

Mazar mushrooms to exploit innocent Pabna villagers

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

A recently set up so-called *mazar* (shrine) at Khetupara village of Sujanagar upazila under the district sees thronging of hundreds of diseased people who donate money for healing with the help of the 'mystical spirit' there.

Omar Kazi and his sister Hafiza Begum established the so-called shrine at their Khetupara village home early this year.

"This is grave of Hyder Ali, an oli (Muslim saint) who lived 300 years ago. Once I was ordered in a dream to make a *mazar* here," Hafiza Bagum told this correspondent.

"As we delayed the work, my son Ruhul Kazi died without any disease last year. And so, I built the *mazar* early this year," Omar Kazi said.

On the other hand, villager Md Nurul Islam said, "They suddenly constructed the mazar here. We did not know about the existence of any oli's grave at the village earlier."

After establishment of the *mazar*, people started thronging here to take soil as mystical medicine for all diseases but the practice of eating soil stopped amid protest from conscious people, said Md Abdul Mannan Manu, a local.

"We are now giving rice as mystical medicine from the *mazar*. Hundreds of people from different areas come to here every Friday with hope to get cured," Hafiza said.

"We do not force anybody to give donation but the people who get benefit donate money or other things. Tk 4 to 5 thousand is collected

every Friday," Omar Kazi said.

Visiting the spot last Friday, this correspondent found people of different ages putting money into a box there.

"I am suffering from mental problem. I heard that the special medicine of the *mazar* cures diseases," said Nurunnahar Begum, an elderly woman of Mallikpara village of Sujanagar.

Md Robiul Islam, 60, of Borat village in Kashinathpur of Santhia upazila said he came for the second time to take medicine for ulcer as he felt better by taking it earlier.

Medicine specialist Prof Iftekhar Mahmud, principal of Kushtia Medical College, said, "There is no scientific basis of such treatment. Rather it poses risk due to lack of hygiene."

