



PHOTO: STAR

The number of bronchitis patients at the child ward of Chittagong Medical College Hospital is increasing everyday.

ACUTE RESPIRATORY PROBLEM

Ctg hospitals crammed with child patients

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Child wards of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and Chittagong Maa O Shishu Hospital are now crammed with patients suffering from Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI).

The number of child patients suffering from bronchitis, the primary symptom of ARI, is increasing at an alarming rate in the port city.

Over two hundred children, mostly aged below two years, were admitted to different city hospitals in the last seven days, sources said.

Doctors held Respiratory Syncytial Virus and seasonal change responsi-

ble for spread of the disease. They, however, said there is nothing to be worried about the situation.

Dr Moinuddin Ahmad, associate professor of Child Health Department at CMCH, said the child patients, particularly aged two or below, are the victims of the disease with the symptoms of fever and cough.

Meanwhile, the 65-bed CMCH Child Ward is now under tremendous pressure with huge number of patients coming everyday while the authority cannot provide sufficient room for them. As a result, many of them were compelled to go to different private clinics.

Around 150 patients were undergoing treatment at the child ward

yesterday and most of them were seen lying on the floor.

Sources in Chittagong Maa O Shishu Hospital said around 60 children were undergoing treatment at the hospital with bronchitis.

Dr Susanta Barua, a physician of the hospital, urged the parents not to be worried, as the mortality rate by this disease is only one per cent.

Dr Moinuddin of CMCH said bronchitis of a patient might turn into pneumonia, the secondary symptom of ARI, if the viral fever is not controlled in time.

He suggested providing liquid food like water, saline or juice to the patients as initial treatment at home.

Proshika observes 'Release from Jail Day'

Proshika yesterday observed the 'Release from Jail Day' to mark the 2nd anniversary of the release of its President Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed and others from confinements, says a press release.

On the occasion, Proshika workers arranged a daylong programme at its Human Resource Development Centre at Koitta in Manikganj.

The Centre organised blood donation session, discussion and cultural function. Dr Faruque unveiled cover of a compilation titled "Duhsamoye Dinlipi," which contains various documents on the oppression and repression on Proshika by the alliance government.

Mahbubul Karim, senior vice-president of the organisation, presided over the discussion session while Dr Faruque was the chief guest.

Abdul Rob, Bilkis Begum and Fatema Akhter spoke on behalf of the oppressed workers. Shah Newaj, Qazi Khaze Alam, Syed Giasuddin, Mir Mahubul Rahman, Omer Taraque Chowdhury, Sirajul Islam, Nargis Jahan Banu, Mahubul Alam, Motiur Rahman and Abu Sayed also spoke on the occasion.

IUT blood donation programme

The Islamic University of Technology (IUT) in collaboration with Sandhani, organised a voluntary blood donation programme on Tuesday at its auditorium at Board Bazar in Gazipur, says a press release.

Prof Dr M Fazli Ilahi, vice-chancellor of IUT, inaugurated the programme.

The students and the staffs of the university donated blood on the occasion. A total of 101 bags of blood were collected.

Vice-chancellor Prof Dr M Fazli Ilahi highly appreciated the spontaneous participation of both staffs and students in this work and said it is a duty to the society for all of us to come forward and help others at the time of their need. He also lauded Sandhani for their noble efforts.

Pak clerics for expulsion of women aid workers from quake-hit area

REUTERS, Mansehra, Pakistan

Muslim clerics in Pakistan's conservative North West Frontier Province want local authorities to expel all women working for international relief agencies in earthquake affected areas by the end of this month.

The clerics accuse the women, including Pakistanis employed by foreign non-government organisations (NGOs), of dressing improperly, mixing with men and drinking alcohol, which is banned in Islamic Pakistan.

"We are not against the NGOs, but we are against them spreading obscenity in society and trying to weaken our faith by corrupting our women," Moazzam Ali Shah, head

of Tehreek-e-Islaha Muashra, or Movement to Cleanse Society, told Reuters in Mansehra town.

