

DEATH IN PNEUMONIA

# Wrong treatment, docs' ignorance main reasons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inappropriate treatment and ignorance of doctors about broncheolitis were the main causes of the recent deaths of infants attributed to pneumonia across the country.

Most of the doctors do not know that broncheolitis, not pneumonia, was the cause of the infantile death.

This was the unanimous view of paediatricians at a seminar on 'Outbreak of Broncheolitis: What to Do' in the capital yesterday.

Bangladesh Paediatric Pulmonology Forum (BPPF) organised the seminar held at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital.

The paediatricians pointed out that broncheolitis attacks infants aged two

months to two years while pneumonia can attack people of all ages. Male babies are more prone to broncheolitis.

"Failing to detect broncheolitis and taking it for severe pneumonia, general practitioners usually prescribe highpower antibiotic injection ceftriazone and steroid, which prove futile in the treatment of affected infants," said General Secretary of the BPPF Dr ARM Lutful Kabir.

He mentioned infants contracting broncheolitis cry persistently as they cannot inhale oxygen properly. But they can get well within five days with proper treatment.

President of the BPPE Dr Ruhul Amin said, "In 95 percent of the cases,

patients do not need to be hospitalised as broncheolitis can be treated at home if the parents know how to handle the situation properly."

He said patients hospitalised need supply of adequate oxygen. If necessary, antibiotic amoxycilin can be prescribed but patients do not need to stay more than five days in hospital.

"Although the symptoms of broncheolitis and pneumonia are similar to some extent, the treatment is quite different. Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is the main cause of broncheolitis while a bacteria attack causes pneumonia," one expert said.

The paediatricians recommended that the infected infants should be kept free from any kind of

Bagerhat murder

## Three BNP leaders expelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Three BNP leaders have been expelled for their alleged involvement in the murder of Bagerhat district President of the Sramik League Khan Sadekul Islam alias Sada Khan.

The expelled are president of Teligati union unit of BNP Ashraf Ali, general secretary Alamgir Hossain and joint secretary Akram Hossain, all from Moralganj upazila.

They were named in the FIR (first information report) as accused in the murder of Sadekul on November 13 near Gabtala bus stand at Kachua thana in Bagerhat.

The decision on expulsion came from a party meeting on Friday with

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## Hills students slate remarks against Larma

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khagachhari*

Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) yesterday brought out a procession protesting a provocative statement of a lawmaker against Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council Jyotindra Bodhipriyo Larma, popularly known as Santu Larma.

Leaders of the PCP also held a rally at the town's MN Larma Square in support of the road barricade and hartal programmes on December 2 and December 8 called by the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS).

Speakers at the rally alleged that ruling BNP's lawmaker Wadud Bhuiyan has been rehabilitating the Bangalee settlers and making pro

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## Contractor Nuruzzaman sent back to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Contractor Nuruzzaman was sent back to Moulvibazar district jail after he was discharged from Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital yesterday evening.

He was admitted in the hospital under police custody Thursday night.

Nuruzzaman said influential quarters in the ruling alliance forced his release, though he was suffering from diabetes, heart disease and other ailments.

"A medical board referred me to the hospital, while the quarters forced authorities to form another board that released me on false

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A vehicle lies in flames after a suicide bomb attack on the police station at Baquba, 65km north of Baghdad yesterday. The explosion killed seven Iraqi police and two civilians, minutes after attack on another police station in Khan Bari Saad 20km away that claimed the lives of six and wounded 13.

PHOTO: AFP

# Police yet to find lead to bloodbath in Banshkhali

ABDULLAH -AL MAHMUD, *back from Banshkhali, Ctg*

Police are yet to find out leads to Wednesday's grisly massacre that left 11 members of a minority family at South Sadhanpur Shilpara in coastal Banshkhali upazila incinerated in sleep.

They raided different areas of Banshkhali yesterday in a hunt for killers, but could not make any fresh arrest in the last 24 hours. Six suspects were held earlier.

A local court yesterday remanded four of the arrestees -- Shobeh Bahar Tipu, Mohammad Babul, Nazir Ahmad and Nazim Uddin -- who were held on Thursday night in four-day police custody.

Two others -- Saheb Mia and Shahabuddin -- who were held on Wednesday, passed the second day of their five-day remand in police custody yesterday.

Police ruled out the suggestion of the use of highly combustible substance in the arson to the disbelief of the victims'

family. Nirmal Kanti Shushil, a survivor of the Tejendra family, said: "The fury of fire makes us strongly believe the use of such a substance."

He said some utensils were virtually reduced to ashes, alleging that some ashes were taken as samples instead of the remnants of the utensils for chemical tests to find out if any combustible substance was used.

Although police were linking the massacre to robbery, speculations were flying in every direction.

Many suspect three girls of the family were at the heart of the evil design of the masterminds, while others smell land-grabbing motives behind the bloodbath.

Everyone spoke aghast at the grisly massacre, saying it was unthinkable that the attackers killed so many people in such a grisly way in cold blood.

Speculating on the motive for the carnage, Nirmal said, "It might be an warning against putting up resistance to robbery attempts."

