



PHOTO: STAR

These two kids are among 34 people affected with an unknown disease, marked by thinning and weakening of hands or legs, at Khatiamari village in Fulchhari upazila under Gaibandha district.

# Mysterious disease in Gaibandha char village

Patients' hands or legs get thinner and weaker, 34 affected so far

K M REZAUL HOQUE, Gaibandha

A mysterious disease at remote Khatiamari village in the Jamuna River basin area of Fulchhari upazila under the district has become a matter of concern for locals and medical professionals.

Visiting the area last week, an eight-member team of specialists from Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) has detected 34 patients with the symptoms of the disease -- a portion of the skin turning whitish, and gradual

thinning and weakening of the arms or legs.

Most of the affected ones are children.

Primary investigation by the IEDCR team could not find out the cause and type of the disease.

The unknown disease first appeared after the last flood and the number of affected people continued to increase, especially during the last two months, locals said, adding that all available treatments from local physicians failed to cure or improve the patients' conditions.

"My six-year-old daughter Sufia Akhter has been attacked with the disease. Her arms became thinner and lost usual strength," said Khaibur Ali of Khatiamari char village.

"As more people are being affected with the unknown disease in the area, we informed the higher authorities for taking measures to check its spread," said Jainul Abedin Jalal, chairman of Fazlupur union parishad.

Dr Abu Hanif, Fulchhari upazila health and family planning officer, said suspecting leprosy, they tested

the blood and tissue of the patients but no symptom of it was found.

Last week, an eight-member team of IEDCR reached the affected areas and started investigation to find out the reason of the unknown disease but their primary investigation failed to identify it.

The team collected all relevant information and took samples of the patients' affected parts for better investigation in Dhaka, the upazila health officer said, referring to Dr Ferhana Huq, outbreak investigation officer of IEDCR.

## Abducted expat rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police rescued an expatriate from Shibganj upazila yesterday, 19 hours into his abduction.

The victim, Manik Hossain, 35, son of Abdur Rahman of Shitlai village in Kahaloo upazila, is an expatriate in United Arab Emirates.

Police also arrested three alleged abductors--Mina Khatun, 30, wife of Abdul Wahab, Yakub Ali, 50, son of late Mohammad Ali, of Pathan village and Masud Rana, 40, son of Selim Hasan of Dhankunja village in Nandigram upazila of the district, from the spot.

Quoting victim's family members, police said Mina lured Manik by saying that she wanted to sell a gold-made doll at a cheaper price as she desperately needed some money to meet her family expenses.

She first took Manik to her village home and later to Shibganj upazila. After reaching Shibganj around 3:00pm, her cohorts confined Manik to a room and phoned his family members demanding Tk 1 lakh ransom for his release.

Later, victim's family members sent the gang Tk 20 thousand to a bKash account and informed Nandigram police of the matter.

Police conducted a drive in Sangsardighi village in Shibganj, by tracking their cell phone number, and rescued Manik.

Victim's cousin Delwar Hossain filed a case with Nandigram Police Station, accusing the three arrestees and a few other unidentified people, said Hasan Shamim Iqbal, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Police later produced the arrestees before a court yesterday afternoon that sent them to jail, added the OC.

## Early marriage bid foiled, one jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A woman was jailed for one month by a mobile court at Monirambari area in Muktagachha upazila of the district on Sunday for trying to marry off her underage daughter.

She is Kulsum Begum, 30, wife of Mujibur Rahman of Monirambari.

Kulsum and her husband Mujibur Rahman arranged the marriage of their daughter, 13, a Class VI student of a local madrasa, to a youth of Sadar upazila of Jamalpur district, said Mahmudul Haque, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Muktagacha Police Station.

On information, police rushed to the spot and took the girl and her mother to the police station, but sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the girl's father and guests fled the scene.

Later, Kulsum was produced before the mobile court of Dr Umme Afsari Johra, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Muktagachha, who handed down the verdict.

## 150 turtles seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized 150 turtles of rare species from Mandartala Bazar area in Sadar upazila of Jessore district yesterday.

Md Jahangir Alam, in-charge of Jessore Rab-6 camp, said, tipped off that some rare species of turtles smuggled from India were being taken to Dhaka by a truck, a team of Rab conducted a drive in the area and intercepted the truck at about 12:30am.

## DB tasked

FROM PAGE 2

Relatives initially said they died after having food bought a day earlier from a restaurant.

