

# Narail hospital struggles with pneumonia patients

Unhygienic living adds to the problem caused by season change

PONUEL S BOSE, Narail

Pneumonia and other cold-related diseases have taken an alarming turn in the district, affecting mostly the children amid change of season.

Unhygienic living condition adds to the situation, doctors said.

"More than 450 children affected with pneumonia and other cold-related diseases were admitted to the hospital in last one week," Supriya Bhoomik, in charge of children's ward of Narail Sadar Hospital, said

during this correspondent's visit there on Thursday.

Besides, about 400 children attacked by pneumonia were treated at the hospital outdoor and many others were transferred to Jessore and Khulna Medical College Hospital during the period.

This correspondent saw 3-4 children lying on each of 20 beds of the children's ward.

Several children were sent to the chronic diseases ward and a few others to cabins, while their mothers were left with no option but

to sleep for a short time in turns and keep sitting or standing rest of the time.

"I slept only an hour last night as I had to leave the bed for others to sleep," said Shifali Rani Biswas, 29, mother of a pneumonia affected child.

A good number of the affected children and their mothers are staying on foam beds on the ward floor or corridor.

Sharmin Begum, 32, with her seven-month-old son suffering from fever and respiratory problems got shelter at the ward corridor.

"Around 80 percent of the admitted children here are suffering from pneumonia and other cold-related diseases. They need special care with adequate ventilation, space for lying and temperature control system but it can hardly be done at the overcrowded children's ward," said Dr Anita Saha, paediatric consultant of the hospital.

"Despite shortage of doctors and nurses, we are trying our level best to serve the patients," she said.



PHOTO: STAR

The children's ward of Narail Sadar Hospital struggles to cope with patients, mostly affected with pneumonia and other cold-related diseases, as the hospital sees much larger than usual number of patients at season change.

# Cheated by husband, she now passes hard days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Cheated by husband, Maya Rani, 21, of Gaokhali village in Dewlbari union of Nazirpur upazila under the district is passing hard days with her widow mother Maloti Shil.

Maloti, now 57, lost her husband seven years ago while their three sons died in childhood.

Of the four daughters -- all married, Maya lives with her mother since her husband left her one and a half years ago.

"Kamlesh Roy, son of Chittaranjan Roy of Nolian village of Dakope upazila in Khulna, married me three years ago, hiding his address and saying that his parents were late. Then Kamlesh started living with me in this area and a child was born to us," said Maya.

"Later I came to know that his parents are alive. Around one and a half years ago he went to meet his family members in Khulna

and stopped communication with me. I have come to know from others that he has married another girl there," she said.

"Now I am living with my mother who earns by making floor mats with hogla leaves and working at

others' houses. But she is sick and cannot work for long. As I am sick too and cannot move one hand well I cannot help my mother that much," said Maya, who along with her two-year-old son is still waiting for her husband's return.

"I know the plight of the family. But we have nothing to do as the accused is outside our area," said Niranjan Bala, a member of Dewlbari union parishad (UP).

UP Chairman Waliullah said he will investigate the



PHOTO: STAR

Maya Rani, with her two-year-old son and widowed mother, gives a bleak look in front of their Gaokhali village home in Dewlbari union of Nazirpur upazila under Pirojpur district.

## 3 BNP men hurt in attack allegedly by AL activists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Three BNP men were injured in an attack allegedly Awami League activists in Tabalchhari area under Matiranga upazila of the district on Wednesday night.

The injured are Sirajul Islam, 43, vice-chairman of Tabalchhari Union unit of BNP and younger brother of newly elected Matiranga Upazila Parishad Chairman Tajul Islam, Mohammad Abul Kasam, 45, senior vice-president of Tabalchhari unit of Zia Parishad, and Dal Mohammad Ahsan Ullah, 34, a leader of Tabalchhari Jubo Dal. They were admitted to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital.

Abu Yousf Chowdhury, general secretary of Khagrachhari district BNP, said about 10 to 12 Awami League men attacked the four while they were sitting at a tea stall at Tabalchhari Bazar at around 8:00pm.

Refuting the allegation, General Secretary of Matiranga upazila Awami League Subhash Chakma said his party men were not involved in the attack. The incident took place due to internal feud in local unit of BNP, he added.

## Woman UP member beaten up

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A woman union parishad (UP) member came under attack by a gang of criminals while she was returning home after casting vote at Lalpur Government Primary centre in Kazirber union of Moheshpur upazila yesterday afternoon.

The injured is Afroza Begum, 37, wife of Zakir Hossain of Kazirber village.

Her husband Zakir Hossain said a gang allegedly led by AL-backed UP member Raihan Uddin beat up Afroza, also local Jamaat activist, when she was returning home after casting vote at the polling centre at around 1:00pm.

On information, members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) rushed to the spot and rescued Afroza.

Contacted, officer-in-charge Akram Hossain of Moheshpur Police Station said he was not aware of the incident.



PHOTO: STAR

Faith Bible Church of God at Boomka village in Mogholhat union under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila lies vandalised as criminals attacked the prayer house of the local Christians at dawn on February 19 and again a day later.

# 21 Christian families in panic as church attacked twice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

People of 21 Christian families at Boomka village in Mogholhat union under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila are passing days amid panic as criminals attacked their church "Faith Bible Church of God" on February 19 dawn and then again on February 21 dawn.

The miscreants' vandalised fences, windows and door of the corrugated iron made church and took away seven copies of the Bible from there, said church pastor Levio Bishwas and

caretaker Badsha Bishwas.

Since its setting up in January 2007, the community people have been conducting prayers peacefully at the church that keeps open on Sunday every week, said church pastor Levio Bishwas.

"I lodged a complaint with Lalmonirhat Sadar police station on February 20 in connection with the attack on the church but no criminal has been arrested yet," he said.

"We the Christian community people at the village are in fear of further attack

anytime. The criminals are giving us death threat over mobile," said caretaker Badsha Bishwas.

Mansur Ali, officer in charge (Investigation) of Lalmonirhat Sadar police station, said police will trace out and arrest the criminals as soon as possible.

Lalmonirhat Police Superintendent Habibur Rahman said, "The attackers possibly targeted caretaker Badsha Bishwas, a newly converted Christian, not the church. The police have assured security to the Christians at the village."

# Bullet-hit body of abducted RMCH union leader found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police recovered the body of the abducted union leader of Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) from Mokamtala area under Shibganj upazila of Bogra district on Wednesday.

Md Abraham Lincoln, 35, general secretary of Class Four Employees Union, was abducted at gunpoint by an unidentified gang from in front of RMCH main gate on February 15.

Witnesses said a gang of 10 reached the main entrance to RMCH in a microbus at around 12:30pm. Identifying themselves as members of the law enforcement agencies, they picked up Lincoln from



Abraham Lincoln

there, they added.

Police and Rapid Action Battalion, however, denied their involvement in the incident.

Lincoln's wife Farzana Sharmin Badhon filed a case with Rangpur Kotwali Police Station the same day, accusing seven employees of RMCH.

Locals of Mokamtala area

under Shibganj upazila of Bogra found a bullet-hit body lying in a potato field and informed the police.

Police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Hearing the news, family members of Lincoln went to the hospital morgue at around 11:30am, identified the body and brought it to Rangpur city.

Protesting the killing of their leader, the employees of RMCH yesterday observed a six-hour work abstention programme. They also brought out a procession on the campus.

Lincoln's father Md Altafur Rahman demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

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