

OPENING DRUG STALLS AT DINAJPUR MEDICAL

Medicine traders stop sale, stage protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Medicine traders in areas around Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital (DJMCH) yesterday stopped selling medicine in protest against opening of two medicine outlets inside the hospital building.

The traders under the banner of Dinajpur Chemist and Druggist Association yesterday held an hour long human chain programme in front of DJMCH urging the authority to cancel functioning of the two medicine stalls.

They also threatened to go for tough programme if authorities do not cancel the

decision.

Traders at the human chain programme said the medicine stalls have been set up inside the hospital building in violation of rules and those were handed over to activists of the ruling party without any valid procedure.

There is no other example of setting up medicine stall at any government medical college hospital of the country, they added.

Demanding withdrawal of the decision taken by the authority earlier, the traders have been agitating for the last two months.

Md Anwar Hossain, vice president of town unit of Jubo League, and Md Mainul

Alam, an activist of local Awami League, yesterday started functioning of Anwar Medical Store and Al Madina Medical Store respectively to sell medicine inside the hospital, sources said.

When contacted, Dr Shamsul Alam, director of Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital, said, "The management of Dinajpur Medical College Hospital at a meeting took the decision to open medicine stores at the hospital building."

When contacted, the president of Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital management committee, local AL lawmaker Iqbalur Rahim said the

medicine stores were allocated through maintaining all the due procedures.

"We held a meeting with the director of DJMCH on Monday night but the meeting ended without any solution," said Islam Uddin, president of DJMCH Medicine Traders Association.

After the meeting the hospital authority filed a general diary against Md Hamidul Islam, owner of Sohag Medical Store, who allegedly spoke harshly at the meeting.

A large number of police have been deployed in and outside the medical college complex.

Bring killers of Swarna to book

Protesters demand in Ishwardi

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

Teachers and students of Bansher Badha High School in Ishwardi upazila yesterday formed a human chain at Pabna-Pakshey road demanding exemplary punishment to the killers of Swarna Khatun, an SSC examinee from the school.

Daughter of Shahidul Islam of Diar-Baghail village of the upazila, Swarna was brutally killed by a gang of criminals at the village early Monday. The gang also gouged out her right eye.

Locals found Swarna's body under a tree near her house and informed the police who went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Pabna General Hospital for autopsy.

Victim's father Shahidul filed a case with Ishwardi Police Station accusing four youths including Anwar Hossain Anu of the village.

In the case statement, Shahidul said Anu called his daughter out of their house over cellphone on Sunday night and then killed her with the help of his accomplices.

Police arrested Anu and his friend Rajib Monday evening while the rest two accused had gone into hiding soon after filing of the case. The arrestees were produced in the Judicial Magistrate's Court that placed them on a three-day remand.

After preliminary investigation, police revealed that Anu had a love affair with Swarna. As Swarna put pressure on Anu to marry her, he along with his friends killed the girl.

"We are looking for the rest two criminals and investigation into the murder is going on," said Officer-in-Charge of Ishwardi Police Station Md Samiul Islam.

Swarna's murder also sparked protest at Diar-Baghail village. People of the village yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to the killers. They joined the human chain along with the students and teachers of Bansher Badha High School.

"We are very shocked because we have lost one of our best friends. Criminals brutally killed Swarna. We want exemplary punishment to the culprits," Tania Khatun, a class ten student of the school, said.

Headmaster of the school Md Samsul Alam said teachers, students and the villagers have strongly protested the incident and demanded exemplary punishment to the killers.



PHOTO: STAR

Threatened by land grabbers, members of a few Hindu families at Pangashia village in Dumki upazila of Patuakhali district gather as this correspondent visit the area a couple of days ago.

Grabbers eye land of Hindus in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A few local influential people are allegedly grabbing land of four Hindu families at Pangashia village under Dumki upazila.

They have already grabbed 0.60 acres of land of families of Meghnath Howlader, his brother Lalchand Howlader, his brother Ramchand Howlader and relative Ramchand Howlader.

"An influential group led by Abdul Goni Khan has kept occupying our 0.60 acres of land for about 10 years. Sons of Goni Khan forcibly built a house on 0.16 acres of our paternal property. They are also looting crops from our 0.44 acres of land every year," said Meghnath Howlader, 50, son of late Romesh Chandra Howlader.