However, according to the autopsy report, the children were murdered and there were marks of injuries on the bodies.

Suspicious arose as the parents without seeing the bodies at DMCH went to their village home. Relatives later took the bodies to Jamalpur.

The father, meanwhile, filed a case, accusing wife Mahfuza with Rampura Police Station.

## BNP follows the old pattern

FROM PAGE 16

On the day of the election schedule announcement, BNP vice-chairman Major (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, in advance, justified the unopposed elections of Khaleda and Tarique. Their popularity, as Hafizuddin claimed, was skyrocketing and therefore nobody would challenge them in the race for the two top posts.

How would the leaders for the other posts in the standing and national executive committees be elected now?

The party EC--led by Jamiruddin Sircar--has held back from announcing the schedule for elections to these other posts. The councilors cannot exercise their voting rights to elect the other leaders without the schedule. The ensuing council rather will be used to empower Khaleda Zia again to pick other office bearers to form the party's standing and national executive committees.

If the plan is successful, it will be a clear breach of the BNP's charter--the charter the party had adopted in 2008 to register as a parliamentary party with the Election Commission to be eligible to contest the gen-

eral election.

The Representation of the People Order (RPO) says a political party is to have a specific provision in the charter for the election of the members of the committees at all levels including members of the central committee.

The EC had introduced the political party registration system with specific terms and conditions to encourage the practice of democracy in the parties.

The charter empowers the BNP national council consisting of central and grassroots levels leaders to elect the chairperson and members of the standing and national executive committees.

But the BNP, in its first council held in December 2009 after introduction of the registration system, ignored its own charter of electing all office bearers in the council.

Instead, the party copied the then ruling Awami League's strategy earlier that year to form the standing and national executive committees.

The AL, in its council held in July 2009, elected Sheikh Hasina and Syed Ashrafur Islam as the party chief and

general secretary and gave Hasina the authority to pick other office bearers. With this power, Hasina later handpicked the party's presidium and central working committee leaders.

The AL repeated the formula in December 2012 in its national council. The party is preparing for holding the next council and this formula may be applied again.

Now, it is time for the BNP to apply the strategy in its March 19 council.

Is there anybody to monitor if the registered political parties are following their own charters? Apparently not.

The government is in no position to say anything as the party in power has already applied this formula twice.

The EC has always maintained they lack the authority to do so.

Thus, the major political parties that have been governing the country in turns since 1991 are practicing their own brands of democracy in the party.

They keep proselytising for democracy though there is little scope for practicing democracy in their own homes.

## Ancient Roman

FROM PAGE 16

The wine press -- at the centre of the complex -- had a pressing surface paved with white mosaic tile.

In a pit at the centre of the press there were screws which would have extracted juice from the grapes before storing them in eight cells along the walls.

Archaeologists believe the complex dates back from the late Roman or early Byzantine period in around 400AD.

Some bricks were stamped with the insignia of the Tenth Roman Legion, which was garrisoned in the province from its conquest in 70AD until 300AD, during which time it was called Judea.

Amit Re'em, the

Jerusalem district archaeologist, said: "We found a unique bath house with special ceramic pipes.

"Inside pipes, hot air was flowing to warm up the place where people were taking baths - it's absolutely beautiful."

Alongside the Roman house, archaeologists also found evidence of a second, much older, Jewish home on the site, built during what is known as the Second Temple period - 538BC to 70AD.

Near the Roman bathhouse they found a pit they think could have been used as a ritual bath - known as a Mikve - during that period.

Mr Re'em said: "Every-

thing is evidence that nearly 2,000 years ago the Romans arrived in Jerusalem and after the destruction of the city in 70AD, the soldiers occupied this house and we find archaeological evidence from this period.

"This is the magic of Jerusalem - everything is layers upon layers in once place."

Excavation director Alex Wiegmann said "Once again, Jerusalem demonstrates that wherever one turns over a stone ancient artifacts will be found related to the city's glorious past. The archaeological finds discovered here help paint a living, vibrant and dynamic picture of Jerusalem as it was in ancient times up until the modern era."

