

SNAPS

Pneumonia claims 3 in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Pneumonia claimed three lives and attacked 136 others in seven upazilas here in a week. The dead victims are Shahidul, 3, son of Saru Gazi of Bahalgachia village in Sadar upazila, Rina, 5, daughter of Amir Hossain of Keshebpur village in Bauphal upazila and Jeshmin Akter, 5, daughter of Anwar Gazi of Shrirampur village in Dumki upazila, according to Civil Surgeon (CS) office sources. CS office sources disclosed that 54 persons were killed and 1,811 others attacked in the district since January 1 to October 26. Among them 95 per cent were children.

'Listed criminal' nabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Monday arrested a 'listed criminal' from Kandipara in Brahmanbaria Pourasabha. The arrested criminal is Poritush Bhounmik, 35, son of Chanulal Bhounmik. Meanwhile, Nabinagar Thana police in another drive arrested two drug smugglers and recovered two sacks of Phensidyl and whisky from their possession. Arrested smugglers Shah Alam, 35, and Sultan Mia, 50. They are accused in several cases also. All were sent to jail hajat from court, according to police.

KCC Mayor's resignation demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulina

Awami League (AL) leaders and eight Khulina City Corporation (KCC) ward commissioners loyal to the party on Monday demanded resignation of 'incapable' KCC Mayor Sk Tayebur Rahman.

The leaders included presidents and secretaries of the party's Khulina city unit and five thana committees.

In a press statement, leaders and ward commissioners termed him incapable in running administration of the corporation. They also slated the mayor for demanding cancellation of Dainik Purbanchal's declaration and encouraging people loyal to him to burn copies of the paper.

They threatened a tougher agitation to force the mayor step down if he does not resign willingly to save himself from people's wrath.

Hunger procession by CPB

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) brought out a hunger procession and formed a one kilometre long human chain in Dariyapur on Tuesday demanding adequate steps by the government to tackle the "near famine situation" in the area. Several thousand people carrying empty dishes took part in the procession and chanted slogans demanding food.

Prior to the programmes, a rally was held, addressed by, among others, Gaibandha CPB Secretary Mihir Gosh and party leaders Moynul Kabir Mondal and Ali Azam.

The speakers demanded expansion of the VGF programme and supply of adequate medicines to prevent diarrhoeal diseases.

BCL leader murder: Godagari AL begins 8-day programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Godagari Thana unit of Awami League (AL) started an eight-day long programme including half-day hartal on November 1 in protest against killing of Chhatra League (BCL) leader Feroz Ali.

They staged a demonstration and announced the hartal programme in a protest meeting held at Dayingpara crossing on Monday. The demonstrators demanded immediate arrest of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) workers who beat Feroz to death.

The programmes included human chain, mourning procession, protest meeting and submission of memorandum to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer.

No trace of Habibur Rahman yet 3 remanded again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Three youths including two nephews of missing business magnate Md Habibur Rahman were remanded afresh on Monday afternoon.

They were remanded again on production before the court after expiry of three-day remand earlier.

However, law enforcers including the Detective Branch (DB) of police could not trace him. He is missing since October 17.

Shrimps grow with carps

Dipok's success in Jessore opens new chapter in shrimp cultivation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Once a poor tailor at a village market, Dipok is now an affluent shrimp farmer. A pioneer in sweetwater shrimp cultivation in Monirampur upazila in Jessore, he has developed the technique of raising carp fishes along with shrimp.

He had started with a small enclosure in Harina South Beel. His success encouraged many. There are at least 50 shrimp enclosures in the Beel (waterbody) now. All are earning hefty profit.

With training and years of experience, he can identify male and female shrimps at a glance. All about shrimp cultivation is at his fingers' end.

Dipok Roy is the son of Nitai Roy of Hasina village in Monirampur Upazila. Poverty forced him to abandon studies after passing the SSC examination.

He opened a tailoring shop at a village market. But he did not find the work interesting. He had something else in mind.

Some days later, he did something not seen before in the area.

He raised an enclosure on his one and a half bighas of land and released shrimp fries.

Many in the area were bemused by this. As he had no training, Dipok incurred loss for two consecutive years. He did not know how many fries to be released and how to nurse those.

But this could not dent his spirit. He was looking for a training opportunity.

One day Dipok came to know that an employee of a non-government organisation -- Jagoroni Chakra (JC) --was conducting a survey in adjoining Jhikardanga village to form a fishermen's association.

