

HUNDREDS FALL SICK AFTER TAKING *Khichuri* AT URS

3 killed in food poisoning, 23 still in critical condition

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Three people died in last two days while at least 23 others are still in critical condition due to food poisoning after taking *khichuri* at an Urs (religious congregation) in Saidpur upazila of Nilphamari district on Sunday morning.

Around 2,000 people were attacked with diarrhoea after taking *khichuri* made of rice, pulse, vegetables and beef at the Urs held at the shrine of Pir Daud Ali Khandakar at Aish Dhal village of Kamar Pukur union in Saidpur upazila, said officials.

Selim, 7, son of Budaru Mamud of Purbo Aishdhal village in Saidpur upazila of Nilphamari, and Surovi, 5, daughter of Sharifuddin of Sontoshpur village in Badarganj upazila of

Rangpur, died on Monday while, Akkas Ali, 33, of Kacharipara in Sayedpur died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital yesterday.

"Excessive dehydration caused death of Selim and Akkas. Of the 90 people now undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital, condition of 23 is critical," said Toufiqul Islam, director of Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

People caught diarrhoea after eating the food that was served long after preparation and kept in banned polythene bags, said Dr Abdul Mazid, civil surgeon of Nilphamari.

"In general, conditions of the patients are improving. A mobile medical team is working in the area and giving treatment door to door," he said.

Fazlul Haque Tansen, resident medical officer of Nilphamari Sadar Modern Hospital, set up eight medical camps in the affected villages while Moazzem Hossain, medical officer of Sayedpur Hospital, 10 others.

People from 15 villages of Saidpur upazila and Badarganj and Targanj upazilas of Rangpur attended the Urs held at Aish Dhal on Saturday night, locals said. In the next morning, the organisers distributed *khichuri* among about 10,000 people who attended the programme.

Many of them shared the food with their family members considering it 'sacred'.

But after taking the *khichuri*, many people had vomiting with loose motion from Sunday night.

Villages with larger num-

ber of affected people are Aish Dhal, Kamarpukur, Pirpara, Haji Para Hajirbottola, Thakur Para, Nijbari, Kacharipara, Jeje Para, Doctor Para, Kaji Pukur of Kamarpukur union of Sayedpur and Santoshpur village of Badarganj upazila of Rangpur.

The organisers started cooking the food Saturday noon and distributed it Sunday dawn but sons of Pir Daud Khandakar Abdul Mannan and Abdul Baten were not found in the area since the diarrhoea breakout, locals said.

Sirajul Islam, resident medical officer of Saidpur 50-bed Hospital, said, "A large number of patients from different villages started thronging the hospital on Monday morning. Within a short time, diarrhoea patients filled the hospital. Most of them were lying on the floor. We sent 30 patients to Rangpur Medical College Hospital as their condition was more serious."

Around 300 people took treatment at the hospital. Most of them were released yesterday morning as their condition improved.

Several patients with severe condition were referred to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, said the director of Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

The Nilphamari district administration formed a two-member inquiry team comprising upazila nirbahi officer and upazila health and family planning officer of Saidpur to probe the incident of widespread food poisoning.

22 Satkhira killing grounds, mass graves now hardly recognisable

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

Twenty-two killing grounds and mass graves in the district, bearing testimony to the barbaric massacres by the Pakistan occupation forces during the 1971 Liberation War, are now hardly recognisable to visitors as the authorities concerned have failed to take any initiative to preserve those.

Left neglected even after 40 years of independence, almost all of the killing grounds, locally known as *badyabhumis*, have lost their visible marks, locals said.

Not only that, most of the killing grounds have already been grabbed by local influential people.

After the independence, skeletons, bones and skulls of a large number of people killed by Pak occupation forces were recovered from these killing grounds and mass graves.

As the Pakistan army started massacre of the freedom-loving people of this country in March 1971, thousands of people from different areas took shelter at Satkhira Town High School and adjoining areas, considering it a safe place.

On April 20, Pak army attacked the area, killed around 1500 people and buried them in mass graves at Katia in the town, locals said.

On April 26, 1971 the Pak army opened fire on a large number of people who gathered near Jhhowdanga Bazaar in Sadar upazila on their way to India in fear of life.

Over two thousand massacred people, mostly



PHOTO: STAR

NEGLIGENCE UNFORGIVABLE! A mass grave of people killed by the Pakistan occupation army at Muralikati Palpara in Kalaroa upazila of Satkhira district during the Liberation War lies in utter neglect in absence of authorities' initiative for its preservation.

women and children, were buried in a cropland at Jhowdanga.

Nine potters, killed by Pakistani soldiers on April 28 at Sreepatipur Palpara village in Kalaroa upazila, were buried at Sreepatipur.

Eleven freedom fighters including Subedar Shamsul Alam sacrificed their lives in a fierce fighting with the Pak occupation army at Bhomra in Sadar upazila.

On June 12, valiant freedom fighters killed at least 59 Pakistani soldiers in a fierce fight at Town Sreepur in Debhata upazila. Eight freedom fighters including Shamsuzzoha Kajal, Nazmul Arefin, Narayan Dhar and Abul Kalam Azad borrowed martyrdom in the dreadful fight. The martyred were buried at Town Sreepur.

On July 27, twelve freedom fighters were killed in a

fierce fighting with Pakistani Army at Narayanpur in Kaliganj upazila.

Zobeda Begum, 70, of Narayanpur village told this correspondent that her sister-in-law Ayesha Khatun buried the bodies in a bush near their house at Narayanpur.

