

Mentally ill man kills father

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A mentally challenged man hacked his father to death over a trifling matter in Saltha upazila on Saturday.

The deceased, Mazed Matbor, 75, a farmer of Gobindapur village in the upazila, was father of five sons and a daughter.

Police arrested Shamsul Matbor, 35, and produced him before a court yesterday that sent him to the jail.

Police said Shamsul had been suffering from mental disorder since long.

Mazed rebuked Shamsul as he poured water on the fish curry while they were taking their meal around 8:30pm.

Being aggrieved with the behaviour, Shamsul hit his father with an axe on the head.

Mazed succumbed to his injuries on way to Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

Banker jailed for embezzling money

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Pabna court yesterday sentenced a bank official to seven years' imprisonment for misappropriating Tk 18.41 lakh from Grameen Bank's Hadal union branch in Faridpur upazila of the district.

The convict, Dibakar Chandra Sarker, hailing from Langolmore in Solonga upazila of Sirajganj, was sent to jail from the court.

Judge Md Liakot Ali Mollah of Special Judge's Court pronounced the verdict in presence of the convict in a crowded courtroom yesterday.

Besides awarding him seven years' imprisonment, the court fined him Tk 10 thousand and he has to suffer six months' more in jail in case of failure to pay the fine, said Abu Bakar Siddique, deputy director (DD) of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Pabna.

Dibakar was deputed as the manager of Grameen Bank's Hadal branch in Faridpur upazila from January 17 in 2004 to February 14 in 2006, he said.

"During his working period there, Dibakar misappropriated Tk 18 lakh 41 thousand 223 from different funds of the bank. The bank authorities filed a case accusing him on March 8 in 2006 and later the court engaged the ACC for investigating the case.

"After investigating, the ACC submitted the charge sheet to the court," the official said.

10 injured in Tangail BNP factional clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

At least 10 people, including two policemen, were injured in a clash between two factions of BNP in the town yesterday.

Police arrested 11 people during the incident. They also seized a private car and 12 machetes from the spot.

Police and witnesses said the newly formed committee of Tangail district unit of BNP organised a member collection and renewal programme.

The party's National Standing Committee Member Nazrul Islam Khan and Vice Chairman Maj Gen (rtd) Mahmudul Hasan were supposed to attend the programme as the chief guest and special guest respectively.

However, just before the programme started, leaders and activists of a faction carried out an attack and foiled the programme.

Police later fired four tear gas shells and 12 blank shots to bring the situation under control.

Advocate Farhad Iqbal, general secretary of district unit of BNP, alleged that ruling party men, in guise of BNP men, and also police launched the attack.

Hasanuzzamil Shaheen, a vice president who resigned from the district committee, said the committee was formed by dropping contributing leaders and activists.

The angry party men went to the programme for agitating against the pocket committee and the pocket committee supporters launched attack on them, he said.

OC Nazmul Haque Bhuiyan of Tangail Model Police Station said the law enforcers did not help any of the groups and they just dispersed the both groups during the clash.

Additional police have been deployed at different important places in the town to avoid any further trouble.

Mentionable, the committee was formed on May 26 comprising Shamsul Alam Tofa and Farhad Iqbal as president and general secretary respectively, party men said.

Schoolboy with unknown disease shifted to RMCH

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Schoolboy Miraz Ahmed, who has been affected with an unknown disease, was shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) yesterday for better treatment.

Director of RMCH Dr Ajay Kumar said the hospital authority will form a medical board today to identify the rare disease and find a way to cure it.

Lalmonirhat Deputy Commissioner AFM Alauddin Khan said as Miraz's parents are poor, they have been given Tk 20 thousand from the DC's office and some relief materials from the local union parishad.

"We will keep providing such assistance until the boy is completely cured," the DC added.

When Miraz, a Class IV student of Hatibandha Government Primary School, was only six years old, sores with itching developed on some parts of his body and he became abnormally fat.

A huge quantity of coal lies at the yard of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur while the authorities on Wednesday took an apparently odd decision to stop sale of the item, much to the frustration of the buyers.

