

Man hurls acid on 5 family members, himself in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man allegedly threw acid on five members of his family and himself following an altercation in Dhaka's Lalbagh area yesterday morning.

Police suspected that the attacker Ali Hossain (40) is mentally unstable and addicted to drugs.

The other injured are Ali's mother Momena Begum (70), brothers -- Anwar Hossain (52), Iqbal Hossain (45) -- sister Jamila Akter (30), and nephew Salehin (20).

The incident took place around 5:45am at their house after Ali, a worker at a local battery shop, locked in an altercation with his family members, said Amitab Darji, a sub-inspector of Lalbagh Police Station.

At one stage, he threw battery acid on his family members, leaving them burnt. He later poured acid on himself too, the SI said quoting the injured.

They were all rushed to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery for treatment.

Of the injured -- Jamila, Iqbal and Salehin -- were later shifted to National Institute of Ophthalmology as they sustained burns in their eyes, the police officer said.

Ali was being treated at the burn institute under police custody while his mother was given first aid at the hospital, he added.

Local fish variety more effective in curbing mosquito population

Experts term it a simpler, environment-friendly method

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Fisheries experts of Bangladesh Agricultural University have suggested introduction of "biological control of mosquito" by releasing small fishes of local species into the breeding sites.

This low-cost method is simple and environment-friendly, they said.

In a recent virtual press conference, Dr Harunur Rashid, a professor of Department of Fisheries Management under Faculty of Fisheries at BAU, talked about his research on such method. Dean (acting) Prof Md Abul Mansur presided over the programme.

Dr Rashid said he started his research -- "Biological Control of Mosquito Larvae Grown in Waterlogged Environment using Larvivorous Fishes and Comparison of Efficiency between Native and Exotic Fish Species" -- in Chattogram in 2017.

Dr Rashid said he used two exotic varieties -- guppy and mosquitofish -- and three local species -- khalisa,

darkina and dhani of larvicidal nature.

It was found that the local fishes are more efficient in consuming mosquito larvae living in the drain water; and of them, khalisa fish is the best performer. The artificial breeding of the country varieties is also easy, said Dr Rashid.

World Health Organization (WHO) also suggested use of small local species in mosquito control, he said.

In many Asian countries like Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and India, small local fishes are used as part of integrated initiatives to check mosquito menace, said the researcher.

Under "Integrated Vector-borne Disease Control Programme", fishes are released in drains and stagnant waterbodies in the cities of those countries and they have got good results. This method has also been initiated in rural areas, said the professor.

Dr Rashid said some seven years ago, this guppy and mosquitofish were

released in the drains of Dhaka and Chattogram cities on experimental basis.

During the initial stage of his research, he found they were breeding in the drain water.

The authorities can release the local species in drains and waterlogged places in the city to contain mosquito menace. The BAU fisheries scientists will also provide support in this regard.

The experts also said alteration of natural habitats in the terrestrial ecosystem, deforestation, urbanisation, dam constructions etc are resulting in increasing waterlogging problems in many Asian countries including Bangladesh. One common public health concern with waterlogging is rise in mosquito population in waterlogged areas.

Together with other management and pesticide control measures, biological control is found to be one of the most effective and convenient methods, they said.

Nine Bangladeshis

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Rohan Razeen (22), co-founders of the start-up Hydroquo+; and Morin Talukder's (27), co-founder of e-commerce venture Pickaboo.

Sakib made the list in the enterprise technology category for Cramstack, which helps industries with its natural language-driven search interface to analyse and visualise data.

Shehzad and Motasim's Gaze has been making waves in the last couple of years. Gaze builds software intermediaries called APIs for visual recognition, with artificial-intelligence supporting features like spoof-proof face recognition, optical character recognition (OCR) and object recognition.

Shomy and Rive's NGO Awareness 360, based in Kuala Lumpur, now has 1,500 volunteers in 23 countries and reached 1,50,000 people with their campaigns on personal hygiene basics such as handwashing, water-filtration and sanitation.

To work with underprivileged children, Jami founded Obhizatrik Foundation. So far, his foundation, with the help of 3,500 volunteers, has supported one million people for poverty elimination, education, health and nutrition, human rights issues among other issues.

Rizvana and Zahin's initiative Hydroquo+ provides AI-powered water-management solutions that report on the quality of the water, identify leakage and provide forecasting of demand based on usage.

Pickaboo, co-founded by Morin, is renowned in Bangladesh for listing quality products and ensuring fast delivery. It was one of the first few start-ups to offer EMI and same-day delivery.

Test numbers

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Sunday, 252 cases were detected out of 958 samples, putting positivity rate at 26.3 percent.

Though the situation was apparently better before the hard lockdown, the number of samples tested was higher as well.

For example, on April 14, 417 positive cases were detected out of 2,682 samples, putting the positivity rate at 15.5 percent. On April 13, this was 431 cases out of 2,621 samples, and on April 12, this was 541 cases out of 2,603 samples, putting positivity rates at 16.4 percent and 20.1 percent respectively.

"One of the reasons (for the higher positivity rates) is that we are testing fewer number of samples in the strict lockdown," said public health expert and head of Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (BITID) Laboratory Prof Dr Shakeel Ahmed.

Additionally, "Many patients who have milder Covid-19 symptoms are choosing not to come for testing; only those with severe symptoms are taking the hassle," he said.

"This is why the rate of infection has increased compared to samples tested. Because if you test more symptomatic patients, the rate of infection will increase."

Citing the expatriates' situation, Dr Shakeel said, "Earlier, if we tested 1,000 samples in our laboratory, around 800 of them were of expatriates. Hardly 40 people out of those 800 tested positive, but around 60 out of the other 200 samples of common people came out positive."

For instance, on Sunday, a total of 428 samples were tested in BITID. Of those, 61 positive cases were detected. Of the 428 samples, a total of 103 samples were of the passengers of international flights. Of the 105 samples, only two positive cases were detected, said Prof Dr Shakeel Ahmed.

"All this shows that the rate of positivity actually hasn't increased after the hard lockdown," he said. "Our task now is to trace out those who may be infected but are not coming for testing."

Echoing the same, Dr Abdur Rob, senior consultant of medicine and head of Covid-19 ward of Chattogram General Hospital, said although the rate of cases has increased this week, the actual number of cases has decreased.

"Unless we follow health guidelines, the rate or case of will not decrease," he stressed.

Chattogram Civil Surgeon Dr Sheikh Fazle Rabbi also said people in the city are still quite indifferent to health guidelines, but there is no alternative to maintaining it in order to improve the situation.



Workers mark the lanes on Barishal-Dhaka highway using their machine, and with the lockdown still in effect, little to no vehicular movement can be seen near them. Such work is perhaps easier to do in these unusual situations. This photo was taken yesterday from Barishal city's Kashipur area.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Five killed

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The injured -- who were rescued from the restaurant -- were sent to Chaudagram Upazila Health Complex and the medical college hospital.

The law enforcers took the truck and container trailer to the police outpost.

In Bagerhat, a truck driver was killed and two people were injured in a head-on collision between two trucks on Khulna-Mawa highway in Palerhat area of Fakirhat upazila.

The deceased was identified as Amirul Islam (32) from Chapainabganj.

The injured were taken to Khulna Medical College Hospital in critical condition. One of them was identified as Sirajul Islam.

Md Golam Sarwar, deputy assistant director of Bagerhat Fire Service and Civil Defence, said a

truck carrying cement from Mollahat to Katakhalid collided with another date-laden truck coming from the opposite direction.

In Tangail, a three-year-old boy was killed as a truck ran him over in Sakhipur upazila.

The deceased is Kamrul Islam, son of Alam Miah from Kachua village in the upazila.

Police and witnesses said Kamrul was playing near his house beside Kachua-Kirtonkhola intersection.

The boy was declared dead at Sakhipur Upazila Health Complex.

Lutful Kabir, inspector (investigation) of Sakhipur Police Station, told The Daily Star that after the accident locals handed the driver over to police. Law enforcers also seized the truck.

Filing of a case was underway in connection with the accident, he added.

Diarrhoea cases

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Covid-19 patients is 13,832 [in Barishal division], and of them, 244 have died," he said.

Dr Shyamal Krishna Mandal, assistant director of the health office, said two teams sent by IEDCR found E coli, which may be present in contaminated water, in stools of the patients.