On August 14, five freedom fighters including Subedar Elias Ali, Kalam and Abdul Kader were killed in a fierce fighting with Pakistani army at Gopalnagar in Shyamnagar upazila and they were buried there the following day.

Three people including freedom fighter Manoranjan were killed by criminals at Keargati in Assasuni upazila on August 16 and they were buried at Keargati.

Pakistan army and their local collaborator rajakars killed over two hundred people in Kalaroa upazila

and buried them at Kalaroa football ground, Sonabaria, Panchnal, Bamankhali, Bhadiali, Chandanpur, Khordo and Madra killing grounds.

The Pak occupation forces killed several hundred people near Bakal Bridge and in Mahmudpur and Sultanpur areas of Sadar upazila and buried them there.

Local freedom fighters and common people have demanded proper steps for preservation of the 22 identified mass graves where martyred freedom fighters were buried.

Memorials should be built at the mass graves of the martyred freedom fighters to keep memory of the heroic sons of the soil alive in the mind of future generations, said Abu Bakar Siddique, commander of Satkhira Sadar upazila unit of Muktijoddha Sangsad.



PHOTO: STAR

Victims of serious food poisoning after taking *khichuri* at an Urs (religious congregation) at Aish Dhal village in Saidpur upazila of Nilphamari district receive treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital yesterday.

অভিনন্দন, সাহসী কিংবদন্তি!

আপনার সম্মানে আমাদের সন্তুষ্টি!



সিঙ্গার - চ্যানেল আই সাহসিকতা পুরস্কার



পুরস্কার বিতরণী পর্ব শেষে (বাঁ দিক থেকে) চ্যানেল আই-এর ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক ফরিদুর রেজা সাগর, সিঙ্গার বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড-এর ম্যানেজিং ডিরেক্টর অ্যাড সিইও এ. এম. হামিম রাহমাতুল্লাহ, পীযুষ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়, মনসুর আহমেদ চৌধুরী, সৈয়দ গালিবুল সাদ্দাম, মোঃ শহীদ মিয়া, মোঃ চান মিয়া এবং মরহুম মিজানুর রহমান-এর স্ত্রী রাজিলা সুলতানা।



নিষ্ঠীক কিংবদন্তি (PHYSICAL BRAVERY) জনাব মোঃ চান মিয়া: নিঃস্বার্থভাবে নিজের জীবন বাজি রেখে মানুষকে রক্ষা বা উদ্ধার করার সাহসিকতা দেখিয়েছেন যিনি।



সামক কিংবদন্তি (SOCIAL BRAVERY) জনাব মিজানুর রহমান (মরণোত্তর): সমাজ উপকৃত হয়েছে যার সাহসিকতায়, ইভটিজিং-এর প্রতিবাদ করার সাহস দেখিয়ে যিনি নিজের জীবন উৎসর্গ করেছেন।



দৃষ্ট কিংবদন্তি (PHYSICAL BRAVERY - POLICE) ট্রাফিক কনস্টেবল জনাব মোঃ শহীদ মিয়া: বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ বাহিনীর সদস্য যিনি পেশাগত দায়িত্বের উর্ধে উঠে অনন্য সাহসিকতা দেখিয়েছেন।



আজীবন সম্মাননা (LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD) জনাব মনসুর আহমেদ চৌধুরী: যিনি সারাজীবন নিজের মেধা, শ্রম আর আত্মত্যাগের মাধ্যমে মানুষ ও সমাজের উন্নয়নে নিঃস্বার্থভাবে কাজ করে এক অনন্য দৃষ্টান্ত স্থাপন করেছেন।



সীমায় অসীম (MIND OF STEEL) জনাব সৈয়দ গালিবুল সাদ্দাম: মুহূর্ত নিশ্চিত জেনেও জীবন যুদ্ধে জয়ী হবার জন্যে নিরন্তর যুদ্ধ করে সাহসী দৃষ্টান্ত স্থাপন করেছেন।



সিঙ্গার ২০১১ সালের সাহসী কিংবদন্তিদের জানাচ্ছে অভিনন্দন!

"সিঙ্গার - চ্যানেল আই সাহসিকতা পুরস্কার: কিংবদন্তি"-এর পাঁচটি ক্যাটাগরিতে পুরস্কৃত পাঁচজন সাহসী কিংবদন্তিকে স্বীকৃতি ও সম্মাননা জানাতে পেরে আমরা গর্বিত। গত ১ ডিসেম্বর, ২০১১ সোনারগাঁও হোটলে আড়ম্বরপূর্ণ গ্যাং ফিনালে-তে প্রত্যেকের হাতে ক্রেস্ট ও দুই লক্ষ টাকার চেক তুলে দেন সিঙ্গার বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড-এর ম্যানেজিং ডিরেক্টর অ্যাড সিইও এ. এম. হামিম রাহমাতুল্লাহ এবং চ্যানেল আই-এর ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক ফরিদুর রেজা সাগর।

সাহসিকতা পুরস্কার ২০১২-এর প্রস্তুতি নিন:
আগামী বছরের "সিঙ্গার - চ্যানেল আই সাহসিকতা পুরস্কার: কিংবদন্তি"-এর জন্য বাংলাদেশের সব প্রান্ত থেকে জাতি-ধর্ম-বর্ণ-পেশা নির্বিশেষে সব নারী-পুরুষের মাঝ থেকে নিঃস্বার্থভাবে মানুষের কল্যাণে দুঃসাহসী কাজ করেছেন এমন মানুষকে খুঁজছি আমরা।

SINGER
AT HOME WORLDWIDE