On several occasions, goons of the group beat up Meghnath as they did not agree to sell the land to them, he said.

After Meghnath was beaten up for refusing to sell land to them on November 20 last year, his brother Lalchand Howlader filed a case against the group with Dumki police station but police are yet to take lawful action, he said.

Meghnath's uncle Kalachand Howlader said, "They forced me to sell 0.10 acres of land only for Tk 25 thousand although its normal market price is about Tk 1 lakh."

Meghnath and Kalachand said 15 mem-

bers of their families cannot even move freely in the area while their children are scared to go to their schools.

The influential group is harassing them in different ways to make them leave the area to grab the land totally, they said.

Denying the allegation, Babul Khan, son of Abdul Goni Khan, said, "Meghnath's father Romesh Chandra Howlader exchanged his 0.14 acres of land with my father's through verbal agreement. Accordingly, we gave them the land through deed but Meghnath is yet to hand over our part to us after the death of his father. So we took possession of our land anyhow."

Local union parishad Chairman Alamgir Hossain Sikder said, "Quarrel over land is going on for long between Goni Khan and the minority families. We asked both sides to settle the quarrel anyhow but to no effect."

Sub Inspector of Dumki police station Mizanur Rahman, also the investigation officer, said, "Both sides should have gone to the court as it is a civil matter. Lalchand filed a case with the police station regarding attack on Meghnath. We are preparing an investigation report that will be submitted to the court as soon as possible."

"We are ready to give legal help to minority families," he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Two five-member groups of fishermen from Char Wadel under Baufal upazila and Bashbaria union under Dashmina upazila of Patuakhali district received these 30-foot-long fibre glass made fishing boats, each with two-tonne capacity, at Patuakhali launch terminal on Monday. The high-tech boats are protected against sinking and contain modern equipment including radar reflector, three fuel pots, five life jackets, two lifebuoys, two anchors, two oars, a compass, a radio, navigation light, cotton sail, engine tool box, torch and first aid kits. Local NGO Society Development Agency arranged free distribution of the boats made with assistance of European Union.

Two kids 'commit' suicide

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two kids allegedly committed suicide in Satkhira and Gazipur districts yesterday and the day before.

A 10-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide by taking poison yesterday for failing in the last annual examination.

The victim, identified as Safikun Nahar, was daughter of Abdul Latif Beg of village Kachua in Assassuni upazila.

Quoting locals police said, class four student Safikun Nahar appeared at the annual examination at Kachua Government Primary School.

As she failed, her teachers refused to promote her to class five. At this, she took poison at her house and died on the spot.

In Gazipur, a teenage girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling fan of her house at Munsepur village in Kaliganj upazila on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Lima Begam, 14, daughter of Imam Uddin of the village, reports UNB.

Police quoting family sources said, Lima worked at a beauty parlour in the upazila.

On the fateful morning, Lima committed suicide after a hot exchange with someone over cell phone.

Evildoers stab protester

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

Criminals stabbed an SSC examinee at Ramchandrapur village under Atghoria upazila on Monday night.

The victim, Md Mosharrif Hossain, son of Motiur Rahman of the village, and also an SSC examinee from Kabi Bondey Ali High School at the upazila headquarters, was admitted to the upazila health complex and then shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Locals said Mosharrif came under attack as he had protested acts of some local criminals during annual sports of Debottar Girls' School in the afternoon.

Protesting the attack on Mosharrif, teachers and students of Kabi Bondey Ali High School yesterday brought out procession at the upazila headquarters and submitted a memorandum to the UNO demanding punishment to the culprits.



PHOTO: STAR

This barking deer, injured and caught by locals at Panidhar village under Baralekha upazila in Moulvibazar district yesterday, was later rescued, treated and released to Adampur forest in Kamalganj upazila in the district by officials of Juri Range-1 under the forest department. The deer had come to the village in search of food.

Madan, Madaripur go to polls tomorrow

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Twenty out of 21 polling centres in Madaripur municipality and seven of nine polling centres in Madan municipality of Netrakona district have been declared vulnerable to violence during elections scheduled for tomorrow.

In Madaripur, Superintendent of Police Sardar Tamiz Uddin and Election Officer Mohammad Alauddin said 20 out of 21 polling centres in Madaripur municipality have been identified as 'risky', reports our correspondent.

All necessary measures have been taken to ensure security of the voters and a free and fair voting in the municipality, the SP said.

