

Brutality of fake *kabiraj* in the name of treatment

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

With serious face injuries caused due to 'boiled water treatment' by a fake *kabiraj* (herbal practitioner), Shilpi Khatun of Khetupara village in Santhia upazila under Pabna district is groaning in pain at the upazila health complex.

The accused, Ismail Mollah, 55, of Hasanpur village in the upazila, forcibly put Shilpi's face into the boiled water when she went to him for treatment on May 31, the victim told the journalists.

"I went to the house of the *kabiraj* for treatment of severe stomach ache from which I was suffering for two weeks. In the name of treatment, the *kabiraj* held my hair and forcibly put my face into the boiled water. I started screaming and fainted," said Shilpi, 24.

Hearing her scream, locals rushed to the spot and rescued her, the victim's family members said, adding that her face and eyes got burnt due to the so-called treatment.

As Shilpi's condition deteriorated, she was admitted to Santhia upazila health complex on June 1, they said.

Blaming the fake *kabiraj* for brutality in the name of treatment, Dr Md Monsurul Islam, upazila

health and family planning officer, said, "We are giving treatment to cure the injuries on her whole face, caused by boiled water. She is improving. After cure of the burn injuries, she will need more treatment for removal of the burn spots on the face."

Shilpi's family filed a case with Santhia police station accusing the *kabiraj* of

attempting to kill the victim in the name of treatment.

"We are continuing drives to nab accused *kabiraj* Ismail Mollah who left the village after the incident," Santhia police station officer in charge SM Bazlur Rashid said.

Shilpi, daughter of labourer Md Hanif of village Khetupara, was married off five years ago. But her hus-

band later married another woman and she returned to her father's residence and continued living there.

"The poor family does not have the ability to continue the treatment for burn injuries. We are giving medicine from the hospital. If more medicines are needed, we will try to manage it with the help of poor fund of the hospital," Dr Monsur said.



Shilpi Khatun, victim of 'boiled water treatment' by a fake *kabiraj*, take treatment at Santhia upazila health complex in Pabna district.

Hectic poll campaign at Ghoraghata municipality

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Election fever has gripped Ghoraghata municipality as candidates contesting in the first-ever election are trying every trick to woo the voters.

The election will be held on June 12.

The candidates have launched numerous campaigns including public meetings, door to door visits and shows of strength through cavalcades.

The municipal area is riddled with 'patriotic' songs and slogans in favour of the candidates while posters, banners and hoardings at every hook and corner have given it a festive look.

The municipality was established in 2005 but since then there has been no elected mayor or councillor.

Ten candidates are contesting for one mayor post, 74 for nine councillor posts and 14 women for three reserved female posts in the elections.

BNP backed candidate Md. Abdus Sattar, president of Pouro BNP, AL backed candidate Md. Shahjahan Mia, general secretary of Pouro AL and Jatiya Party backed candidate Arifuzzaman Mia will contest for the mayoral post. The others are independent candidates.

There are 14,076 voters under Ghoraghata municipality, who will cast their votes through nine polling centres.

"Tight security measures will be taken on the election day at Ghoraghata," said Maksuda Begum Shiddiqi, UNO of Ghoraghata upazila.

Man killed over land dispute in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gaibandha

A man was killed by his neighbour over land dispute at Roalia village in Gobindaganj upazila Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Ruhul Amin of the village.

Officer-in-Charge of Gobindaganj Police Station Abu Akkas Ahmed said Tipu Mia, neighbour of Ruhul Amin, along with his men attacked Ruhul's house and vandalised valuables following a dispute over possession of a land.

They beat up several people including house owner Ruhul Amin, leaving them injured.

Later, Ruhul succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital. Police arrested three people in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR
Police seal off a godown for hoarding 612 sacks of fertiliser illegally by an authorised dealer at Gorea Hat in Thakurgaon town on Monday evening.

Huge fertiliser seized in Thakurgaon

Godown sealed for hoarding, dealer goes into hiding

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon

More than 600 sacks of fertiliser were seized from a dealer shop at Gorea Hat of the district town on Monday evening.

The shop has been sealed off for hoarding fertiliser illegally, assistant commissioner (land) Shahedul Islam who led the mobile court said.

