

BITING COLD IN LALMONIRHAT, DINAJPUR

Diarrhoea, pneumonia spread among children

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A large number of children in Lalmonirhat and Dinajpur have been hospitalised with diarrhoea and pneumonia as fall in temperature amid the biting cold for the last few days led to spread of the cold related diseases in northern districts.

Over seven hundred children affected with diarrhoea and pneumonia have been admitted to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital and four upazila health complexes in the district in last four days, reports our correspondent.

"We provided treatment to 260 children at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital in the last four days. Most of them have already been released after treatment. Physicians are facing trouble to provide treatment to huge numbers of child patients here," said Dr Hafizur Rahman, child disease consultant at the hospital.

He suggested preventing children from exposure to smoke, dust and cold, and not allowing them to take outdoor foods to save them from cold related diseases, especially diarrhoea and pneumonia.

Iman Ali, 42, of Kulaghat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar said, his three-year-old daughter got diarrhoea due to heavy cold and she is under treatment at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital since Sunday morning.

Abul Kalam Azad, 35, of Kalmati village in Lalmonirhat Sadar brought his four-year-old son Iqbal Hossain to the same hospital after he was affected with pneumonia two days ago.

"Child patients with



PHOTO: STAR

A mother holds a nebulizer on the nose of her pneumonia affected kid at Dinajpur General Hospital yesterday. Like other treatment centres in the district, the hospital sees rapid rise of child patients as the ongoing cold wave has led to spread of pneumonia, diarrhoea and other cold related diseases in the northern district.

diarrhoea and pneumonia are coming from morning to night and they get proper treatment here," said Bilkis Begum, a senior staff nurse of Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital.

Mousumi Begum, 24, of Bhadai village of Aditmari upazila, said his cold related diarrhoea affected son Nur Islam, 5, is now safe from danger after treatment at the upazila health complex for the last two days.

Lalmonirhat Civil Surgeon Dr Abdus Samad said he has asked doctors and nurses in Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital and four upazila health complexes of the district to remain alert for providing treatment to cold related disease affected children on an emergency basis.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports: At least 171 children were hospitalised with cold related diseases in the

district in last 48 hours. Doctors of different hospitals in Dinajpur said they are also getting elderly patients with sinusitis, acute bronchitis, even pneumonia and cough during the ongoing cold wave that affects heart patients too.

Pneumonia patient Babu, 17, died at Dinajpur General Hospital yesterday.

Dinajpur General Hospital is dealing with 51 pneumonia affected children aged between one day to seven years, said sources of Dinajpur Civil Surgeon's office.

At least 120 other children with pneumonia have been admitted to different upazila health complexes, Dinajpur Medical College Hospital and Aurobinda Shishu Hospital. There are a few diarrhoea patients too.

Dinajpur met office sources said the minimum temperature in the district

dropped by four degrees Celsius in last five days. They recorded 8.2 degrees Celsius on Monday, which was 8.00 degree Celsius the day before.

Visiting Dinajpur General Hospital, Medical College Hospital and Aurobinda Shishu Hospital the correspondent found nurses and doctors struggling to deal with the hospitalised patients.

"The health complexes in 12 upazilas of Dinajpur district are already crammed with child patients infected with pneumonia. We are struggling to cope with the situation as the upazila health complexes refer the serious patients here," said Dr Wahed, a paediatrician of Dinajpur General Hospital.

Abul Kalam Azad, an official of Zia Heart Foundation in Dinajpur, said they are now getting more cardiac patients as biting cold worsens their

Land dispute leaves 15 hurt in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

At least 15 people were injured as two groups of villagers clashed over land dispute at Sherpur village in Shaikakupa upazila of the district yesterday.

Locals and police said there had been a longstanding dispute between Tobarak Hossain and Makhon Hossain of the village over the ownership of a piece of land.

Some villagers belonging to Tobarak group locked in an altercation with Makhon's men over the issue at around 8:00am. At one stage, they hit each other with sticks.

As the news spread at the village, the supporters of Tobarak and Makhon, equipped with sharp weapons, swooped on each other, leaving at least 15 people from both sides injured.

On information, police went to the spot and fired 15 rubber bullets and tear gas shells to disperse the clashing groups.

Cattle trader shot by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot a Bangladeshi cattle trader at Dhularkuthi frontier in Naodanga union under Phulbari upazila of the district yesterday morning.

The victim is Azizul Haque, 33, son of Hasen Ali of the village.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BCB) and local sources said BSF opened fire when some Bangladeshi cattle traders went to the no-man's land near border pillar No. 931/S-3 to bring cows from Indian cattle traders at around 9:00am.