Four candidates are contesting for the mayoral post



of the municipality. Candidates remained busy with last-minute campaign yesterday.

Our Netrakona correspondent adds: Six mayoral candidates are in the election race in Madan municipality.

They are former secretary of Madan upazila BNP Shafiqul Islam Talukder Liton, member of upazila BNP committee Mushfiqur Rahman Bachchu, Organising Secretary of Madan upazila AL Abdul Hannan Bhuiyan, Joint Secretary of upazila AL Golam Mostafa, member of upazila AL unit Ruhul Amin, and independent candidate Dewan Mudasser Hossain Shafique.

Both the ruling Awami

League and BNP failed to field a single candidate for the mayoral post in this municipality.

Madan Election Office sources said seven out of nine polling centres in the municipality have been identified as vulnerable to violence.

Returning officer SM Abdul Kader said all-out measures have been taken to ensure a free, fair and transparent election to the municipality. Law enforcers, including members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), will remain at the risky centres during voting, he added.

Mayor and council candidates and their workers remained busy with last-minute electioneering yesterday. They went door-to-door and sought votes.

Youth held for bid to kidnap girl

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A youth was held while trying to kidnap a schoolgirl in Kishoreganj yesterday.

Away in Dinajpur, the prime accused in a case for abduction of a schoolboy was arrested on Monday.

In Kishoreganj, locals caught a stalker and handed him over to police while he was trying to kidnap a school student in Nikli upazila of the district yesterday, reports our correspondent.

Police and locals said, Towhid Mia, 22, son of Muhammad Sulaiman of Gurui village used to stalk Ruma Akter, 15, a class nine student of Nikli High School of the same village.

On the day, at around 10.00am Towhid waylaid Ruma near her house and forcibly picked her up on a microbus while she was going to school. Hearing the hue and cry, locals rushed to the spot. They rescued Ruma, confined stalker Towhid and handed him over to police. However, the micro driver hurriedly fled the scene with the microbus.

Police later seized the micro in Hilchia area in the upazila yesterday noon.

In Dinajpur, the prime

accused in class V schoolboy Pyash abduction case was arrested early Monday after four months into the incident in Birganj upazila of the district, reports our correspondent.

Police and family members of the victim said, the boy was freed on payment of Tk. 1,00,000 as ransom.

Arrestee Md. Momotaz Ali, 20, is son of Abdul Moteen of village Dabra Shalbari of Birganj upazila.

Birganj police said, a team led by Md. Shajahan, sub-inspector and also investigation officer of the case, on Monday morning raided the residence of Momotaz and arrested him.

Sources said Pyash was abducted on October 7 last year soon after his father left him at his school in the upazila. The abductors later demanded Tk. 10 lakh as ransom. Three days after, Pyash was freed on payment of Tk. 1 lakh as ransom, said police.

POST-POLL VIOLENCE

Habiganj BNP men get interim bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Sylhet

A BNP-backed candidate and 67 leaders and activists of BNP on Monday were granted ad-interim bail by the High Court in three cases filed in connection with January 19 clash with police at Nabiganj municipality of Habiganj.

The clash took place as the lawmen went into action to stop the opposition men from holding rallies to protest alleged irregularities during the municipal polls on the day before.

At least 40 were injured in the three-hour clash while police lobbed 15 tear gas shells and fired 30 rubber bullets to bring the situation under control on January 19.

Police later filed three cases accusing over a thousand of violating electoral code of conduct, attack on the police and vandalising police van during the attack on Nabiganj police station.

A total of 25 activists were injured in fresh clash on the following day.

Meantime, areas like Rajnagar, Rajabad, Haripur, Kanaipur and Salamatpur in



Nabiganj municipality wore a deserted look as the male people fled their homes apprehending police action, locals said.

Abdus Shahid Golap, senior vice-president of Nabiganj upazila BNP, also a mayor contestant, was made the prime accused while names of 90 other opposition activists were on the list of accused.

Golap, defeated by AL's Tofazzal Islam Chowdhury by 112 votes, however, alleged that the ruling party men had snatched away some ballot papers from Government Primary School Centre.

"Although I had won the polls by over 300 votes, the ruling party activists took control of the centre forcibly and reversed the results after an hour of announcement of the results there", Golap claimed.

Sources said, results of the councillorship of ward 9 are still suspended as 100 ballot papers went missing from the same centre.