

Treatment eludes patients in Khagrachhari

Most clinics illegal, lack expertise

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

At least 32 unregistered clinics and pathological laboratories have continued operating illegally in eight upazilas under Khagrachhari hill district and cashing in on patients' plight allegedly in collusion with a section of government doctors and nurses.

Of the 41 clinics in the hill district, only nine are registered while the others are operating without government authorisation or license, said sources at Khagrachhari Civil Surgeon's Office.

Even most of the registered clinics or pathological laboratories conduct operations or tests for which they do not have any valid certification from the concerned authorities.

Doctors of government hospitals allegedly get commission for sending patients to such pathological laboratories, diagnostic centres and clinics, said several government officials.

A section of doctors at government hospitals often advise patients to go to certain clinics, pathological labs or diagnostic centres for 'better

treatment' and innocent patients fall victim to the malpractice of the unscrupulous people.

A government doctor gets commission ranging from 30 to 35 percent of the money the patient spends at private clinics. Other staff members get between 10 to 15 percent for sending a patient, they said.

Brokers approach patients at government hospitals, even at their houses to take them to private clinics, sources said.

Brokers enjoy free access to the government hospitals and health complexes while a section of nurses and other staff at the government hospitals also work as brokers, said several patients and their attendants.

During this correspondent's visit to a private clinic in Khagrachhari town, a few patients said they had spent a lot of money for 'seemingly unnecessary' diagnostics tests but they did not get proper treatment.

The clinic had no registered doctors or trained nurses and there was lack of necessary instruments, they said.

During this correspondent's

visit to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital, a few brokers admitted that they are paid to entice patients to private clinics.

"As doctors are also involved in process, I do not believe it unethical," said broker Nizam Uddin.

"I get Tk 200 to 250 from the clinic owner for luring each patient. It is the only means to maintain my family," said another broker Sahajan.

During a drive on July 10 last year, a mobile court led by Executive Magistrate Mohammad Kawsar Hossain fined 10 pharmacies and sealed off two pathological laboratories that were operating illegally.

However, the closed laboratories started operation again through managing the government officials although they do not have experienced technicians, sources said.

To operate labs and clinics, authorities should recruit trained technicians who must have three years' diploma degree and one year's practical experience or five years' practical experience, Executive Magistrate Kaosar Hossain said.

The illegal clinics in Khagrachhari are not only depriving people of expected treatment but also make them vulnerable to malaria, jaundice, typhoid or Aids as same instruments are used twice, thrice or more, while sterilisation is not properly done, sources said.

The clinic owners' malpractices including wrong diagnosis, wrong treatment and wrong suggestion might be the cause of death or permanent disability, said a doctor from Khagrachhari army region seeking anonymity.

When asked, Residential Medical Officer (RMO) of Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital Dr BK Tripura however expressed his ignorance about doctors' getting commission. He said adequate measures have been taken to prevent brokers from entering the hospital, he said.

Khagrachhari Civil Surgeon Dr Abu Taher admitted that most pathological laboratories and clinics are running without any registration. He formed a five-member committee to look into the matter, he said.



Opponents bring out an angry demonstration against Awami League leader Aslam Hossain Saadagar, also chairman elect in Nageshwari upazila in Kurigram district, after clashes over a land dispute yesterday morning.

22.5 tonnes of Boro yield expected in 10 south-western dists

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

The Agriculture Extension Department (AED) is expecting achievement of production target of 22,40,63 tonnes of Boro rice in 10 south-western districts under Khulna division in the current season.

This year the production target in Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Jhenidah, Magura, Jessore, Narail, Bagerhat, Satkhira and Khulna

districts is 40,063 tonnes higher than last year's, said AED officials in the division.

They said farmers are expected to cultivate Boro on 5,64,700 hectares of land. In last season, they cultivated 5.34 lakh hectares of land.

Of the total, hybrid Boro will be cultivated on 1,65,000 hectares, high yielding varieties on 3,94,245 hectares and local varieties on 5,45,555 hectares.

The highest target of cultivation has been set for Jessore

district where 1,53,185 hectares will be brought under Boro cultivation, while the lowest 25,000 hectares in Meherpur.