He rushed there and took the NGO employees to his fish enclosure. He also introduced to the NGO employee some others in his village



Dipok Roy (extreme left) with shrimps netted in his farm. The photo was taken recently.

who were interested in fish cultivation.

This was the beginning for Dipok and some others in the village. They formed an association.

The NGO provided Dipok with the basic training. With its recommendation, he also took further training at a government-run fishery centre.

Back home, Dipok released 5060 shrimp fries in the enclosure and nursed those.

After three months, he sold those

technical job and it needs training", he said.

Dipok says planned fish cultivation in the vast fallow waterbodies could be a profitable profession for educated youths, which could also earn huge amounts of foreign currency for the country. The government should take all out steps to promote this sector to remove unemployment, he said.

PHOTO: STAR

RHYIA PROJECT IN N DISTS

Adolescents now aware of AIDS, STDs

PINAKI ROY, back from Panchagarh

Fourteen year-old school student Nasim, son a conservative mother, knows about healthcare and fatal diseases like AIDS and other STDs.

This was unusual a few months back in Panchagarh, an backward northern district.

After losing his father in childhood, his mother is everything to Nasim.

He turned adolescent but his mother, an employee of the Islamic Foundation, felt shy to teach him about his physical changes and reproductive health issues.

"I could not ask anybody about those things. Finally came to know about this centre few months ago and got some books. Now I know about myself after attending the RHYIA resource centre. I have become conscious of health and diseases," Nasim told this correspondent.

Nasim's mother allow him to go to the adolescent resources centre run under a European Commission-UNFPA scheme called Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia (RHYIA).

Now Nasim knows about the changes of his growing physic and also about sexually transmitted AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) /HIV and other diseases and how to protect him from the deadly diseases.

"Once a month we discuss the things with the peer educator and that helps us meet up our curiosity," said Nasim.

Like Nasim, more than 10,000 adolescents in the country are getting knowledge about reproductive health issues across the country.

But all juveniles are not lucky as Nasim is. Nearly 23 percent of the total population of this country are adolescents and most of them grow up with so many wrong concepts about reproductive health issues.

Talking about reproductive health issues at the family level is a taboo in Bangladesh's conservative society. But the situation is different in some places in the northwestern region.

Parents in some parts of Nilphamari, Panchaghar and Kurigram districts discuss safe sex, STDs and other issues with their adolescent children, who are taught on these issues under the RHYIA project.

"I have sent two of my daughters to RHYIA resource centre to



PHOTO: STAR

Participants at a RHYIA Resources Centre in Syedpur.

learn about safe sex. I also discuss these things with them," Shamsun Nahar, a resident of Syedpur in Nilphamari district, told journalists.

She added: There is no reason to feel shy of talking about these issues, as we have to learn and discuss these to lead a safe life."

Sohel Akhter, a member of RHYIA's guardians' committee in the area, also expressed similar views.

He said adolescents need to learn these things right from this age to remain safe from AIDS and other STDs.

Taib Ali, field officer of RHYIA scheme in Syedpur being implemented by the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), said currently 100 adolescents are enrolled with different resource centres under the project.

"At first parents did not agree to let their kids to learn these things. Then we had sessions with them and reminded them the problems they had felt in their adolescent age. It worked very nicely and they allowed us," said Taib who works at Chamragudam in Syedpur among children of stranded Pakistanis.

They are taught about hygienic living, physical changes among adolescents, safe sex and other related issues, he added.

Misti, a 15-year-old girl in Syedpur, said, "I learnt what is AIDS, how it spreads and how to remain safe from this deadly disease."

Asked, she added, "What I am learning would help me become a responsible and good mother."

Sixteen-year-old Nanni of the same area said AIDS destroys the built-in resistance against dis-

eases in human body. One has to remain alert against making love with unknown people and should use condom to remain safe from this disease, she added.

Under the RHYIA project, FPAB's Syedpur and Panchaghar units have also set up satellite clinics in the areas.

Fatema, a medical officer at a satellite clinic in Panchaghar, said women are given prescriptions for different reproductive health diseases for as low as Tk 10.

However, the project does not provide laboratory facilities to help diagnose some of the diseases, she said. The cases requiring laboratory tests have to be referred to other places.

Jinnatul Islam, a 17-year-old youth in Kurigram district, said, "I have become more conscious about health after attending the RHYIA resource centre."

Solidarity, a local NGO, has been implementing the RHYIA project with support from the UNFPA and the Save the Children.

Abdus Sattar, peer educator of the project in the district, said so far 300 youths, both male and female, have been covered by the scheme.

