

Diabetics with pneumonia fare poorly

REUTERS, New York

Outcomes for people with diabetes who develop pneumonia are worse than for non-diabetics, according to a report from Spain.

Diabetes is common among patients with pneumonia, the authors note in their article in the medical journal Chest. Dr Miquel Falguera and colleagues from Hospital Universitari Arnau de Vilanova, Lleida, investigated whether the clinical features of pneumonia, or the causative microorganisms and outcomes, are modified by the presence of diabetes.

They found that patients with diabetes had more severe pneumonia, and more often required hospitalisation than non-diabetic patients.

Also, diabetes was independently associated with an increased risk of dying from the pneumonia, the investigators report.

The patients with diabetes who died of pneumonia had more underlying diseases and diabetes-related complications, but the microorganisms responsible for the pneumonia were the same in patients with and without diabetes, the report indicates.



Water Resources Minister Hafizuddin Ahmad speaks at a discussion at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Rhythm Cultural Society organised the meeting to commemorate the victims of Benin plane crash.

China dumps chemicals to clean toxic river

REUTERS, Beijing

China is dumping chemicals into a southern river to try to neutralise a toxic spill and contain the second environmental disaster to hit the country in as many months, a local official and state media said on Friday.

The cadmium-containing slick, which has cut tap water for tens of thousands of people downstream for five days, was flushed into the North River running across Guangdong province north to south from a Shaoguan zinc smelter last week.

The government has already lowered dam gates at the Baishiyao hydropower plant near Yingde, 90

km (54 miles) downstream from Shaoguan, to try to stall and dilute the pollutants.

Now it is to dump chemicals into the water, Yingde government spokesman Huang Zhensheng told Reuters by telephone.

"With only 1,200 tonnes of the chemicals, toxicity can be reduced by 30 percent," the Southern Metropolis News quoted an expert as saying.

Cadmium, a metallic element widely used in batteries, can cause liver and kidney damage and lead to bone diseases. Compounds containing cadmium are also carcinogenic.

In China's northeast, the front of a slick of benzene compounds that

poisoned drinking water for millions after a chemical plant blast last month has crossed the Russian border through the frozen Amur River.

China apologised again to Russia on Thursday, while Russia's far east city of Khabarovsk readied alternative water supplies, though taps had not been turned off.

"Analysis of the water showed that the benzene content does not exceed ... the maximum allowable concentration," RIA-Novosti news agency quoted an Emergencies Ministry official as saying.

"As a result, the city authorities have decided not to turn off the Khabarovsk water supply."

NGO office torched in Bhola

UNB, Bhola

Miscreants set fire to a local NGO office at Sakuchia Kroralia Bazar in Manpura Upazila on Saturday night.

Rahim Munshi, a member of Zia Parishad, who took loan from 'Coast Trust' against three names, threatened to blow up its office on Friday as the NGO refused to give him more loan, sources said.

Earlier, Rahim was punished in a village arbitration following the threat.

Later, the NGO office was torched.

'Coast Trust' officials suspect his involvement with the fire incident.

A General Diary (GD) has been lodged with local police in this connection.

Five journos honoured

Bss, Ctg

Chander Hat, a national child and juvenile welfare organisation, has honoured five journalists of a news agency and four national dailies, and two local newspapers for promoting child rights and focusing on the issues relating to children and juveniles.

Those, who were adjudged as "children-friendly journalists" and chosen for the award are Mohammad Shahnawaz of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) at Chittagong Bureau, Jamshed Rehman Chowdhury of the daily Jugantor, Saiful Islam Shilpi of the daily Dinkal, Nasir Uddin Haider of the daily Prothom Alo and Kamal Pervej of the daily Janakantha.

The daily Purbakone and the daily Azadi published from Chittagong were also named for the award.

The Chittagong chapter of Chander Hat organised a function at Jamal Khan Road in the city yesterday to announce the

names of the recipients for the award.

Kazi Sarwar-e-Alam, an eminent banker and social worker, presided over the function addressed, among others, by public prosecutor of Chittagong Advocate Mohammad Kafil Uddin, ward commissioner of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Advocate MA Naser, president of Chittagong city unit of Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR), Advocate Zia Habib Ahsan and secretary of Chittagong district unit of Chander Hat Iftekhar Uddin Javed.

Speaking at the function, Iftekhar Uddin Javed said the organisation has introduced the award for the first time in the country to encourage the people working in the creative field for development of children and juveniles through their writings and endeavours. The organisation will award such award every year.