Areas under the cultivation are 89,514 hectares in Jhenidah, 40,400 hectares in Magura, 24,275 hectares in Narail, 17,000 hectares in Khulna, 37,101 hectares in Bagerhat, 71,120 hectares in Satkhira, 34,200 hectares in Kushtia and 35,230 hectares in Chuadanga.

In last season bacterial infection affected 14,229 hectares of yielded paddy. Two types of bacteria attacked the field -- Bacterial Leaf Streak and Bacterial Leaf Bright, locally known as Pata Pora disease in several districts in the division.

Despite some damage caused by infection, overall production target is expected to be achieved as the farmers cultivated more 30,000 hectares of land this year, AED officials said.

"Farmers in the region have already started plantation without any trouble," Kamal Sariful Haq, deputy director of Khulna AED, said over cell phone yesterday.

Prices of fertilisers are also now within the capacity of the farmers, he said.

However, farmers in the region are facing some troubles including scarcity of paddy saplings, high price for supplying water by pump owners and not getting of non-urea at the subsidised price.

During this correspondent's visit to a few areas in the region including Meherpur, Chuadanga and Kushtia districts, farmers said they are facing trouble to collect saplings of paddy that are selling at high prices.

Besides, power pump owners are realizing high price for irrigation in different areas of the region.

Farmers said they are to pay one-fourth of reaped paddy for supplying water to one bigha since the process of cultivation of the field. On an average, one-fourth of reaped paddy amounts to four maunds and its price is Tk

2200 to 2400.

Farmers termed the price too high while several pump owners told this correspondent that it is their tradition for years. They also showed plea of diesel price.

Farmers said they are still not getting the subsidised rates of non-urea fertilisers as dealers of different areas are selling these for different prices.

Several dealers said they purchased a bag (of 50 kg) TSP at Tk 3475, a bag of MoP at Tk 2160 and DAP at Tk 4500. They have to incur loss of Tk 1475 if they are to sell a bag of TSP at Tk 2000 as per the government order and that of Tk 410 in case of MoP and Tk 2250 in DAP.

In some areas, the local sub-dealers are requesting farmers to buy the fertilisers with giving them a minimum price so that they are not to incur gross loss, said several farmers.

The Boro farmers are apprehending losses if the prices of saplings, fertilisers and irrigation are not controlled. Because they think that price of rice would decline after this Boro harvesting.

Farmers agitate for fertiliser

A CORRESPONDENT, Narail

Farmers of Mulia union brought out a procession at Mulia Bazar under Narail Sadar upazila last night and put out a barricade on the road for adequate supply of fertiliser.

They also beat up local fertiliser dealer Alok Kundu and confined him in his shop.

On information, police rushed to the spot and rescued the dealer.

Farmer alleged that the dealer does not sell only urea, but compels them to buy the fertiliser of other brands and pesticides.

While contacted, Moshir Rahman, deputy commissioner (DC) of Narail, declined to comment.

UZ CHAIRMEN-ELECT More results from dists

MYMENSINGH

Mymensingh Sadar--Fayzur Rahman Fakir (AL rebel), Gafarganj--Fahmi Gollandaj (AL rebel), Muktagacha--Advocate Badar Ahmed (AL), Bhaluka--Kazimuddin Ahmed (AL), Iswarganj--Sumendra Kishore Chowdhury (AL), Gouripur--Ali Ahmed Khan Pathan (AL), Dhobaura--Furkan Uddin Selim (AL), Trishal--Abdul Khaleque (BNP), Phulpur--Abdul Matin (BNP), Haluaghat--Ali Azgar (BNP), Phulbaria--Anwar Hossain (BNP)

NILPHAMARI

Domar--Abdur Razzak Boshunia (AL), Kishoreganj--Zakir Hossain Babul (AL), Dimla--Abtab Uddin Sarkar (AL), Saidpur--Obaidur Rahman (BNP), Jaldhaka--Syed Ali (Jamaat), Sadar upazila--Joinal Abedin (JP)