Jinnatul, 17 and Tariquzzaman, 20, two youths in Kalibakshy area, said they have formed a forum called "Sonali Probbhat Sangha" and they organise different cultural programmes to propagate information about safe sex and reproductive health issues.

The UNFPA started the two-year project in September 2003 in 17 districts in the country along with six other Asian countries including Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Combdia and Thailand.

6 die of diarrhoea in two dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Diarrhoea claimed six lives in Gaibandha and Patuakhali. Of the dead victims four died in Gaibandha while two others in Patuakhali.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: With four more deaths, diarrhoea death toll rose to 43 here in the last two months. About 4,290 others were attacked with the disease, according to district diarrhoea control cell.

The latest victims are 10-month-old Jahanara of Sadullapur, Fatema Bewa, 60, Sujan, 15, and Santona, 5, of Gaibandha Sadar upazila. Fifty five persons were admitted to Sundarganj Upazila Health Complex on Monday.

On the same day about 30 diarrhoea patients of the pourashava area were admitted to the hospital.

Acute crisis of IV saline was prevailing in local markets, according to patients.

Gaibandha Pourashava is cautioning the people over loud speaker to avoid adulterated food.

Our Patuakhali Correspondent reports: Diarrhoea claimed two lives and attacked 68 others in last seven days in Patuakhali.

The dead are Razu, 6, son of Masud Mia of Chapli village in Kalapara upazila and Rezaul, 14, son of Abdul Mannan of Fathai Nagar village in Sadar upazila.

DISCUSSION AT MANIKGANJ 'Help establish child rights'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Speakers at a discussion here on Monday urged all concerned to help establish child rights.

They were addressing a discussion on 'Bail of Children from Police Custody' at the conference room of the Police Superintendent (SP) of Manikganj.

Bangladesh Retired Police officer's Welfare Association in collaboration with World Vision, Bangladesh organised the discussion.

Speakers said jail is not the first place for children, rather it is the last place for them.

Manikganj SP Awrangajeb Mahbub chaired the discussion while former Inspector General of Police and General Secretary of the Welfare Association Abdul Zobbar Talukdar was present as the main speaker.

Retired police officials and former SPs Rafiqul Alam, Tajul Islam, Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department Sakhawat Hossain, Additional SP Mujibur Rahman, first class magistrate Yasmin Begum, Manikganj Correspondent of The Daily Star Zahangir Alam Biswas, district officer of Bangladesh Shishu Academy Shariful Islam, officer in charge (OC) of Shivalaya Thana Rashid Shikdor, sub-inspector of DB, police Mainuddin Khan addressed the discussion.

Magistrates, Ocs, social welfare officers, journalists, NGO personalities took part in the discussion.

Prompt police action saves villagers from clash

SP brokers bond signing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Prompt action by police saved the people of nine villages in Machihata union in Brahmanbraia Sadar upazila from clashing again.

Elders and leaders in the nine villages took oath in front of Brahmanbaria Police Superintendent ATM Tarek and signed a bond yesterday that they would not be engaged in clash any more.

On Tuesday, at least 150 people were injured as the villagers, divided into two groups, clashes over teasing a girl.

At least 20 shops at Chandpur Bazar were also looted as the groups clashed with lethal weapons and blasted cocktails. They also damaged three compartments of a local train at Pagachang railway station. The villages have a total population of

about 8000.

After the clashes the rival groups announced over mikes that there would be a 'sanguinary battle tomorrow' (Wednesday) and urged their respective men to be ready.

Of the villages, Chandpur, Jagatshar, Bhatpara, Foolbaria and Gajaria are on one side and Paghachang, Kachait and Kainchanpur are on the other side.

Being informed, SP ATM Tarek and Brahmanbaria Sadar thana OC Md Ismail along with a team of police rushed to the spot. They went door to door to broker peace.

Yesterday, the elders and leaders from the nine villages attended an arbitration at Chandpur and signed a bond paper that they would not engaged in clash any more.

Sunken launch salvaged

Woman's body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

M V Niharika which sank in Bishkhali river near Fuljhuri launch station in Barguna sadar upazila on Monday was salvaged Tuesday evening.

A body of a woman was recovered from the haul of the launch as it was towed to the shore by BIWTA salvage vessel Hanmja. The victim was identified as Lobegan Bibi, 42, of Patharghata upazila in Barguna district.

The small launch has no fitness certificate and was plying without any route permit, officials said. It capsized when hit by another big launch.

The launch was salvaged from a point 300 meters downstream. Officials said many bodies of the victims might have been washed away by the string undercurrent as the spot is near the estuary.

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