CHUADANGA BOMB ATTACK CASE

20 of 42 accused sent to jail on surrender

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A Chuadanga court yesterday sent 20 people to jail for their alleged involvement in a bombing incident that left two people dead at Gangadaspur village in Jibannagar upazila of the district on January 4.

They deceased were Mohammad Ali, 50, and Shahbuddin, 40.

The accused surrendered before the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate ABM Mahmudul Haq. The magistrate sent them to jail, rejecting their bail prayers.

They are Ilias Ali, Kawsar Ali, Zahir uddin, Abdul Rashid, Mostafa Malitha, Jamaat Ali, Bashar Mondol, Shamsul Alam, Milon Ali, Fozre Mondol, Abdul Malek, Fazlu Mia, Shamsul

Ali, Kasem Ali, Ashabul, Bhutto Sheikh, Nazrul, Anisur Rahman, Hamil Mondol and Abdul Haq. They are among the 42 accused in a case for hurling bombs on the villagers filed on January 11.

The case statement said a group of 15 men, allegedly led by Abdul Malek Mollah, president of Simanta union unit of AL, and Milton Mollah, president of the same union unit of Jubo League, threw seven bombs at a tea stall at the village around 7:30pm, killing Mohammad Ali on the spot and injuring three others. The bomb attack could have been over a dispute centring government khas land, locals said.

The injured were rushed to Jessore General Hospital where Sahabuddin died

around 10:30pm. The condition of the two others, including Sahabuddin's wife Maleka Khatun, is critical. They are settlers on the khas land.

Abdus Salam, younger brother of slain Mohammad Ali, filed a case against 42 people with Jibannagar Police Station on January 11, accusing Abdul Malek Mollah, Milton Mollah and Abdul Hye Tuku as the masterminds.

Locals and police said some 46 landless families, including those of the victims, have been living on 116 bighas of government land (khas land), allocated for Gangadaspur Bhumihin Samity, since 1973.

Abdul Hye Tuku has been claiming the ownership of the entire land for the last three years.

DSCC to install early

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points of the networks of service providing lines was necessary.

City corporations and other service providers need to work together to set up the sensors, he said.

This kind of sensors is used in Japan, Mexico, and the USA, Ansary said.

During surgeries in operation theatres of Japanese hospitals, doctors could take some necessary emergency steps following the early warnings of earthquakes, said Mohammad Abu Sadeque, director of Housing and Building Research Institute.

Quoting a 2010 survey done by the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, chairman of the department of disaster science and management of Dhaka University, told The Daily Star that Dhaka has 1,834km of gas transmission pipes and there would be leaks in 56 places and cracks would develop in 191 places.

There were 1,118km of underground water pipes in the city and if the Madhupur fault had an earthquake of 7.5 magnitude, pipes would leak in 79 points and break in 272 places, he said.

In the 630km of sewerage

network, there would be leaks in 107 places and cracks in 360 points, the professor said.

Overhead electricity poles and snapping of cables would be a major problem too. At least 16,000 electricity poles out of 56,000 in Dhaka would topple during the tremor, he said.

Prof Mehedi said 35 percent area of Dhaka city corporations and 60 percent area of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha were vulnerable to the risks of utility network-related hazards in the event of an earthquake.

He suggested that the quality of soil be improved to reduce the possible damage to utility networks and buildings.

"Soil can be improved by injecting cement water mixture under very high pressure, which is commercially called 'jet grouting'. This method of soil improvement is suitable for loose sand and clay," said Ansary.

Mayor Khokon in the meeting also requested Rajuk to prepare a list of vulnerable buildings and demolish them immediately.

He also decided to make a first responders committee in each ward under DSCC, comprising 200 members and train them.

Kidnapped schoolboy rescued in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Police rescued a schoolboy from in front of a dormitory of MM College in Jessore town yesterday, a day after his abduction.

The victim is Naim Hassan Moon, 14, a Class IX student at Jessore Education Board School and College, and son of Rajek Jahangir, district correspondent of TV channel Banglavisjon.

Moon took part in a science fair held on Jessore Zila School premises on Saturday where he exhibited an improvised drone invented by him.

Police said a gang intercepted a human hauler in front of Jessore Circuit House and picked up the boy from the vehicle while he was returning home along with his teacher Mokarram Hossain on Saturday evening.

Quoting Moon, police said the kidnapers kept him confined to a place near the college and repeatedly enquired about the drone.

Acting on a tip-off, police launched a drive in the college area and rescued the boy from in front of Asad Hall around 8:00pm yesterday.

