

PABNA MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Crisis of doctors takes its toll on child patients

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR
TOPU, Pabna

Fifty-four children died at Pabna Medical College Hospital in last one month as the hospital's children's ward, plagued with scanty accommodation and shortage of doctors, struggles to

cope with a large number of patients, especially due to rise in cold related diseases recently.

Of the 54 children who died during the last one month, 25 including 11 new born babies, died from January 20 to January 31,

said sources at the hospital. The victims were affected with cold related diseases like pneumonia and septicaemia, and birth complexities including low birth weight, they said.

"The number of child patients in Pabna Medical

College Hospital has increased due to the cold spell during the last few weeks. Now the 30-bed children's ward has to accommodate over one hundred patients daily while only two doctors are working here," said Dr Nitish Kumar Kundu, consultant of the children's ward.

He, however, said birth related complexities caused most of the deaths and most the victims are aged from one to 28 days.

"Thirty-four child patients, of them 32 newborn, died here in December last year. In November, 46 children, including 42 new born babies, died," said Md Sohel, statistics assistant of the hospital.

Dr Monwarul Aziz, assistant director of the hospital, said treatment of child patients is hampered as the posts of senior child consultant, medical officer and assistant registrar for the children's ward has remained vacant for long.

"Child related disease is a common matter during the winter. This year the death of new born babies has increased but it is not alarming. We are trying to increase facilities at the children's ward as the number of patients is on the rise," Dr Tahsina Begum, civil surgeon of Pabna.



PHOTO: STAR

Child patients and their guardians cram into the children's ward at Pabna Medical College and Hospital but they hardly get necessary treatment for want of doctors. The photo was taken a couple of days ago.

Interns at Rangpur medical go on strike today

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rangpur

Interns at Rangpur Medical College will go on indefinite strike today as the college administration failed to meet their demands within the deadline.

On the same issue, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) has also called an indefinite strike from tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the doctors at Rangpur Medical College Hospital will observe a two-hour work abstention for three days from Monday, protesting attack on assistant professor Nurunnabi Laizu and vandalising of his chamber.

Dr. Delwar Hossain, presi-

dent of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Rangpur unit, said they gave a 48-hour ultimatum to the administration to arrest the culprits. "If the administration fails to arrest the attackers, we will announce a tougher movement," he said.

On Monday night, some masked criminals stabbed intern Rezwanur Rahman Miraz, president of Chhatra League unit at the college, at his hostel room.

After the incident, the interns gave the college authorities a 48-hour deadline to arrest the attackers.

In a sequel of the incident, the gang also attacked Dr. Nurunnabi Laizu and vandalised his chamber on the same day.

Man killed as two groups of villagers clash in Narail

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Narail

A man was killed and four others were injured as two groups of villagers clashed following an altercation over taking photos of a schoolgirl on mobile phones in Lohagara upazila of the district on Wednesday.

The dead was identified as Sirajul Islam Siru, 42, son of Hafizur Rahman of Arpara village. The injured, who also belong to the same village, received first aid at Lohagara Upazila Health Complex.

Police and locals said two groups of people of Arpara and Shamukh Khola had an altercation as two youths--Raju and Ripon of Shamukh Khola--were teasing the girl of Arpara village and taking her photos on their mobile phones at a cultural function at Arpara Government Primary School ground at noon. Other villagers, however pacified the two groups and settled the matter.

But in the evening, some villagers of Shamukh Khola

beat up Shovayet Rahman of Arpara village. Hearing the news, people of Arpara equipped with lethal weapons attacked Shamukh Khola village, prompting the villagers to retaliate.

Sirajul Islam Siru and four others of Arpara village received injuries during the clash that continued for an hour from 6:00pm. Being informed, police rushed to the spot, dispersed the clashing groups and brought the situation under control. Police have been deployed in the area to avert any further clash.

Sirajul was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital while the rest four were given first aid at Lohagara Health Complex. Sirajul died while he was being shifted to Dhaka at night.

Akram Hossain, officer-in-charge of Lohagara Police Station, said they have so far arrested two people--Kamrul Islam and Shahidul Islam--of Shamukh Khola village for their involvement in the clash.

Sirajul's body was sent to Narail Sadar Hospital for autopsy.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Bumper production of *baukul*, a big hybrid plum, this season brought fortune to Panna of Ishwardi in Pabna. Photo shows, the farmer taking care of the juicy winter fruits at his orchard.

Slain Bipul's wife sues 7 Jubo League leaders

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kushtia

Beli Khatun, wife of slain Meherpur municipality councillor Abdullah Al Mamun Bipul, filed a murder case with Sadar Police Station on Wednesday night, accusing seven Jubo League men, including district unit President Sazzadul Anam Palash.

Other accused are Jubo League district unit Publicity Secretary Sahidul Islam Perisan, Treasurer Mahfuzur Rahman Riton, executive committee members Ariful Islam, Asadur Rahman, Yunus Ali and Mahfuzul Haq.

Termining the case false, district Jubo League yesterday submitted memos to Meherpur Deputy Commissioner (DC) Delwar Hossain and Police Superintendent Mofazzel Hossain. It will hold a protest rally in the town today.

Bipul, also former general secretary of Jubo League district unit, was killed at the residence of Jubo League leader Sahidul Islam Perisan in Katchripara area of the town on Monday night. He went there to express his condolence over the death of Perisan's mother.

