



Mothers with their children affected with pneumonia and other cold-related diseases through the children's ward of Narail Sadar Hospital as over 600 children with similar problems came to the hospital during the last one week.

PHOTO: STAR

PNEUMONIA, COLD-RELATED DISEASES

Over 600 kids treated at Narail hospital in a week

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Narail

Pneumonia and other cold-related diseases are taking its toll in the district as over 600 children taken to hospital in the last one week.

Downpour for last two weeks, unhygienic living condition and season change were seen as the main reasons behind the outbreak of the diseases.

While visiting the children's ward at Narail Sadar Hospital yesterday, this correspondent found 85 pneumonia affected children admitted there although it had only 20 beds. The hospital was treating 3-4 affected children in each bed, while they sent the rest to other wards. Their mothers were seen sitting or

sleeping in turns or standing all the night at or around the wards.

Afroza Parvin, in charge of child ward, said in the last seven days, about 350 children affected with pneumonia and other cold-related diseases were admitted to the ward.

As per hospital record, an additional 312 were treated at the hospital outdoor and many children were transferred to Jessore and Khulna medical college hospitals during the period.

Kalpona Biswas, 23, mother of a pneumonia affected child told this correspondent that there were four children at bed 11. She said she could sleep for only an hour the previous night as she had to leave the bed for others to take rest.

Nurjahan Begum, 32, who took shelter with her five-month-old baby at the ward corridor, said her son was suffering from fever and respiratory problems. As there is no bed or space on the floor at the children's ward, she was given accommodation in the corridor.

Dr. Anita Saha, Paediatric Consultant, said children affected with pneumonia and other cold-related diseases need special care with adequate air, clean bed and controlled temperature.

However, the overcrowded children's ward can hardly provide such facilities, she lamented.

Despite all, we are trying our best to treat the patients, she said.

Procession for peace in Rangamati today

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rangamati

The district administration yesterday evening lifted Section 144 that was imposed following a clash between indigenous people and Bangalee settlers in the district town on Saturday morning.

Rangamati Hill District Council and the administration also gave Tk 50,000 to each of the injured for better treatment.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Rangamati unit yesterday withdrew their indefinite work abstention programme.

At least 20 people, including a union parishad chairman and a sub-inspector, were injured in the clash that erupted at around 10:00am on Rangamati Government College campus.

The administration imposed the restriction at about 11:00am following the clash.

A chase and counter case took place between the settlers and indigenous people at Amanatbug and Tribel Adam on Sunday night despite imposition of Section 144.

A special review meeting on law and order situation at the deputy commissioner's office will be followed by a peace procession today.

All political and civil society leaders will be present at the meeting, said DC Mostafa Kamal.

"Although the situation is now under control, additional police have been deployed in different areas to avoid any further trouble" said police superintendent Masood-ul-Hasan.

BNP man killed, 20 hurt in Pabna intra-party clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

An activist of BNP was shot dead and 20 others were injured in an intra-party clash in the district town yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Milon Hossain, 25, son of Abdur Rahim Baksha at Dakkhin Raghappur village in the town.

Afzal Hossain, officer in-charge of Pabna Sadar police station, said the clash took place between the supporters of two rival groups -- one led by the district unit BNP president KS Mahmud and the other by Kamrul Hasan Mintu, mayor of Pabna municipality and a BNP rival group leader -- in New Market area around 12:30pm.

Quoting locals he said, when the supporters of Mahmud brought out a procession and tried to take control of the party's central office at Gopalpur Nahiripara, the rebel faction which had occupied it under the leadership of Kamrul, resisted it, triggering a fierce



PHOTO: STAR

An activist of BNP, injured during the bloody clash between two factions of the party in Pabna town yesterday, being taken to hospital.

clash.

Police charged batons on the clashing groups near Pabna Diabetic Hospital. A few rounds of gunshots were traded during the 30-minute clash that left Milon bullet-injured. He was rushed to Pabna Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Vice president of Pabna district unit BNP Abdullah Al Mahamud claimed when

their procession reached Pabna Diabetic Hospital point, the rival faction launched a sudden attack. Agitated activists then chased the attackers. "Police barricaded us and charged batons on our procession", he said.

Siddikur Rahman Siddik, who belongs to the rival group led by the mayor, however claimed that Milon was killed as KS Mahmud-

led processionists opened fire at "our party men."

Police caught two BNP activists from the spot, said Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Md. Shamim Ahmed.

During the clash, several policemen also received injuries and took first aid, the ASP added.

Of the other injured, Md. Milon Hossain, 38, Azahar, 35, belong to Mintu group and Arif Khan, organising secretary of municipal unit JCD, were admitted to Pabna Medical College Hospital.

Internal feud in Pabna BNP deepened following the formation of the 172-member district unit headed by Major (retd.) KS Mahamud and Habibur Rahman Tota on January 13 this year.

The new committee dropped over 40 BNP leaders of the previous committee, including former organising secretary of district BNP Kamrul Hasan Mintu.

The rival faction occupied the party office on May 11 this year.

BNP activist beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A BNP activist was beaten to death allegedly by Awami League (AL) men in Meherpur district yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Shariful Islam of Sonapur in Mujibnagar upazila in the district.

Subhas Biswas, officer in-charge (OC) of Mujibnagar police station, quoting family sources, said Shariful, a BNP activist of the upazila, locked in an altercation with a few men belonging to

ruling AL several days ago. Shariful had blamed the government for failing to run the country properly.

At that time, AL activists Aslam and Motiar threatened Shariful with dire consequences.

Yesterday, at about 14.30am, a group of people led by Aslam, Motiar, Babu and Gada stormed into the house of Shariful and started to beat him indiscriminately.

The AL men left the place when Shariful fell unconscious.

Shariful was rushed to Meherpur General Hospital where he died at about 12.30pm.

"The alleged killers have gone into hiding", the OC said, adding that police have launched a drive to arrest them.

Masud Arun, former BNP lawmaker of Meherpur-1 identified Shariful as a BNP activist and demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

"A procession will be brought out to protest the killing," Arun said.

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