PHOTO: STAR

BARAPUKURIA COAL MINING

Coal sale stopped despite huge stock, high demand

The act followed sale of 32,000 tonnes to a few influential people in a day

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

After selling at least 32,000 tonnes of coal to a few influential people in a single day on July 17, Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL) suddenly stopped its sale only after a day although there is a stock of around three lakh tonnes of coal at its yard.

Sale is usually suspended due to shortage of coal, but things are different this time, said a mine official seeking anonymity.

"It's a plot of a few coalmine officials to make a large number coal buyers hostage to a handful of influential people for their personal gain," said Raihan Ali, general secretary of Barapukuria Coal Traders' Association.

Around 450 coal consumers have applied for buying coal recently, he said.

Brickfield operators of the country are the key buyers of the coal of Barapukuria coalmine and each

brickfield requires around 900 tonnes of coal for baking bricks in a year, said the stakeholders.

The country's only coalmine in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur has a daily production rate of around 4,000 tonnes, said BCMCL sources.

Protesting the syndicated sale of coal, coal buyers from the northern region held a meeting in the mine area on Saturday afternoon.

Brick kiln owners are now buying coal from the syndicate at Tk 14,000 instead of stipulated Tk 12,511 per tonne, said the traders, adding that brick manufacturing in hundreds of brickfields has become uncertain due to the situation.

They demanded that the ministry concerned take action against the mine officials responsible for making the coal buyers hostage to some influential people.

Mine sources said one Ruhul Amin with blessing of coalmine officials has got 10,000 tonnes while as per rules, a

person can buy highest 5,000 tonnes of coal.

Traders alleged that a high official of BCMCL, who is staying in Dhaka for managing his higher authorities, is playing the key role behind the conspiracy.

The coal buyers will submit a memorandum to the ministry concerned, urging action against the conspiracy, said Mozibor Rahman, president of Barapukuria Coal Traders' Association.

Khan Zafor Sadiq, deputy general manager of Sales and Marketing Department of BCMCL, said the sale of coal was suspended on Wednesday as per the decision of higher management led by the company's acting Managing Director (MD) Habib Uddin Ahmed.

He admitted that 32,000 tonnes of coal was sold on July 17.

This correspondent could not take any comment of acting MD Habib Uddin Ahmed as he is now travelling Australia.

TK 4 CR DIESEL THEFT 5 Jamuna Oil staff held

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Police on Saturday detained five staff of Jamuna Oil Company (JOCL) in Chandpur on charge of stealing diesel worth Tk 4 crore.

The detainees are depot superintendent of JOCL, 36, operators Mizanur Rahman, 48, and Abu Bakar Siddique, 50, meterman Mojibul Haque, 38, and labourer Moslem Shah, 38.

A probe committee, led by Additional Secretary and Director (marketing) of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) Mir Ali Reza, was formed by BPC to investigate the matter.

Khairul Kabir, currently depot superintendent of JOCL, filed a case with Chandpur Model Police Station on Saturday, said Officer-in-Charge Md Wali Ullah.

Khademul was caught red-handed while illegally selling oil worth Tk 7 lakh on June 19 with the help of the other four accused.

Khademul was suspended after the incident.