"In the robbery-prone Banshkhali area, people in recent years began building strong two-story mud houses with movable ladders between the floors to protect themselves."

"During robberies, they take shelter upstairs with their valuables removing ladders," Nirmal, a schoolteacher of Saroda Charan School in neighbouring Patiya upazila, told The Daily Star at their courtyard yesterday.

"They robbers, perhaps, tried to spell out their warnings through the carnage."

Sunil Kanti Shushil, the eldest son Tejendra, who flew home from Oman on Thursday to attend the cremation of most of his family, said he underwent a robbery ordeal ten years ago when he suffered a deep cut.

"After the incident, I built up this two-story house in such a pattern that would block the robbers way upstairs."

"I did not know the design would prove fatal," he said, racking in sobs.

## Janatar Mancha case Next hearing on Nov 29

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday set November 29 for hearing on the charge-framing against former state minister for planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and seven others in the Janatar Mancha case (sedition case).

Judge Hossain Shahid Ahmad of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court adjourned the proceedings hearing charges brought against two of the accused. The court will next hear discharge

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## Bangabandhu's sister Ruby passes away

BSS, *Dhaka*

Syeda Rahman Ruby, sister of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, died of cancer at the BIRDEM Hospital yesterday. She was 68.

Wife of late Capt (rtd) Bazlur Rahman, Ruby left behind two sons, four daughters and a host of relatives.

Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina has expressed her deep shock at the death of Syeda Rahman Ruby.

She prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.



PHOTO: STAR

Grand Duchess of Luxembourg Maria Teresa, UNESCO goodwill ambassador for education, poses for photographs on a decorated rickshaw-van during her visit to Mahismara village in Modhupur, Tangail yesterday.

# Day to remember for Mahismara villagers

MUSTAK HOSSAIN, *back from Tangail*

It was a day to cherish for the villagers of Mahismara, Tangail who could see a real duchess for the first time in life.

"My dream came true today (Saturday). I could see a duchess and she even talked to us," exclaimed an excited 17-year-old Nasrin Jahan. "I heard about kings

and queens but never imagined I could be able to see one for real."

Grand Duchess of Luxembourg and Unesco's goodwill ambassador for education Maria Teresa yesterday visited three learning centres managed by the Nari Moitree, an NGO run with the assistance of the UN agency.

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## Total solar eclipse tomorrow

BSS, *Dhaka*

A total solar eclipse will take place tomorrow, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release said yesterday.

The release, quoting Bangladesh Meteorological Department, said the eclipse will start at 02 hrs 46 minutes Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) and end at 06 hrs 52 minutes 12 seconds.

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Shehri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Nov	Shehri	Iftar
27	23		5-14
28	24	4-56	5-14

  

Prayer Timings		
November 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-55	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-14	5-21
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

# The killing field of guest birds

PINAKI ROY, *back from Hakaluki*

Thousands of 'guest birds' have started flocking to Hakaluki haor in Sylhet and many of them are ending up in the dinner plates of their hostile hosts in a parody of a ban on migratory bird hunts.

Gangs of poachers kill for meat a few hundred migratory birds every day in the haor, one of the biggest wetlands in South Asia, as the local administration sits on its hands, locals alleged.

Experts say the killing spree and the shrinkage of the haor forest to land grabbers are contributing to a drop in migratory bird population, both local and foreign.

Some locals have converted parts of the haor to croplands, shrinking the natural habitat and its guest bird population.

A survey of the Centre for Natural Resources Studies (CNRS) says 1,00,000 birds of 126 species used to visit the 45,000-acre Hakaluki haor every year, but the population has dropped significantly this November.

"Only 10 percent of the bird population that visited 30 years ago now come here in winter," said Malay Sarker, field manager of the CNRS, a local non-governmental organisation implementing a Sustainable Environment Management Programme (SEMP) in the haor.

Three decades ago, about 10,00,000 'winged beauties'

visited the waterbody, he said.

A few hundred people on the haor fringes have taken to 'full-time or part-time' hunting for a living. Some of the poachers poison the birds in a hunting overkill, some set nets and some use their licensed guns to commit a crime that carries a maximum punishment of one year in jail or Tk 1,000 in fines or both.

The Environment and Forest ministry banned migratory bird killing for an indefinite period last month, shortly after the expiry of a five-year embargo.

On Wednesday evening, poachers were setting at least 10 nets near West Gabindapur village in Kulaura upazila. The next day The Daily Star journalists found two hunters at Chatlar beel selling the guest birds at Tk 80 each to locals.

Suruz Miah of West Gabindapur said poachers set net in evenings, collect their catches at dawn and carry them to wholesalers in villages in gunny bags.

After a few days, when guest birds will arrive in droves, the poachers will treat them to rice with poison in a killing orgy, said Suruz, a member of the village awareness committee of the CNRS.

Of the 32 species of migratory birds that visit the haor in winter, only a few have arrived so far. Some

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PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Hakaluki haor in Sylhet, top left, one of the largest wetlands in South Asia and a winter refuge for thousands of migratory birds. Poachers set fine-mesh nets, bottom left, horizontally in long stretches to trap birds in mid-flight. A man poses with two migratory birds he has bought from trappers poaching in Hakaluki.