

# 70,000 die of TB a year

## Minister tells training programme

UNB, Dhaka

Nearly 70,000 people die of tuberculosis (TB) while three lakh are affected with the disease in Bangladesh every year despite the facilities being provided for free treatment.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandakar Mosharruf Hossain disclosed the figures of the TB victims while inaugurating a training programme in the city yesterday.

Bangladesh government and Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) TB Centre are jointly organising the 10-day training programme on TB management in south Asia.

"Some 38 percent patients, out of total number in the world, are in

South Asia. In this region, 30 lakh people are affected while 7.50 lakh die annually," said the minister.

He also said a third of world's total population is affected with tuberculosis while it claims one life every 15 seconds although the disease is curable.

The health minister noted the highest number of people die of TB among the mortal diseases. Developing countries are in the most vulnerable position with regard to tuberculosis.

The health minister laid emphasis on integrated initiatives of private entrepreneurs, apart from government step, to prevent the disease.

Director General (DG) of the Health Department Prof M Mizanur Rahman presided over the inaugural function.

Health Secretary AFM Sarwar Kalam, Medical Officer of the World Health Organisation Dr Marijka Becx-Bleumink, Deputy Director of Saarc TB Centre Dr Rano Mal Piryani and Director General (DG) of South Asia and Saarc regional affairs of the foreign ministry M Fazlul Karim also spoke.

Fourteen trainers from the Saarc countries are participating in the programme.

The Saarc TB Centre is headquartered in Kathmandu. It was set up for coordination and exchange of information between the Saarc countries, developing a network in the programmes and taking integrated steps in conducting survey, research and training on the preventive against the deadly disease.



PHOTO:PID

World Bank Vice-President for South Asia Praful C Patel called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday

CTG AMMO HAUL

## 8 suspects placed on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday placed eight suspects, arrested on charge of the biggest ever firearms smuggling incident, on a two-day remand.

The Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Chittagong placed Firoz Ahmed, son of the owner of FV Amanat, Mohammad Saifuddin, a crew, labourers Pradip Kumar Das, Babul Mia, Sirajul Islam, Nur Nabi and Helal Uddin and Kamal Uddin, owner of the crane used for unloading the arms, on remand, sources

said. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police took them in their custody, sources added.

Police held the labourers at Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Limited (CUFL) jetty on April 2 when they were offloading two fishing trawlers carrying the sophisticated weapons.

Key suspect Deen Mohammad, a labour contractor who went into hiding, tasked the labourers to unload the fishing trawlers. The others were arrested later, police

said. CID police said they will quiz the suspects to find more clues to the arms cache.

CID police raided coastal areas near the CUFL dock Sunday night in an attempt to nab other crew and labourers of the trawlers, but returned empty handed.

## Mongolian envoy meets PM

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Mongolia stressed exchange of visits at various levels in trade and cultural sectors to further strengthen the existing bilateral relations.

The emphasis was laid when the newly appointed Mongolian ambassador Jantsan Gulgou paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the relations established with Bangladesh after independence, Gulgou said diplomatic and political relationship is excellent but trade-wise it is still moderate, with little export of just jute from Bangladesh.

## IIUC training for female executives

International Islamic University Chittagong (IIUC) will organise a training programme on "Time Management" for female executives on May 23 on its Dhaka Campus.

Interested female executives are requested to get enrolled by May 21. The university management has advised intending participants to contact IIUC Dhaka Campus located at House-23, Road-3, Dhanmondi, Dhaka, says a press release.

## Obaidul Kader gets life threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown callers have been giving life threats over phone to Obaidul Kader, joint general secretary of Awami League (AL) and former state minister for the last five days.

A complaint to this effect was lodged by Kader in a general diary (GD) with the Ramna Police Station yesterday.

In the GD, Kader mentioned a mobile number which, he said, the callers had used in making the phone calls both at his fixed phone and cell phone to hurl abusive words and threaten him with life.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, the AL leader said the unknown callers also made phone calls from telephones, number of which were kept secret and were not shown in the receiving end.

Kader said he has been receiving such phone calls after the assassination of a fellow party leader and lawmaker Ahsanullah Master on Friday last.

# 1 killed, another injured in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Suspected robbers killed a jewellery shop employee while muggers shot and injured a young man in the city yesterday.

Police identified the murder victim as Mosharruf Hossain, 17, an employee of Hiram Jewellers at Maddhya Bashabo in Sabujbagh, adding that he was possibly killed in the early hours of yesterday.

Hospital sources said seven to eight nails were hammered into the victim's head and face.

Masud Rana, son of shop owner Nazrul Islam, discovered the body at around 10:00am yesterday.

"I found Mosharruf lying on the ground with blood oozing from his nose and mouth," a source quoted Rana as saying.

Shop owner Nazrul Islam is currently away from the city. His

uncle Shahjahan claimed that the killers took away Tk 30,000 and some 35 tolas of gold ornaments from the shop.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy. No case was filed. Police could not arrest anybody till filing of this report last night.

