

'10pc of population disabled in Bangladesh'

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

At least ten percent of total population of the country is disabled, said the authorities of National Disabled Welfare Foundation basing on a recent survey of World Health Organisation (WHO).

According to the foundation, there are at least 57,321 disabled people in 14 districts of the country.

Of them, 27,854 people live in eight districts of Dhaka division, 18,361 people in three districts of Rajshahi division, 6,249 people in one district of Khulna division, 3,869 people in one district of Sylhet division and 988 people in one

district of Chittagong division.

The figures are part of an ongoing survey by the foundation and give only a glimpse of the total picture in the country.

The actual number of disabled people in different areas of the country will be much higher, said the foundation.

Those working for the disabled whether in government or non-government organisations strongly believe that the disabled people need a little help rather than pity to get established in society, said M Ishaque Bhuiyan, managing director of the foundation.

He said they can be turned into active manpower if they are given proper opportunity.

The government has recently ordered for separate ticket counters for disabled people in all train stations, bus terminals, river ports and airports.

It has also ordered to keep certain number of seats reserved for them in all type of public transports.

Besides, to ease the plight of disabled people, ramp will be made at all government offices to move smoothly with wheel chair," the deputy director of the foundation said.

He said two disabled persons have already got appointment as resource teachers in social service department under the social welfare ministry.

According to the NGO Action on Disability and Development, 1.40 crore people in the country are disabled either physically or mentally.

Different government and non-government organisations took elaborate programmes in observance of the International Disability Day yesterday.



LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan speaks at a discussion marking the 13th death anniversary of Shaheed Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon on the Dhaka Medical College premises yesterday. The Bangladesh Medical Association organised the event.

PHOTO: STAR

35,000 suffer from kidney disease a year

Experts tell international convention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 20,000 people fall victim to end stage renal failure (ESRF) while another 15,000 develop acute kidney failure in the country every year, said nephrologists at a convention yesterday.

They said acute kidney failure is largely preventable and curable disease provided appropriate treat-

ment is offered in time.

The experts were speaking at the inauguration of a two-day Annual Convention and International CME (Continued Medical Education) organised jointly by Bangladesh Renal Association (BRA) and International Society of Nephrology at a city hotel.

The major causes of ESRF are chronic glomerulonephritis, diabe-

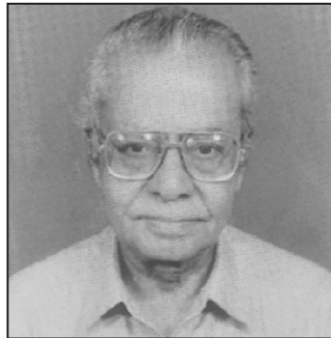
tes mellitus, and hypertension, said the BRA Secretary General Prof Shamim Ahmed.

The speakers said the medical science has made remarkable advancement in the field of Nephrology and Urology which will enable the nephrologists to manage the country's increasing kidney disease more efficiently.

Prof John Dirks of Canada, who is the Chair of International Society of Nephrology, said the CME courses would be helpful in updating nephrology in Bangladesh.

A host of foreign specialists including Prof William Finn from USA, Prof Juergen Bommer from Germany, Prof A Davison from the UK, Prof Miguel C Riella from Brazil, Prof Kirpal S Chugh from India, and Prof Ali Jaffar Naqvi from Pakistan are taking part in the CME sessions.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain said the government would pay "appropriate attention to the recommendations made during the sessions."



Dadabhai's death anniversary today

The fourth death anniversary of Rokonuzzaman Khan, a noted children litterateur and founder-director of Kachi Kanchar Mela, will be observed today, says a press release.

Popularly known as Dadabhai, he was the feature editor of the Ittefaq.

A qurankhwani, milad mahfil and distribution of food among the destitute have been arranged at his residence at 38 Sharat Gupta Road, Narinda.

Ashraf Uddin Ahmed



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Ashraf Uddin Ahmed, founder of the B I W T C Officers' Association and a founder member of the

Narayanjanj Sudhijan Library, says a press release.