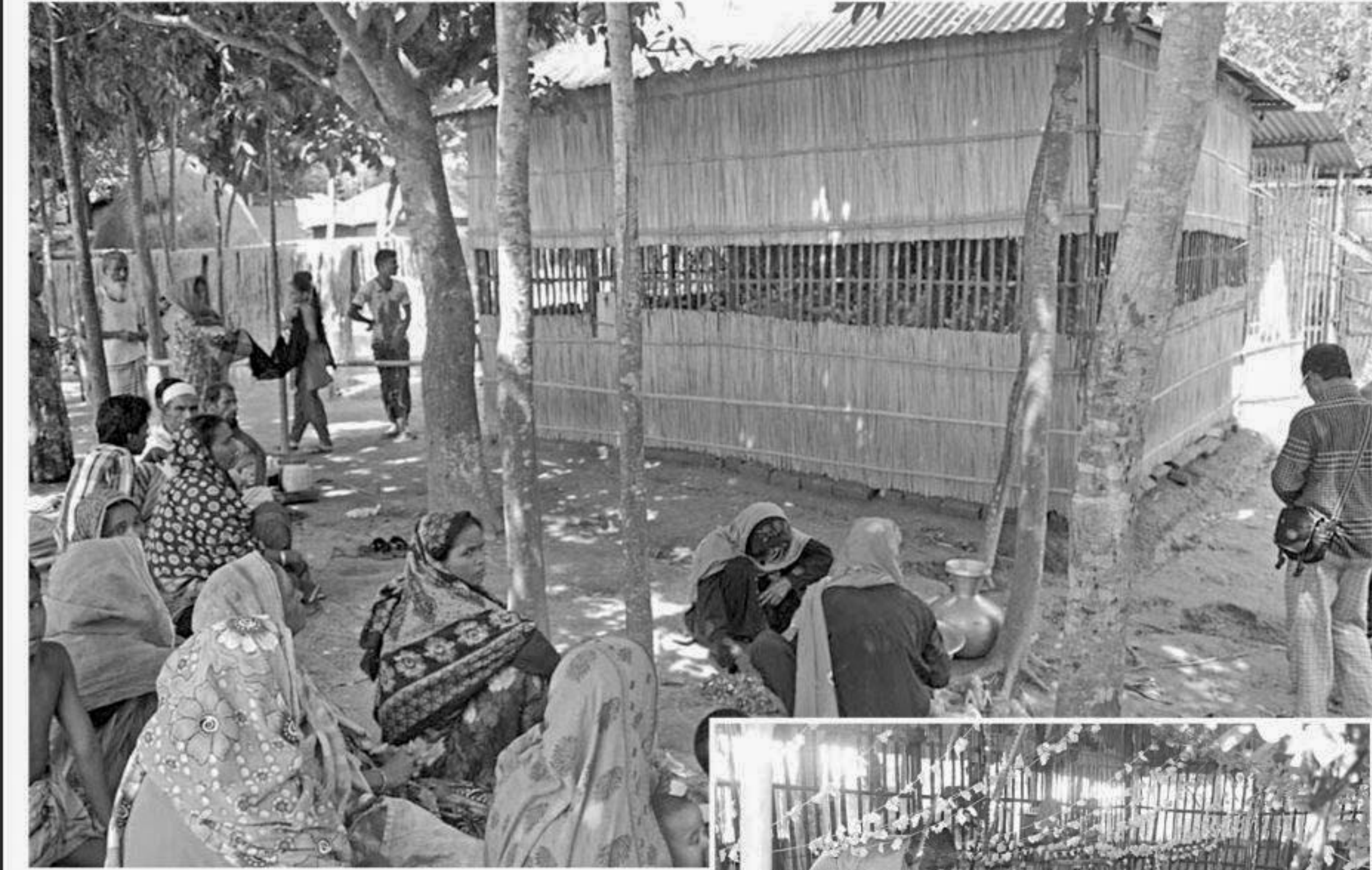


PHOTO: STAR

Treatment seekers throng the so-called *mazar* (shrine), set up a few months ago, at Khetupara village in Sujanagar upazila under Pabna district. Inset, an elderly person takes care of the *mazar* inside a bamboo enclosure.



Boy abducted for ransom killed

Teenage girl rescued after 10 days

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A schoolboy, who was abducted for Tk 10 lakh ransom in Pakundia upazila of Kishoreganj district three days ago, was found murdered in a jungle yesterday.

Police arrested one Sohag, Dalim and Dulal of Noyapara village in this connection, reports our correspondent.

The deceased is Sakibul

Islam Tutul, 10, son of Kamal Uddin of the village. He was a Class IV student at Abdul Majid Memorial Kindergarten.

On August 12, a gang picked up Tutul from Nayabazar area in the upazila while he was returning home from the school.

Later, the abductors demanded the money as ransom from his family over mobile phone.

Officer in-charge Zakir

Rabbani of Pakundia police station suspected that the boy was suffocated to death as his hands and legs were tied up.

Away in Nilphamari, police rescued a girl of Savar upazila in Dhaka from Boksha Para area in Kamarpukur union of Saidpur upazila on Wednesday, 10 days after her abduction.

They also arrested one Sadi, 21, of Savar, the prime

accused in the murder case, from the spot, reports our correspondent.

On August 4, a group of youths in a microbus abducted the 14-year-old girl from Ashulia area in Savar while she was returning home from a local coaching centre, said police.

The kidnappers took her to Boksha para area and demanded Tk 2 lakh ransom from the family over mobile phone.

Following an abduction case filed by the victim's father, Ashulia police arrested one Mohammad Ali, Milon and Nishat. During a primary interrogation, the arrestees disclosed the whereabouts of the girl.

On Wednesday night, the law enforcers raided one Aminul's house in Boksha Para area, rescued the girl and arrested the prime accused, said OC of Saidpur police station Shahidur Rahman.

Rain triggers flash flood

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Incessant rain flooded the low lands in the district yesterday, causing immense damage to hundreds of aman fields and fish farms.

