

# 428 arsenicosis patients detected in B'baria

Over 62 thousand of 1,45,250 tube-wells in the district contaminated with arsenic

SHEIKH MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Brahmanbaria

At least 428 people have been detected with arsenicosis, a slow poisoning disease leading to various complications, as massive arsenic contamination affects underground drinking water in different areas of the district.

Of the over 1,45,250 tube-wells installed in nine upazilas of the district to lift water from underground, 62,119 tube wells were painted red till June 2013 as they raw arsenic-contaminated water, says records of the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) in Brahmanbaria.

"Arsenicosis affects liver, kidney, heart and skin. It also makes dark pimple on the skin and after a period of time the spots turn into severe ulcers," said Dr Farhad Hossain Muhammad Shahed, senior consultant of medicine of Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

"People must avoid the drinking of arsenic contaminated water. Eating balanced diet, small fishes, vitamins and vegetables, can reduce the effect of arsenic," he said.

A large number of people have continued drinking arsenic affected water from red-marked tube-wells as they have hardly any alternative.

According to the report of DPHE, Nabinagar and Bancharampur upazilas are largely affected with arsenic.

"We have to drink arsenic-mixed water as not a single tube-well in the village is free from the

contamination," said Md Humayun Kabir, a resident of Bitghar village of Nabinagar upazila.

Sohrab Uddin Ahmed, executive engineer of DPHE, said, "Excessive use of underground water for irrigation through shallow and deep tube-wells is the main cause of arsenic contamination. If alternative arrangement for irrigation water is not made, the layer of ordinary tube-well water will totally be contaminated with arsenic in future when people will have to depend on only deep tube-wells of drinking water."

To ensure safe drinking water, some deep tube-wells have already been installed in some areas and the work is going on, he added.

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PHOTO: STAR

Torture victim Shimul, now undergoing treatment at Aditmari Upazila Health Complex in Lalmonirhat district, breaks down in tears as he narrates his torment to The Daily Star correspondent yesterday.

## Brutally tortured for stealing cucumber, 2 kids land in hospital

### Accused village doctor held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Victim of merciless torture for stealing a cucumber, two primary schoolboys are groaning in pain at Aditmari Upazila Health Complex in the district.

Police arrested Shafirul Islam Badal, 38, owner of the cucumber field at Taluk Palashi village of Palashi union in Aditmari upazila, on Tuesday night after maternal uncle of one of the victims filed a case against him that evening.

Badal, also a village doctor, beat to unconsciousness Shimul Islam, 9, son of Azizul Islam, and Khairul Islam, 8, son of Abdul Hakim of Taluk Palashi village, as they plucked a cucumber from his field on Monday noon, police quoted the locals and the victim boys as saying.

Shimul and Khairul are Class III and Class II students of local Nityananda Government Primary School. The arrested village doctor's family members said the two boys were given a 'little punishment' for stealing cucumber.

The plaintiff of the case, Shimul's maternal uncle Mazibar Rahman said, "I lodged the case against Shariful Islam as he brutally tortured the two schoolboys over a little offence. The two boys' parents work as day labourers in Dhaka."

Aditmari Police Station officer in charge Aslam Iqbal said they will prepare a charge sheet in this connection as soon as possible.

"We begged pardon,

but the field owner mercilessly beat us with bamboo sticks on the field at least for 20 minutes until we lost sense," said a weeping Shimul Islam, as this correspondent met him at the hospital yesterday noon.

"During the torture, we cried piteously but none came to our rescue," said another victim Khairul.

The two boys' heads, legs, hands and backs bear marks of serious beating, said Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, resident medical officer of Aditmari Upazila Health Complex.

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As the two boys were left senseless under the sun, locals admitted them to Aditmari Upazila Health Complex.

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### Kid abducted in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A four-year-old boy was abducted in Chatmohar upazila of the district yesterday.

The victim, Md Abdullah Al Nur, son of Md Abul Hossain of Shalikha village was picked up by a gang while he was playing in front of

their house in the morning.

The reason behind the abduction of the kid could not be known as of 5:00pm yesterday.

Officer-in-Charge Subrata Kumar Sarkar of Chatmohar Police Station said they are trying to rescue the boy.

### জরুরী ভিত্তিতে ফ্যাক্টরী বিক্রয়

চাকার অন্দরে মতিবিল থেকে ২৫ কিমি: দূরতে সম্পূর্ণ চালু অবস্থায় একটি লাইজেন্স পিলি ওভেন্যু ব্যাগ ও গ্রাহ্যীয় জরুরী ভিত্তিতে জমিসহ বিক্রয় করা হচ্ছে। মালিক বিদেশগামী। বিত্তান্তিত তথ্যের জন্য প্রত্যুত্ত ব্যবসায়ীগণ মোবাইল করুন। মোবাইল: ০১৯১৫৪২৭৩৮৫

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PROCUREMENT & LOGISTIC SUPPORT DIRECTORATE

Ref: DACPF/INTL TENDER/035/2013-2014 DATED: 24-JUN-2014

### INTERNATIONAL TENDER

Sealed tender is hereby invited for supplying following item to Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd.

S/N	TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY
01.	DACPF/INTL TENDER/035/2013-2014 DT. 24-JUN-2014	HAJU BAG/KIT WITH FOLLOWING ITEMS: Kits (i) SHOE BAG WITH A POCKET (ii) PRAYER MAT (iii) TOSHB (MANUAL COUNTER)	55,000

Tender schedule with detailed specification, terms & conditions will be available at price of BDT. 2,500.00 (BDT. two thousand five hundred) only or equivalent US Dollar per set (non-refundable) from Manager Accounts Cash & Banking, Balaka, Head Office, Kurmitola, Dhaka and in Biman's outstation in Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Dubai, London, Rome, Delhi & New York on cash payment during all working days up to 14-JUL-2014. A formal application in bidder's letterhead pad mentioning tender number and date shall be required for purchasing the tender schedule. Tender schedule and other related information may also be viewed at Biman's website [www.biman-airlines.com](http://www.biman-airlines.com). Last date for submission of tender/offer is 15-JUL-2014 at 1100 hrs (LT).

Manager (Commercial Purchase)

GD-2640

Manager (Commercial Purchase)

GD-2628

# Father, two sons to die for murder in Netrakona

Man gets life for killing wife in C'nawabganj

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A Netrakona court yesterday sentenced a man and his two sons to death for killing a man at Mirzapur village in Atpara upazila of the district in 2005, reports our correspondent.

Those who have been awarded death penalty are Abdur Rahim, 50, and his sons Mokhles, 30, and Julhas, 32 of the village.

According to the prosecution, Sайдур رহمن, son of Faizur Rahman of the village, was hacked to death by Abdur Rahim and his two sons as a sequel to previous enmity near his house on February 28, 2005.

Victim's father filed a

murder case with Atpara Police Station on March 1, 2005, accusing Abdur Rahim and his two sons.

After investigation, police submitted a charge sheet against the three to Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court on May 31 the same year.

According to the prosecution, Sайдур رহمن, son of Faizur Rahman of the village, was hacked to death by Abdur Rahim and his two sons as a sequel to previous enmity near his house on February 28, 2005.

Later, victim's brother filed a case against Mahbul with Sadar Police Station. After examining witnesses and evidence, Additional District Judge Abdus Salam Khan handed down the verdict.

In Chapainawabganj, a court here yesterday sentenced man to life imprisonment for killing his wife in Sadar upazila in 2007, according to UNB.

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