about two years ago.

Another Hiru told that he had handed over his son Montu, 37, to police to change his habit but failed. 'Now my son is lying on death bed, Hiru said. He also blamed to the local administration for their negligence.

However, Mohammed Rafiqul Islam, Assistant Director (AD), the Department of Narcotics Control here expressed his ignorance saying he has no report of death of addicts and open drug business in Katnapara and other parts of Bogra town. He further informed that he had been working in Bogra for about three years but no body of the locality informed him about drug addiction and its business.

Doctor sued as patient dies of 'negligence' in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A case was filed with Satkhira Sadar Police Station last night for death of a pregnant woman allegedly due to wrong treatment and negligence of the physician at Khulna Diagnostic Centre at Palashpole in the town.

The victim's father Fazlur Rahman of village Jyotindranagar in Shyamnagar upazila filed the case with Sadar police station accusing Dr Syed Kamruzzaman of Khulna Diagnostic Centre for the death of his daughter Tania, police said, adding that the accused physician had gone into hiding soon after the incident on Monday night.

Fazlur Rahman along Tania, 18, wife of Saiful Islam of the same village, came to Satkhira by bus from Shyamnagar for treatment of his daughter who was pregnant for eight months, police quoted the victim's father as saying.

They wanted to go to Sadar Hospital but a broker took them to Dr Syed Kamruzzaman at Khulna Diagnostic Centre, telling them of better treatment, the FIR (first information report) said.

After ultra sonogram, the physician said that the patient was carrying a dead baby which was to be removed by operation soon, he said.

The patient fell unconscious as soon as the doctor pushed injection and some time later she died due to wrong treatment, sources alleged.

Alleging his daughter's death died due to wrong treatment, the

victim's father Fazlur Rahman demanded punishment to the doctor.

Contacted over cell phone, Dr Kamruzzaman denied the allegation and said the patient was taken to the diagnostic centre after attempt to abort her in another clinic. As her condition deteriorated there, he advised them to shift her to Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) and she died on the way to KMCH.

Verdict in journo Balu murder case now Feb 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge Abdus Salam Shikdar did not deliver the verdict of journalist Humayun Kabir Balu murder case, tribunal sources said.

Earlier, the judge announced to deliver the verdict on conclusion of the trial on January 30.

The new date for delivering the judgement has been fixed on February 13, tribunal sources said.

Humayun Kabir Balu, a freedom fighter and editor of The Dainik Jannabumi, a local newspaper was killed in bomb attack near his office-cum-residence on Haji Ismail Road here on June 27, 2004.

Seven outlaws were charge sheeted in the case filed with Khulna Sadar police station under sections 302 and 334 of BPC.

FoSHoL-AAB INITIATIVE Rural livestock service centre in Patuakhali SOON

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The launching ceremony of a FoSHoL Union Livestock Service Centre will be held at Mithaganj Union Parishad (UP) Bhaban in remote Kolapara upazila, Patuakhali on February 11, says a press release.

District livestock officer, upazila livestock officer, veterinary surgeon, UP chairman, farmers' representatives, FoSHoL livestock service providers, team manager, SPEED Trust and FoSHoL central PCMT team members will attend the launching ceremony jointly organised by FoSHoL-ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB) and SPEED Trust. AAB has been implementing FoSHoL project through six partner organizations in six remote districts. European Commission (EC) is co-financing the project to improve livelihood of poor farmers.

Workshop on bird flu in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday organised a day-long workshop on avian influenza in the Dinajpur sector premises.

It was aimed at gearing up preventive measures against the viral disease across the northern region.

Dinajpur Sector Commander Md Rezaul Kabir presided the workshop. Lt Col Hamid, Commanding Officer of 14 Battalion gave the welcome address while Major Munir read out the key-note paper.

Speakers stressed on stoppage of poultry smuggling through various borders of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Joypurhat districts and urged chairmen and members of all unions situated near the borders to raise awareness among people about bird flu.

Poultry and poultry feed traders and about 500 chairmen and members of the aforesaid four districts participated.

About 1, 45,000 poultry birds were culled in the district since detection of the disease in March last year.

2 EXTORTION CASES

Charge framing against mayor Tayebur now on Feb 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday shifted the charge framing date of two out of nine extortion cases against detained Khulna City Corporation mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman to February 12.

The procurement officer of KCC's Municipal Services Project (MSP) Shaikh Hafizur Rahman suspended by Mayor in October last year on defalcation charge filed an extortion case against Sheikh Tayebur Rahman with Khulna Sadar Police Station on November 1 of the same year while businessman Ali Abdullah Elin of Rupsha upazila in Khulna district filed the second extortion case against him on November 3 with the same police station.