A gang of 6-7 masked gunmen entered the house at around 9:30pm and shot Bipul point blank. He died instantly. Police recovered a motorcycle and a pistol reportedly used by the killers from a nearby spot the following day.

Police also picked up five people, including Perisan, on Tuesday night. They later released all but Perisan. Contacted, Meherpur Police Superintendent Mofazzel Hossain said the real killers will be arrested soon.

Youths launch campaign for dowry-free marriage

A dozen pairs tie knots in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

A campaign for dowry-free marriage has been launched in Dilpasha union under Bhangura upazila, thanks to the initiative of some local youths and the chairman of the union.

The youths started the anti-dowry campaign with the help of UP chairman Ashok Kumar Ghosh at different villages of the union last week.

As the part of the campaign, they helped arrange a dozen dowry-free marriages, including that of Afroza Khatun, daughter of Kurman Ali of Betuan vil-

lage, Samia Khatun, daughter of Samsul Alam of Kutipara village, and Rafiqul Islam, son of Abdul Kuddus of Adabara village, in a week, said sources at union marriage registrar office.

"Though it is a difficult job to convince the parents of the proposed bridegrooms and brides not to take or give dowry, the youths have succeeded in their efforts to some extent," said Md Abdul Jalil, marriage registrar of the union.

Chairman Ashok Kumar Ghosh said that the union parishad extended all-out support to the campaign

launched by the local youths.

"We want to keep Dilpasha free from the curse of dowry," he said, adding that the youths have set an example which would encourage people of other areas of the upazila.

Several tragic incidents relating to dowry took place in the upazila in last few years. The union parishad and local youths have jointly launched the campaign to put an end to this immoral and illegal act, Ashok Kumar further said.

Members of Dilpasha union parishad have also joined the motivation campaign in their respective wards.



PHOTO: STAR

The lone iron bridge on Sapuria canal in Mithaganj union in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali that collapsed last year still awaits repair, much to the sufferings of over 10 thousand people of seven villages.

Two jailed for life in Tangail arms case

UNB, Tangail

A court here on Tuesday sentenced two people to life term imprisonment for possessing firearms illegally.

The convicts were identified as Abdus Salam, 21, son of Motaleb Hossain of Shehrail village in Nagpur upazila, and Ali Akbar, son of Lal Chand of Katanhulavillage of the upazila.

According to the prosecution, the convicts-- Abdus Salam and Ali Akbar-- riding a motorbike went to Kerderpur Bazar of Nagpur upazila of the district on December 23, 2009.

On suspicion, Sub-inspector Abdul Hakim challenged them and at one stage, recovered a Japanese made revolver, searching Ali Akbar's body.

After examining witnesses and evidence, Judge Johurul Alam of the Special Tribunal Court handed down the verdict on Tuesday.

People of 7 villages suffer as lone bridge not repaired

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Patuakhali

The lone iron bridge on Sapuria canal in Mithaganj union of Kalapara upazila that collapsed last year still awaits repair, much to the sufferings of over 10 thousand people of seven villages.

Moreover, movement of water vehicles almost came to a halt as wreckages of the bridge remained on the spot, thanks to the negligence of the authorities.

The affected villages are Safakhali, Melapara, Ajimuddin, Modhukhali, Tulatali, Tegachia and Boidhapara.

The people of the villages, including school and college going students, cross the canal by small boats. Due to overloading it may

result in fatal accident any time, said locals.

The bridge was set up in 1995. It collapsed after being hit by a loaded trawler in February, 2012, snapping communication between the villages and the upazila town, said locals.

Despite repeated pleas, the authorities remained indifferent to the matter, said local UP chairman Kazi Hemayet Uddin Hiron.

Pranob Kumar, upazila engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), said that they recently sent a letter to the higher authorities to rebuild the bridge.

"We are still waiting for a reply," he added.

SNIPPETS

50 maunds of *jatka* seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) here seized 50 maunds *jatka* (hilsa fish less than 9 inches) from a Barisal-bound passenger launch yesterday. Sources said, MV Taltali, a Barisal-bound passenger launch from Char Biswas in Rangabali upazila, while crossing Buragourango river under Dashmina upazila, was searched by a Rab team. The law enforcers found 50 maunds *jatka* and seized those.

2 held for stalking college girl

UNB, Magura

Police arrested two youths on charge of sexually harassing a college girl in Mohammadpur upazila on Wednesday. The arrestee are Shakibul Islam, 22, son of Mafizur Rahman, and Sana Miah, 20, son of Dabir Sheikh of Kanainagar village of the upazila. Officer-in-charge (OC) of Mohammadpur PS Md Sagir Miah said, Shakibul and Sana waylaid the girl of Bororia village and harassed her sexually while she was on her way home from Dhuael Bazar of the upazila. Police arrested the duo after the girl had lodged a complaint.

Youth jailed for keeping drug

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A court here yesterday sentenced a youth to three years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for keeping two grams of heroin in his possession. After examining six witnesses, the Joint District and Sessions Judge Sheikh Golam Mahub handed down the punishment to Md Selim, 26, son of Joydhar Ali of Daragram village under Satura upazila of the district. Md Selim was held with two grams of heroin by the police on November 20 in 2011.



PHOTO: STAR

A devastating fire, allegedly originating from a burning cigarette butt, gutted sugarcane on at least 50 bighas in adjacent Mokarampur and Arkandi villages of Ishwardi upazila in Pabna on Wednesday night.