Jessore Superintendent of Police Bhaskar Saha said police will take necessary

Schoolgirl beaten up for refusing love proposal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

A schoolgirl was beaten up by a boy for not accepting his love proposal at Sathani Bridge in Adakhola area under Rajapur upazila on Sunday.

The girl is a Class VII student of Adakhola High School in the upazila.

"Two boys from my neighbourhood, Saiful and Ujjal, have been making unwanted advances towards me for a long time, and threatened to kill me if I did not accept," she said.

"I told my parents and schoolteachers about this; even the parents of the boys were informed," she added.

Victim's mother said she stopped her daughter from going to school, but allowed her to go again when the teachers reassured them about her security.

On the day concerned, the

girl was returning home after attending a farewell programme for SSC examinees of the school in the afternoon, her mother said, adding that three boys intercepted her on Sathani Bridge and offered her a mobile phone, but she did not accept it.

"I was beaten up by Saiful for not taking the phone. At one point I fell unconscious," she said.

The girl was rescued by a local woman, who took her to Rajapur Health Complex.

"The girl is out of danger. Her head and ear are injured, but she suffered mental shock more than physical injury," said Khairul Islam Russel, resident medical officer (RMO) of the hospital.

The attackers are Saiful Islam son of Mokles Shikder, Jewel son of Rustum Khan, and Ujjal son of Mosharaf.

All of them are SSC candidates from the school.

The victim filed a written complaint with Rajpur Police Station yesterday. Contacted, officer-in-charge Sheikh Munirul Gias said necessary steps will be taken against the persons involved after proper investigation.

7 BNP men land in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Seven BNP leaders and activists, accused in a case filed under the Explosives Substances Act, were sent to jail yesterday.

Shahid Ullah, secretary of Senbag municipality unit of BNP, and Bahar Uddin, secretary of Kabilpur union unit under Senbag upazila, are among the accused.

SNIPPETS

Cattle traders robbed

UNB, Benapole

Robbers took away Tk 70,000 from two cattle traders in Chowgachha upazila of Jessore district yesterday. Police said a gang of 4/5 riding on two motorcycles waylaid Shahidul Islam Sadu, 45, and Jony Uddin, 20, while they were going to Purapara market for buying cattle in the morning. They hit the duo with iron rods mercilessly and took away the money. Haring screams, locals rescued them and admitted them to Chowgachha Upazila Health Complex, from where Jony was shifted to Jessore Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Illegal sand lifter fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A mobile court, led by Executive Magistrate Habibur Alam, yesterday fined a man Tk 50,000 for lifting underground sand using shallow-engine illegally at Sonaroy village in Sundarganj upazila of the district. The convict is Saidul Islam, a resident of the village. Informed by local people, police raided the village around 4:00pm and detained Saidul. Police later produced Saidul before the court that fined him Tk 50,000.

Most teachers

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level is medium. However, 45 percent of teachers understand the method, it added.

At the same time, 47 percent teachers rely on guidebooks, 35 percent discuss the method with colleagues and 18 percent teachers teach their students with "their self-wisdom", it said.

The report observed that teachers had not been trained on the creative method properly yet.

Of the students, 92 percent take the help of guidebooks to understand their lessons while only eight percent stay away from guidebooks, according to the findings.

"Sixty seven percent students take the help of private tutors to understand the method while 33 percent don't," the report said.

Besides, 39 percent of students find English to be the most difficult subject, 33 percent consider mathematics to be the most difficult one.

However, 25 percent of them consider both English and mathematics to be the most difficult subjects to learn, while only three percent find Bangla diffi-

cult.

At the programme, noted columnist Syed Abul Maksud observed that the government could not provide the required support to teachers for making the creative method a success.

The quality of overall education system has been declining gradually due to a flawed system, he said, adding that only an increase in students' enrolment and pass rate cannot improve the situation.

Eminent economist Prof Anu Muhammad said the new method would not bear fruit until the government brings huge reforms in the education sector.

He said an evil practice is still widespread in the recruitment of teachers. He also blamed the government for turning education a profitable business for teachers and publishers in the name of guidebooks and notebooks.

RACE President Prof Sharif Uddin chaired the programme while Campaign for Popular Education Manager Mostafizur Rahman, Manusher Jonno Foundation Coordinator

Jamuna Oil Company Limited (A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation) Invitation for Tender: 45/2015-16. Table with 17 rows detailing tender specifications.

Jamuna Oil Company Limited (A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation) Invitation for Tender: 44/2015-2016. Table with 18 rows detailing tender specifications.