

16 more children hospitalised with pneumonia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pneumonia, a severe form of infection of the lungs, continues to attack children most of who are being hospitalised in serious condition.

According to sources, 16 more children with respiratory problems were admitted to different city hospitals yesterday.

Attending doctors, however, said the condition of most children are now stable.

Experts fear that pneumonia and bronchial infections are likely to get full blown this season.

The diseases that attack the lower respiratory tract mostly of children have already turned serious.

In the last 11 months, more than

1,600 children, mostly below 10, have died from the airborne diseases.

The health directorate said more than 4.19 lakh people, most of them children, were attacked by the diseases with the highest number of the dead in Chittagong division during the period.

With the mercury dipping everyday, the number of admission is also rising. Many of the private clinics are not able to provide accommodation due to shortage of beds.

Apparently many patients are being referred to other hospitals or private clinics for treatment, the doctors said.

According to experts, during the infection the lungs' air sacs fill with pus, mucus and other liquid and

cannot function properly, failing to replenish blood with oxygen. If there is insufficient oxygen in the blood, body cells cannot function properly and may die.

Often pneumonia follows an infection of the nose and throat. When this happens, symptoms of pneumonia begin to appear two or three days after a cold or sore throat attack.

When pneumonia is caused by bacteria, an infected child usually becomes sick relatively quickly with high fever and unusual rapid breathing. When pneumonia is caused by viruses, symptoms tend to appear more gradually and are often less severe than in bacterial pneumonia. Wheezing may be more common with patients with viral pneumonia.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a discussion marking the founding anniversary of the Jubo League at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. The Jubo League organised the discussion.

PHOTO: STAR

IOM to rehabilitate river erosion victims

BSS, Geneva

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) will undertake a project for rehabilitation of the victims of river erosion in Bangladesh.

The assurance came when IOM Director General Brunson Mckinley called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in her suite in Hotel Noga Hilton in Geneva on Thursday night.

Khaleda, now in the Swiss city of Geneva to lead Bangladesh delegation to the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), also had a separate meeting with Director General of International Labour Organisation Juan Somavia.

The prime minister apprised the top IOM official about the miseries of the people rendered homeless by the river erosion every year.

In response, Mckinley said the IOM would soon undertake a project in Bangladesh for the victims of erosion.

During the other meeting, ILO

Director General Juan Somavia highly appreciated the role of Khaleda in empowering women, specially her contribution to female education.

The prime minister said Bangladesh had an excellent

record of maintaining labour code as per the ILO Convention.

She also mentioned elimination of child labour and social movement against dowry system in Bangladesh.

Science and Information and Communication Technology Minister Dr Moyeen Khan and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman, among others, were also present during the meetings.