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Economic Relations Division (ERD)  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
www.erd.gov.bd

Ref No. 09.940.014.16.00.30.2014.18

Date: 07/03/2016

### Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance/Economic Relations Division.
2	Agency	Economic Relations Division.
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Strengthen External Aid Management Capacity (SEAMC) Project.
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5	Invitation for	1. Supply of Servers and other equipments. 2. Supply of Oracle Database.
6	Ref No. and date	Date: 09.940.014.16.00.30.2014.18 and 07/03/2016
7	Method of selection	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
8	Budget and source of funds	JDCF (GoB).
9	Project name and code	Strengthen External Aid Management Capacity (SEAMC) and 5010
10	Tender package name	Package-01: Supply of Servers and other equipments; Package -02: Supply of Oracle Database.
11	Tender selling date	13/03/2016 at 10:00am to 27/03/2016 at 04:30pm.
12	Tender closing date & opening	Closing at 2:00pm on 28/03/2016 Opening at 2:30pm on 28/03/2016.
13	Experience, resources and delivery capacity required	Detail criteria for selection of firm/supplier/dealer/vendor are stated in the tender document. Following documents and information (duly attested by first class gazetted officer) must be submitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A copy of latest trade license;</li> <li>A copy of latest income tax certificate;</li> <li>A copy of latest VAT registration certificate;</li> <li>Detail company profile, company financial strength and original brochure of the products;</li> <li>Other documents and/or proofs supporting capacity and requirement as stated in the tender document.</li> </ul>
14	Association of foreign firm	Not accepted.
15	Eligibility of tenderer	All eligible persons/contractors / firms that fulfill the qualification criteria stipulated in the Tender Data Sheet and other conditions of the tender documents with experience.
16	Tender document price	Package-01: 1,000 (one thousand) Taka non-refundable. Package-02: 1,000 (one thousand) Taka non-refundable.
17	Name of the official inviting tender	Farida Nasreen.
18	Address and contact details of the official inviting tender	Project Director, SEAMC Project & Additional Secretary, ERD. Tel: 9119516, email: addlsecy-faba@erd.gov.bd
19	Address of the office for selling tender document	Project Director, Strengthen External Aid Management Capacity (SEAMC) Project, Room # 26, Block # 15, ERD, M/o Finance, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar (Planning Commission Campus), Dhaka-1207.
20	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

GD-598

Farida Nasreen  
Project Director, SEAMC Project & Additional Secretary, ERD



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Manabdhiker Bastabayon Sangstha in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation brings out a procession in Tangail Sadar upazila yesterday demanding effective steps to end discrimination against and repression on women.

# Mother, son battle for UP chairman post

UNB, Bagerhat

Though it sounds unlikely, Ranipara union in Bagerhat's Kachua upazila is set to see a mother and her son battle it out in the upcoming union parishad (UP) elections billed for March 22.

Taslina Begum, the mother, is contesting the polls for the chairman post with ruling Awami League's boat symbol, while her son, Mehedi Hasan Babu, is running as an independent candidate with the election symbol of a pineapple.

But locals suggest that it is, in fact, the son's battle against his father, SM Mahfuzur Rahman, the current UP chairman.

Mahfuzur Rahman has already disowned his son publicly for not conforming to his family's wishes, which is why Mehedi is campaigning from outside the district, while his mother is promoting her campaign

door-to-door.

Mahfuz, a local Awami League leader, was the chairman of Ranipara union from 1998 to 2008, after which he was elected as the chairman of Kachua Upazila Parishad.

His wife Taslima was elected Ranipara UP chairman in 2011 in his place.

Mehedi says that he is competing not against his mother, but against his father's oppressive activities in the area. He brought allegations against his father of intimidation and disrupting his campaign, which were rejected by Mahfuz.

Branding his son as rebellious and a drug addict, Mahfuz accused Mehedi of leaning towards BNP-Jamaat's politics and claimed he brought shame upon the family by marrying a BNP leader's daughter.

But, Taslima blames it on Mehedi's 'mental problem,' stating that he was

'not in his right state of mind' when he stood for election against her. Fully confident about her victory, she revealed that they have had no contact with their son since he left their house.

According to voters, although Taslima is ahead in terms of popularity, her son is not far behind.

Seema Rani Shil, a voter from Khalishakhali village, said although it is a mother-son contest, she will cast her vote only after careful consideration.

Bikash Dutta, a voter from Narendrapur village, voiced his dilemma in choosing a candidate from mother or son.

Ranipara has some 13,678 voters in its 19 villages.

Ranipara returning officer and local fisheries official Kabir Hossain said neither of the candidates had made any complaint against the other as of yesterday.