

DISEASES BREAK OUT IN THAKURGAON

Four children die, 500 more taken to hospital in a week

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

About five hundred child patients have been admitted to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital and four upazila health complexes in the district as pneumonia, diarrhoea and cold related diseases went up due mainly to fluctuation of temperature during day and night.

Four children died at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital due to pneumonia and other cold related diseases in a week. They are Mili, 6, daughter of Abed Miah of Hariharpur village, Sifat, 4, son of Enamul Haque of Gorea village, Babu, 2, son of Karimuddin of Khochari village in Sadar upazila and Niloy, 4, son of Shariful Islam of Nekmorad village in Ranishankoil upazila of the district.

At present 112 patients are receiving treatment at the 18-seat capacity children's ward at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital while about four hundred child patients are admitted to four upazila health complexes having a total of 60 seats.

Many child patients have

also been admitted to different clinics in the town.

Besides, 250 to 300 patients are receiving treatment at the outdoors of the hospitals in the district every day.

About 187 patients, mostly with respiratory problem and diarrhoea, received treatment at the outdoor of Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital on Thursday.

During a visit to the hospital on Friday, this correspondent saw many child patients lying on the floor of the children's ward and on veranda.

"I got my pneumonia-affected 14-month-old son admitted to the hospital Wednesday morning. We have to stay on the floor due to shortage of space in the children's ward," said Farida Pervin of Gobindanagarh village under Sadar upazila.

Selina Begum, who took her 10-month-old baby to the hospital with symptoms of pneumonia and diarrhoea on Sunday, is staying on a space beside the staircase. She came from Kabirzhat village under Birganj upazila of Dinajpur district.

"Child patients are coming to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital

in large numbers as there is no child specialist at the upazila level and in adjacent Panchagarh district. Many patients also come here from Birganj and Bochaganj upazilas of Dinajpur district," said Dr Shahjahan Nawaj, a consultant of Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

"The number of child patients with pneumonia and diarrhoea is on the rise due to change of season and fluctuation of temperature during day and night. Only two nurses are working in the children's ward. It is very difficult for them to serve the increasing number of child patients," he said.

If the patients come to hospital in time, they are likely to get proper treatment and recover soon, he added.

Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital, which is officially a 250-bed one, is run by inadequate staff, making it difficult to manage large number of patients. One more nurse will be engaged soon at the children's ward to tackle the situation," Civil Surgeon Dr Lokman Ali said.



PHOTO: STAR

A mother having her child take medicine on the floor of Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital that struggles hard to provide service for a large number of child patients due to lack of accommodation and shortage of doctors and nurses.

Computers for students gathering dust

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

One hundred and twenty five sets of computers, meant for distribution to 85 colleges, high schools and madrasas in Bogra district, have been lying idle for months in the store of Bogra Zila Parishad.

The said number of computers, eight printers, accessories and 125 tables were bought for about Tk 50 lakh in three phases during 2008-09 financial year for distribution to 85 institutions in different upazilas of Bogra, sources said.

Eighty-five people were also provided training at a cost of Tk over three lakh.

After joining as the chief executive officer of Bogra Zila Parishad, Moly Kumar Roy on April 15 took initiative to distribute the computers at a function with the then divisional commissioner as chief guest. But the initiative faced a setback after Divisional Commissioner Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan was transferred.

"Now May 30 has been fixed for distribution of the computers to the educational institutions. If everything goes according to plan, the deputy commissioner of Bogra will hand over the computers to persons concerned at a function where he will be the chief guest," Moly Kumar said.



PHOTO: STAR

One hundred and twenty-five computers, meant for distribution to 85 colleges, high schools and madrasas in Bogra district, lie idle at the store of Bogra Zila Parishad.

Death of student in road mishap triggers protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Death of a college student in a road accident triggered violent protest yesterday at Barnali crossing in the city.

Victim Tushar, 24, was a student of Rajshahi Government College and son of Tozammel Haque of Kadamhazir village in Godagari upazila.

Locals said the accident occurred at about 9:30 am when a sand-laden truck hit Tushar's rickshaw from behind while it was crossing the road. The truck ran over Tushar as he fell from the rickshaw killing him on the spot.

Angered by the accident, locals seized the truck and set it on fire and blocked Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj road seriously hampering traffic movement. The protestors also damaged four other vehicles.

The truck driver and his helper however fled the scene.

Fire service personnel rushed to the spot to douse the fire.

At around 10:30 am police took control of the situation following which the protestors withdrew the road barricade.

Police also sent the body to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Shahidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Rajshahi police station.

Relatives said, Tushar came to visit his relatives at Ambagan in the city on the day. But he met the tragic end of his life while returning home.



PHOTO: STAR

Agitated people set fire to this truck after it crushed to death Tushar, a student of Rajshahi Government College, at Barnali intersection in Rajshahi city yesterday. Inset, the deceased.

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Jamaat men beaten up by BCL, Jubo League

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 15 Jamaat men, including the ameer of the party's Patuakhali district unit, were injured in an attack by BCL and Jubo league activists at Baufal upazila headquarters yesterday.

Of the injured, district Jamaat Ameer Fakhruddin Khan Razi, Secretary Abul Bashar Saifullah, Galachipa upazila unit Ameer Yahya Khan, Baufal unit Ameer Maulana Ishaq, Secretary Khalidur Rahman, and Najur union Jamaat chief Selimur Rahman were admitted to private clinics while the rest given first aid.

Jamaat Baufal upazila unit arranged a meeting at Baufal High School by taking permission of the school authorities and over 100 Jamaat men attended the meeting.

Hearing the news, BCL and Jubo League activists went to the school and attacked the Jamaat men. Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

District Ameer Fakhruddin Khan Razi said they were holding party meeting, taking prior permission from the school authorities. He said the ruling party attacked their meeting without any reason.

Contacted, Baufal BCL President Ibrahim Khalil said they foiled the rally where Jamaat men were delivering anti-state and anti-government speeches.

No case was filed with Baufal Police Station in connection with the incident as of filing of this report at 6:00pm.

Bogra motor workers at odds with rivals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Bogra District Motor Workers' Union yesterday threatened to call an indefinite transport strike if the union's former president Kamrul Islam Baju was not arrested for 'fuelling' clash on May 19 between the union leaders and workers in the town.

Victor president of the union Md Kamrul Morshed Apel read out a written statement in this regard at a press conference at Bogra Reporters' Forum yesterday noon.

In case the motor workers observe the strike road communication between Dhaka and 11 northern districts will be snapped. But Apel did not mention any specific date for the strike.

Earlier on Saturday Kamrul Islam Baju at a press conference at the same venue brought allegation of extortion against the leaders of the present committee of the Union and demanded fresh election. The two groups filed two separate cases with Sadar police station bringing extortion and other charges against each other.

NOTICE FOR LOTTERY OF ALLOTMENT OF IPO SHARES

It gives immense pleasure to **RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited** to announce that the lottery for allotment of Initial Public Offering (IPO) shares will be held on Monday, May 24, 2010 at 10.30 a.m. in Bangabandhu International Conference Center, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka.

All concerned are earnestly requested to attend the event.

Sd/
 (Muhammad Shahidul Islam ACS)
 Assistant Company Secretary

RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited