

A shocking act of doctors

They lock patients, attendants in for nine hours over alleged attack on fellows

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Confining all the patients and their attendants inside, doctors and interns at M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital yesterday staged a demonstration, protesting alleged attack on their colleagues by a patient's attendant on Monday night.

As a result, over 1,000 patients and their relatives got trapped inside the 500-bed hospital for nearly nine hours.

Services at the public hospital came to a halt after senior doctors and interns jointly started the sudden strike yesterday morning.

Due to the sudden strike, outdoor and emergency services at the hospital also remained suspended for hours.

During a visit to the hospital yesterday noon, this correspondent found the main entrance of the hospital locked up and the agitating doctors were staging demonstrations outside, blocking the entrance of the emergency department.

Meanwhile, relatives and attendants of the patients, who remained stranded inside the hospital building for hours, alleged that most of the wards of the hospital were also locked, causing them immense suffering.

"My relatives are stuck inside the hospital," said Jyotsna Bala, who could not enter the hospital premises to see her ailing granddaughter Shantana Roy due to the strike.

Jahurul Islam, who admitted his wife with breathing problem four days ago, said, "I had to buy medicine for my wife in the morning, but I could not do it in time as the exit doors of the hospital were locked for hours."

Moreover, the agitating intern doctors even did not allow journalists to get inside the hospital premises during the agitation.

They withdrew their agitation programme around 3:00pm.

Contacted, Dr Mohammad Shahjahan, director of the hospital, denied of making any comment in this regard.

According to the witnesses, Dr Foysal of medicine ward allegedly physically assaulted a female attendant of a patient on Monday night.

When her relatives protested the misconduct, he along with other doctors and interns allegedly beat them up and handed them over to police.



Doctors and interns at Dinajpur M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital staged a demonstration yesterday, blocking the entrance of the emergency ward of the government hospital. Inset, many relatives and attendants of the patients got trapped inside the hospital due to the sudden strike. PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

3 farmers killed by thunderbolt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Three farmers were killed by lightning strike at Terakuri village of Fenchuganj upazila in Sylhet yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Jitu Miah of Terakuri village of the upazila, and Rajon Miah and Anwar Hossain of Lakkhipasha village of Golapganj upazila.

"They went to Dhurbar Haor to harvest Boro paddy in the morning. At around 11:00am they were struck by lightning and died on the spot," Fenchuganj Police Station's officer-in-charge Abul Bashar Md Badruzzaman said, referring to witnesses.

The bodies were sent to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for autopsy, he said.

DPEO asks primary schools not to use unfit buildings

Ministry concerned issues letter to DPEO to submit list of risky schoolhouses in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patuakhali District Primary Education Office (DPEO) on Monday issued letters to all the 1,225 primary schools in eight upazilas of the district not to use risky school buildings for academic purposes.

On November 14 last year, Patuakhali DPEO sent a list of a total of 123 risky primary school buildings in the district to the authorities concerned.

"We got an urgent letter from primary and mass education ministry on Sunday to submit a list of risky primary school buildings within the next 15 days," Patuakhali District Primary Education Officer Mohammad Sayeduzzaman said.

"After getting the letter from primary and mass education ministry on Sunday, we asked all the upazila primary education officers on Monday to submit a list of risky school buildings and also told all the headmasters concerned over phone not to use any unfit building," he said.

Senior Assistant Secretary of primary and mass education ministry Mohammad Nurunnabi issued the letter on Sunday, he added.

After getting instructions from the DPEO we shifted students of three classes to a tin-roofed schoolhouse from the risky school building on Monday, Dakkhin Talikhali Government Primary School Headmaster Jalilur Rahman said.

The one-storey schoolhouse was built in 2001, but the building became unfit to use as there was no renovation since its construction, the headmaster said.

Like Dakkhin Talikhali Government Primary School there are 122 more risky school buildings in eight upazilas of the district.

According to Patuakhali DPEO, of the 123 risky school buildings, 11 are in Sadar upazila, 27 in Dashmina, 36 in Galachipa, 17 in Kalapara, 16 in Rangabali, nine in Baufal and seven in Mirzaganj upazila.

Pregnant woman burnt with hot water, accused husband arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Police yesterday arrested a man from Ashulia area of Dhaka on charge of injuring his pregnant wife with pouring hot water in Manikganj town on Sunday.

A team of Manikganj Sadar Police Station led by its Officer-in-Charge (OC- Investigation) Nur Mohammad conducted a raid in the area early yesterday and arrested the accused, Sujon Mia, who confessed to his crime to police. He was sent to Manikganj Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court at noon," said Rakibuzzaman, OC of the police station.

Earlier on Monday, the victim's father lodged a written complaint with Manikganj Sadar Police Station.

"Sujon Mia, 23, son of Abdul Baten of Beutha village under Sadar upazila, used to torture my daughter on different pretexts since their marriage a year ago," he said in the complaint.

"On Sunday, Sujon locked into an altercation with his wife, who is a



Sujon Mia, accused of injuring his wife with hot water, at Manikganj Sadar Police Station after his arrest yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

little over four months' pregnant, after he found his towel not fresh. At one stage, he beat her and poured hot water on her, leaving her badly injured," the complaint reads.