The mayor on November 10 gave statements to CMM court under Section 164 confessing to his involvement in these two and three other extortion cases.

But last month he retracted his judicial confession through a petition filed with the court of CMM, alleging torture and death threat when he was under custody in Khulna Police Station after his arrest.

Truckload of urea seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police seized a truckload of urea fertiliser from Mathurapur of the town on Tuesday night.

Police said, while patrolling in the town they saw a truck loaded with urea fertiliser lying in front of new Jail Hajat building at Mathurapur area of the town. At one stage, they took the fertiliser-loaded truck to Jhenidah police station.

Smugglers might have left it fearing arrest. Officer-in-Charge Sayed Iqbal Ali said, adding that the fertiliser will be sold at government rate if the owner cannot be identified.

UNINTERRUPTED POWER SUPPLY

Nilphamari farmers optimistic of good IRRI-Boro yield

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Farmers have expressed their optimism of a good yield of paddy in the ongoing peak season of IRRI-Boro cultivation due to uninterrupted power supply across the district.

This is because of irrigation facilities being provided to farmers by the Rural Electrification Board (REB) due to smooth power supply in this season.

Because of the phenomenon, the farmers are now able to irrigate their lands easily.

Sources in Polli Biddut Samity (PBS) informed that restoration of power generation in the first week of January by two units of Baropukuria Thermo Electric Plants each having capacity to produce 120 megawatt (MW) of electricity daily has removed a major obstacle of farmers in irrigating their lands.

The secretary of the Ministry of Power, Farizul Kabir Khan, in an emergency meeting at Dinajpur PBS office on January 19 directed the Samity personnel to ensure uninterrupted power supply in greater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts. He asked them to meet up the need of the two greater districts at first. Then he asked them to supply power elsewhere, PBS sources said.

They said this year irrigational facilities were provided to 87 deep tube-wells and 6,371 shallow power pumps. Last year, it was 80 deep tube-wells and 5,578 shallow pumps only.

With these deep tube-wells and shallow power pumps, about 53,077 hectares of land were brought under irrigational facilities this year. This figure is 65.48 per cent of the total land area brought under IRRI-Boro cultivation in the district this year.

Sources in the District Agriculture Department claimed that IRRI-Boro paddy are being cultivated on 81,063 hectares of land in the district this year.

The assistant general manager (AGM) of Rural Electrification Board (REB) here M Mainuddin told this correspondent that the total demand of power for irrigation is 12.5 MW. Farmers are getting their total requirement without any disruption. Last year we got between 1 MW-1.5 MW against our 12 MW demand for electricity. That is why we supplied electricity in rationing. Now, farmers can irrigate their lands at any time, he said.

However, some small farmers are facing difficulties in getting power connection to their motors having capacity of 1 MW, 1.5 MW and 2.5 MW. As per rule, 3 MW motors would only get power connection.

Farmers are also facing complexities in getting replacement of stolen transformers. Till end of last year, 177 transformers were stolen. In the market, prices of transformers having 6 MW, 10 MW, 13 MW 25 MW capacities or more vary from Tk 30,000 to 60,000. REB supplies transformers to the farmers at a slightly lower rate.

President of PBS here, Luthfar Rahman said to this correspondent that despite some drawbacks the farmers under his samity are happy as they are getting power to irrigate lands for at least 18 to 19 hours in a day. It is beyond their expectation, he added.

The general manager of REB here Sankar Kamakar said they are giving top priority for steady supply of electricity. Army is monitoring the situation for 24 hours, he said. If the present power supply can be continued, we can expect bumper crops this year, he said.

Nat'l Harijan confce in Kushtia today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A national conference to ensure dignity and rights of the Harijan community of the country will be held at Islamia College ground here today.

Friends Association for Integrated Regulation (FAIR), a local NGO and Manusher Jonno Foundation will jointly organize the conference.

Representatives of the Harijan community from 28 districts will participate in the conference.

Kushtia Deputy Commissioner Md Nurul Islam will inaugurate the conference while it will be attended by human rights activist Dr Hamida Hossain, The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, Advocate Salma Ali, Prof Dr Mizanur Rahman, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno foundation Shaheen Anam, Executive Officer of Kushtia Zilla Parishad Dharendra Nath Sarkar and Islamic University Registrar Dr Md Moslem Uddin.

Islamic University teacher Dr Rashid Askari will present the keynote paper.



Pirates arrested with arms from Dublarchar in the Sundarbans during recent drive by Rab.

PHOTO: STAR

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