Special prayers will be offered at 41/A Purana Paltan and Pallabi residences on the occasion.

Md Ferdous

The sixth death anniversary of Md Ferdous, brother of MA Karim, organising secretary of Bangladesh Krishak League, will be observed today, says a press release.

A milad mahfil, qurankhwani and doa will be held at his father's residence in Nasir Nagar, Brahmanbaria.

Discussion on World Aids Day

The North Bengal Development Program (NBDP) organised a discussion and a seminar at Salandar in Thakurgaon on Monday to mark the World Aids Day, says a press release.

The organisation also took out a procession to raise awareness about HIV/Aids.

Muksumul Hakim Chowdhury, DC of Thakurgaon, attended the discussion as chief guest while Civil Surgeon Dr Afaz Uddin was present as special guest. NBDP President A Jabbar presided over the ceremony.

Godfathers of BNP, JCD involved in arms haul: Jalil

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP yesterday expressed grave concern over a big haul of high-power firearms and ammunition from the "residence of a BNP leader at Badda, known as a fort of BNP."

Jalil in a statement said the piling up of four modern AK-47 rifles, 20 hand grenades, four time bombs, 998 bullets, two revolvers and other arms and ammunition at the residence of Badda thana BNP General Secretary Amjad Kazi, brother of BNP Ward Commissioner Hazrat Ali, created "deep panic" in the minds of people.

"This arms stockpiling is not an isolated event. According to newspaper reports, it is clear that a very influential quarter and godfathers of BNP, Chhatra Dal and ruling alliance are directly involved in it," he said.

In fact, Jalil said, this incident has not only exposed overall fragile law and order situation of the country, it has also created an apprehension in people's minds that BNP-Jamaat alliance government is engaged in hatching conspiracy to divert people's attention to different direction.

He demanded the disclosure of the names of "influential godfathers" of BNP-Jamaat alliance involved in arms piling and their arrest. "From where these huge arms and ammunition were imported and what was its aim, it must be made public," he said.

The AL general secretary urge the people to keep watch on "evil acts and conspiracy" hatched by the Khaleda-Nizami government to protect the criminals, engaged in arms piling, arms smuggling, planned killing and criminal acts.

DHAKA TODAY

Painting exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of an exhibition of paintings, collected from Contemporary Asian Art Workshop, will be held with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: National Art Gallery of Shilpakala Academy. Time: 6.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till December 16 from 11.00am to 7.00pm daily except on Friday from 3.00pm to 7.00pm.

auditorium. Time: 3.30pm.

Health conference

A conference on 'Promoting performance of Bangladesh health sector' will be held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain as chief guest. Venue: BIAM auditorium. Time: 9.30am.

Dialogue

A dialogue session on HIV/AIDS titled 'Face to face: Young people and the Youth Minister', organised by UNFPA, will be held. Venue: IDB Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 11.00am.

DCC meeting

A meeting on updating of Dhaka City Corporation Ordinance 1983 will be held with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: LGRD conference room. Time: 11.00am.

PHM meeting

A meeting of People's Health Movement (PHM) will be held. Venue: 9/2, Block-D, Lalmeta. Time: 5.00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Workshop

A workshop on 'Rights of children with disabilities- A voice of our own', organised by National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled, will be held. Venue: Department of Social Service auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 9.30am.

Scholarship giving ceremony

The merit scholarship awarding ceremony for Fall Semester of East West University will be held with State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque as chief guest. Venue: University campus, Mohakhali. Time: 10.00am.

Founding anniversary

The 48th founding anniversary of Bangla Academy will be held. Venue: Seminar room of the academy. Time: 3.30pm.

Street drama

On the occasion of World AIDS Day, Aparajeo Bangladesh will stage street drama and puppet show. Venue: Mirpur-1 market and Jatrabari Bazar. Time: 10.00am.

Symposium

A symposium on 'The juicy idea and the independent development of the third world countries', organised by Gonoshason Implementation Committee, will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar