

Encephalitis kills 6 in Kushtia

Over 50 being treated at Sadar Hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Six people died from encephalitis disease at Kushtia General Hospital in last three days.

This has created panic among people as the number of patients are increasing everyday.

Doctors at the hospital said that more than 50 people attacked with the disease are being treated at the hospital. Of them, 12 were admitted yesterday. The numbers of patients are increasing day by day.

Sources at the hospital and Civil Surgeon's office said the disease first broke out in Khajanagar and Kaburhat villages in Sadar upazila about a week ago.

Those attacked with the disease were aged between 12 and 60.

According to Kushtia General Hospital doctors, initially the victims died for lack of proper treatment as the disease could not be unidentified.

The symptom of the disease is

high fever. At one stage the patient loses sense, doctors said.

The doctors said the disease is caused by a virus. The patients should be kept quarantined during treatment.

Most of the patients were treated for fever by local doctors, mostly quacks, which was wrong, they said.

Civil Surgeon Dr Abu Taher with a team of specialist doctors from Kushtia General Hospital visited the areas.

The six people who died of the disease are Hazera Khatun, 45, Mina Khatun 30, Asia, 27, Abdus Salam, Jahangir Alam and Tofazzol Hossain.

Civil surgeon Dr. Abu Taher told to local newsmen that he has already informed about the disease to his higher authority.

A specialist doctors team might have visited to Kushtia, civil surgeon said.



PHOTO: STAR

Indigenous boys and girls spray water to each other at a festival in Rangamati held yesterday as part of a three-day celebration to welcome the Bangla year 1414.

2 JMB militants held in Rajshahi, Cox's Bazar

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Joint forces arrested an Ehsar (senior leader) member of Islamist militant outfit JMB (Jamaatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh) from Gaikandi Bazar in Bagmara upazila in Rangshahi and a suspected militant from Cox's bazaar yesterday, our correspondents report.

The Ehsar member caught in Rajshahi was identified as Mokarram Ali, 20, son of Abdul Kafi, an adviser to Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai and organiser of militants in the upazila, police said. Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai was executed along with five other top leaders of JMB recently.

Mokarram was seen providing trainings to use bomb and arms to JMB cadres in Bagmara in 2004, local people said.

An army official said, the detainees would be handed over to police within hours following brief interrogation.

In Cox's Bazar, joint force arrested a suspected militant of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from near the airport.

Abul Kalam Azad, 22, son of Habib Ullah, of Gopalraza village in Titas upazila in Comilla district was arrested for his suspicious movement, police said.

He was being interrogated by a team of officers of the detective branch (DB) of police when the report was filed yesterday afternoon.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Cox's Bazar Sadar police station said more JMB cadres could be hiding in Cox's Bazar town. Search is going on to nab them, the OC said.

Nine bombs, revolver seized: 4 held in Munshiganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Joint forces in a raid conducted at Amghata village under Sadar upazila arrested four persons and seized nine bombs, one revolver and some lethal weapons by digging ground of a house Tuesday night.

The arrestees have been identified as Jalal Bepari, 29, his elder brother Tara Miah, 51, and their two cousins Firoz, 42, and Harun, 27.

Major Akbar who led the joint forces told this correspondent that they had recovered the weapons from the house of Jalal Bepari.

Meanwhile, the same night a gang of robbers in guise of personnel of joint forces looted money amounting to Tk 1.5 lakh and valuables from a house at Purbo Baligaon village under Tongibari upazila.

Sources said, a gang of seven or eight robbers entered the house of Hari Member and tied up the family members and ran away with Tk 1.5 lakh in cash and gold ornaments weighing 20 tolas.

A case has been filed with the Tongibari Police Station in this regard.

Rare marine fish caught in Cox's Bazar

MUAZZEM HOSSAIN SHAKIL, Cox's Bazar

A rare species of fish, which looks like a shark, was caught from deep sea around 20-25 kilometers south of St. Martin's Island yesterday. It has been kept at the under-construction Panowa Bay Park museum of at Cox's Bazar.