Meanwhile, over 1000 families of Bus Station, Ganjapara, Muslimpara and Bangalkathi areas in Sadar upazila and Jamtali, Bowalkhali, Bacamarung and Hajachhara of Dighinala upazila were marooned by the floodwater. They took shelter on high lands and nearby school premises.

The rainfall in the last three days also suspended road communications between Khagrachhari-Feni and Khagrachhari-Chittagong and in different areas of Manikchhari and Ramgarh upazilas from Wednesday evening.

Patient dies as 'helper' carries out operation!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A young girl died due to excessive bleeding on Wednesday night at Sadar Hospital here allegedly as an OT (operation theatre) boy operated upon her at a local clinic.

The victim was identified as Rohida Begum, 22, daughter of Dabir Uddin of Jalpakhuri village in Boda upazila of Panchagrh.

Family members and hospital sources said, Rohida was admitted to Shusree Nursing Home in the town on Wednesday evening.

A helper at operation theatre (OT) carried out her abortion at about 7:30pm. As the bleeding was not controlled, the clinic authorities took the girl to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital at 9:30pm where she died around 10:00pm, sources said.

Superintendent of Police Foisal Mahmud told this correspondent over cell phone that he was aware about the matter and was taking necessary steps in this regard.

Clinic owner or manager of the clinic could not be contacted as they were not available. They also did not receive any call despite repeated attempts.

33 girls back home from Indian jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Thirty-three Bangladeshi teenage girls returned home on Wednesday night from India after languishing in jail for three years there.

Indian police handed the girls over to the Bangladeshi Immigration police authorities at Benapole check post around 8:30pm.

The returnees hailed from different areas of Khulna, Barisal, Dinaipur, Narail and Jessore districts.

Moniruzzaman officer in-charge of Benapole check post police immigration said, brokers took the young girls to India three and a half years back, alluring them of giving lucrative jobs there.



PHOTO: STAR

LOSS OF SCORES OF LIVES FAILS TO MAKE HIM REPENTANT: Abu Bakar Siddique, owner of Pinak-6 launch that sank in the Padma near Mawa in Munshiganj district on August 4 causing death of over a hundred people, gives a big smile while being taken to the Munshiganj Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday.

3 years over, Milon's parents still cry for justice

No charge sheet yet as 'cops involved'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Three years over, Companiganj police are yet to submit charge sheet in the sensational Milon murder case.

"They are delaying the process of submitting the charge sheet allegedly as some policemen are involved in the murder case," said Abul Kashem and Kohinoor Begum, parents of slain Shamsuddin Milon, 17, on the eve of his third death anniversary.

We continuously received threats from the accused in the case who is now on bail, alleged the family members of the deceased.

On July 27 in 2011, Milon was returning home after receiving Tk 14,000 by his father sent from abroad.

On the way, he went to Charkakra High School premises in Charkakra union of Companiganj upazila to meet his cousin Chumki, a Class VI student at the institu-



Shamsuddin Milon

tion.

While waiting in front of the school, UP member Md Jamal Uddin along with some villagers caught Milon, suspecting him a robber.

They beat up Milon mercilessly, leaving him dead on the spot and handed the body to police who kept it with five bodies of other robbers in front of the Companiganj police station.

After publication of a news over the issue in several newspapers, the

authorities suspended OC Rafique Ullah, SI Akram Uddin Sheikh, constables Abdur Rahim and Hema Ranjan Chakma of the police station and formed a body to investigate the incident.

Mysteriously all the four policemen were transferred to different parts of the country after formation of the probe body, said Milon's mother Kohinoor Begum.

Later, a case was filed with a court, accusing Charkakra UP member Jamal Uddin, Nizam Uddin Manik and 20 other unidentified people.

Three months after filing of the case, it was transferred to Detective Branch of police, said Kohinoor Begum.

Contacted, SP Elias Sharif said the process of submitting the charge sheet was taking some time 'to make justice'.

If the probe body found the four policemen guilty, they would be made accused in the case, he added.

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