

Diarrhoea claims six, affects 500 in Sirajganj

UNB, Sirajganj

Diarrhoea that broke out in an epidemic form in the district claimed six lives and affected over 500 people in five days till Thursday, unofficial sources said.

The dead were identified as college student Bappa Raj, 18, and Abul

Hasan, 6, of Rayganj upazila, Barik, 4, and Marzina, 5, of Chouhali, Ramisa, 5, of Kazipur, and Bulbul, 13, of Sadar upazila.

The Civil Surgeon's office, however, confirmed four deaths during the week.

Rayganj, Chouhali, Tarash, Belkuchi, Shahjadpur and Sadar are the worst affected upazilas, an official source said.

Hospital sources said 60/70 diarrhoeal patients were being admitted to the Sadar Hospital and upazila health complexes everyday.

The Civil Surgeon's office said that

a number of medical teams have been working in the affected areas round the clock to combat the waterborne disease.

Diarrhoea has taken an alarming turn in Kushtia, claiming one life and affecting 200 more on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Siarannesa, 60, of suburban Mangalbaria area of the district town.

Hospital sources said the actual number of diarrhoea-affected people could be three times more, as most of the patients prefer taking treatment at home.



PHOTO: STAR

Jatiya Sramik Jote stages a demonstration at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday protesting closure of Dhaka Match Factory.

Cabbages 'cut lung cancer risks'

BBC ONLINE

Eating vegetables from the cabbage family can reduce the risk of lung cancer for people with a certain genetic make-up, scientists say.

Such cruciferous vegetables had already been linked to reduced rates of lung cancer, but it had not been clear why.

The study found eating the vegetables at least once a week cut cancer risk for people with inactive versions of two genes, carried by 70 percent of people.

The Lancet study was by International Agency for Cancer Research scientists.

The two genes which were studied are the GSTM1 and GSTT1, which normally protect the body against certain toxins.

Vegetables such as cabbage, broccoli and sprouts are rich in chemicals called isothiocyanates, which strongly protect against lung cancer. Normally, isothiocyanates are eliminated from the body by "clean-up" enzymes produced by the genes GSTM1 and GSTT1.

'Substantial effect'

The researchers from the IACR in Lyon, France, looked at 2,141 patients with lung cancer and 2,168 healthy individuals from Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Romania, Russia and Hungary, where cruciferous vegetables are a normal part of the diet.

DNA samples were taken, and their diets monitored.

No protective effect was seen in people who carried active versions of both genes.

But eating the vegetables at least once a week was found to have a 33 percent protective effect against lung cancer in people who just had an inactive form of the GSTM1 gene.

Around 50 percent of people have this form of this gene.

In those with an inactive form of the GSTT1 gene, there was a 37 percent protective effect.

Around 20 percent have this form.

But individuals who had inactive versions of both genes - which applies to 10 percent of the population - were 72 percent protected.

'Environment plus genes'

Dr Paul Brennan, one of the scientists who carried out the study, said: "These data provide strong evidence for a substantial protective effect of cruciferous vegetables on lung cancer."

Professor Paulo Boffetta, who also worked on the study, added: "This is a population who all ate some of these vegetables, so we don't know if the same pattern would be seen when comparing people who ate a moderate amount to none, as opposed to a high amount to a medium amount."

"The message here is that environmental effect depends on the genetic background and vice versa."

But Professor Boffetta said the protective effect of the vegetables would not rule out the harmful effect of smoking, linked to the majority of cases of lung cancer.

"The risk a regular smoker will get lung cancer is 20 times that of a non-smoker. So even if eating these vegetables cut that risk by half, smokers would still be at a much higher risk."

Professor Stephen Spiro, of the British Lung Foundation, said: "This research is very interesting and we will be following further developments closely."

"Lung cancer causes more than 33,000 deaths in the UK each year and finding a simple way to help protect some of the population against this condition would be a huge benefit."

"However, it is important to reiterate the importance of stopping smoking, and protection from second-hand smoke."

"Further research and testing would need to be done to ascertain the reliability of research on these vegetables before it could be used in the UK."



PHOTO: STAR

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) takes out a procession at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday demanding declaration of Monga-affected Rangpur as disaster area.