The victim Lata Akter, aged around 19, is undergoing treatment at 250-bed Manikganj District Hospital.

Lutfar Rahman, resident medical officer of the hospital, said, "The woman suffered 30 per cent burns. However, she seems to be out of danger now."



Oblivious of the harmful effects on nature, a section of unscrupulous people nail tin sheets inscribed with various signs to trees, as a cheap way to advertise for their services and products. The photo was taken from Chandnighat bus stand area of Moulvibazar town a few days ago. PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Housewife killed 'by husband'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband over a family feud in Jashore Sadar upazila on Monday night.

The deceased, Ripa Khatun, daughter of Md Musa of Bishori village in Jhikargachha upazila, was wife of Imran Hossain of Bagdanga village.

Being informed by the villagers, police recovered Ripa's body from a nearby paddy field adjacent to her house and sent it to the hospital for autopsy, Officer in Charge (OC) of Jashore Kotwali Police Station Apurba Hassan said.

Deceased's aunt Khuku Begum said the couple got married about 10 years ago and they have a seven-year-old son.

Imran, a trucker, married another girl about 10 days ago, she said.

Imran locked in an altercation with Rupa over the issue around 11:00pm and at one stage, he strangled Rupa to death and dumped the body in the paddy field, Khuku alleged.

Police primarily suspect that Imran might have killed his wife and dumped her body there, the OC said.

Baby dies of 'botched delivery'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A newborn died during delivery attempt by owner and two untrained staff members of a clinic in Boda upazila of Panchagarh on Monday afternoon, alleged family members.

Locals and relatives of the family later surrounded Niramoy Nursing Home and Diagnostic Centre for hours, demanding punishment for the people responsible in the incident.

Sudeb Roy of Nayadighi Tanti para village in the upazila in a written complaint filed with deputy commissioner of Panchagarh in the evening said he admitted his pregnant wife Chita Rani, 22, to the hospital in the morning with labour pain.

Sudeb claimed that in the afternoon, his child died during an attempted normal delivery by three inexperienced people -- clinic owner Ujjol Sarcar, OT boy Ovi Sarcar and "untrained nurse" Sabina.

The clinic authorities did not call in any consultant doctor or anaesthesiologist for the procedure, he said in his statement, adding that the OT boy and the nurse fled the scene soon after the death of his child.

Speaking with this correspondent over phone, the clinic owner said he was not in the clinic during the incident and the child died before a gynaecologist arrived, while an anaesthesiologist had just arrived when the incident happened.

Panchagarh Civil Surgeon Mohammad Nijamuddin said they will take necessary action once they receive a formal complaint in this regard.

Syed Mahmud Hasan, upazila nirbahi officer of Boda, told the reporters that they were conducting inquiries into the allegation.

6 get life term for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Habiganj court here on Monday sentenced six people to life term imprisonment for killing a farmer in Ajmeriganj upazila in 2005.

The lifers are Mozahid Mia and Mohan Mia of Jolsukha village, Ziaur Rahman of Baghhati village, Wahab Ullah of Atpara village, Chand Mia of Madhyapara and Dilu Mia of Mirka village in the upazila. Of them, Mohan Mia, Wahab, Chand Mia and Dilu Mia were tried in absentia.

Additional District and Sessions Judge SM Nasim Reza also fined them Tk 10,000 each, in default, they are to suffer another two years in jail.

According to the prosecution, the accused took farmer Toton Mia as a cook to the haor area in the upazila on October 30 in 2005. Later, they hacked him dead.

The victim's wife Anwara Akhter then filed a murder case with Ajmeriganj Police Station.

Rice mill blast kills one, injures two

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A machine operator was killed and his two helpers were injured in a boiler blast at a rice mill in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Ahmed Ali, 45, son of late Hafez Uddin of Razabari village in the same upazila.

Quoting locals, Trishal Police Station Officer-in-Charge Azizur Rahman said around 8:00am, a boiler at Babul Semi Auto Rice Mill in Razabari area suddenly exploded while in operation.

The explosion left Ahmed Ali killed on the spot, while severely injuring his helpers Abdul Aziz, 60, and his son Robi, 30.

On information, police and locals rushed to the spot and sent the injured to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH). Police also sent body of the deceased to MMCH for autopsy.

Ahmed Ali's entire body was burnt, said the OC, adding, "The injured persons are now out of danger."

Speculating that the accident might have taken place due to excessive pressure in the boiler, the OC said the rice mill had been running without licence and it was not equipped with any gauge for measuring pressure created inside the boiler.

The owner of the rice mill went into hiding soon after the incident, but police are conducting raids to arrest him, he also said.

No case was filed in this connection as of filing this report yesterday afternoon.



People belonging to ethnic minority groups bring out a colorful procession in Rangamati town yesterday ahead of their traditional festivals Biju, Sangrai, Boisuk, Bisu, Bihu and Sangkran marking the arrival of Bangla New Year 1426. Inset, indigenous artistes perform dance on the occasion. PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA