

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 kobiraj (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 kobiraj for treatment of severe stomach ache from which I was suffering for two weeks. In the name of treatment, the kobiraj 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 kobiraj 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 kobiraj of

attempting to kill the victim in the name of treatment.

"We are continuing drives to nab accused kobiraj 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.



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

Shrimp enclosure owner killed

UNB, Khulna

A shrimp enclosure owner was killed allegedly by his staff at Beel Pabla village in Dumuria upazila early Monday.

The deceased was identified as Shaheen Band, 34, son of Kawsar Band of Deyana Southpara of Doulatpur of Khulna metropolitan area.

Police and locals said, Shaheen went to bed with his two staffs in the shrimp enclosure on Sunday at 10 pm.

Hearing his cry for help at about 1 am, locals took him to Khulna Medical College Hospital where attending doctors declared him dead. The doctors informed that an iron rod was found in Shaheen's chest.

Officer-in-charge of Dumuria PS Abdul Jalil said, the murder might be a sequel to an early incident as Shaheen slapped one of his staff, Aslam, of Shahos village of Dumuria upazila.

Two shops gutted in Natore

UNB, Natore

Fire gutted a motor parts shop and a motorbike garage at Singra of Natore early Monday.

Fire service personnel and locals said the fire broke out at Talukder Motors and Habib Motor Cycle Garage near Singra bus stand area at 1:30 am on Monday.

When the fire fighters reached the spot the shop owners assaulted them. Later, the fire fighters with the help of police managed to douse the fire.

Fire fighters said the accident might have taken place due to an electric short circuit. The shop owners said the incident might be pre-planned.

JUNE 12 GALACHIPA MUNICIPALITY POLL

AL has 3 candidates, BNP, Jamaat 1 each

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Patuakhali

Three candidates from the ruling Awami League (AL) are contesting for the mayoral post in June 12 Galachipa municipality polls while BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami set separate candidates.

Candidates from the AL are incumbent Mayor Abdul Ohab Khalifa, also vice president of the upazila unit of AL, Mainul Islam Rono, secretary of Galachipa town unit of AL, and Mamun Azad, member of upazila unit of Jubo League.

Upazila AL has been divided into two factions for long -- one led by ruling party lawmaker from Patuakhali-3 (Galachipa-Dashmina) Golam Molla Rony and the other led by upazila AL President Harun-or-Rashid, also the chairman of upazila parishad.

Abdul Ohab Khalifa is

backed by the upazila AL president while Mamun Azad is known as an adherent of the local lawmaker.

Mainul Islam Rono is contesting as a 'neutral' candidate.

Lawmaker Golam Molla Rony, however, said, "I have no personal candidate in the municipal polls and I will not use influence for anybody. Local people will elect their leader freely and the winner will work as the true public representative."

Upazila AL President Harun-or-Rashid said they tried to set single candidate in the polls from the party but failed.

He expressed hope that local people will elect incumbent Mayor Ohab Khalifa in view of his activities during his tenure.

Meanwhile, grass roots level AL activists have expressed concern as

party leaders also divided into three parts and working separately for three candidates that may harm to the party.

On the other hand, the main opposition BNP set Abu Taleb Mia, also former mayor for the municipality, as single candidate for the mayoral post and all party leaders and activists are working together to win in the upcoming municipal polls.

"We are trying to regain the mayoral post and so, we are united in the election work," said Shahjahan Khan, president of upazila BNP.

Professor Shah Alam, secretary of Patuakhali district unit of Jamaat-e-Islami, is taking part in the mayoral election as candidate from the party.

There are 11,420 voters under Galachipa municipality.

Hectic poll campaign at Ghoraghat municipality

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Election fever has gripped Ghoraghat 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. Shajahan 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 Ghoraghat municipality, who will cast their votes through nine polling centres.

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

Man killed over land dispute in Gaibandha

UNB, 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 cellphone.

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 Tushti.

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

'According to police, Tushti' was beaten to death on Monday midnight at the residence of the couple.

The body was recovered from the girl's bedroom by police on receipt of information from

neighbours of the two physicians.

Police quoted local people as saying that Tushti 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 Mujgunni residential area attacked the residence of the physicians after police recovered the body of domestic help.

The attackers caused extensive damage to the two-storied building by

pelting stones and heavy bricks.

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

A UD 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 Enayatur 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 Bakkar of Sagra area in Sadar upazila

felling the trees.

Bakkar said 12 'mahogani', three 'acacia' and three 'manjuri' trees were sold to timber trader Chan Mia who started chopping the trees on Wednesday.

A few staff of the institute, seeking anonymity, alleged that each tree would be worth Tk 30 thousand and total price of 18 trees would be more than Tk 5 lakh.

But Enayatur Rahman Chowdhury himself sold those trees for donating Tk 10 thousand to the mosque,

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

Contacted, Enayetur Rahman told this correspondent over cellphone 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 permis-

sion 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.