Assistant commissioner (land) Shahedul Islam and police said an authorised fertiliser dealer for Shukanpukhuri union under Sadar upazila Mizanur Rahman hoarded 612 sacks fertiliser in his

shop 'Moushumi Traders' at Gorea market.

Earlier people besieged the shop in the morning as it was selling fertiliser at higher prices although it bought it at previous rate.

Agitated people then asked the dealer to explain the reason.

As Mizanur failed to give satisfactory answer, they informed upazila nirbahi officer Touhidul Islam over cell phone.

The UNO asked executive magistrate, also assistant commissioner (land) Shahedul Islam and upazila agriculture extension officer Moskar Ali to investigate the matter.

Immediately, a team along with forces, raided the godown of the shop in the area at around 6:30pm and found 612 sacks of fertiliser in it.

AC land Shahedul Islam said 640 sacks of fertiliser were drawn on 26 May at previous rate.

The fertiliser was supposed to be kept at the dealer's godown at Shukanpukhuri union. But it was transferred to Gorea market in a bid to sell at higher prices, he said.

Owner of the shop Mizanur Rahman fled the scene but his manager Shahidul Islam was arrested.

DEATH OF DOMESTIC HELP IN KHULNA

Police pick up doctor couple for quizzing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Khulna

Police picked up two senior physicians of Khulna Shishu Hospital yesterday morning for interrogation in connection with the death of domestic help Tushni.

The physicians picked up from their residence in Mujguni residential area under Khalishpur police station are child specialists Dr. M. Abdullah and his wife Umme Salma Shammi.

They beat up several people including house owner Ruhul Amin, leaving them injured.

Later, Ruhul succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital. Police arrested three people in this connection.

neighbours of the two physicians.

Police quoted local people as saying that Tushni was brought from Sirajganj district five months ago to serve as domestic help at the residence of the physicians.

Dr. Umme Salma Shammi used to physically torture the girl off and on for minor faults. On Monday midnight, the domestic help was beaten up with a hammer, police said quoting neighbours.

Angry people of Mujguni residential area attacked the residence of the physicians after police recovered the body of the domestic help.

The physicians said that they had never physically tortured the girl. The girl committed suicide, they said.

pelting stones and heavy bricks.

Hundreds of angry people besieged the house demanding arrest of the physicians, police said.

AUD case was filed with Khalishpur police station at 2pm in this connection. Sub-inspector Debabrata Ray has been assigned to investigate the incident.

Contacted with Khalishpur police, they said both the physicians denied the allegation of their involvement in the unnatural death of the domestic help.

The physicians said that they had never physically tortured the girl. The girl committed suicide, they said.

Trees felled, tube-well sold for 'building mosque' at KJRI

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kishoreganj

Trees worth around Tk 5 lakh at Kishoreganj Jute Research Institution (KJRI), also an old deep tube-well have been sold illegally in the name of mosque construction at the institute.

KJRI's senior scientific officer Enayetur Rahman Chowdhury allegedly took the decision to sell the 18 trees of the institute to a timber trader.

While visiting the area on Monday, this correspondent found one Abu Bakar of Sogra area in Sadar upazila

they said adding, even he sold a deep tube-well in the name of constructing the mosque.

Contacted, Enayetur Rahman told this correspondent over cell phone that he had the authority to chop tree branches and he sold several tree branches worth around Tk 12 thousand.

"Of the amount, I will give Tk 10 thousand to mosque committee and by tree saplings with the rest of the money", he added.

However, he admitted that a 'dying' tree was also sold which needed permission from the authorities concerned.

Enayetur Rahman also said that he sold an 'old' tube-well of the institute for Tk 25 thousand to start construction of the mosque.

Contacted, Md Kamal Uddin, director general of the Jute Research Institute, said that he was not aware about selling of trees.

None has the right to sell trees without the permission of the authority concerned, he said.

A probe team will be formed soon to look into the incident, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Three felled trees lying in the compound of Kishoreganj Jute Research Institution. Senior scientific officer sold 18 trees of the institution illegally in the name of constructing a mosque on the campus.