B'BARIA

Nasirnagar--Md Ahsanul Haque (JP), Sarail--Rafique Uddin Takur (AL), Ashuganj--Md. Anisur Rahman (AL), Akhaura--Sheikh Burhan Uddin Ahmed (AL), Kasba--Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan (AL), Nabinagar--Md Ziaul Haque Sarker (AL), Bancharampur--Md Sirajul Islam (AL)

CHITTAGONG

Mirer Sarai--Gias Uddin (AL), Fatikchhari--Aftab Uddin Chowdhury (AL), Sitakunda--Abdullah Al Baker Bhuiyan (AL), Hathazari--Principal Mohammad Ismail (AL), Raosaz--Ehsanul Haider Chowdhury Babul (AL), Satkania--Abdul Monaf (AL), Sandwip--Mohammad Shahjahan (AL), Rangunia--Abu Ahmed Hasnat (BNP), Boalkhali--Badrus Meher (BNP), Patiya--Md Idris Mia (BNP), Banskhali--Alamgir Kabir Chowdhury (BNP), Lohagara Ziaul Haq Babul (LDP), Chandanais--Abdul Jabbar Chowdhury (LDP), Anowara upazila--Anowarul Islam Khan (independent).

MOULVIBAZAR

Moulvibazar Sadar--Abdul Mosabbir (independent), Kamalganj--Shamim Ahmed Chowdhury (BNP), Kulaura--Md Abdul Matin (AL), Rajnagar--Misbahuddin Bhai Miah (AL), Juri--MA Mumin Ashuk (AL), Srimongal--Ranadhir Kumar Deb (AL), Baralekha--Md Siraj Uddin Ahmed (AL)

KURIGRAM

Nageswari--Md Aslam Hossain Saadagar (AL), Fulbari--Md. Golam Rabbani Sarkar (AL), Rajarhat--Abu Nur Md. Aktaruzzaman (AL), Uliupur upazila--M. Kafil Uddin (AL), Chilmari--Saikat Ali Sarkar (AL), Rajpur--Md Akbar Hossain Hero (AL), Raumari--Md Abdul Hai (BNP), Bhurungamari--Md. Suruzzaman Bakul (BNP), Sadar--Ponir Uddin Ahmed (JP)

MAGURA

Magura Sadar--Abu Nasir Babu (AL), Sreepur--Mahmudul Gani Shahin (AL), Shalikhah--Advocate Shyamol Kumar Dey (AL), Mohammadpur--Golam Robbani (AL)

GAIBANDHA

Gaibandha Sadar--Abdur Rashid Sarkar (JP), Sunderganj--Wahiduzzaman Sarkar (JP), Sadullapur--Khademul Islam Khudi (JSD Inu), Palashbari--AKM Mokshed Chowdhury Biddu (AL), Shaghata--AHM Golam Sheed Ranju (JP), Fulchari--Abu Sayeed (AL)



With receding of water in winter, village people, especially children, find fishing as a fun in waterbodies. The photo was taken at Ullapura in Patia upazila under Chittagong district yesterday.

Confusion, symbol mistakes cost huge number of votes

About 4 lakh ballots rejected in Pabna, Sylhet

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The recently concluded upazila elections have seen cancellation of a large number of ballots in different areas of the country.

At least 1.85 lakh ballot papers were rejected in nine upazilas under Pabna district in Thursday's upazila election, reports our Pabna correspondent.

The invalid votes for the posts of upazila chairman, vice chairman and female vice chairman in nine upazilas in the district stood at 38,507, 81,277 and 65,017 respectively, official sources said.

The invalid votes for the three posts constitute 6.20 percent of the total 10 lakh 2 thousand and 435 cast votes in the district.

Mistake for the symbols in the ballot papers was the main cause of this large number of invalid votes, said officials and experts.

Voters were confused about the symbols as the election symbols were set in two columns in the ballot papers and there were more symbols than the number of candidates, they said.

Similarity in symbols also confused the voters.

As per the newly introduced rules for the recently held upazila election, 10 symbols were printed on ballots where the number of candidates ranged from 2 to 10. The ballots had to contain 14 symbols for 11 to 14 candidates and 18 symbols for 15 to 18 candidates.

