

50,000 die from injuries a year

About 50,000 people die every year from injuries, a leading cause of death and disability in the country, says a Unicef press release.

It is not only a public health problem, but also accounts for an enormous socio-economic burden. Each year, the world loses 500 billion dollars as a result of only road and traffic accidents of which developing countries share 100 billion dollar.

The loss in the developing countries from road accidents is double the amount these countries receive as annual aid. In Bangladesh, the annual loss is Tk 4,500 crore.

The young children are more vulnerable to drowning, burn and fall, the adolescents and youths are becoming the victims of transport accidents, violence and suicides.

In Bangladesh, 83 children die due to injuries everyday -- 40 of them from drowning. Violence and suicides are major causes of death among young women. This number is higher than pregnancy-related deaths.

A strong voice was raised for injury prevention by the participants of the 2nd Asian Regional Conference on 'Safe communities' and 1st Bangladesh Conference on 'Injury prevention' held in Dhaka from February 15 to 17.

The conference was organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Institute of Child and Mother Health (ICMH), BUET, UNICEF, WHO and The Alliance for Safe Children (TASC) of USA.

A total of 403 participants from home and abroad attended the conference.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain told the participants that the government has already focussed on the injury issue as a national health priority and established an Accident Research Centre at BUET.

Moreover, injury has been

included in the new Health Sector Programme.

UNICEF Representative Morten Giersing in his keynote speech emphasised the importance of creating a multi-sectoral platform and formulate a national plan of action to combat this emerging issue.

Pete Peterson, former US ambassador in Vietnam and the founder president of TASC, said that Bangladesh should take the leadership in developing programme interventions that would not only ensure safer Bangladesh but also help other developing countries to follow the model.

Birth anniversary of Ramkrishna tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A six-day programme celebrating the 169th birth anniversary of Sri Ramkrishna begins at Ramkrishna Math and Mission in the city tomorrow.

Special puja, devotional songs and recitation from the scriptures will mark the birthday of Ramkrishna that falls tomorrow, says a press release of the mission.

A discussion on 'Ramkrishna and the present world' will also be held at 5.00pm on the day. Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka will attend the discussion as chief guest while Prof. Syed Anwar Hossain will be present as special guest.

The Nepalese ambassador and the Sri Lankan high commissioner will also attend the ceremony as guests of honour.

A dram will also be staged after the discussion.



PHOTO: STAR

Participants of the 'Mountain Dew Team Extreme Competition' take part in a cycle rally in the city yesterday before leaving for Srimongal to take part in the final competition.

Mountain Dew Team Extreme Competition

First Bangladeshi team to go on Everest expedition in May

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It's not a big deal nowadays to reach the peak of Mount Everest, the highest summit in the world. But no Bangladeshi has ever been there. Now a group of Bangladeshi trekkers are dreaming of Everest expedition.

Dalchhut, an adventure magazine, is organising a competition,

sponsored by Mountain Dew, a soft drink, to encourage youths who love adventure.

The aim of the Mountain Dew Team Extreme Competition is to send a three-member team to the Base Camp-1 of the Everest.

Fifteen teams -- six from Dhaka, two from Barisal, two from Rajshahi, two from Sylhet, two from Khulna and one from Chittagong -- have already been selected in the primary stage. They left Dhaka for Srimongal yesterday to take part in the final competition.

The winning team will start the Everest expedition on the second or third week of May.

The team will be selected on February 23 on the basis of different tests like walking, running, ridding push-bike and trekking.

All the teams gathered at a restaurant in the capital yesterday for a press conference before leaving for Srimangal where final selection will be made by Mountain Dew.

The eyes of the participants were shiny with the dream of climbing up the highest mountain.

All of them were keen to have an exciting experience of climbing the Everest. But only three out of 44 adventurous boys and a lone girl will get the golden chance.

"No matter I am a girl. Climbing the Everest is my dream and I will try my best to turn the dream into a reality," said Sanzida Regin Munni, the lone girl among the competitors. Munni, born and brought up in Barisal, is the recipient of the President Rover Scout (PRS), the highest medal in scouting.

"We want to ensure that the smartest team would get the chance to trek the mountain," said Milon, the coordinator of the competition.

Condition of Ahsan Ullah improves

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The condition of Ahsan Ullah Master MP, who was injured in police action during February 12 hartal, has improved following a second operation on his head on Tuesday.

Ahsan Ullah, president of the Jatiya Sramik League, underwent head surgery for the second time at RMC Hospital at Uttara in the city.

He was first operated on at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later shifted to the private Hospital for better treatment, said a press release.

Bus helper dies in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bus helper was crushed to death under the wheel of his vehicle at Kamalapur in the city on Thursday.

Victim Mohammad Nasir, 24, an employee of Dina Paribahan, went under the bus to check an engine trouble when the driver parked the running bus on the side of the road at 11.00am.

As another vehicle gave a horn from behind, the driver drove the bus ahead crushing his helper under the wheel, the bus owner Badiul Alam told the journalists at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

DHAKA TODAY

Padatik programme

Padatik Natya Sangsad organises a day-long programme comprising music, dance, drama and recitation to mark Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day. Venue: Bakultala of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. Time: 10.00am.

Drama

On the occasion of 21 February and International Mother Language Day, Somoy Sangskritik Gosthi will stage a drama titled 'Bhager Manush' directed by Ali Zaker. Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial auditorium, Central Public Library. Time: 4.00pm and 6.30pm.

Art Competition

In observance of National Martyrs Day, Benuka Lalit Kendra organises an art competition and exhibition. Venue: Lalmatia Housing Society High School premises. Time: 9.30am.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a British film titled 'Jude' (1996) and an American film titled 'Helen of Troy' (2003). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Muktijoddha discussion

On the occasion of 21 February and International Mother Language Day, Muktijoddha Samonnoy Parishad will hold a discussion. Venue: Photo Journalists Association auditorium, Purana Paltan. Time: 3.30pm.

Discussion

Bishwa Bangla Sahitya Sangstha and Bishwa Bangalee Sommelon will hold a discussion to mark the Language Martyrs Day and International Mother Language Day. Venue: Mazar premises of Sher-e-Bangla. Time: 3.30pm.

Drama

Under the patronisation of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Sabda Natya Charcha Kendra of Chittagong will stage a drama titled 'Jibon Jemon' directed by Moslem. Venue: Samity auditorium, Bailey Road. Time: 6.30pm.

Blood donation

Orca Blood for Life organises a voluntary blood donation camp to mark 21 February. Venue: In front of TSC premises of Dhaka University. Time: 8.00am.

Seminar

A seminar on 'Language Movement, 21 February and International Mother Language Day', organised jointly by Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco and National Academy for Educational Management (NAEM), will be held. Venue: NAEM auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

Training programme

Worldwide Immigration Consultants Ltd organises a daylong Student Counselling Training Programme. Venue: Training Centre of Worldwide Immigration Consultants, 83



The eight-day 16th Rover Moot 2004 concluded at the Rover Scout Training Centre in Gazipur on Thursday. Md Mahbubuzzaman, former president of Bangladesh Scouts, attended the closing ceremony as chief guest.