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## Children take a hit from winter diseases

Healthcare facilities see surge in diarrhoea, pneumonia cases

AHMED DEEPTO

The influx of child patients suffering from pneumonia, winter diarrhoea and other cold-related diseases has been straining hospitals.

The pneumonia ward at Dhaka Shishu Hospital and Institute was at capacity yesterday. In the first four days of the month, 139 children with pneumonia and 155 with diarrhoea were treated there.

Last month, the numbers were 216 for pneumonia and 69 for diarrhoea. In November and October, 227 and 292 children with pneumonia and 53 and 28 with diarrhoea were treated there.

"Children under five are particularly vulnerable to cold-related viral diseases," Professor Mahbubul Hoque, director of the hospital, told The Daily Star.

On January 3, temperature fell to 8.3 degrees Celsius in Panchagarh and 13.6 degrees Celsius in Dhaka, Met officials said. Temperatures rose slightly the following day, but meteorologists say there will be another cold spell by the end of this week.

At Panchagarh Sadar Hospital yesterday, a nine-month-old baby boy died three days after he was admitted there.

- WHAT TO DO
- Drink plenty of water
- Wear masks and hats when outdoors
- Maintain hygiene
- Eat food containing Vitamin C

Junior Consultant Monowarul Islam said the baby named Mostakim had a cough, fever, and diarrhoea.

**PNEUMONIA**  
At Shishu hospital, there were long queues of worried parents with kids in front of the outpatient sections yesterday.

Thirty-one children were admitted to the 681 bed hospital with pneumonia-related complications, according to data.

Eighteen-month-old Abrar Fahad was brought to the hospital from Hatia, Noakhali, on December 26 with fever, severe breathing difficulties and diarrhoea.

"He fell ill in late November but his condition deteriorated in the middle of December. Now he is needing oxygen support," said Abrar's mother Rabeya Begum.

"Doctors say his condition will improve, but it will take some time," she said.

According to icddr,b, more than two children die every hour from pneumonia in Bangladesh. Pneumonia remains among the top five infectious diseases to kill children under five around the world, accounting for 14 percent of 0.7 million deaths from the infectious diseases.

**DIARRHOEA**  
Sixteen-month-old Adnan Labib had to be admitted to the icddr,b hospital with diarrhoea more than once in a month.

"Even after giving him oral saline, Labib is not recovering," said Labib's mother, Shimu Akter.

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Clad in sweaters, leggings and monkey caps to keep warm, sisters Kamna and Ritu Poddar walk through the thick morning fog to get to their school. The photo was taken in Beel Pabla village of Khulna's Dumuria upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Unemployment rate climbs

### Women bear the brunt

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh's unemployment rate rose to 4.49 percent in the July-September quarter of 2024 from 4.07 percent a year earlier, with women bearing the brunt of the downturn, according to official data, as political turmoil and security concerns took a toll on the labour market.

The jobless rate for women surged to 7.16 percent from 6.15 percent year-on-year, while the unemployment rate for men edged higher to 3.81 percent from 3.46 percent over the same period, data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) showed.

In total, the number of unemployed individuals reached 26.6 lakh in the third quarter of last year, an increase of 1.7 lakh from a year earlier.

Of the total unemployed population, jobless men accounted for 17.9 lakh, up from 16.4 lakh in the same period the previous year, while the number of unemployed women reached 8.7 lakh, compared with 8.5 lakh a year earlier.

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## Khaleda will fly to London for treatment tomorrow

Says Fakhrul after top BNP leaders meet her

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia would fly to London tomorrow night for treatment, the party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has said.

He said this to reporters after BNP Standing Committee members met the party chief at her Gulshan residence last night.

The meeting was attended by Standing Committee members



Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Jamiruddin Sircar, Mirza Abbas, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Abdul Moyeen Khan, Nazrul Islam Khan, Salauddin Ahmed, Selima Rahman, Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, Amir Khasru

Mahmud Chowdhury, Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, and AZM Zahid Hossain.

In another development, LDP President Col (retd) Oli Ahmed

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Always be ready for combat to shield country's sovereignty

CA tells army personnel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Army personnel must always be ready for combat to protect the country's sovereignty, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has said.

He was speaking after witnessing the Army Manoeuvre Exercise 2024-25, organised by the army's 55 Infantry Division at Rajbari Military Training Area yesterday, the Inter-Services Public Relation Directorate (ISPR) said in a press release.

"The Bangladesh Army is a place of pride and trust for the nation," Prof Yunus said.

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**JULY UPRISING**  
Govt to sit with parties for draft of proclamation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government will hold talks with the political parties soon and prepare the draft of the July uprising proclamation based on the outcome of the dialogues, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam told a press conference at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

He, however, did not give any dates for the talks.

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**Gree is now the Most Emerging Brand of the country**



Gree has been recognized as The Most Emerging Brand based on a nationwide survey among consumers, under the Best Brand Award-2024, conducted jointly by Bangladesh Brand Forum, nSearch, and The Daily Star. We take pride in crowning such an honor by the support and love of our millions of customers and stakeholders who have been with the brand for the last 37 years.

## সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

"এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, অনেক বিদেশি নাগরিক অবৈধভাবে বাংলাদেশে অবস্থান করছেন/কর্মরত রয়েছেন। এমতাবস্থায়, অবৈধভাবে বাংলাদেশে অবস্থানরত/কর্মরত ভিন্নদেশি নাগরিকদের আগামী ৩১ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে বাংলাদেশে অবস্থানের বা কর্মরত থাকার প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ বৈধতা অর্জনের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। এক্ষেত্রে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল দণ্ড/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে প্রয়োজনীয় সহযোগিতা প্রদানের জন্যও অনুরোধ করা হলো। এই সময়সীমা অতিক্রান্ত হ্বার পর অবৈধভাবে অবস্থানকারী এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।"

"It is hereby brought to the notice of all concerned that many foreign nationals are illegally staying/working in Bangladesh. In this case foreign nationals illegally staying/working in Bangladesh are requested to acquire the necessary documents to stay or work in Bangladesh by 31 January 2025. In this regard, all concerned departments/institutions are also requested to provide necessary cooperation. After this deadline, legal action will be taken against those staying illegally and the relevant institutions".

স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়

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