"The symbols in the ballot papers were not clear. Some symbols were similar. Also the names of the candidates were absent in the ballots. The new rule was not so clear to the mass voters in the district that led to the cancellation of a large number of ballots," Md Abdul Motin Khan, president of Pabna

district chapter of SUJON (Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik), told this correspondent yesterday.

Our staff correspondent adds from Sylhet: As many as 1,78,885 ballot papers were declared invalid in the elections for 12 upazila parishads in Sylhet district.

The number of cancelled ballot papers for the posts of chairman, vice chairman and female vice chairman are 38,622, 61,435 and 78,882 respectively, sources said.

The highest 23,125 votes were cancelled in Sylhet Sadar upazila while Kanaighat was following with 20,050 votes.

The cancelled votes had played role for determining the polls results, an official said.

As for example, the winner in Golapganj upazila defeated his nearest rival by 3048 votes whereas 3566 votes were cancelled there.

TEESTA IRRIGATION PROJECT Breach in embankment damages crops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Breach in embankment of Teesta Irrigation Project damaged crops on about 6,000 acres of land in three villages of Kishoreganj upazila of the district yesterday.

Local sources said the embankment of Rangpur main canal of the irrigation project was damaged at Madhya Rajeeb Chengmari point of Kishoreganj upazila at around 6:00am.

Upazila agriculture office sources said Boro paddy, seedbeds, potato, tobacco, maize, mustard seeds were damaged due to onrush of water.

Kishoreganj Union Parishad Chairman A T M Anisur Rahman said several thousand farmers of Goda, Chengmari and Madhya Rajeeb villages have been affected and roads of those villages partially damaged.

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) sources said the breach in the

embankment developed as some farmers illegally installed hollow plastic pipes to get water from the canal for irrigating their lands.

Farmers alleged though the canal is passing beside their agricultural lands, they have no way to get water legally. Number of outlets through which the water of the canal comes out to their lands is inadequate, they said.

BWDB sources said they opened the gates of a regulator of the canal to reduce onrush of water.

They also closed the main gates of the canal at the upstream to prevent the water flowing through the canal.

Nural Islam, BWDB executive engineer of Nilphamari division, said they will repair the damaged portion of the embankment soon.

The newly elected Kishoreganj upazila chairman, upazila nirbahi officer and high officials of BWDB visited the spot and assured the affected farmers of all possible help.

Outlaw held, arms seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police arrested a top cadre of outlawed new Biplobi Communist Party (NBPC) and recovered firearms from Bakhoi village in Kumarkhali upazila in the district on Friday night.

The arrestee, Akkas Ali, 40, of Bongram in Khoksa upazila in the district, is accused in several cases including for murder, police said.

Tipped off, a team from Khoksa police raided the house of Alam at Bakhoi village in Kumarkhali upazila at about 11:00pm and arrested Akkas.

After interrogation, police recovered a rifle and four bullets from under a pile of straw of the house.

Police recovered several arms including an AK-47 rifle from Akkas' house at Bongram in Khoksa upazila last year and Akkas was absconding since then, police said, adding that he was trying to reorganise NBPC after killing of its chief.

Aktil Hossain on February 11st year.

Police was interrogating Akkas as of filing of this report at about 4:30pm yesterday.

Advertisement

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
Office of the Project Director
Enhance the Capacity of DLS Project
Department of Livestock Services, Pashu Sampad Bhaban (3rd floor)
Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh

Short Term Consultancy to Animal Nutrition Laboratory at Department of Livestock Services

Enhance the Capacity of Department of Livestock Services Project of the Danida funded Agricultural Sector Programme Support II invites proposals from qualified and reputed individual consultants to develop analytical methods for the determination of melamine & fatty acids in livestock feeds & livestock products. The consultancy is scheduled to be started in March 2009, with an estimated input of 132 (one hundred & thirty two) person-days over a period of approximately 09 (nine) months.

Interested individual consultants are hereby invited to send detailed technical and financial proposals separately to Enhance the Capacity of DLS Project, Pashu Sampad Bhaban (3rd floor), Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka 1215 on or before Thursday, 05 February 2009. The detailed job description for the assignment may be obtained through this email address: <om@su-dls.org>

The project management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Md. Golam Mostafa
Project Director

GD-408

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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