Marine biologist Ragib Uddin Ahmed at the museum said he spotted the rare fish at Cox's Bazar fish landing station and took it from fishermen.

Ragib Uddin said the fish is a type of shark and its scientific name is Rhina Aencylostoma that belongs to the family Rhinobatidae.

Jiku Dash, a local fisherman said, he never saw such a fish in the sea.

The fish is about three and half feet long and weighs about 8 kilograms.

Ragib Uddin said, it is grows up to 270 cm in length and its maximum weight is 135 kg.

It is a coral reef-associated creature found at a depth of 10 to 100 feet in the sea. It is found in Indo-West Pacific, Red Sea and East Africa to Papua New Guinea, north to Japan, south to New South Wales and Australia.



PHOTO: STAR

Marine biologist Ragib Uddin Ahmed with the rare fish in Cox's Bazar.

It is an ovoviparous creature that means it lays eggs.

The fish is becoming extinct in the world.

It is listed in International Red List Book of IUCN (International Union of Conservation of Nature) as a vulnerable species.

"We need to know more about it and take immediate steps for conservation", Ragib Uddin said.

Boisabi festival begins today in Rangamati

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

The three day long traditional 'Boisabi' festival of the indigenous communities in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) will begin today with great enthusiasm and festivity.

The Chakma, Marmas, Tangchanya, Tripura and other ethnic communities in Rangamati will celebrate the grand festival to welcome the Bangla year 1414.

The first day of the festival is called 'Phubijhu' the second day is 'Mulbijhu' and third day or first day of the Bangla New Year is called 'Gorija Pojya Din'.

On the day of Phubijhu, boys and girls wake up early in the morning and take birth with their parents and clean up houses and its surroundings and they decorate houses with different flowers. They also float flowers in rivers, canals and springs seeking blessing to God for eternal peace and prosperity.

Though the festival is related to the ethnic people, Bangalees also enjoy it with much enthusiasm. Tourists have flocked to the region to enjoy the traditional festival of the tribal people.

6X3

9X3

Use boiled water to avoid jaundice

Loudspeakers blare in Moulvibazar as safe water project gathers dust

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

As jaundice is spreading in Moulvibazar town and adjoining areas alarmingly, the municipal authorities yesterday urged the townspeople through loud speakers to use pipeline water after boiling and to keep their water reservoirs clean.

Incidence of typhoid, dysentery and other water borne diseases also increased in the areas in recent weeks.

Bijoy Krishna Dey, superintendent of water supply section in Moulvibazar municipality office, told this correspondent that samples of pipeline water were sent to regional DPHE (Department of Public Health Engineering) laboratory in Comilla for test. The result is still awaited.

He said announcement is being made over loud speaker to create awareness among people.

He said his office has taken steps to detect leakages in underground water supply pipelines.

More than 1000 people including children were infected with jaundice in the town from March 12 to April 11, according to health department sources.

Officials at different pathological laboratories said 50 to 60 people come to each of them daily for blood test and over 95 per cent of them were detected bearing jaundice germs.

On an average, over 10 patients are now being examined at the outdoor of Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital, sources there said.

Civil Surgeon Dr Afaz Uddin also said that the number of jaundice

patients are increasing. He apprehended that contaminated water supplied by the municipality could be the main reason.

He said health officials are working to create awareness among the people.

Moulvibazar district town was brought under a government plan in 2003 to supply safe water in 18 towns in the country. But the project is yet to be implemented in the town.

Tk 50,000 looted from bus passengers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Robbers looted cash and valuables worth Tk 50,000 from the passengers of seven baby taxis and auto-tempos (human hauler) on the Fakirbazar-Dasherbazar road in Barin union of Baralekha upazila.

Robbers put up barricade on the road by felling trees and looted money, mobile phone and other valuables from the passengers of the vehicles Monday night.

Local people alleged that five such incidents of robbery occurred at the same spot in last three months.

When contacted, Nirmal Chakraverty, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Baralekha Police Station said eight people were arrested following complaints lodged by Barin UP chairman over phone.

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