Meanwhile, there is a demand for more than one lakh saline bags in the six districts at the moment, but it has been confirmed that there are only a few thousand bags available across the division.

"The demand [for saline] in our department has increased by multiple times the usual. A patient can often need up to 50 litres of IV fluids, so the difference between demand and stock is huge," Dr Shyamal said. "But hopefully it will be resolved."

He said representatives of the pharmaceutical companies have been instructed not to create saline crisis in any way.

Gautam Biswas, owner of Upasham Pharmacy in Bakerganj, said IV fluids of various companies have gone out of stock in the last week.

Arun Ghosh, proprietor of Habib Medical Hall of Barishal city, said that even if someone offers to pay extra, IV saline is not available. Every day at least 50 people are coming in need of saline.

Md Mohsin, senior regional sales officer of Beximco Pharmaceuticals in Barishal, said currently, at least more than 50,000 IV saline bags are urgently needed, but they are not being able to supply half that amount, even though multiple companies are trying

to meet demand.

"Normally, Beximco supplies 2,000 bags of saline in the market in this season. This situation has arisen due to a sudden increase in demand" he said.

Dr Malay Krishna, residential medical officer of Barishal General Hospital, said there is a crisis of IV fluids at the facility. "We have asked for 20,000 bags from relevant authorities. Let's see how much we get."

Dr Syed Rejaul Islam, civil surgeon of Bhola, said on average, 300-350 patients get treatment every day, but the current IV fluid stock in the district will last for just 10-15 days.

A total of 35,000 bags of IV fluids are supposed to arrive in the division, and if they do, the problem can be managed, said director of the divisional health office.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Shahrastra, Chandpur
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.1395.000.07.010.2021.316 Date: 20/04/2021

Invitation for Tender (OTM)
e-Tender Notice No. 05/2020-2021

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Tender security submission date & time	Closing/ opening date & time
1	568786	E-Tender/UGDP/CND/SHAH/INF-2019-20-201395-01 Supplying of Health accessories at 10 Nos. Union Health and Family Planning Center under Shahrastra upazila Chandpur.	05-May-2021 17:00	06-May-2021 14:00	06-May-2021 15:00
2	559911	e-Tender/UGDP/CND/SHAH/INF-2019-20-201395-03 Construction of Corona Safety Corner of 18 Nos. Educational Institution under Shahrastra Upazila Chandpur.	05-May-2021 17:00	06-May-2021 14:00	06-May-2021 15:00
3	559910	e-Tender/UGDP/CND/SHAH/INF-2019-20-201395-02 Construction of 06 Nos. Public Toilet of 06 Market under Shahrastra Upazila Chandpur.	05-May-2021 17:00	06-May-2021 14:00	06-May-2021 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branch. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Rezwannur Rahman
Upazila Engineer
Office of the Upazila Engineer
LGED, Shahrastra, Chandpur
Email: ue.shahrastra@lged.gov.bd

GD-794

Those who

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rescued the injured and returned to the hospital, where Dr Shamsuddin Ahmed, Dr Shyamal Kanti Lala, nurse Mahmudur Rahman and others treated them.

They even treated injured Pakistan army soldiers, as they believed in the noble oath of doctors to treat everyone.

When the fight was too intense in Sylhet town and surroundings, Dr Shamsuddin let almost all other doctors and staffers leave the hospital, but he stayed along with a few others.

While others were leaving, Dr Shamsuddin handed their first-aid medicine and kits, so they can serve people wherever they go.

On April 9, the fight between the resistance army and Pakistan army became more intense. A Pakistan army convoy was ambushed near the hospital, where three Pakistani soldiers died and two freedom fighters were injured.

Injured freedom fighters were brought into the hospital, and Dr Shamsuddin was preparing to operate on them, but right then, Pakistan army cordoned off the hospital.

Even though killing doctors was a direct violation of the Geneva Convention, the platoon of Pakistan army, led by Major Riyaz, killed 11 persons, including Dr Shamsuddin, Dr Shyamal, Korban Ali and Mahmudur Rahman.

An article written by Liberation War researcher Apurba Sharma quoted Mukhlesur Rahman, a ward staffer of the hospital who survived the mass killing.