In another incident at Shenpara in Kafrul, an employee of a Mirpur shop suffered bullet injuries in the head and abdomen when muggers waylaid him at around 12:45am yesterday.

Rabiul Haq, 25, who was found lying on the road, said the muggers took away cash and a mobile phone from him as he was returning to his Pallabi home after work.

He was admitted him to the DMCH.

# United efforts a must for social progress

## Speakers at discussion on Prof Nazmul Karim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday recalled the contribution of late Prof Nazmul Karim, founder of sociology department of Dhaka University, to the development of sociological study in the country.

The seminar was organised by Nazmul Karim Study Centre of sociology department.

Presenting the keynote paper on 'Prof Nazmul Karim: Pioneer of personal and social spirit,' Prof M Afsar Uddin said the late professor was deeply concerned with the disparities within the social structure.

"He always tried to look into unrest in the society and was shocked at the repression of feudal landlords on the common people," said the paper.

It said the late professor believed

that coordination between personal and collective efforts is the key element of social progress.

In his book titled 'The Dynamics of Bangladesh Society', Prof Karim described the disparities within the Muslim and Hindu communities, said Afsar Uddin.

Taking part in the discussion, Prof Mahmuda Islam said Prof Karim had to face many difficulties for establishing the sociology department and he worked hard till his death for the department.

She said he was a man of vision and his commitment towards the society made him prominent both at home and abroad.

Speaking as chief guest, Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz said it is a moral obligation to recall those persons with due honour who made significant contributions to the society.

# 3rd National Debate Festival from May 20

Staff Correspondent

A three-day 3rd National Debate Festival 2004 will be held at the Dhaka University (DU) campus from May 20 to May 22.

Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) will organise the programme to be held at the teacher-student centre (TSC) of the university.

Prior to holding the festival, the organiser yesterday held a meeting to exchange views with the newsmen of different newspapers and electronic media at the DU senate hall.

SMA Faiz, vice-chancellor of the

DU and chief patron of the organising committee, AFM Yousuf Haider, pro-vice-chancellor and chief advisor of the committee, and Hasan Ahmed Kiron, former president of the DUDS, were present at the meeting.

Debaters from different schools, colleges and universities across the country will take part in the festival, which will be marked by seminar, rally, talk show, cultural programme, campfire, film and video clippings show.

This is the third festival of its kind, the first and second such festivals were held in 1994 and 1996.

DHAKA  
TODAY

## Dance drama festival

The inaugural ceremony of an eight-day-long dance drama festival, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, will be held with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Art Gallery of the academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 7.00pm. The inaugural ceremony will be followed by a dance drama titled 'Nakshi Kanthar Math' to be presented by Bulbul Lalitkala Academy.

## Film festival

The inaugural ceremony of a weeklong 'Bangla Film Festival 2004', organised by Dhaka University Film Society, will be held with Vice Chancellor S M A Faiz as chief guest. Venue: TSC auditorium. Time: 10.00am. In all 30 films from Bangladesh and India will be screened.

## Swedish film show

Dhaka Film Society will screen two Swedish films titled 'Lilya 4 Ever' directed by Lukas Moodysson and 'Scenes From a Marriage' directed by Ingmar Bergman. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm and 6.00pm.

## Jacques Tati Retrospective

Zahir Raihan Film Society, in association with the Alliance Francaise, will screen three films made and acted by French filmmaker Jacques Tati. These are 'Mon Uncle' (My Uncle) at 5.00pm and 'Evening Classes' and 'Jour de Fete' (Holiday) at 7.00pm. Venue: Alliance Francaise, Dhanmondi.

## Academy film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Iranian film titled 'Blackboards' (2002). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

## Workshop

The inaugural session of a two-day workshop on making paper pulp from green jute/kenaf, organised by International Jute Study Group, will be held. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10.00am.

## Muldhara evening

Muldhara International Centre organises an evening titled 'Talk of the Town'.

Venue: Zakia Alam Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm.

## Rotary meet

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Ramna will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

DHAKA  
TOMORROW

## Film show

Dhaka Film Society will screen a Russian film titled 'Russian Ark' directed by Akesandr Sokurov and a Spanish film titled 'Women on the Verge of Nervous Breakdown' directed by Pedro Almodovar. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm and 6.00pm.

## Academy film show

Academy Film Society will screen a British film titled 'Romeo and Juliet' (1968). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

## Discussion on Tagore

Bangladesh-Bharat Maitree Samity organises a discussion to mark the birth anniversary poet laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 4.00pm.

## Discussion

In observance of International Nurses Day, a discussion on 'Nurses working with the poor against poverty' will be held with Health Minister Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Shaheed Dr Milton Auditorium, Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Time: 9.00am.

## Meeting

Saarc Tuberculosis Centre organises a meeting on partnership programme with press media on Tuberculosis control programme within Saarc region. Venue: Hotel Abokash, Mohakhali. Time: 5.30pm.

## Seminar

Vantage Technologies organises a seminar on 'Repair-not replacement-The Eutectic Way' with Industries Minister M Motiur Rahman Nizami as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Purani. Time: 11.00am.