The clerics have not said what action they might take if the women aid workers are not asked to leave.

More than 50 international NGOs are based in Mansehra carrying out relief and rehabilitation projects for the victims of a massive earthquake that killed over 73,000 people and rendered millions homeless in Pakistan's Kashmir and Frontier province last October.

Mansehra is the district where Balakot, one of the towns hardest hit by a massive earthquake last October, is located.

"We know an ultimatum has

been given and we are waiting to see what happens," said Frank Lehmann, a senior official with World Vision, an NGO involved in providing schooling for children still living in tent encampments.

"We respect the local culture and try to behave accordingly," Lehmann said, adding that the relief agencies had raised their concerns with the local authorities.

Police have given assurances that aid workers will be protected, while talks are held with clerics to settle the issue.

"No one would be allowed to disrupt relief work and we are absolutely serious about security issues," Waqas Aziz, a district police

officer, said.

"We see this as a local issue, which is being defused. But we have told the NGOs to take care about local sensitivities while working in this area," he said.

Jamaat-ud-Dawa, an Islamic charity with links with a banned militant organisation, Lashkar-e-Taiba, is active in the area, and its officials in Balakot told Reuters they supported the allegations against the foreign aid workers.

The United States added the charity to a list of terrorist organisations earlier this year, but there have been no moves against it by the Pakistani authorities.

Course on news presentation ends

A month-long training course on 'News presentation', organised by Bangladesh Institute of Communication Studies and Public Relations (BICSPR), concluded on Tuesday with a certificate award ceremony, says a press release.

Md Sabur Khan, chairman of Daffodil Group and Daffodil International University, was present as the chief guest and distributed certificates among the participants.

Sabur said news presentation techniques have changed dramatically all over the world, including Bangladesh. Training can play an important role in understanding the modern presentation techniques, he added.

Mirza Tarequl Qader, executive director of BICSPR, presided over the function.

A total of 35 participants, including 21 women, took part in the course.

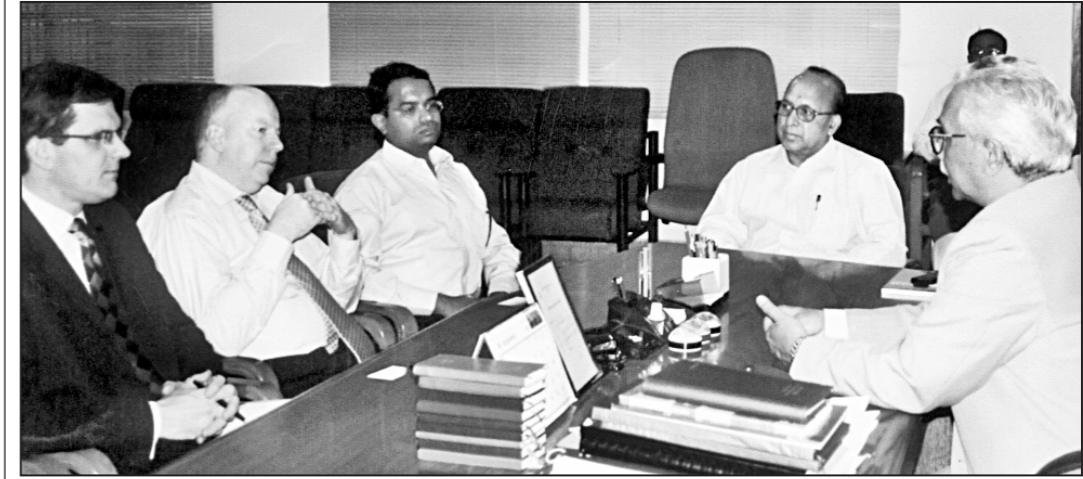


PHOTO: STAR

Three senior officials of Accounting Education and Training Development Project of the World Bank call on National University (NU) Vice Chancellor Wakil Ahmed yesterday. NU Treasurer Jamal Uddin Ahmed and Dean Sher Mohammad were also present.