The survivor, who was also shot, said Pakistani soldiers opened fire around 11:15am, and Dr Shamsuddin was the first person they killed. They then shot one person after another to death.

Although deaths of the 11 persons were recorded, Mukhlesur told the researcher that at least 17-19 were killed that day.

The martyrs' bodies were left at the hospital's premises for four days, until the curfew was relaxed on April 13. Then locals buried the bodies near the hospital.

That location is now known as Martyred Intellectual Graveyard of Sylhet.

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LTD
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Khuina-Mongla Port Rail Line Project, Khuina, Bangladesh

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Open Tender No-NIT No. IRCON/J043/BD.KHU-MON/TENDER/STEEL-RF/110/2021-09DI. 20.04.2021
Open Tender in Single packet bid system are invited for "Supply of HYSD (Grade Fe-500) Steel reinforcement bars of various dia conforming to IS 1786-1985 for Khuina-Mongla Port Rail Line Project" (Quantity - 400 MT).

Estimated Cost of work :	USD 3,05,900/-
Earnest Money Deposit :	Not Applicable
Completion Period :	02 (Two) Months
Cost of Tender Document :	Tk. 5,000/-

Last Date & Time for Bid Submission: 01.29.04.2021 upto 15.00 Hrs.(BST)
Opening at 15.30 Hrs. (BST)

For further details and updates, Bidders may visit IRCON office, House No. 411, Road No. 4, Sonadanga R/A, Phase-2, Khuina-9100.

Project Manager/KMRLP
Ircan International Ltd.
Contact No.01783965380, email at kmprlbd9043@ircon.org

BITID to get

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first hospital in the region to come up with treatment of Covid-19 patients, they added.

Although BITID laboratory has capacity of testing around 500 samples a day, officials are testing 800 to 1,000 per day, said Prof Dr Shakeel Ahmed, head of BITID laboratory.

"So, we requested the government to set up another laboratory in the hospital. Our testing capacity will double once the new lab goes into operation," he said.

"We will also require four molecular biologists and four lab technicians along with two MLSS (member of lower subordinate staff). The government assured us of providing that as well," he said.

Mamunur Rashid, associate professor of Clinical and Tropical Diseases and head of Covid-19 ward at BITID, said, "At present,

we have one HDU but no ICU."

Once the ICU beds are installed, it would benefit patients as they do not have to be referred to other places, he said.

"We have also requested for six trained doctors and 12 nursing staff to operate the ICU," he added.

At present, there are 28 ICU beds at government hospitals in Chattogram dedicated for Covid-19 patients. Of those, 18 beds are in CGH and 10 in CMCH.

Besides, some 40 ICU beds are in private hospitals where patients have to pay Tk 12,000-20,000 a day to get the support, said sources.

Contacted, Chattogram Civil Surgeon Dr Sheikh Fazle Rabbi said installation of ICU beds in BITID would help poor patients get treatment.

Sylhet City Corporation
Nagar Bhaban, Sylhet
www.scc.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.07.0000.018.99.025.19.1507 Date: 20/04/2021

e-Tender Notice-18/2020-21

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of the Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives.
2.	Agency	Sylhet City Corporation.
3.	Budget and source of funds	Construction of Infrastructure in Sylhet City Corporation.
Tender ID No.		Name of the work
571521 (LTM)		Construction of RCC Drain & Widening of Road at Lakripara Road.
571568 (LTM)		Development of Lakripara Road by RCC.
571576 (OTM)		Construction of RCC Retaining Wall at Tupkhana.
4.		Budget and source of funds
571466 (LTM)		ADP/ADP (Special)/Revenue fund of SCC.
571483 (OTM)		Construction of Mirer Maidan City Staff Quarter.
571483 (OTM)		Construction of Playground, Drain & Boundary Wall at Uposahar Block-C.
5.	Name, designation & address of PE	Engr. Md. Ali Akbar, Executive Engineer, Sylhet City Corporation, 0821-714036
6.	This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline/hard copies will not be accepted. Interested persons/firms can see details in the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd	
7.	The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.	
8.	Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)	

Executive Engineer
Sylhet City Corporation

GD-795

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
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জিডি-৭৯৬