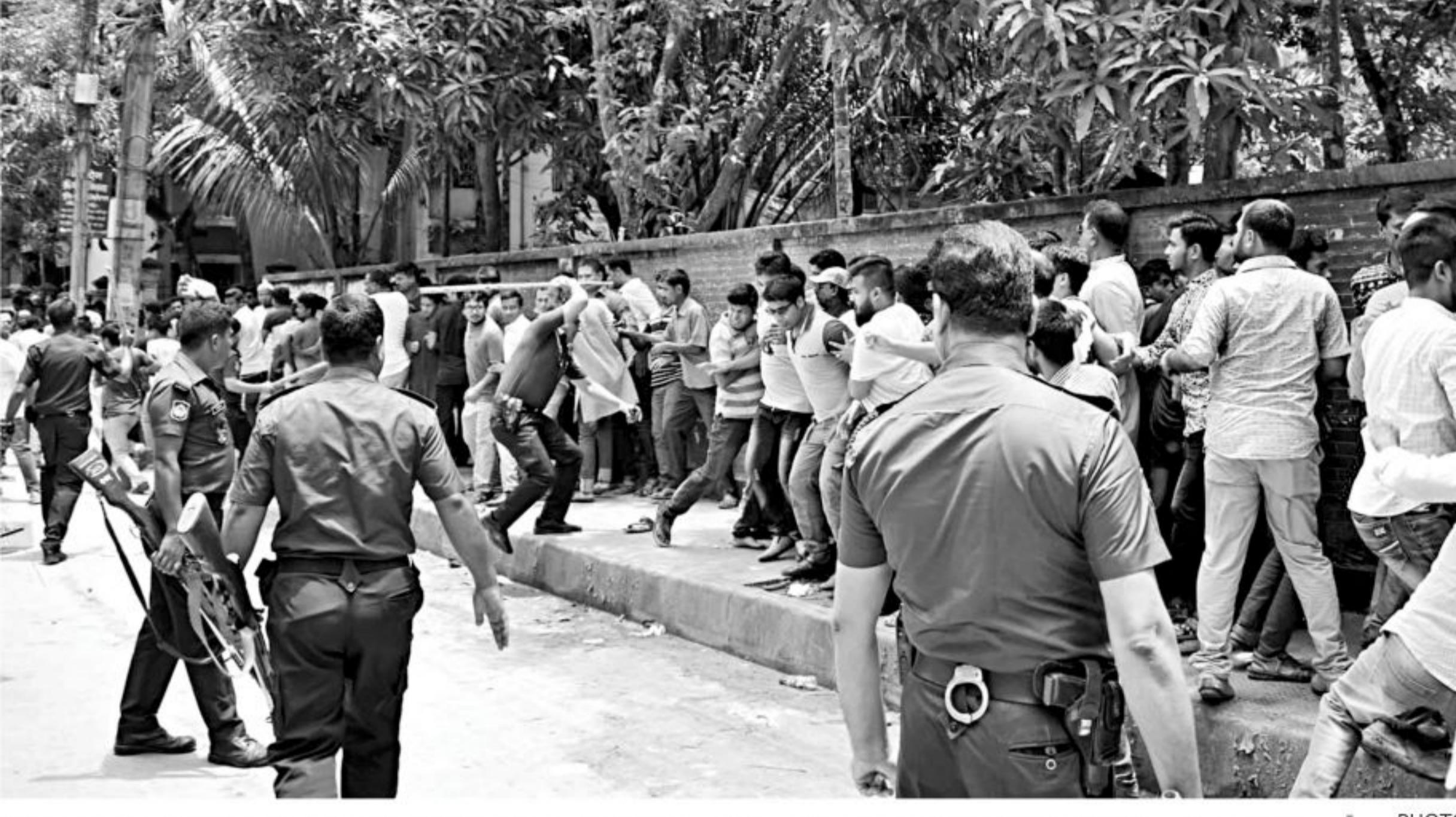


PHOTO: STAR

Police charge batons on the activists during a clash between two factions of BNP in Tangail town yesterday.

Chest disease hospital in sorry state

X-ray machine remains out of order for 18 years and heyday for syndicate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

People with Tuberculosis (TB) have to get their tests done from outside as the lone X-ray machine of the lone government Chest Disease Clinic in the town has been out of order for 18 years.

The new X-ray machine which was purchased in August last year is yet to be installed due to dilapidated condition of the building.

Besides, the patients are to do other tests for lack of facilities in the government clinic.

On an average, 900 patients take out-door treatment every month, said Medical Officer Dr Devjani Sanyal, adding that for lack of test facilities they cannot provide proper services to them.

The TB patients have been suffering for years as the only government clinic in the region is running without X-ray machine, said sources at the clinic.

Some patients and their attendants said as the government clinic, meant for free treatment, is running without X-ray machine, they are to

pay extra money for their tests outside that is a huge burden for them.

Meanwhile, a syndicate is doing good business for years and they are active against installation of the X-ray machines, said the sources.

A source at the TB clinic, seeking

Only cough test is available at the government clinic, said Medical Officer Dr Devjani Sanyal. The patients are advised to get other essential tests done from outside as arrangement for the tests are absent, he added.

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